



**Essex County College**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 21, 2023 | 4:30 pm**  
*A Virtual Meeting*

**In Attendance**

M. Bolden; I. Cruz; J. Grimes; L. Guyton; A. Lewis; C. Morales; B. Robinson; J. Wright; J. Zarra; A. Boakye, President; M. Townes, Board Counsel

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

Chair Bolden called the meeting to order at 4:33 pm. Eight trustees were present at roll call. A quorum was achieved for the meeting.

**Open Public Meetings Act Announcement**

Trustee Grimes was asked to read into the record of the meeting the Open Public Meetings Act. She read:

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 meeting was filed on January 6, 2023, 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 Board Policy 1-1. Notice of the meeting was also posted on the College website at [www.essex.edu](http://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 minutes of the January 24<sup>th</sup> meetings for approval. Trustee Robinson provided the second. ***The minutes were approved by acclamation.***

**Communications**

Trustee Grimes announced that there were no communications.

**Public Comments on Agenda Items**

Comments on agenda items submitted by Lev. Zilbermintz and Professor Bernstein were read into the record of the meeting:

Hello, everyone,

I would like to start by congratulating everyone who was appointed to their positions. Also, congratulations to Dr. Boakye for being promoted to Professor of Economics.

I do have a question about item 3-2.1/2-2023 Acceptance of Donation Campus Soccer Field. How many students do we have in total at both campuses? Look, I did my homework and research. It seems to me that the Main campus has more students than the one in West Essex. From what I saw when I visited West Essex Campus, the demographics and needs of students are different from the main campus in Newark.

The last time I visited WEC was a couple of years back, when the Board had a meeting there. Do we know what the needs of WEC students are? Point is, if we are making a brand-new campus for West Essex, we need to have enough students enrolled to use it. Fact is, that in 2010, we had 10,000 students. Now it is something like 5,000 - 6000 students.

I think the soccer field is a great idea. We need to have enough students to use it.

- Lev D. Zilbermints

Acceptance of Professor Emeritus

I humbly accept this recognition from my Legacy Essex County College! I came to ECC a 24-year-old and quickly became part of the Mission to bring quality education to the those previously neglected prior to the institution of the Community College System in New Jersey! I truly received more rewards from my career of 50 years than any man could expect in their lifetime! This honor is the capstone of these blessing and rewards!

- Harry V. Bernstein

**Finance Committee Report**

Trustee Zarra advised that the Finance Committee met, reviewed all of the proposed agenda items and recommends the approval of finance actions 3-1.1 through 3-2.1 as follows:

3-1.1/2-2023	Authorize the Award of Blanket Orders for the College ShopRite, Kearny, NJ Global Food and Fruit Group, LLC., Bronx, NY Hunger Free Campus Grant Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$100,000.00
3-1.2/2-2023	Authorize the Award of a Contract to Support Remote Learning Zoom Video Corporation, Inc., San Jose, CA College Funded – Operating Expense	\$19,000.00
3-1.3/2-2023	Authorize the Award of a Contract for Legal Services Genova Burns Attorneys-At-Law, Newark, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$50,000.00
3-1.4/2-2023	Authorize the Award of an Additional Increase for Legal Services O’Toole Scrivo, LLC, Cedar Grove, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$25,000.00
3-1.5/2-2023	Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Bid for Roof Repair Services Sky General Construction, Paterson, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$60,000.00

3-1.6/2-2023	Authorize Additional Payment for a Recruitment Campaign Pioneer Production Services, LLC/VIEWPOINT, Delray Beach, FL College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$1,445.00
3-1.7/2-2023	Authorize the Award of a Purchase for Instructional Computing Equipment at the West Essex Campus Dell, Round Rock, TX CDW-G, Chicago, IL Minor Capital Funded – Capital Expense	 \$340,865.68 59,954.80 <hr/> Total \$400,820.48

3-2.1/2-2023 Acceptance of Donation: West Essex Campus Soccer Field

Trustee Cruz moved the Finance Actions for approval. Trustee Morales provided the second. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

**Personnel Committee Report**

Trustee Robinson presented the following actions for the Board’s approval:

**A. Contract Ratification**

4-1/2-2023 Essex County College Chapter 6370 United Adjunct Faculty of New Jersey AFT, AFTNJ, AFL-CIO, LOCAL 2222

**B. Appointments**

4-2/2-2023 Bertheleau Ngakam  
 Lecturer A, Mathematics  
 Effective September 1, 2023  
 Salary \$59,903

4-3/2-2023 David Tomkins  
 Assistant Director, Athletics  
 Effective March 9, 2023  
 Salary \$60,000

4-4/2-2023 Ehsan Alizadeh  
 Admissions Specialist, Welcome Center  
 Effective February 22, 2023  
 Salary \$44,875

4-5/2-2023 Ricky Castaneda  
 Admissions Specialist, Welcome Center  
 Effective February 22, 2023  
 Salary \$44,875

4-6/2-2023 Roy Harte  
Admissions Specialist, Welcome Center  
Effective February 22, 2023  
Salary \$44,875

4-7/2-2023 Ricky Quinn  
Coordinator, Welcome Center  
Effective February 22, 2023  
Salary \$45,000

4-8/2-2023 Melvina Tucker  
Administrative Assistant, Bursar  
Effective February 22, 2023  
Salary \$35,900

4-9/2-2023 Maxine Thomas  
Custodian, Facilities Management  
Effective February 22, 2023  
Salary \$31,200

**C. Change in Salary**

4-10/2-2023 Youssef Yassine  
Maintenance Technician, Facilities Management  
Effective February 22, 2023  
Salary \$54,134.11

**D. Professor Emeritus Status**

4-12/2-2023 Harry Bernstein  
Professor Emeritus, Business  
Effective March 1, 2023

**E. Retirement**

4-13/2-2023 Steven Aretz  
Police Officer, Public Safety  
Effective February 3, 2023

**F. Resignations**

4-14/2-2023 Alice Vinci  
Human Resources Generalist, Human Resources  
Effective February 8, 2023

Michelle Mercado  
Legal Assistant, Legal Affairs  
Effective February 17, 2023

Trustee Zarra moved the personnel actions for approval. His motion was seconded by Trustee Morales.  
***The motion was approved unanimously.***

Trustee Robinson then moved to table Personnel Action 4-11/2-2023, Promotion in Academic Rank, due to issues of timing and protocol. Her motion was seconded by Trustee Grimes. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

### **Educational Programs Committee Report**

Trustee Lewis indicated that the Committee met 'last week' and recommends the approval of the following four items:

- 7-1.1/2-2023      Acceptance of Funds: Essex County Division of Training and Employment
- 7-1.2/2-2023      Acceptance of Funds: Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, Hunger-Free Campus Grant
- 7-1.3/2-2023      Memorandum of Understanding: Urban League of Essex County
- 7-1.4/2-2023      Partner Agreement: MDRC SUCCESS Project

Trustee Zarra moved and Trustee Robinson seconded the motion to approve all four items. ***The motion was unanimously approved.***

### **Site Facilities and Equipment Committee Report**

Trustee Guyton stated that the Committee did not meet this month, therefore there was nothing to report. He noted that if there were any updates they would probably be included in the President's report.

### **Community Relations Committee Report**

Trustee Wright reported that the Committee did not meet in the month of February; there were no action items; therefore, there was nothing to report.

### **Policy and Governance Committee Report**

Trustee Grimes was asked to make the report for the Committee. She advised that the Committee began work to review the College bylaws and that there were no items to present for approval.

### **Alumni Association Report**

Mr. Lev Zilbermints made the report for the Alumni Association. It is attached at Appendix A.

### **Student Government Association (SGA) Report**

Ms. Rosales, President of the SGA made the report which is attached at Appendix B.

### **Faculty Association Report**

The Faculty Association Report presented by the faculty representative to the Board of Trustees, Prof. J. Alexandre, is attached at Appendix C. Professor Alexandre was thanked for a comprehensive report.

### **President's Report**

Dr. Boakye's written report is attached at Appendix D. In making his verbal report he shared, from his written report, the following:

- Information about the College Council meeting held on February 16th
- Students continued support from the various areas of the College
- Enrollment is slightly ahead of and aligns with the number from last year
- The January and February activities as noted in his report.
- Progress on the FY22 Audit
- Progress on capital projects adding the HVAC system upgrade and renovations to the Center for Technology
- Preparations for the fall and reopening of the West Essex Campus

In closing the President expressed thanks to Professor Emeritus Harry Bernstein for 50 years of service to students and contributions to the College. He also acknowledged and thanked the leaders of the Adjunct Faculty Association, Lynne Cummings, John Smith, and Mark Brodsky, for completing the contract negotiations.

Additionally, the President indicated that the Middle State Accreditation Site Team visit will be from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2023. He called for everyone to give their best support and offered to address any issues or concerns anyone might have with regard to the visit. The President thanked everyone for their contributions to the Middle States reaccreditation process.

Madame Chair then stated that we are coming to a very critical assessment for which the College is well prepared; she expressed hope for good news from the visiting team.

#### **New Business**

Madame Chair called for new business, there was none.

#### **Public Comments**

The following public comments from Lev Zilbermints and Lynne Cummings were read into the record of the meeting:

Hello, everyone,

Do you know that using electric scooters can be dangerous? I was reading an article that says the lithium-ion batteries powering the scooters can be deadly. If they malfunction, then it takes 15 seconds to start a major fire. Yes, I am talking about these scooters you see all over Newark and beyond.

According to NBC News, in August 2022, an electric scooter sparked a fire in a New York City apartment that killed a 5-year-old girl and a 36-year-old woman. Last month, a fire believed to be caused by the batteries in an electric scooter engulfed a multifamily home in Brockton, Massachusetts.

The problem is that the lithium batteries will not allow water in. This makes the fire that much more difficult to control. And get this, our students, police officers, and community are using electric scooters to travel. Why, we have a scooter stand outside our main campus exit!

I brought this issue up because you need to be warned about the dangers that lithium-ion batteries pose. Forewarned is forearmed, goes the old saying.

Lev D. Zilbermints, '93

## Statement from the Adjunct Faculty Federation Officers

Good Evening Trustees and Dr. Boakye.

Thank you for ratifying the Adjunct Faculty Contract.

Thank you also to the Adjunct Faculty for their support and dependability through the entire process. We want to acknowledge and honor the Adjunct Faculty who are new to our ranks, those who have been teaching here for decades, and everyone in-between.

We do all we can to take care of Adjunct Faculty and give them all of the tools they need because their working conditions directly impact the learning environment of our students. We are the quiet, stable and vital contributors to Essex County College.

Our Adjunct Faculty are highly qualified and loyal to the Mission of putting **STUDENTS FIRST**.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Lynne Peterson Cummins, President  
John L Smith, Vice President  
Mark Brodsky, Secretary/Treasurer

Madame Chair then directed her comments to Prof Bernstein. She congratulated him on working for over 50 years in the same organization which she stated is a breed of professionals that has become pretty much extinct. She expressed appreciation for his loyalty, service and wished him a great second half of his life.

### **Notice of Executive Session**

Trustee Grimes was then asked to read the Notice of Executive Session, she read as follows:

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 March 21, 2023 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.

Trustee Cruz made the motion to go into Executive Session; Trustee Robinson provided the second. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

### **Adjournment**

Madame Chair called for a motion to adjourn. On the motion made by Trustee Robinson and seconded by Trustee Wright, the meeting was adjourned at 5:22 pm by acclamation.

My name is Lev D. Zilbermints, Alumni Association Member-at-Large. I am making this month's Alumni Report. Here is the update.

On February 11, the Essex County College Alumni Association co-sponsored basketball games between Essex County College and SUNY Sullivan. At the same time, ECCAA held a luncheon for Alumni in Room G401B of the Cleo Hill Sr. Physical Education Building.

There were two games. One was the ECC Women's Team against SUNY Sullivan. The other was the ECC Men's Team against SUNY Sullivan. The Women's Team lost to Sullivan, while the Men's Team won against SUNY Sullivan.

Acting President Stephenie Carter, Member-at-Large Maria Andrade, Ernest Dimbo, Alumni Liaison, Al Bundy, Executive Director of Institutional Affairs, Kendal Brown (former ECCAA President), myself (Member-at-Large), Shalia Storey, Gerald Holloway, all helped to set up the Alumni Room. The lunch was catered by La Cocina located on 61 New St., Newark, NJ.

The Alumni Association would especially like to thank Shalia Storey, she did an amazing job designing/decorating the space for the event.

ECC President Augustin Boakye delivered an address. He invited alumni to have a Homecoming Week. Al Bundy made remarks. Acting ECCAA President Stephenie Carter introduced the Alumni Association to the 25 alumni present. Their graduation class dates ranged from 1980s - 2022.

After the luncheon, we invited alumni to watch basketball games and were invited to give remarks to the spectators during half time.

Congratulations to Dr. Harry Bernstein, Professor Emeritus, as well as Dr. Michael Frank and Herbert Schlager on becoming Professor Emeritus. We would like to thank them for their decades-long -- 50 - odd years each!! -- to the school.

Also, we would like to congratulate all Alumni who have been hired by the school. In addition, we wish to congratulate Bertheleau Ngakam (Alumni Advisor) on his recent promotion/upcoming appointment in September to Lecture A/ Mathematics.

We have plans in place for a General Alumni Meeting on March 30, 2023, at 7:00 pm via Zoom.



## **STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SPRING 2023 (FEBRUARY) REPORT**

**Good afternoon to all Board of Trustees, Dr. Boakye, Faculty, and Administration.**

### **VALENTINE'S BAKE SALE / FUNDRAISER**

The Student Government Association had a Valentine's fundraiser where we sold empanadas, pies and more on the 8th and 9th of February, 2023.

### **ICC MEETING WITH OTHER CLUBS & ASSOCIATIONS**

We conducted an ICC meeting with the other clubs on the 16th of February, 2023. A total of 13 clubs were present at this meeting. The 360 Art Club is working on some events and would like to collaborate with other clubs on various activities. We were informed by the students about several complaints such as the rise of prices in the school's cafeteria and high demand for the PA system around the school. All ICC attendees were also invited to the next student forum in order to provide a more diverse slate of topics to discuss.

### **SGA ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY**

We have approved a total of 2 club proposals so far. We hope to approve more proposals to satisfy the needs of clubs in the future. /

### **INITIATIVES FOR THE REST OF FEBRUARY AND ONWARD**

- Student forums: February 21st, and March 28th
- Increased action of the senate through club audits and departmental interviews
- SGA meeting with President Boakye
- A transfer video for graduating students

We look forward to enacting our initiatives and we appreciate any support the board may give us.

Respectfully submitted,

SGA Executive Board  
Essex County College  
Student Government Association

**Essex County College**  
**ECCFA Report to the Board of Trustees**  
**February, 2023**

Thank you, Madame Chair!

Good afternoon members of Essex County College Board of Trustees

1. I would like to start by inviting you to please mark your calendar for the Essex County College, Business Division 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Financial Literacy Conference that will be held on April 12, 2023 in Smith Hall from 10 AM to 2:20 PM.
2. With your permission, I would like to congratulate Dr. Augustine Boakye, Professor Harry Bernstein, and Professor Bertheleau Ngakam for their promotion. I would like to thank you as well for the ratification of the contract of our colleagues in the United Adjunct Faculty.

Members of the Trustees, our esteemed faculty members remain very committed and dedicated in their support to the college mission through the myriad of activities undertaken to promote the college importance in the community, fostering students' success and incessantly improving their intellectual capital by means of their scholarly activities. Below is a brief summary of our esteemed faculty members recent academic and extracurricular activities

**Africana Institute**

3. Dr. Akil Kokayi Khalfani, Ph.D. held the African History Month Flag Raising on February 2, 2023 to start the Black History Month. The flag raising was one of the countless events that Africana Institute championed to celebrate the month of February under Dr. Khalfani great leadership.

**Biology, Chemistry & Physics**

4. Dr. Nidhal Marashi, PhD, NASA -ECC PI & Coordinator, ECS Adviser PTK Co-adviser is proud to announce the two Award Winning for our ECS – Essex County College ACS Chapter. For the first time since she started the chapter in 2014, ECS receives two Awards from ACS in one academic year: The Commendable Award and Green Chemistry Award for the years 2021-22. She would like to specially thanks all our Chemistry Major Students who passed the Research Study in Chemistry course and submitted their abstracts and presented their research project at the “Annual ACS National Meeting & Exposition” during the Pandemic! American Chemical Society (ACS).
5. Dr. Ahmed Farag Ali, PhD Assistant Professor of Physics, published recently along with collaborators from the USA, and Europe a study that is published in European Physical Journal C in which they introduced a possible explanation for unitary symmetries from wormhole geometry that may be useful to understand quantum entanglement. I intend to give a seminar on these results on March 17, 2023, as part of seminars organized by the Division of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.

6. Dr. Humberto Baguerizo, program coordinator Medical School, Rutgers University, Newark on February 14, 2023 talked to the Biology, Chemistry and Physics students about NERA & SHEP – The summer Enrichment programs at the Medical School of Rutgers, Newark NJ as part of the Biology, Chemistry and Physics (BCP) Seminar Series.

NERA stands for North East Regional Alliance. It is a summer enrichment program for Bio-Premed students.

SHPEP is the Summer Health Professions Education Program. This is also a summer enrichment program at the Rutgers Medical School in Newark. NJ.

Dr. Nidhal Marashi PhD is the chair of the Biology, Chemistry and Physics (BCP) Seminar Series Committee. She organizes, facilitates, and invites speakers in collaboration with the former committee chair Dr. Frank Duroy

### **Business Division**

7. The Business Division held its Monthly Financial Literacy Seminar with the support of the finance, economics and accounting faculty members on January 31, 2023. The presenters were two students who attended Essex County College and are currently holding important positions on Wall Street.
8. The Business Division submitted the Quality Assurance report to the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) on Feb 15, 2023. ACBSP is the global business accreditation body that recognized that has approved four programs in the Essex County College Business Division programs. It was a team effort from four business faculty and the Business Division Chairperson: Professor Raquel Pernia, Dr. John Olotewo, Professor John D. Hammond, Professor Germaine Albuquerque and Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre.

### **Math Engineering Tech. & Comp. Science**

9. Professor Emmanuel Adepo and Professor Ines Figueras, wrote an IUSE EDU Grant proposal that was submitted to NSF in January. If awarded, the grant would provide additional support for STEM majors in math classes.
10. Professor Ron Bannon has developed several thousand pages of mathematics lessons for the Prison Mathematics Project <<https://www.prisonmathproject.org>> participants. I have been working on this project for years and have also developed hundreds of hours of YouTube videos to accompany these written materials.  
There are several reasons why providing education to incarcerated individuals is essential: Reduces Recidivism, improve Job Prospects, Increase Public Safety, Promotes Rehabilitation, Upholds Human Rights.

### **Humanities & Bilingual Studies**

11. Dr. Margaret Stevens, the newly elected ECCFA Vice-President, presented on "Roe V. Wade 50 years later" at Swarthmore College to a group of roughly 50 students and faculty at the invitation of some Swarthmore students and teachers.

12. Dr. Margaret Stevens was asked by a magazine called Small Axe to give a presentation in Amsterdam, Holland, in September 2023 about my current film project documenting the impact of Covid on the tourism industry in Aruba.
13. Prof. Nash served as a **Focus Project Coach** for the Mandela Washington Fellowship, a flagship program of the Obama Administration, and which is under the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) - June 13 – July 15, 2022. As a follow-up activity Prof. Nash began work on a modest grant in Sept 2022 to build on the relationship that was established.

### **Nursing & Health Science**

14. Professor Jennifer Chapman, the ECC Student Nurse Organization (SNO) Advisor, provided excellent leader that enable several members of the SNO to be elected to the NJ Nursing Students, Inc. (NJNS) state-wide offices on 2/17/2023. The NJNS Inc. is a state chapter of the National Student Nurse Association. Ms Katelyn Fraser is President; Mr Kwame Osei-Agyepong, 1st Vice President; Adrian Camille Lorenzana, Public Relations Director; Ambyr Williams, Treasurer & Secretary and Chanikarn Ku, Population & Health Director

### **Social Sciences**

15. Dr. Bridget Turner had met with Media Department to suggest outreach and marketing for CDA Program and Praxis Preparation Course
16. Dr. Bridget Turner Coordinator from the education program Planned College Transfer Information Sessions for Education Major Students for Spring 2023.
17. Dr. Bridget Turner met with NJCU to seek advisement on developing an Alternate Route Certificate Program at Essex County College.
18. Dr. Bridget Turner developed EDU 233 (Praxis Preparation Course) with paying in county fees
19. Dr. Bridget Turner Collaboration with two Union County Child Care Centers for staff to pay in-county tuition fees for EDU 233 (Praxis Preparation Course)-(Union County Relationship building.
20. To provide students with opportunities for experiential learning and be of service to the community, Professor Clare Kajura and Psychology Student volunteers worked with the staff at the Newark Emergency Services for Families to distribute food to Newark residents. Some of these people are homeless. The volunteer events were on January 19th and February 16th.
21. To prepare for a smooth start of the Spring semester, on January 10th and 12th, Professor Clare Kajura, organized and co-facilitated a Pearson Faculty training for Psychology Faculty using Pearson eBooks and 22 Faculty attended.

## Memorandum

**To:** Dr. M. Bolden & Trustees

**From:** Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, President, Essex County College

**Date:** February 21, 2023

**Re:** President's Monthly Report

### General:

The College is strongly emerging out of the Pandemic and in-person meetings are gaining popularity. We continue to monitor Covid-19 cases and follow national and local guidance. To open up the family-like environment and promote morale across the campus, we organized a College-wide Council meeting (i.e. Open Forum) on Thursday, February 16, 2023 to listen to the voices of the community. The event which was attended by approximately 200 staff paved a way to discuss multiple topics including college finances, enrollment, students support, capital projects, employees' welfare, public safety and Middle States reaccreditation. Due to the success of this event, I have established the College Council to meet at least once in each Spring and Fall semesters.

### Academics / Enrollment / Student Support:

- ❖ The Spring 2023 semester is so far moving smoothly. The total number of Spring 2023 credit hours is **59,693** which is **1.5%** higher than that of last year, Spring 2022 i.e. **58,837**.
- ❖ The ECC Mobile App now has over 1,500 registered users. In addition, numerous events on Campus were photographed and submitted in the Community Chat for the student population. Events included, Student Club Fair, African History Month Flag Raising, SGA Student Forum, and the Transfer Fair. Interestingly, student clubs are more engaged this semester. The Student Development Center, Learning Center and the Office of Student Care continue to provide core services to the students to ensure their retention.

### **The President's January/February Engagements have included:**

- Welcoming the Computer Science & Engineering (Civil, Electrical & Mechanical) Advisory Board to ECC on January 27, 2023; following the ABET accreditation onsite visit
- Welcoming to ECC campus 8 African Consul Generals (Ambassadors) assigned to New York representing Algeria, Angola, Egypt, Liberia, Nigeria, Morocco, Senegal, and South Africa) to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Lecture on January 24, 2023
- Coordinating with the Middle States team to submit ECC's Self-Study Report on February 6, 2023

- Joining the ECC Alumni to celebrate their game day with ECC Basketball Team where the Men's side won over the Guests, SUNY Sullivan
- Organizing a successful and timely Board of School Estimate (BOSE) meeting for FY 24 on February 16, 2023

**Finances:**

Our FY (Fiscal Year) 22 Audit is underway. The College continues to work on initiatives to bring funds to the College through grants and auxiliary services while exploring ways to reduce expenses.

**Projects:**

Capital projects at the College are progressing well and future projects are under review and discussion.

The West Essex campus construction project is on schedule to be completed by June 2023. Both the construction of the classroom block and the parking deck are progressing well.

The renovation of the cafeteria at the Newark campus has begun and expected to be completed in the summer.

**Community Relations:**

I continue to participate in all NJ Presidents Council (NJPC) and NJ Council of Community Colleges (NJCCC) meetings to advocate for funds and contribute to the success of our state colleges/universities.

On January 24, 2023, I had a successful meeting with the Essex County Delegation - NJ Legislators, organized by Hon. Leroy Jones, NJ Democratic Party Chairman. The meeting allowed me to share the status of the College and also opened up opportunities for the elected officials to ask questions and pledged their support to the College.

On January 27, 2023, I participated in Essex County's dedication of Vailsburg Park in honor of Senator Ron Rice, a proud alumnus of Essex County College.

On February 2, 2023, I participated in the ribbon cutting and grand opening of the Essex County Schools of Technology - Newark Tech. The event was led by Governor Murphy and County Executive Joe DiVincenzo. The Newark Tech, which is headed by Trustee Morales (Principal), has partnered with the College to offer dual enrollment and other learning collaborations.

On February 2, 2023, Dr. A. Z. Yamba and I (Ex-Officios) had a meeting with Mr. Reggie Davis (Chair) to discuss the future of the Foundation Board.

On February 5, 2023, I travelled to Washington DC with Mr. Bundy for the ACCT National Legislative Summit (NLS). As part of the summit, I joined the NJCCC team to visit Capitol Hill and met with Congressman D. Paynes, Jr., Congresswoman M. Sherrill, Senator C. Booker and Senator B. Menendez to discuss key agenda items including funding of the community colleges.

On February 9, 2023, I visited Dr. Scott Taylor, Superintendent of UBOE, to discuss transfer path for the High School students to ECC.

On February 17, 2023, Dean Vieira and Dean Williams led ECC team to meet with Pastor Keith Davis at the Camden Dream Center where *Cisco Academy* program is advanced to explore opportunities for ECC.

**Acknowledgments:**

The College Community thanks all its retirees for their many years of dedicated service. We wish them well.

**[Save the dates - Upcoming Events.](#)**

The Middle States Accreditation *Full-team Site Visit* is scheduled for **March 19-22, 2023**.

**Madam Chair, this ends my report. Thank you.**





Essex County College – College Council Meeting



Dr. Boakye and Others meet Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill





Dr. Boakye and the Alumni



Newark Tech Ribbon Cutting

