



# EYE ON ESSEX

JANUARY 2011

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE

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## HYBRID AND E-LEARNING LAUNCHED AT ECC

Essex County College launched the interactive Sakai Learning Management System (LMS), with more than 35 hybrid and distance learning courses being offered this semester.

The college's Information Technology (IT) Department integrated the software program into the curriculum with support from the faculty Instructional Computing Committee (ICC). Then, IT created an "E-Learning" link on the college's homepage. Some of the current hybrid and distance course offerings are taught in math, history, English, economics and sociology.

In many of the classes, students attend lectures once a week and then go on-line to take quizzes, respond to ques-

tions from their professors, and interact with classmates about the work. "The students get immediate feedback because when they do their work online and they can see if their answers are correct," said Brooke Orosz, an ICC committee member who teaches a statistics class using Sakai LMS.

Instructor Orosz added that she likes the instant feedback, too, so she can see where students may need help with different concepts.

The program was launched by adding the U.S. Department of Education's Project Delta (Disseminating Effective Learning Through Automation)/SIRIUS courses developed by Florida State College, to ECC's

hybrid course offerings.

Since May 2010, over 40 faculty have been trained thus far, and there are plans to expand this number even further so that even more faculty use a variety of technology in the classroom.

To support the faculty's and students' success with the "E-Learning" initiative, ECC opened the Faculty Technology Resource Center (FTRC) in October 2010. The FTRC, located in the MLK library on the main campus, is a multi-media computer lab and learning center where ECC faculty can learn to use technology to complement their teaching. The FTRC is equipped with state-of-the-art

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### A NEW YEAR, A NEW BEGINNING



Welcome to *Eye on Essex*—a fresh look for our long-standing newsletter.

Our newsletter celebrates our College's core values, which are "Teaching and Learning," "Excellence and Accountability," "Community," "Diversity and Access" and "Legacy."

Each month, we will share within these pages stories that embrace these values, and that show readers the many, many wonderful faces and stories that emanate from our collegiate mission.

Inside this edition, you will read about the strides we are making in hybrid and e-learning instruction, the relationships we built with our communities, and our excitement to learn we have another Fulbright scholar in our midst. And, take a much-needed break from snow shoveling, and join us for our Black History Month events.

Enjoy the newsletter, and we hope to see you on campus soon.

## ECC'S CAPP NAMED FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR

Kristin Capp, an ECC adjunct teaching photography, received the distinction of being named a 2011 Fulbright Scholar. Capp is teaching at the University of Namibia and conducting photographic research on communities in rural Namibia for the next 10 months.

"It's a dream to have the funding and the time to take part in such an exciting endeavor," said Capp. "Exposure to different cultures is a wonderful experience and it's so important to eventually share that experience with others."

The Brooklyn-based Capp taught "Introduction to Photography" within the college's Division of Humanities since com-

ing to the school in 2009. Her photography class will be the first such course taught at the university located in Windhoek, the capital of that southwest African nation. And, of course, when she returns to Essex her students will certainly hear and see what her African experience was like.

An accomplished photographer, Capp has had her solo works displayed in Brazil, Italy, Switzerland, and Belgium, as well as Spokane and San Francisco. Her haunting black and white photographs are fre-

quently portraits or simple rustic scenes in rural locations.

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2011 Fulbright Scholar and ECC Adjunct Kristin Capp (right) is congratulated by ECC Art Coordinator Barbara Pogue (left) and College President Edythe Abdullah (center) at the December meeting of the College's Board of Trustees.

## ECC STUDENTS IN THE NEWS:

### ECC STUDENTS VYING FOR NATIONAL AWARD

Ashraf Amadou and Amanda Benjamin have been nominated to the prestigious Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) All-USA Academic First Team. The team will be announced in April 2011. Since 2001, six ECC students have been named to the first team.

The two scholars are graduating from ECC this spring: Ashraf (3.92 grade point average) with a Biology, Pre-Medicine degree; Amanda (4.0 average) with a degree in Vision Care Technology.

Ashraf Amadou has been interested in medical research for years. "I enjoyed it back when I was in high school" in the Republic of Benin, said the 24-year-old Hillside resident. "I grew up

in a country where there is no real health care system."

Elected President of the College's Student Government Association in Fall 2010, he is the former PTK president at the College. He came to the United

States three years ago to continue his education and to be with his aunt in Newark.

Amanda Benjamin, 31, of Montclair returned to college two years ago after a career set-back. "I was looking for a career that was more sustainable and fulfilling," explained Ms. Benjamin, who



**Top Students: Susan Mulligan, Dean of Student Affairs congratulates Ashraf Amadou and Amanda Benjamin who are nominated to the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) All-USA Academic First Team, co-sponsored by USA Today.**

eventually wants to become an ophthalmologist.

In addition to her studies, Amanda is an SGA representative, vice president for fellowship in PTK and the only student representative on the college's Standardized Assessment and Advisory Council. After graduation, Benjamin plans to attend medical school to study eye surgery.

## ECC'S RE-ACCREDITATION SET FOR APRIL

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education team evaluating ECC to determine the college's new accreditation status will visit the campus April 3-6.

The 8-member team, plus an associate member working in conjunction with the team, is composed of regional college educators. Team members

will visit all areas of the college and conduct interviews with administrators, faculty, staff and students before issuing its report.

Essex has prepared a detailed self-study, analyzing 14 standards vital to the ongoing process of improving college services to students and the community. ECC was reac-

credited for 10 years in 2001, and was reaffirmed in 2006 during a periodic review report.

Schools must be accredited by an accrediting membership association so that the institution will be eligible to receive federal student aid and state appropriations. In addition, accreditation ensures students transferring to a 4-year college that their earned credits are accepted.

## TWO NAMED TO ECC FOUNDATION BOARD



Susan Mach, Ph.D. and Stephen A. Schnall were elected to the Essex County College Foundation Board of Directors.

Since 2008, more than 300 students have received scholarships

through the foundation's efforts.

A partner in Mach Creative Services, a communications firm in Kearny, Dr. Mach has an extensive background and expertise in media relations, communications, public policy, global mergers and acquisitions. She is a part-time professor in leadership and

management communication at the Rutgers School of Business, and at two NY colleges.

Mr. Schnall, of South Orange, is a regional sales manager for Optaros, Inc. of New York. He worked in corporate sales at several other firms and is a lecturer in business courses at Seton Hall University, and St. John's University.

(ELEARNING / Continued from Page 1)

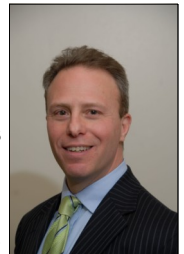
multi-media equipment and supports videoconferencing, web conferencing, video/audio digitizing and editing; and scanning of documents, photos, and large format documents.

Orosz said the hybrid and distance learning classes offered in Spring 2011 will be evaluated at the end of the semester by examining student success and retention rates.

### ECC POLICE ACADEMY'S ALTERNATE ROUTE SUCCESS



**NOW IN SERVICE:** Essex County College Police Academy (ECCPA) graduate Paul O'Neill of Caldwell was sworn in at the North Caldwell Police Department by Township Attorney David Paris in November 2010. Officer O'Neill is joined by his mother, Lisa O'Neill and his brother Kevin O'Neill. In December, a fellow ECCPA graduate was sworn in as a Bogota Police Officer. Both officers entered the Academy's Alternate Route program, which upon passing a battery of tests and an interview, permits the candidate entry without sponsorship by an agency.



Mr. Schnall is an experienced fundraiser for New York City-based Big Apple Greeters where he sits on its executive board of directors and is its fundraising chair.

## PENEWARK FINDS ACTIVE PARTNERS IN EDUCATION HERE AT ECC

“Community” is a core value of Essex County College. Recently, PENewark (Partnership for Education in Newark) has found a welcome partner in ECC. The College supported two events for the community non-profit in December 2010.

On December 9, the College hosted the PENewark forum, “Educators Speak” where representatives from across the educational spectrum shared their opinions about what can be done to improve schools.

“We are at a crossroads in this country between the haves and the have nots, and that is certainly not a position in which we want to be in,” said ECC President Edythe M. Abdullah in the evening’s welcoming remarks.

Later in the month, Dr. Akil Khalfani, Director of ECC’s Africana Institute, was the keynote speaker for PENewark’s 2010 closing session, entitled “Emerging Whole: A Discussion on African Culture/Roots and Education in Newark.”

Charged by Newark Mayor Corey A. Booker’s Office, PENewark held a series of community forums and canvassed neighborhoods to create a community-based dialogue about how the donation from Facebook Founder/CEO Mark Zuckerberg will be disseminated.

ECC’s College YES program is engaged with PENewark in all phases of activities in the college-wide effort to support the best quality of education in the communities we serve.



**Education is a Top Priority: Mayor Cory Booker kicks off PENewark’s Educators Forum held at Essex County College in early December.**

## NATIONAL STUDENT SUCCESS PROGRAM PROJECT DEGREE COMES TO ESSEX

Essex County College has been awarded an \$187,500 grant by the Gateway to College National Network, to participate in Project DEgree. This initiative is designed for 18-26 year olds who earned a high school diploma or GED, but still require help to succeed in college.

“The program provides students with academic support, offers a challenging foundation-based curriculum, with a peer group learning community,” said Assis-

tant Dean of Academic Foundations Leigh Bello de-Castro.

Gateway to College National Network is a nonprofit organization that is tackling the dropout crisis and catalyzing change across developmental education in colleges.

Under the grant, Essex will enroll 25 students in the program per semester for the next year and a half who may not have otherwise been able

to attend college.

The students are scheduled to take classes in English, math tutorial, computer literacy, and a college success seminar, in addition to a career component.

“We are honored to be part of this important national initiative which affirms our commitment to open access to education,” said Ms. Bello de-Castro.

“This important national initiative affirms our commitment to open access to education”

- Leigh Bello de-Castro,  
Assistant Dean

## HEROES AMONG US: ECCPD SAVES A LIFE

If you ask any of the five Essex County College Police Department (ECCPD) staffers who rushed to the aid of a co-worker, they will say they were only doing their job.

In May 2010, ECC Police Sergeant Nathan Gonzalez and Police Officer Andree D. McCloud, both certified emergency medical technicians, responded to the Newark campus cafeteria where a staff member collapsed and was unresponsive.

With the support of Chief of Public Safety Tony Cromartie, Security Officer Treacy Watson-Rogers and Dispatcher Tycina Washington, the employee was rushed by ambulance to a nearby hospital with Sergeant Gonzalez and Officer McCloud at her side continuing their efforts to revive her, and they succeeded. Amazingly, she has since returned to work.

All five ECCPD team members received proclamations

from the College and the City of Newark at the Board of Trustees meeting in November and were recognized in December by Essex County.

The “dynamic duo” of Gonzalez and McCloud remains modest about their heroics on that fateful day in May 2010. According to Gonzalez, “We went from police officers to EMTs. You just do what you’ve been trained to do – to help those in need.”



**ECC Police Sergeant Nathan Gonzalez (right) and Police Officer Andree D. McCloud (left) received the “Essex County Teamwork” award from Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo Jr. (center) at a ceremony held at the Essex County complex in Newark on December 1.**



# ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE

WE ARE ESSEX:  
CHANGING LIVES. BUILDING FUTURES.

## EYE ON ESSEX

A publication of Essex County College

**Dr. Edythe M. Abdullah**  
College President

**Marsha McCarthy**  
Director of Marketing & Communications/Publisher  
303 University Avenue, Newark, NJ 07102  
Phone: (973) 877-3054  
Email: eccnewsletter@essex.edu

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Capp was recommended as a Fulbright Scholar by ECC Professor Barbara Pogue, coordinator of the Art Department. Pogue, of West Orange, is a 1976 Fulbright Scholar who used her award to study the art of the Netherlands and Belgium.

The Fulbright Program is an international educational exchange program sponsored by the United States government and which was established in 1946 by the late U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright. The program has enabled approximately 300,000 students, scholars, teachers, artists and scientists the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research abroad.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

All programs are free and open to the public. Events are held at the main Newark campus, unless otherwise noted:

- Feb. 3 Black History Month Opening Ceremony—Africana Institute, 2nd Level forum, 2:30 PM
- Feb. 7 **Roots** Movie Marathon Student Lounge, West Essex Campus, 9 AM—5 PM
- Feb. 10 Lecture: “The Legacy of Kwame Nkrumah: First President of Ghana”—Multi-purpose Room, 4th floor, 10 AM

(More events are listed on the “EVENTS” section on our website at [essex.edu](http://essex.edu))

### ECC SOCCER STAR NAMED ALL-AMERICAN

Sophomore Sheldon Palmer, a two-year standout for the men’s soccer team, was named to the All American third team this past season by the National Junior College Athletic Association. Leading his team with 17 goals and 11 assists, Palmer is impressively ranked #18 nationally for Division I junior college players.



## ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE HOSTS INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION



**GREETINGS FROM THE STATE HOUSE: Lieu-tenant Governor Kim Guadagno (left) welcomes Director Kadir Çakir, of Turkey’s Ministry of the Interior and the rest of the delegation to the State House on January 12.**

Essex County College hosted a visit by a 35-member delegation of district governors from Turkey from January 5 through 14. The 10-day visit was part of a two-month visit to the United States. The Turkish guests, many of whom were in this country for the first time, attended daily seminars at the main Newark campus and visited government agencies in Newark and Trenton. During a tour of the New Jersey state

house, they met with Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno.

“The ongoing cultural exchange between the two nations - and in a small way with Essex County College opening its doors to this Turkish delegation - is important in improving relationships between the east and the west,” said Dr. Edythe M. Abdullah, President of Essex County College. She added that she also hopes this visit can lead to some collaboration in education and other areas in the near future.

The wide ranging series of lectures focused on a variety of topics, including health-care, media, law enforcement, culture and diversity, as well as government and administration. Both ECC officials and faculty, the college’s board of trustees and representatives from both the public and private sectors

participated in the forums during the 10-day period.

The January 13 program covered the U.S. education system by highlighting high schools, community colleges and four year colleges, including both undergraduate and advance degree programs. Dr. Abdullah, Dr. Lawrence Feinsod, Essex County Executive Superintendent and ECC trustee; and Rutgers-Newark Chancellor Dr. Steven Diner fielded rapid fire questions such as dealing with curriculum, public and private schools, and hot button topics of funding and taxes.

The visit, in part, came to fruition from a contact Dr. Abdullah had when she was President at Florida State College (FSC) in Jacksonville, Fla. There she met the Director of the Amity Turkish Cultural Center and hosted a few delegation visits at FSC. When she came to ECC last year, arrangements were

made for a delegation to visit her new institution.

Dr. Abdullah impressed upon the delegates how she sees education, no matter where in the world a student may live. “We realize everyone is capable of learning; give a youngster any electronic device and he or she will quickly master it. If we take the right approach in teaching, we can help get everyone to where they need to be to succeed.”

**“If we take the right approach in teaching, we can help get everyone to where they need to be to succeed.”**

**- Dr. Edythe Abdullah,  
College President**