



**Essex County College
Board of Trustees
PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA**

October 19, 2021 at 4:30 pm
Smith Hall
303 University Avenue, Newark, NJ
or Via Zoom Webinar

In Attendance: M. Bolden; I. Cruz; J. Grimes (via Zoom); L. Guyton; A. Lewis; C. Morales (via Zoom); B. Robinson; J. Wright (via Zoom); J. Zarra (via Zoom); A. Boakye, Interim President; M. Townes, Board Counsel

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 4:41 pm, by the Board Chair, Trustee Bolden. Following roll call, a quorum of nine trustees was announced.

Open Public Meetings Act Announcement

Trustee Grimes was asked to read the Open Public Meetings Act. She read as follows:

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey, adequate notice of this regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Essex County College was provided in the following manner:

Advance written notice of this virtual meeting was filed on October 6, 2021 and written notice for this meeting was provided to the Essex County College Community, indicating that the meeting will be held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (P.L. 2020 c. 11, and the Governor of New Jersey's Executive Order 244, and N.J.A.C. 5:39-1 Emergency Regulations: Remote Public Meetings held During a Declared Emergency) regarding COVID 19 Emergency. Notice of the meeting was also posted on the College website at www.essex.edu. According to records of Essex County College, we have not received written requests or prepayment from any parties for advance notice of meetings.

Minutes

Trustee Grimes moved for acceptance of the September 21, 2021 Executive Session minutes. Her motion was seconded by Trustee Cruz. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Communications

Trustee Grimes announced the receipt of communications from Dean Lovallo and Shawn Yearwood. She stated that the communications would be read during the public comments portion of the meeting.

Comments on Agenda Items

Comments submitted by Mr. Lev Zilbermintz were read into the record of the meeting. His comments are attached at Appendix A.

Finance Committee Report

Trustee Zarra reported that the Finance Committee met, vetted and present for Board approval items 3-1.1 through 3-2.1:

3-1.1/10-2021	Authorize the Award of a Proposal for Architectural/Engineering Services for Parking Deck Comito Associates PC Architecture, Newark, NJ Chapter XII Funded – Capital Expense	\$28,500.00
3-1.2/10-2021	Authorize the Award of a Purchase of Extreme Network Wireless Solution Johnston GP, Inc. DBA Johnston Communications (JCT Solutions), Springfield, NJ CRRSAA Grant – Cares Act 2.0 Funded – Capital Expense	\$198,339.03
3-1.3/10-2021	Authorize the Award of an Additional Purchase of Furniture for the Information Technology Department Business Furniture Inc. (BFI) A Herman Miller, Inc., Parsippany, NJ Chapter XII Funded – Capital Expense	\$48,205.99
3-1.4/10-2021	Authorize the Award of a Professional Service for Degree Works Software Upgrade, and Professional Service for Banner Page Builder Training Ellucian Company, LP, Chicago, IL CRRSAA Grant – Cares Act 2.0 Funded (\$34,860.00)/College Funded (\$5,320.00) - Operating Expense	\$40,180.00
3-1.5/10-2021	Authorize the Award of a Purchase for a Server for Wireless System Dell Computers, Round Rock, TX CRRSAA Grant – Cares Act 2.0 Funded – Operating Expense	\$6,476.23
3-1.6/10-2021	Authorize the Award of a Purchase for Nursing Program and License Assessment Technology Institute, LLC (ATI), Leawood, KS Carl D. Perkins Grant Funded – Operating Expense	\$162,673.75
3-1.7/10-2021	Authorize the Award of a Second Year Contract for two Educational License Subscriptions to the Bloomberg Professional Services and Bloomberg for Education Bloomberg Finance, L.P., New York, NY Carl D. Perkins Grant Funded – Operating Expense	\$50,880.00
3-1.8/10-2021	Authorize the Award of a Purchase of Certification Training CompTIA, Downers Grove, IL Johnson Control Grant Funded – Operating Expense	\$18,570.00
3-1.9/10-2021	Authorize the Award of a Contract for a Subscription for West Proflex Thomson Reuters (West Law), Carol Stream, IL College Funded – Operating Expense	\$17,999.98
3-1.10/10-2021	Authorize the Payment for Legal Services Fernandez Garcia, LLC., Morristown, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	\$14,430.00

3-1.11/10-2021	Authorize the Payment for Legal Services Genova Burns Attorneys-At-Law, Newark, NJ CRRSAA Grant Funded – CARES Act 2.0/Operating Expense	\$12,237.50
3-1.12/10-2021	Authorize the Outstanding and Additional Payment for Insurance Policy Renewal IMAC Insurance Agency LLC., Belleville, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	\$11,202.76
3-1.13/10-2021	Authorize the Award of a Contract for Professional Services Clifton Larson Allen, LLP, Plymouth Meeting, PA College Funded – Operating Expense	\$14,125.00
3-1.14/10-2021	Authorize the Award of a Three-Year Contract for a Mobile Software – Ready Ed Campus App Ready Education, Inc., Montreal, Canada CRRSAA Grant Funded – CARES Act 2.0/Operating Expense	Not to exceed \$37,000.00 per year
3-1.15/10-2021	Authorize the Award of a Floor Repair in the Physical Education Building – Gymnasium Classic Floor Finishing, Inc., West Berlin, NJ Chapter XII Funded (\$362,133.76)/Essex County Funded (\$24,641.24) – Capital Expense	\$386,775.00
3-2.1/10-2021	Resolution to Revise Agenda item 3-2.2/9-2021 to Provide a Statement and Fix Date for Essex County College Board of School Estimate Public Hearing	

Trustee Lewis moved the finance actions for approval, Trustee Morales seconded the motion. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Personnel Committee Report

Trustee Grimes reported that the Personnel Committee met last Tuesday, vetted and recommend approval of the appointments, merit awards, retirement and supplements listed below:

A. Appointments

- 4-1/10-2021 Cassandra Johnson, Instructor, Counseling
 Student Development and Counseling
 Salary - \$60,280.00
 Effective November 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022
- 4-2/10-2021 Aaron Ocasio, Coordinator of Community Offerings and Non-Credit Enrollment Services
 On-Campus Continuing Education
 Salary - \$50,000.00
 Effective October 25, 2021 through June 30, 2022
- 4-3/10-2021 Erica Cando, Workforce Program Assistant
 Training, Inc
 Salary - \$43,500.00
 Effective November 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

- 4-4/10-2021 Juanita Jones, Administrative Assistant
Humanities and Bilingual Studies
Salary - \$35,900.00
Effective October 20, 2021 through June 30, 2022
- 4-5/10-2021 Melva Cueva, Teacher Assistant
Child Development Center
Salary - \$23,500.00 (contingent upon grant funding)
Effective October 20, 2021

B. Merit Awards

- 4-6/10-2021 Administrative Association
- Judith Celestin, Director
Adult Learning Center
Amount - \$6,000.00
- Jinsoo Park, Director
Institutional Research
Amount - \$6,000.00
- 4-7/10-2021 Professional Association
- Claudia Rodriguez, Administrative Assistant
Financial Aid
Amount - \$4,000.00
- Tanya Wright, Assistant Director
Training Inc
Amount - \$4,000.00
- 4-8/10-2021 Support Staff Association
- Lillian Kirk, Technical Assistant
Martin Luther King Jr. Library
Amount - \$1,000.00
- Evelyn La-Salle Hernandez, Technical Assistant
Retention and Academic Advisement
Amount - \$1,000.00

C. Retirement

- 4-9/10-2021 Patricia Slade, Associate Dean
Student Life and Development
Effective December 31, 2021

D. Supplements

- 4-10/10-2021 Karen Bridgett – Deputy Title IX Coordinator
Additional Responsibilities July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022
Amount - \$5,000.00

Judith Celestin – Director, Consolidated Adult Basic Skills and Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education Grant
Additional Responsibilities September 13, 2021 through December 23, 2021
Amount - \$4,500.00

Sanghmitra Choudhury – Director, Johnson Controls Grant
Additional Responsibilities September 13, 2021 through June 30, 2022
Amount - \$4,500.00

Yelena Lyudmilova – Director, Mentorship, Alignment, Preparedness, Support (MAPS) Grant
Additional Responsibilities September 13, 2021 through December 23, 2021
Amount - \$3,333.33

Angela McKinney – Director, Non-Credit Enrollment Services and Extension Programs
Additional Responsibilities September 20, 2021 through December 23, 2021
Amount - \$4,500.00

Patricia Slade - Deputy Title IX Coordinator
Additional Responsibilities July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021
Amount - \$2,500.00

Trustee Cruz moved the actions for approval, Trustee Robinson seconded her action. Eight trustees approved (Trustee Zarra stepped away), **the motion carried.**

Educational Programs Committee Report

Trustee Lewis advised that the Educational Programs committee recommended approval of the following two actions:

- 7-1.1/10-2021 Dual Enrollment Program: Peoples Preparatory Charter School District Board of Education
- 7-1.2/10-2021 Service Agreement: Diligent Urgent Care, LLC

Trustee Robinson moved both items for approval. Trustee Guyton seconded her motion. **The motion carried** – eight affirmed as Trustee Zarra was not present for the vote.

Trustee Lewis then introduced the following goldenrod action 7-1.3/10-2021 and asked Board Counsel, Mr. Townes, to read it into the record of the meeting. Mr. Townes read as follows:

Acceptance of Release and Hold Harmless Agreement

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees of Essex County College accept the Release and Hold Harmless Agreement between Essex County Vocational Technical Schools Board of Education and Essex County College for Essex County College's usage of the Donald M. Payne Sr. School of Technology Gymnasium as an indoor training facility for the college's Men's and Women's Basketball Programs.

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE: The Essex County College Gymnasium has been impacted by the flooding from the severe September 2021 storm that affected our area. As a result, the Essex County

College Athletic Department needed to secure an off-campus location for the Men’s and Women’s Basketball Teams to practice. An application requesting usage of the Donald M. Payne Sr. School of Technology was submitted to the Essex County Vocational Technical Schools Board of Education. The anticipated usage will begin on Tuesday October 19, 2021 through Friday November 19, 2021 pending approval. There will be no cost to the institution for the use of the facility.

FISCAL NOTES: There is no financial impact to the college. Essex County College is not being charged for the facility usage.

RESOLUTION: The Board of Trustees of Essex County College accepts the Release and Hold Harmless Agreement between Essex County Vocational Technical Schools Board of Education and Essex County College for Essex County College’s usage of the Donald M. Payne Sr. School of Technology gymnasium as an indoor training facility for the college’s athletic programs.

Trustee Robinson made the motion to approve the action. Trustee Zarra seconded the motion. **The motion carried**, eight affirmed, one abstention.

Site Facilities and Equipment Committee Report

Trustee Morales advised that there was no committee meeting this month and there were no actions to present.

Policy and Governance Committee Report

Trustee Cruz reported that the Policy and Governance Committee met on October 12th and recommended the approval of actions 7-3.1, 7-3.2 and that action 7-3.3 be tabled as the Board is conducting a presidential search:

Actions – Submitted for Board Approval

7-3.1/10-2021	Revision to BP 1-1	Implementation of Open Public Meetings Act
7-3.2/10-2021	Revision to BP 1-2	Trustee Appointment
7-3.3/10-2021	New BP 1-3	President as Executive Officer of Essex County College

Trustee Zarra moved the actions as presented. Trustee Robinson seconded the motion. **The motion carried unanimously – 7-3.1 & 7-3.2 approved; 7-3.3 tabled.**

Community Relations Committee Report

Trustee Wright informed the Board that the committee did not meet this month and she, therefore, had no report.

Alumni Association Report

Ms. Stephenie Carter, Vice President of the Alumni Associate read the attached report (Appendix B) submitted to the Board of Trustees for their information.

Student Government Association Report

There was no report from the Student Government Association.

Faculty Association Report

Prof. Frank opened his report by welcoming the Trustees back to the campus. He also welcomed Cassandra Johnson to the faculty as a counselor.

He commented that he signed up to make agenda comments, but since voting on agenda items had taken place and he would not have said anything to change the outcome of the votes, he moved to his report, highlights as follow:

- Personnel Action 4-10.10 – Prof. Frank pointed out that staff and administrators received well deserved merit awards; however, there were no merit awards for faculty members;
- Educational Programs Action 7-1.2 – Prof. Frank inquired as to why the contract with Diligent Urgent Care for covid-19 testing was only for 200 students and staff and whether 200 is an adequate number;
- The great experiment – most classes offered in person, with the caveat that vaccination and masks are required. He asked if the policy applies to fully remote students, which he said is surprising and a little bit problematic.
 - Prof. Frank stated that he believes we are the only community college in the state utilizing the strategy of remote, hybrid and in person instruction, which is well ahead “of the bunch”. He offered thanks to everyone who made it possible and commented that it helps enrollment and give students a choice that works for them. Benefits for our students being in class far outweigh any other considerations and is the first step to getting back to normal;
 - Referencing the few temporary class interruptions related to covid issues, Prof. Frank noted that the strength of the College is that it can move on a dime and take care of all contingencies.
 - Most concerns from faculty and staff revolve around covid safety issues; however, it appears that none of the infections were contracted on this campus.
- The great experiment has succeeded against all odds. Students are receiving the quality education they deserve; however, covid-19 is still the wildcard; no one can predict what is going to happen with the virus; infections and mutations will continue.

Prof. Frank concluded his remarks acknowledging that three (3) finalists are being considered for the permanent presidency of Essex County College; the Board will make their decision, and it is anticipated that the College will have a new president before the start of the spring semester. On behalf of the Faculty Association, he alluded to the dialogue which will have to take place with the new president.

President’s Report

Dr. Boakye read his report to the Board of Trustees as submitted. His report is attached at Appendix C.

New Business

Madame Chair called for new business, hearing no response, she proceeded to the next order of business.

Public Comments

Dean Kirkland rose to speak on action 4-9, the retirement of Associate Dean of Student Life and Development, Patricia Slade. He shared that he has worked with her for thirty-five years; he acknowledged the various capacities wherein she served the College during her tenure, her many contributions to students and the College community. He stated that whoe would be remiss if we did not celebrate a job well done and Dean Slade’s service rendered to Essex County College.

A letter from the Alumni Association in support of Dr. Boakye's presidential candidacy was presented by the association's Vice President, Stephenie Carter.

Public comments submitted by Lev Zilbermintz and Lillian Kirk were read into the record. Correspondence acknowledged by Trustee Grimes earlier in the meeting from Dean Lovallo and Shawn Yearwood was also read into the record. The comments and correspondence are attached at Appendix D.

In response to Dean Kirkland's comments with regard to the retirement of Dean Slade's, Madame Chair also acknowledged that the retirement will be a tremendous loss to the college. She stated that Dean Slade makes a difference in the lives of students and offered that we should find a way to celebrate her and the greatness of her contributions to the College community.

Madame Chair closed this portion of the meeting by acknowledging that the last year and a half had been difficult and the Board appreciates all that faculty and staff have done as well as the sacrifices made for students. She commented that the Board is here to provide support and sincerely want the College to thrive. She offered that we will soon have much to celebrate.

Notice of Executive Session

Trustee Grimes was asked to read the Notice of Executive Session. She read as follows:

WHEREAS, The Open Public Meetings Act, 1975 (N.J. Law Chapter 231) permits a public body to exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which certain topics are discussed:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Essex County College shall hold, following this meeting and prior to its next scheduled meeting on November 16, 2021 at 4:30 PM, an Executive Session to discuss the following topics, the general nature of which is limited to Collective Bargaining Agreements, Pending and Existing Contractual Negotiations, Litigation and Personnel Matters. The discussion of these said topics shall be disclosed to the public as soon as reasonable.

Adjournment

There being no further business for the attention of the Board, Madame Chair, Trustee Bolden, adjourned the meeting at 5:44 pm.

From: Lev Zilbermintz <polyanker@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 8:02 AM
To: agendacomments <agendacomments@essex.edu>
Subject: Lev Zilbermintz Comments on Agenda Items

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Greetings, everyone,

My name is Lev Zilbermintz, Class of 1993. Here are my comments on Agenda items.

(1) Item 4-10/10-2021: Congratulations to all who received supplements!! Good job!!

(2) Item 7. -1.2/10 - Thanks for getting professionals to help with COVID-19 testing! How about a COVID-19 symposium, lecture or course by the Biology Department?

(3) Item 7 -3.2/10-2021 - Board Policy 1-2 Trustee appointment

I would like to see the Board of Trustees grant voting rights to the Student Representative. There are 10 trustees, so they outnumber the sole student representative. There is nothing to be afraid of by granting the Student representative voting rights. After all, students pay a big chunk of money to this college. Their money funds the school.

You say that the student representative must know the needs of the college community in partnership with the Student Government and the Alumni Association. In other words, a lot of work. I feel that in return, the Student Representative should have voting rights. Do recall that some students and alumni have jobs and families.

Should neither the Student Representative nor the Alternate perform their duties, then the Alumni Association, can elect a replacement. It is in the alumni constitution.

Essex County College Alumni Association Report to the Board of Trustees

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Good Evening Board Members & fellow ECC Alumni.

My name is Stephenie Carter, and I am the ECC Alumni Vice President. It is my pleasure to be here this evening and provide an update for on behalf of the Executive Alumni Association.

- During the last Board of Trustee meeting September 2021, Nkuah Asare, our ECC Alumni President officially announce the return of the association. Although, we are enthusiastic about the task set before us; we are familiarizing ourselves with the policy and rebuilding the association (slow, but steady).
- As a team, we would like the Board of Trustee's to get to know the newly elected ECC Alumni Association Executive Board Members. Each month you will be given an opportunity to meet an Alumni Association Board Member and hear updates regarding our progress. We have already assigned members to cover the remaining months of 2021. In November, you will meet our Corresponding Secretary and Membership Committee Chair, Allison James – Frison. In December, our Treasurer and Finance Chair, Patrick Saint Fort will be joining you.
- Nkuah Asare, our ECC Alumni President met with Alfred Bundy's team (Institutional Advancement Department) on September 23rd and was interviewed. He announced the official return of the Alumni Association, expressed his enthusiasm, and outlined some of the Alumni Association's term goals.
- The Alumni Association held our first general meeting virtually on September 30 at 6:30 pm. We had a total of 14 attendees, to include the executive board members.
- Dr. Boakye, as part of his commitment to helping the association stand on a solid ground, attended the meeting and spoke briefly. He discussed coordinating with ECC's legal team, on how we can use a third-party vendor known as *LiveAlumni*. This service will assist us with getting information about our alums, so that we can reach out to them as part of recruiting active members and fund raising.
- During the meeting, the Executive Board introduce themselves and provided the agenda. Each Standing Committee Member Chair presented their Plans of Action (POA). The committee chairs discussed their POA's plans for Membership, Public Relations, & Finance (**See Attachment 1**).
- Further emphasis was placed on the Alumni Association term goals for 2021/2022 (**See Attachment 2**). Lastly, the floor was opened to address any questions and/or concerns. Some of the topics discussed were related to dues, the constitution (rewriting/revising) and possible future events.
- It is important to note the low attendance of our previous meeting. We need to ensure that we are properly advertising and encouraging other Alumni to attend our meetings. We will need the support of the Board of Trustees and the College Administration to assist in this effort. In compliance with the constitution, the Alumni Association will host four general meetings. The meetings will be held quarterly, every third Thursday. Our Next, general meeting will be held on December 16, 2021, and will be open to the public.

- On October 7, 2021, Nkuah (ECC Alumni President), Maria (Member at Large/Public Relations Chair and Alfred Bundy (Executive Director/Institutional Advancement) met to discuss ideas for our Alumni Association brochure. Additional follow up will be needed to address various components of the Alumni association's brochure. Updates will be forthcoming.
- A proposal to have social media platforms (LinkedIn, Facebook & Instagram) was unanimously voted on by the Executive Board members. This proposal is about to be sent to the office of Institutional Advancement for the creation of these accounts. This would further help us connect to Alumni, and solely be used for the promotion and marketing of the Alumni Association.
- Currently, the Alumni Association is working to achieve the following:
 - Working in collaboration with the college President to secure a more visible office location and secure the necessary resources (i.e., Tablecloth for events, materials, and so on) needed for the smooth running of the office.
 - Reviewing ideas for future programming/events that can help raise funds for the association and its scholarship program. We are hoping to reengage, connect, and energize the Alumni.
 - Compiling ideas for future Alumni webpage.
- Our next Executive Board virtual meeting is scheduled for October 21st at 7:00 pm.

Attachment 1

ECCA Membership VISION 2021-2023

- Social Media campaign to increase the alumni membership this will allow all ECCA to participate.
- Table at events at ECC and in the community.
- Host alumni mixers, which can take place virtual or in person.
- Do pop-ups at ECC and, ask professors if I can have 2 minutes to talk to students about the benefits and importance of becoming a member of the alumni association.
- Attend graduation and/or award ceremonies to have membership packages available for all graduates, again speak about the benefits/importance of being a member of the alumni association.
- Outreach to Rutgers, NJIT, Bloomfield, Berkeley, Montclair, Kean, etc. to see if I can be a part of some of their events. I am sure there are Alumni at these universities/colleges.
- Co-sponsor events with the Treasurer.

ECCA Public Relations VISION 2021-2023

2021-2023 ECCA Executive board has established the need to reinforce Alumni connection with the College. The alumni of ECC are a tap of wealth in our community. The Public Relation Committee understands this and will present a plan to foster community Engagement:

- Engage Alumni through strategic social media marketing
- ECC Alumni Official FB Page and GROUP
- LinkedIn Official PAGE and Private Group
- Monthly/ Quarterly Newsletter to highlight ECCA Association Members and Alumni accomplishment.
- ECCA Public Relations Committee looks forward to work closely with Membership Committee to engage ECCA Members and turn them into ACTIVE ECCA Members.
- Encourage ECCA Board and Alumni to share/attend ECC Community

Events

- Spearhead 2-3 Annual Alumni Mixers- (in person and virtual)
- Attend ECC Graduation and Speak about ECCA

ECCA Finance Fund Raising Proposal for 2021-2022

1. DUES

- a. Need to establish frequency and amount
- b. Note that the constitution requires the Treasurer to collect dues but does not determine nor suggest dues amount.

2. GALA

- a. One or two in a calendar year (date or dates and modality to be determined by the board).

3. RAFFLE

- a. One or two in a calendar year (date or dates and what to raffle to be determined).
- b. Can possible be tied into Gala event as well
- c. Possible to co-sponsor with the Membership Committee for other events/mix & mingles, tabling opportunities etc.

4. ALUMNI CLUB

- a. Five different clubs could be created - Further details to follow.
- b. \$100 (Sliver)
- c. \$200 (Gold)
- d. \$300 (Bronze)
- e. \$400 (Platinum)
- f. \$500 (VIP)

5. BUDGET

- a. A budget will be established once cost of operation is determined.

Attachment 2

The 2021 – 2022 Essex County College Alumni Association goals are:

1. To increase our active membership.
2. To relocate our office to a more visible area on campus. This will increase visibility and effectiveness. President Boakye is working to make this possible for the Association.
3. To rebuild our Alumni webpage and use it to share important information such as- Member Benefits, Recruitment, How to Donate, Upcoming Events, and How to support the college's student recruitment efforts.
4. To organize fund raising activities for student scholarships. *Our minimum target for 2021-2022 academic year or term in office is \$50,000.*

Memorandum

To: Dr. M. Bolden & the Board of Trustees
From: Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, Interim President, Essex County College
Date: October 19, 2021
Re: President's Report

General:

Despite the COVID-19 challenges, Essex County College continues to operate in fulfillment of its mission, thus, to serve the diverse needs of its students through comprehensive educational programs, training and continuing education. For the safety of our faculty, staff, students and the entire campus community, we require vaccination and face covering while on campus. Individuals with medical or religious reasons have the opportunity to seek an exemption.

- ❖ We continue to encourage all employees and students to participate in the free COVID-19 vaccination. ECC Gymnasium continues to be a site for COVID-19 vaccination and testing. Also, the College has partnered with Diligent Urgent Care to offer COVID-19 Testing in the main campus - 4th Floor Multipurpose Room on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Again, we urge every employee and student to upload their Covid Vaccine records to the provided portal.

Academics:

The Fall 2021 semester is so far progressing very well. We appreciate our faculty (FT and Adjuncts) in their support to the students.

Finances

The Board of School Estimate met on October 15, 2021 to approve \$10 million capital funds from the County of Essex towards the West Essex New Building Project.

Dr. Boakye met with the Foundation Board to discuss plans for future fundraising activities.

Projects:

The capital projects at the College are progressing well and future projects are under review and discussion. The West Essex project is at demolition stage, while the bidding for a contractor is ongoing. To maintain our presence in West Caldwell during the construction, we have secured classroom space from ECST and West Caldwell High School to offer ECC courses this fall semester.

At the main campus, we are currently renovating the Gymnasium, the entrance doors, the IT suite, the Child Development Center, and the bridge in front of the Clara Dasher building.

Community Relations:

Dr. Boakye continues to participate in all NJ Presidents Council Meetings to advocate for funds and contribute to the success of our state colleges. The recent topic of discussion is on Covid-19 pandemic and the future of Higher Ed.

Dr. Boakye also participates in regular meetings with the County leadership to share key updates on the College. He represented the College at Mayor Baraka's Newark transformation and recovery from COVID-19 meeting as well as the Newark City Learning Collaborative (NCLC) and Newark Anchor Collaborative (NAC).

Led by our recruitment team, ECC participated in the Halsey Festival organized by Newark Anchor Collaborative (NAC).

Dr. Boakye also met with Mayor of West Caldwell, Hon. Joseph Tempesta to discuss future partnerships as we continue to expand our presence in the area.

Dr. Boakye and Ms. Christine Soto (General Counsel) participated in the special event organized by the County in recognition of outstanding Spanish leaders of the community in honor of 2021 Spanish Heritage month.

On September 30th, Governor Phil Murphy conducted a Townhall Meeting at ECC with students. In his discussion, he encouraged the students to take advantage of the Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG), which his administration has introduced to support College students financially.

On October 8th, Her Excellency, Vice President of the United States, Kamala Harris visited ECC's Essex County sponsored Covid-19 Vaccination Center. Several dignitaries, including Governor Phil Murphy, Congressmen Donald Payne and Frank Pallone, County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo and Mayor Baraka accompanied the Vice President to the College.

On October 14th, Dr. Boakye represented ECC at the Ribbon Cutting Dedication Ceremony of West Caldwell High School of Technology's new building. He also joined other college presidents and elected officials to witness the installation of Kean University's 18th President, Dr. Lamont Repollett.

Madam Chair, this ends my report. Thank you.

Memorandum

TO: Dr. Marion Bolden, Chair - ECC Board of Trustees
FROM: ECC Alumni Association Executive Board
SUBJECT: Support for Dr. Boakye's Permanent Presidency
DATE: October 19, 2021

- The executive board of the ECC Alumni Association anonymously voted through a proposal that Dr. Augustine Boakye should be made the permanent President of Essex County College.
- The Association has been dormant for the past several years and none of the college's past leaders during this period took the initiative taken by Dr. Boakye to help revive the Association.
- Madam Chair, you and the board members will agree with the alumni executives that a strong and active alumni association plays a very vital role when it comes to the governing and the success of our dear college.
- Dr. Boakye demonstrated his leadership and ability to be a team player by attending meetings and interacting with the Alumni Association. Additionally, Dr. Boakye focused his efforts on gathering and united the association to what it is today.
- Madam Chair, looking at the challenges our Alumni Association is facing now, - lack of active membership and visible office location, just to mention a few, and how Dr. Boakye is coordinating and working with the alumni executives, we are very optimistic to say that Dr. Boakye's presidency will open a new door for ECC to become a better and homecoming institution.
- Dr. Boakye in position of the office of the Presidency of Essex County College will help make the Alumni Association more vibrant and reposition the Association to play its rightful role in the college.
- In closing, we affirm by this memo, to express our full support for Dr. Augustine A. Boakye to be made the permanent President of this noble college.

Thank you.

From: Lev Zilbermintz <polyanker@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 8:45 AM
To: publiccomments <publiccomments@essex.edu>
Subject: Public Comments

Hello, everyone,

This is Lev Zilbermintz, Class of 1993. Here are my comments.

You just broke ground on a new campus building at West Essex Campus. That is very good. Might I ask, have you considered connecting Clara Dasher Center and the A. Zachary Yamba Building by a corridor? It would extend from the Cafeteria to the back entrance of Dasher Center. This would allow easier access to the Dasher Center. Also, it would not cost \$30,000,000 like the new WEC Building being constructed.

The coronavirus has really affected everything. Despite this, in-person interaction should not cease. When can events start the normal way, not just on Zoom? Of course, everyone would need to be vaccinated and wear masks, social distance.

Finally, who is in charge of updating the college website? A lot of information is out of date. You need to hire a professional to update your website, period. Because information sometimes is buried way too deep, and is not easily accessible. Information about clubs and Student Government is not updated. These are but some examples.

See you all in November.

From: Kirk, Lillian
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 3:59 PM
To: publiccomments <publiccomments@essex.edu>
Cc: Boakye, Augustine <aboakye@essex.edu>
Subject: gratitude

Good day,

Dr. Boakye our interim president and to the Board of Trustees of Essex County College.

Please accept my sincere thank you for having considered and confirmed my request for a merit award. I am truly humbled by this acknowledgement.

Again thank you all so very much.

Regards,

L. Kirk



Lillian Kirk

Technical Assistant

Essex County College

MLK Jr. Library

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October 10, 2021

Dr. Marion A. Bolden, Chairperson
Board of Trustees
Essex County College
303 University Avenue
Newark, NJ 07102

Re: Public Comment for
October 19, 2021 Meeting

Dear Dr. Bolden:

My name is Charles Lovallo and I am a retired educator with 43 years of service to Essex County College. My tenure spanned both faculty and administrative positions, including 24 years as Dean of Community and Continuing Education.

I believe my long association with ECC offers a compelling perspective on the selection of a new president. It is my fervent hope that the Board of Trustees will afford me the opportunity to provide input on this most crucial decision.

The retirement of President Emeritus A. Zachary Yamba in 2010 was a profound turning point for the college. Indeed, his extraordinary two decades of leadership were the catalyst for ECC's re-emergence as an exceptional community resource.

The recruitment of Dr. Yamba's successor led to a national search that resulted in the appointment of an external candidate as the college's 6th president.

During the ensuing decade, the college would engage in two additional national searches that resulted, once again, in the appointments of external candidates.

The brief tenure of these external choices were hardly stable and productive periods. The college struggled with serious financial difficulties that at one point forced the Board of Trustees to declare a fiscal exigency. It also dealt with academic issues and organizational difficulties that led to sanctions from the Middle States accrediting agency. Ultimately, the departure of all three presidents left the college with numerous law suits and buyout costs.

Essex County College has been an integral part of my life for nearly 50 years. And so it is that my commitment to this most vital institution compels me to offer the following for consideration by the Board of Trustees:

The selection of an external candidate to serve as ECC's next president is really a "guessing game." You truly cannot assess an individual's commitment to students or evaluate the reality of one's experiences so carefully outlined in a resume or articulated during the interview process. You also cannot definitively determine if the acceptance of the appointment is a firm commitment to the college and its students or a short-term career stepping stone.

There is, however, one candidate in this current search who offers verifiable answers.

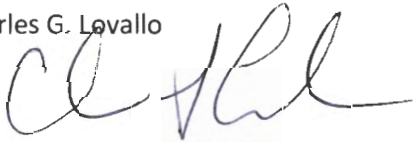
Dr. Augustine Boakye has been employed at Essex County College since 2009. He has served as a faculty member, Academic Chairperson, Dean and now Interim President. His strong commitment to students, the college and the community has been clearly evident in all of these roles. Since his acting appointment in 2020, the college is now on a steady and stable academic and fiscal path. He has admirably handled the successful operation of the college throughout these difficult pandemic months. And there is, once again, a sense of promise on the part of the college community that has fortunately been rekindled.

I urge the Board of Trustees to reflect on the college's past search committee mistakes that placed the institution at serious risk of losing accreditation.

What is in place now is working and moving the institution in the right direction under the strong leadership of Dr. Boakye.

Thank You.

Charles G. Lovallo



Lifelong resident of Essex County
New address:
2541 Collier Road
Manasquan, NJ 08736
973-477-9005

cc: Board of Trustees

Arnold C. Lewis, Vice Chair
Jewelene Grimes, Treasurer
Joseph S. Zarra
Isabel Cruz
Lanel D. Guyton
Carmen Morales
Beth Robinson
Johanna Wright

October 8, 2021

Good afternoon, Madam Chair Dr. Marion Bolden, and the Board of Trustees of Essex County College

My name is Shawn M. Yearwood.

I am honoured to have the opportunity to write these few words expressing my support in the decision-making process to select the new President of Essex County College (ECC). I stand in support of Dr. Augustine Boakye to serve as President of the great Essex County College. He is the leader that has served this college for years, knows our history, understand the needs of our community, has the passion for student success and the desire and skills to lead this college for years to come.

I first met Dr. Boakye as a student in his Economics 101 class in 2013. He is an excellent instructor who brings sound teaching principles such as interest, comprehension, emphasis, participation, accomplishment, confirmation, and knowledge to the classroom. As a former Army Sergeant-Major, I appreciated the importance of his successful instructional technique, aligned with sound leadership skills. His passion for student success, made it easier for us to learn and do well.

As I continued my journey to complete my formal education, Dr. Boakye supported and mentored me all the way. I was voted President of the Business Club and Vice President of the Student Government Association here at ECC. We were very fortunate to have him as our advisor. He guided and supported us every step of the way. While studying for my Bachelor of Science Degree, at Berkeley College, he would frequently call and encourage me to keep working hard for success. He was delighted to hear that I was accepted to the MBA Program at Berkeley College. Dr. Boakye is like no other.

Today, I am grateful to be serving my community as an Adjunct Professor of Business Management and now Student Advisor and Mentor in the Business Division at Essex County College.

I respectfully urge you all to select Dr. Augustine Boakye as the President who will continue to put Students First as he continues building this great Institution.

He is second to none!

Best Regards,

Shawn M. Yearwood, Military CD, MBA

Student Advisor/Mentor

Adjunct Professor

Business Division

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