



EYE ON ESSEX

JUNE/JULY 2011

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE

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ECC WELCOMES NEW TRUSTEES TO BOARD



**WE ARE ESSEX!
WE ARE
ACCREDITED!**

That's right! Essex County College remains accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, our students' course credits continue to be transferable to other colleges or universities, and we continue to offer financial aid and receive federal grants.

During our recent Middle States peer review visit, we successfully met 12 of the 14 standards, mainly those related to the core mission, planning and resource allocation, governance, special programs for students, and qualifications of our faculty.

We are required to strengthen two of the Middle States' 14 standards to be in full compliance, specifically Standard 7—Institutional Assessment and Standard 14—Assessment of Student Learning.

We are already working toward meeting those remaining two standards. We are confident we will be able to be in full compliance with all 14 standards by Spring 2012. For over 40 years, Essex County College: Putting Students First.



At left: Trustee Michellene Davis, Esq.

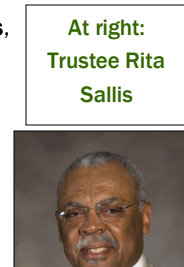


At right: Trustee Elvin Esteves, Esq.

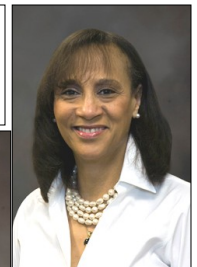
Essex County College welcomed four new members this year to the ECC Board of Trustees. The Board is an 11—member panel who serve in a volunteer capacity for the institution.

Michellene Davis, Elvin Esteves, Gerald Owens and Rita Sallis joined the board this April, following appointments by Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo Jr.

Ms. Michellene Davis is the Senior Vice President for Policy Development & Governmental Affairs for the Saint Barnabas Health Care System. A member of the Corzine administration, she held senior positions such as Chief Policy Counsel, acting State Treasurer and Executive Director of the NJ Lottery. She attended Seton Hall University where she earned her Juris Doctorate from its law school and a Bachelor's degree.



At right: Trustee Rita Sallis



At left: Trustee Gerald Owens

Mr. Elvin Esteves is an attorney with The Gibbons law firm, specializing in federal and state litigation, and alternative dispute resolution. He also has a

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NEW SCHOOL YEAR: NEW PROGRAMS FOR ECC

Essex County College recently announced its new programs for the Fall 2011 academic year; highlights include courses in Green Technology, accounting and computer science.

Essex is forward-minded in the realm of "green technology," as it is one of ONLY two community colleges in New Jersey offering a certificate in Green Technology. Courses include: Principles in Sustainability; Green Facilities Management; Energy Auditing for Residential Buildings; and Introduction to Green Commercial Buildings.

"We saw an opportunity to be a leader in New Jersey in offering courses that focus on this wave of the future," Dr. Scott Mittman, chair of the Biology & Chemistry Division.

ECC's Business Division is starting a Professional Accounting Certificate. Like the Green Technology certificate, this program also has a compressed curriculum that consists of accounting, economics and general education classes to produce the 30 credit certificate.

Another new offering is the Computer Specialist Certificate which stems from collaboration between ECC and Workforce Opportunity Services (WOS). Participants take college-level courses at night and are placed in daytime jobs with participating employers. Participants are enrolled in the for-credit Computer Specialist program where they will learn a variety of com-



THE "EYES" HAVE IT: Scott Mittman, right, shows Acting Dean of Liberal Arts & Sciences Jill Stein, left, some new equipment that is part of the renovated Vision Care Center where ECC students get hands-on experience in a workplace setting.

puter, communications and business skills. Students at Essex will be greeted this semester by renovated and upgraded science laboratories at the Newark campus, featuring state-of-the-art equipment.

ECC STUDENTS IN THE NEWS:



MEMORIES OF NASA: New ECC alum Koffi Trenou (shown left) operates a simulation rover designed to explore the Martian surface. The Irvington resident was selected to travel to NASA's Johnson Space Center in Texas in mid-May, as part of an honors trip sponsored by the National Community College Aerospace Scholars program. Koffi (Engineering and Mathematics) who graduated in May 2011 with a 3.9 grade point average, was one of 40

students and the only one from New Jersey to make the trip to NASA headquarters, will transfer this fall to Stevens Institute of Technology to continue his engineering studies.

NO WEIRD SCIENCE HERE: Four students are recipients of merit scholarships from the Research and Development Council of New Jersey. The scholarships range in value from \$750 to \$1,500. The scholarship recipients are pictured from left: Nicolas Carmona (Architectural Technology), Renata Martin (Biology, Pre-Medicine) and Cinthya Dominguez (Biology, Pre-Medicine). Deby Rimolo (Electronic Engineering Technology) is not pictured. All are members of the College's Phi Theta Kappa Society; Nicolas, Cinthya and Renata are in the strenuous Honors Program. Renata is a member of the nationally-renowned Lady Wolverines track team.



NEW FACES—SAME FRIENDLY OUTLOOK



MEET ECC's NEW ADMINISTRATORS: Constance Mierendorf (top left) comes on board as Executive Assistant of Academics to the President; and Dr. Joyce Harley (bottom left) serves as Executive Director of Administrative Services



strengthen. The former President of Sussex County Community College (SCCC), Dr. Mierendorf comes to Essex after a year in a similar position at Hudson County Community College.

"Essex is a wonderful college with many outstanding programs, faculty and staff," said Dr. Mierendorf. "I plan to contribute to the College's success."

Prior to her role at SCCC, she was Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs at Raritan Valley Community College. She earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees and Doctorate in English from the University of Nebraska.

Dr. Wilson Harley joins ECC as Executive Director of Administrative Services after six years as Essex County Administrator. Dr. Wilson Harley is responsible for several operational departments including Auxiliary Services, Bookstore, Facilities Management & Planning, Public Safety, Purchasing and the Child Development Center.

"Working at such a great school is a wonderful oppor-

tunity for me," said Dr. Harley.

Previously, she served as Executive Director of the Newark Downtown District and of the New Jersey Multi-City LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation). She earned her undergraduate degree in Political Science from Rutgers University-Douglass College and a law degree from the Rutgers Law School-Newark.

There are a few familiar faces assuming new leadership positions:

Dr. Phil Linfante, Executive Dean for Student Success and Educational Services;

Dr. Susan Mulligan, Executive Dean for Institutional Advancement; and

Dr. Jill Stein, Acting Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The positions are part of a reorganization plan initiated in late 2010 by the College's Cabinet. Middle States Commission of Higher Education, ECC's accrediting body, applauded the plan as an accomplishment that addresses the complex organizations that community colleges have become, and improves institutional effectiveness.

ECC GOLF TOURNAMENT SET FOR OCT. 3



CALLING ALL GOLFERS, TENNIS & ECC ENTHUSIASTS! Join Dean Charles Lovallo (pictured above) and hundreds of ECC supporters who make a difference in the lives of our students! Mark your calendar for the 13th Annual Essex County College Golf & Tennis Scholarship Tournament to be held at Maplewood Country Club on October 3, 2011. Our goal this year is to raise \$60,000 in scholarships that will help our most-deserving students earn a valuable college education and take the next step forward to achieve their dreams. The fun-filled day starts at 10:30 a.m. and concludes with a buffet dinner. For information contact Leigh Bello de Castro at (973) 877-3484 or via email: bellodecastro@essex.edu.

THE PRESIDENT PRESENTS: ECC IN THE COMMUNITY



A PANEL OF EDUCATORS: College President Dr. Edythe Abdullah (left) served on an expert panel with Mashea Ashton of the Newark Charter School Fund (center) and Ross Danis, Executive Director of the Newark Education Trust (right) who moderated the discussion. The panel also included Shavar Jeffries, a Seton Hall Law School professor; Dan Gohl of Newark Public Schools; and Jarrad Toussant, an education liaison for Mayor Cory Booker.

Essex County College continues its efforts to be a community partner in the education reform of the Newark Public Schools. ECC President Edythe Abdullah participated in two recent forums in an effort to further engage the business community in the dialogue.

“It’s important that we all work together in improving the quality of education in our backyard,” said Dr. Abdullah at the Newark Regional Business Partnership (NRBP) breakfast program on June 1.

At the session entitled “Education Reform in Newark: Opportunities and Challenges,” she urged stronger collaboration between the

Newark school district and area colleges, so public high school students will be better prepared to succeed in college. Dr. Abdullah also said better ways must be developed to incorporate technology into the public school classroom, from the learning standpoints of both the student and the teacher.

The event was designed to update stakeholders on the progress being done in improving the Newark school district and what still needs to be accomplished.

Dr. Abdullah also presented at the recent New Jersey Alliance for Action-Essex County Chapter meeting held in Newark on July 28.

The President overviewed the institution’s 40-year history of service to Essex County and provided valuable statistical data that reinforced the college’s ability to serve as a valuable resource for workforce development.



ECC STUDENTS SERVE THEIR COMMUNITY: Nursing Professor Majuvy Sulse (pictured left) is flanked by ECC students and family members after participating in a walkathon in Verona Park. The event raised funds for the Valerie Fund Children’s Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Saint Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston on June 11. The ECC “family” frequently finds ways to give back to our community. On May 21, members of the College’s Physical Therapist Assistants Club participated in a 5K/Walkathon, also held in Verona Park, with proceeds benefiting the First Cerebral Palsy Center of New Jersey, located in Belleville.

ECC ENROLLMENT SERVICES EXTENDS HOURS

Essex County College’s Enrollment Services Express and Financial Aid offices are expanding their hours to better meet the growing needs of our students. On Friday mornings, both offices will now open at 9 a.m. instead of 11:30 a.m., announced Executive Dean of Student Success Phil Linfante.

Monday through Thursday hours for both offices will remain un-

changed, being open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Friday closing hour will also remain 4 p.m.

“We are continuing to explore ways to make the entire process more convenient and easier to access for our students,” said Dean Linfante.

The shift in hours is yet another enhanced service being

offered to meet our students’ needs. Most recently, the Faculty Technology Resource Center (FTRC) initiated two new utilities – Online Course Withdrawal and Early Alert. The two student-centric communication tools enhance professors’ ability to meet the changing academic needs of their students.

AREA FIREFIGHTERS TRAIN AT ECCPA

The initial firefighter training class offered through the Essex County College Police Academy (ECCPA) in Cedar Grove fills an important need in fire safety for county residents.

A total of 16 volunteer firefighters, including 12 adults and four junior firefighters under 18, are taking the Basic Fire Fighter I course for volunteers. The inaugural class began June 14 and runs through September 7.

Essex has been one of only two counties in the state without a county-wide fire training facility. That changed earlier this year

when ECC’s Police Academy expanded its scope to offer firefighting courses.

“We are filling a vital need by expanding our academy services,” said ECC Police Academy Director Rocco Miscia. “This is also cutting down on travel time for the firefighters who don’t have to go all over the state; now high-quality training is held right here in Essex County.”

The City of Newark also offers on-site training, but instruction is limited to City departments. More than 20 career

firefighters have already registered for the training class starting September 9. This course is being offered in conjunction with a 10-week Basic EMT training course for firefighters that starts September 12.

A number of other offerings are being developed at the academy. The county’s 20 fire departments respond to more than 40,000 calls annually.

ECC has operated the Police Academy since Dec. 31, 1998.

“We are filling a vital need by expanding our services. Now, firefighters don’t have to travel for high-quality training, we offer it right here in Essex County.”

- Rocco Miscia,

ECC Police Academy Director



ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE

WE ARE ESSEX:
CHANGING LIVES. BUILDING FUTURES.

EYE ON ESSEX

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ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE

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ECC EVENTS AUGUST 2011

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

August 10 **College Open House**
2nd Floor Forum
4:00 PM–7:00 PM

August 18 **Radiography Pinning Ceremony**, Multi-Purpose Room, 3rd Floor
6:00 PM
By Invitation Only

Adult Learning Center Recognition Ceremony
Siegler Hall
6:00 PM
By Invitation Only

August **Investiture Ceremony for 29 Dr. Edythe Abdullah as 6th President of Essex County College**
Physical Education Bldg.
9:00 AM–11:00 AM
Convocation
11:30 AM–6:00 PM

(More events are listed on the "EVENTS" section on our website at essex.edu)

(NEW TRUSTEES—Continued from Page 1)

practice representing and counseling developers and corporations on real estate development projects, government and other business matters in Newark. A graduate of Columbia Law School, he also holds an undergraduate degree with High Honors from Rutgers University.

Mr. Gerald Owens is the General Organizer for the International Longshoreman's Association, and the first African-American to serve in that position in the 115-year history of the union. A longshoreman in Port Newark and Port Elizabeth since 1958, he also served as the union's assistant general organizer. He was instrumental in establishing a scholarship fund while president of ILA Local 1233 in Newark. Since 2006, he has served as a vice president of the New Jersey ALF-CIO and is a state Board of Elections commissioner.

Ms. Rita Sallis is a principal at The Yucaipa Companies, a venture capital and private equity company. She previously worked for the City of New York, serving as Deputy Comptroller/Chief Investment Officer, overseeing the investment of the city's five pension boards. She was also Deputy Comptroller for Public Finance. She earned an advanced degree in Health Administration from the University of Pittsburgh and a degree in Psychology from Central State University in Ohio.

The Board implements policies and practices developed by the administration, acts on personnel issues, approves expenditures, helps develop the annual budget, and listens to concerns from students and employees. The Board of Trustees meets in public session each month.

NEW HEAD COACH FOR ECC'S MENS' BASKETBALL TEAM



There will be a new head coach on the sidelines this season for ECC's men's basketball team. Corey Lowery recently accepted the position after four years at Middlesex County College where he compiled an outstanding 88-28 record.

"This is a great opportunity for me. ECC is a step up in National Junior College Athletic Association competition since Essex is Division 2 and Middlesex is Division 3" said Coach Lowery. "Essex has a great tradition and facilities, and is in an area rich in talent."

Lowery promises his team will be built on discipline and an up-tempo pressing defense.

Players also can expect mandatory study hall and time in the weight room. While he expects a number of freshmen dotting the roster, the new coach does not consider this season a rebuilding year, although the team finished a disappointing 12-16 last year.

An elementary school principal in nearby Union Township, he previously coached at Hillside High School and was an assistant coach at Bloomfield College. He is a graduate of Rutgers-Newark, where he played basketball while majoring in sociology and education.

LOVE: ECC'S WEST ESSEX CAMPUS STYLE

In 2005, students Michael Callahan ('07) and Elizabeth Zink ('06) began dating. They had many common interests including music, volunteering and good food. Something else they shared was the desire to pursue their education, but were unsure of the paths they wanted to take.

Together they decided to enroll in classes at ECC's West Essex Campus and began their pursuit of Liberal Arts degrees to gain direction in their future.

The couple graduated from ECC as members of Phi Theta Kappa with Associate degrees in Liberal Arts.

Elizabeth continued on to pursue a BA from Seton Hall University. She is currently working on her Master's degree to become a Board Certified Associate Behavior Analyst. Michael graduated Rutgers University-Newark with a degree in Social Work. Next, he will focus on his

Master's degree. Since attending ECC, their careers and relationship blossomed.

The newlyweds share fond memories of their time at ECC. Michael and Elizabeth consider the skills they obtained from ECC to be the ultimate stepping stones that have contributed to the current successes and fulfillment that — like their love — will continue to grow with time.



HERE IS THE BRIDE: ECC alum, **Michael and Elizabeth Callahan** of Hoboken were married on September 18, 2010.