



Essex County College
Board of Trustees
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

May 23, 2023 – 4:30 PM

A Hybrid Meeting

In Person (Smith Hall, 303 University Avenue, Newark, NJ) & via Zoom

In Attendance

M. Bolden; I. Cruz; J. Grimes (remote); L. Guyton (remote); A. Lewis; C. Morales (remote); J. Zarra (remote); A. Boakye, President; M. Townes, Board Counsel

Excused

B. Robinson; J. Wright

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by Trustee Bolden, Chair of the Board of Trustees. A quorum of seven Trustees present was announced.

Open Public Meetings Act Announcement

Trustee Grimes was called upon to read the Open Public Meetings Act. She read the following:

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. According to records of Essex County College, we have not received written requests or prepayment from any parties for advance notice of meetings.

Minutes

Minutes of the April 18, 2023 meetings were moved for approval by Trustee Grimes, seconded by Trustee Zarra and ***unanimously approved by acclamation.***

Communications

Trustee Grimes announced that there were no communications.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Mr. Lev Zilbermints came forward to share his comments on agenda items which had been submitted via e-mail:

Hello, everyone,

It is the usual monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees.

1) Congratulations to all those who have been appointed and promoted. Those who are retiring or resigning, thank you for your dedicated service to Essex County College. We would like to wish you the best in your future endeavors.

2) 3-1.1/5-2023: My question is this. Parking has always been an issue with Essex County College students. The point of the matter is that there should be enough parking spots for Essex County College students at West Essex campus. Has a measure been taken of approximately how many parking spots are required? Because if not, then we are back to the old days, when students used to double park around the West Essex Campus just to get in.

Ms. Conleton then read the following agenda comment submitted via email:

With the appointment of Dr. Jinsoo Park to the academic rank of Associate Professor, will he also be receiving Tenure?

Best,
Jeff Lee
Jeffrey N. Lee, Ph.D. (he/his/Mr.)
Division of Biology, Chemistry, & Physics
Essex County College
303 University Avenue
Newark, NJ 07102
(973)-877-3234
www.essex.edu

Finance Committee Report

Trustee Zarra reported that the Finance Committee recommended the approval of the following Finance actions which were reviewed by committee members at their meeting held the previous week:

3-1.1/5-2023	Authorize the Award of an Additional Change Order for Proposed Parking Structure at West Essex Campus Dobco, Inc., Wayne, NJ County of Essex Funded - Capital Expense	\$113,217.07
3-1.2/5-2023	Authorize the Award of a Three-Year Contract for a Point-to-Point Ethernet from the Main Campus to the West Essex Campus Cablevision Lightpath, Inc., Jericho, NY College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$115,000.00
3-1.3/5-2023	Authorize the Award of License Renewal for Support Services and Instructor Led Educational Services Kronos, Lowell, MA College Funded – Operating Expense	\$22,789.94
3-1.4/5-2023	Authorize the Award of a Three-Year Contract for Landscaping & Ground Maintenance Custom Care Services, Inc., Wall, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$43,880.26 per year
3-1.5/5-2023	Authorize the Award of a One-Year NJ State Contract for Preventative Maintenance, Service and Repairs for Elevators #1-11 Champion Elevator Corporation, Clinton, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	\$56,162.00

3-1.6/5-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Maintenance and Repair Services of McQuay Chillers D&B Services Group, LLC., Bloomfield, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>\$37,400.00 per year</p>
3-1.7/5-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Cooling Tower Seasonal Startup, Shutdown, and General Repair Services Clarity Water Technology, LLC, Orangeburg, NY College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>\$37,400.00 per year</p>
3-1.8/5-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Emergency Generators Preventive Maintenance, Testing, and Exercise Services G.M.H. Associates of America, Inc., Trenton, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>\$37,400.00 per year</p>
3-1.9/5-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of an Additional Contract for NJ Transit Advertisement Services Intersection Media, LLC., New York, NY Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG) Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>\$16,981.52</p>
3-1.10/5-2023	<p>Award a Contract for Additional Auditing Services PKF O’Connor Davies, LLP, Woodcliff Lake, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>Amount not to exceed \$14,250.00</p>
3-1.11/5-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of a Contract for Additional Advertisement Services AAD, Inc. Local Talk Positive Community Magazine Altice Media Screen Vision Media Capstar dba: iHeart TAP Into Local Media Motor Vehicle Network Comcast Holding The Whitney Publishing Irving Street Rep. El Cambio Worral Community Caldwell Progress Intersection College & Some College, No Degree Grant Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>Amount not to exceed \$22,630.00</p>
3-1.12/5-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of Three-Year Contracts for Instructional Services for the Summer Youth Program Black Rocket Productions, Freehold, NJ Caring for Children dba Bricks 4 Kidz, Newark, NJ Share Joy, LLC dba STEAM To-Go, Midland Park, NJ No Financial Impact on the Institution – Operating Expense</p>	<p>Amount not to exceed \$75,000.00</p>

3-1.13/5-2023	Authorize the Award of Six (6) Blanket Orders for Printing, Addressing, Labeling, Bundling, and Mailing Post Cards and Brochures for the College Hummel Distribution Corp., Union, NJ Graphic Image, Inc., Milford, CT Indiana Printing & Publishing Co., Inc., Indiana, PA United States Post Office, Newark, NJ ConceptPrint, Nyack, NY Fastsigns Solutions, Newark, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$100,000.00
3-1.14/5-2023	Authorize the Increase of Seven (7) Blanket Orders for the College 4Imprint Tylexa Enterprises, LLC Creative Advertising Specialties ConceptPrint Drew & Rogers, Inc. Fastsigns Solutions Velocity College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$224,400.00
3-1.15/5-2023	Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Blanket Order Institutional Supplies B&H Photo, New York, NY College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 per year
3-1.16/5-2023	Authorize the Award of an Emergency Repair – Cafeteria Sewer Trenching Russo Contracting, Inc., Oakland, NJ Chapter XII Funded – Operating Expense	\$27,345.00
3-1.17/5-2023	Authorize the Award of a Contract Renewal for Supplemental Life Insurance Dearborn National, Lombard, IL College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$50,000.00
3-1.18/5-2023	Authorize the Award of a NJ State Contract for Surveillance System for the West Essex Campus Johnston GP, Inc. DBA Johnston Communications, Springfield, NJ County of Essex Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$115,198.59
3-1.19/5-2023	Authorize the Award of a One (1) Year NJ State Contract for Fire Alarm, Fire Suppression, and Burglar Alarm System Testing, Maintenance and Technical Services Johnson Controls Fire Protection, LP, Totowa, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$130,000.00
3-1.20/5-2023	Authorize the Award of Four (4) Blanket Orders for the College Carolina Biological, Burlington, NC Fisher Scientific Co., Pittsburgh, PA VWR International, LLC, Rochester, NY Grainger, Palatine, IL College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$37,000.00

3-1.21/5-2023 Authorize the Award of a Contract for Professional Services
Netta Architects, Mountainside, NJ \$60,000.00
Chapter XII Funded – Capital Expense

Trustee Grimes moved the Finance actions for approval. Trustee Lewis seconded the motion. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Personnel Committee Report

Trustee Grimes presented, on behalf of the Personnel Committee, the following appointments, promotion, retirements, resignations and consolidation of the Professional and Security Association contracts for approval:

Appointments

4-1/5-2023 Jinsoo Park, Associate Professor – Electrical Engineering
METCS Division
Effective September 1, 2023
Salary \$82,234

4-2/5-2023 Tamalois Axt, Senior Teacher Advisor – Adult Basic Skills and Computer Instruction
Adult Learning Center
Effective May 24, 2023
Salary \$55,000

4-3/5-2023 Renae Brown, Senior Teacher Advisor – Adult Basic Skills and Computer Instruction
Adult Learning Center
Effective May 24, 2023
Salary \$55,000

4-4/5-2023 Evelyn Garcia, Course Designer
Online Learning
Effective June 1, 2023
Salary \$54,000

4-5/5-2023 Dominique Spagnolo, Legal Assistant / Paralegal
Office of the General Counsel
Effective May 24, 2023
Salary \$50,000

Promotion

4-6/5-2023 Kevin Peebles, Sergeant
Public Safety
Effective May 24, 2023
Salary \$50,426.89

Retirements

4-7/5-2023 Staci Outerbridge, Lab Technician
METCS Division
Effective June 30, 2023

Gwendolyn Carmichael, Records Technician
Financial Aid
Effective March 31, 2023

Teodoro Ayala, Maintenance Service Worker
Facilities Management
Effective June 30, 2023

Resignations

4-8/5-2023 Caroline Berretta, Associate Director
EOF
Effective June 2, 2023

Emmanuel Adepo, Assistant Professor – Mathematics
METCS Division
Effective April 28, 2023

Jennifer Baker, Administrative Assistant
Custodial
Effective April 14, 2023

Tammy Singleton, Records/Customer Service Technician
Financial Aid
Effective May 19, 2023

Consolidation of Collective Bargaining Agreements

4-9/5-2023 Professional Association

4-10/5-2023 Security Association

Trustee Lewis moved the Personnel actions for approval. Trustee Zarra presented the second. ***The actions were unanimously approved.***

Educational Programs Committee Report

Trustee Lewis was called upon to present the report for the Educational Programs Committee. He advised that the Committee recommended approval of the following actions:

- 7-1.1/5-2023 Acceptance of Funds: Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE)
- 7-1.2/5-2023 Acceptance of Funds: Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE)
- 7-1.3/5-2023 Acceptance of Funds: NJ American Rescue Plan (ARP) Stabilization Grant
- 7-1.4/5-2023 Contract for Services: Focus
- 7-1.5/5-2023 Application Submittal: Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) Grant Application

Trustee Cruz provided the motion to approve the Educational Programs actions. Trustee Morales seconded the motion. ***The motion was unanimously approved.***

Site Facilities and Equipment Committee Report

Trustee Guyton advised that the Committee did not meet and had nothing to report.

Policy and Governance Committee Report

Trustee Cruz stated that the Committee met but had no actions this month. She noted that the Committee reviewed the Board bylaws which will be presented for approval in June.

Community Relations Committee Report

Trustee Grimes advised that the Committee met the previous Tuesday but had no action items. She advised that the Committee discussed the Foundation Board and its new Chair, Dr. Lelia Sadeghi, a former trustee, who is leading well, already; the Hall of Fame Committee which will be meeting soon; the opening of the West Essex Campus, ECC@55 activities, the Juneteenth holiday and the College's 2023 Commencement.

Alumni Association Report

Mr. Lev Zilbermints presented the Alumni Association report which is attached at Appendix A.

Student Government Association Report

Ms. Dami Ige came forward to report on behalf of the Student Government Association. The report is attached at Appendix B.

Faculty Association Report

Prof. J. Alexandre then, remotely, shared the Faculty Association report. His submitted report is attached at Appendix C.

President's Report

Dr. Boakye prefaced his report with a response to Mr. Zilbermints' question about parking at the West Essex Campus (WEC). The President advised that the parking deck at WEC will accommodate about 320 parking spaces. In response to Dr. Lee's inquiry about Dr. Park receiving tenure with his new faculty position, Dr. Boakye responded that Dr. Williams, Executive Dean of Academic Affairs, will look at and ensure Dr. Park is placed in accordance with the faculty contract.

The President then went on to share the items listed in his submitted report (see Appendix D). He closed with an invitation to attend the 2023 Commencement on Friday, June 2, 2023 at the Prudential Center.

New Business

There was no new business.

Public Comments

Mr. Lev Zilbermints, Class of 1993, came forward and made the following Public Comments which he had also submitted via email:

Hello, everyone,

Here are my public comments.

(1) Why has there been no Student Representative on the Board of Trustees? This has been going on for like, five years now. I think this needs to be addressed.

(2) I bring to your attention that some places in our school have poor reception for cell phones. If I go to the Business Division, my cell phone cannot get a signal. The same can be said of some other places, such as Information Commons. I would propose that the ECC administration send people with cell phones around the school. Then you can easily locate which places have poor signal reception.

(3) Recently I read something about ChatIPT. I believe there was an article in Inside Higher Education site. The point is that ChatIPT can be used to write papers and look for information. Question is this. If a student uses that resource, how do we establish that there has been no plagiarism? On the other end, a student may write something on his/her own, with no access to ChatIPT. Then the essay or term paper gets checked. The student finds out his/her language in the paper is similar to something else. So the case in point is how does ECC deal with something like this given the advances in technology?

Have a wonderful Memorial Day weekend. See you all at the graduation in June.
Stay in touch.

Mr. Zilbermints also asked that people be told that electric scooters are dangerous. A friend of his was killed instantly when he collided with a vehicle in Montclair.

Madame Chair and Dr. Boakye addressed the concern raised about a student representative to the Board indicating that the representative elected in 2022 resigned because of job responsibilities. Dr. Boakye stated that Student Affairs/Student Life and Activities is working to elect a new student representative as is done annually.

Dr. Jinsoo Park came forward to thank the Board for hiring him as a faculty member again. He advised that he was excited to be back in the classroom, to teach students again and help them to succeed.

Dr. Leigh Bello took the floor to advise:

- An email was distributed (during the current week) to request nominations for the Student Representative to the Board of Trustees;
- Congratulations to the outgoing and graduating SGA officers whom she will miss; and,
- The Hunger Free Grant provided for a large distribution to 150 students of fresh produce. She noted that a second distribution is scheduled for June 8th.

Madame Chair advised that she had, on behalf of Board members, collected \$750 in Shop Rite Gift Cards, each in a denomination of \$25. The gift cards will be provided to Dr. Bello for distribution to students.

Notice of Executive Session

Trustee Grimes was called upon to read the Notice of Executive Session:

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 June 20, 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 moved the notice of Executive Session for approval. Trustee Morales seconded the motion. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Adjournment

There being no further business, Madame Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:18 pm.

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

- **May 12th Alumni event:**

On May 12, the Alumni Association hosted "An Evening with Dr. Augustine Boakye. We had at between 80 to 100 Alumni in attendance.

Mr. Ernest Dimbo made the welcome remarks. This was followed by Opening Remarks and Introduction by Ms. Stephenie Carter, Vice President of ECCAA. Nkuah Asare, ECCAA President, made the Alumni Association Presentation. Then everyone had dinner. After that, ECC President Dr. Augustine Boakye made his presentation. Then came Open Discussion, followed by Dessert and Networking.

- **The Upcoming Alumni Association Election:** The election process is underway, and the election committee has been set up.
- **Graduation Rehearsal:** This will take place on Tuesday, May 30th @ 6pm.
- **Graduation Day.** We are still looking for volunteers. Please have anyone interested contact Ernest via email Edimbo@essex.edu or 973-877-3278.
- **The General Meeting is taking place on Thursday, June 15th via Zoom at 6:30 pm.**

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SUMMER 2023 (MAY) REPORT

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

SPRING UPDATE

Zachary Miller, Oluwadamilola Ige, Laela Lawal recorded a Spring Update with Mr. Ott on 18th of April, 2023. The episode discussed future events and club goals.

PLANT SALE

On the 20th of April, 2023, the SGA held a plant sale for Earth Day where plants and plant-based cookies were sold. The money earned from the fundraiser raiser will be used to fund SGA events in the future.

SGA ELECTIONS

We had a total of 10 candidates including those currently holding a position in the office. Almost all 11 of the positions have applicants, except for secretary and 1 senator. On the 4th of May, 2023, the election results were announced to the Student Government Association by Mr. Graham. This news was shared with the candidates by SGA on the 10th of May, 2023. The election results are as follows:

President: Yadhira Rosales

Vice President: Mark Anifowose

Secretary (Write-ins): Calvin Harris

Treasurer: Kamilly Berrospi

Senators:

Laela Lawal

Kaitochi Egeonu-Okoro

Rayauanna Benjamin

Ethan Erfe

Valentina Godoy

Elijah Whitaker

OUTGOING OFFICERS

SGA would like to thank & congratulate our outgoing officers, Dami Ige & Zachary Miller, on completing their Associate's degrees at Essex. Zachary will be attending Cornell University and Dami is still choosing her next institution.

SGA ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

We held a free Headshot Session at the end of March, 2023 and have sent all headshots to the 27 students that participated in this event. SGA assisted The Offices of Student Affairs and Student

Care Services with various food pantry distributions held in the Dasher Student Center. These events include: Tasty Tuesday, We Care Wednesday, Thankful Thursday and the first-ever Student Affairs Farmer's Market. We helped distribute over 2 tons of food to Essex students at just one Farmer's Market event.

INITIATIVES FOR THE REST OF MAY AND ONWARD

- Finance Meeting with Mr. Graham: May 24th
- E-Board Transition with Mr Ott

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

Respectfully submitted,

SGA Executive Board
Essex County College
Student Government Association

Essex County College

ECCFA Report

- First the faculty is please to welcome Dr. Jinsoo Park, Associate Professor – Electrical Engineering
- We would like to thank professor Emmanuel Adepo, Assistant Professor – Mathematics for his service to the college as he is moving to another career. He was an excellent math professor
- ECCFA is saddened by the passing of our former colleague Scott Draculich. We thank him for his service not only as faculty and administrator but also a kind friend and colleague
- I would like to thank Trustee Cruz for attending the faculty retirement party. Her presence was greatly appreciated by the members.
- ECCFA had an election and a new president was elected, Mingyon McCall. She has been a faculty member for decades and a strong advocate for labor union. We thank Professor Martin Asobayire for leading the union during the transition period.
- The ECCFA held its annual gala to thank the retirees and to welcome the new faculty after few years of pause due to Covid-19. The gala was well attended by more than 90 guests that included administrator, many former colleagues, the President Emeritus Dr. Zachary Yamba and the current ECC President Dr. Augustine A. Boakye.
- There is a team of approximately 10 faculty members that are meeting regularly to consolidate all the past memorandum of understanding.
- Dr. Ahmed Farag Ali, PhD Assistant Professor of Physics, published in April 2023 along with collaborators from the USA, and Europe a new study that is published in European Physical Journal C.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1140/epjc/s10052-023-11465-3>

The authors introduced a study on the connection between the creation of the particle and anti-particle and the Einstein-Rosen bridge (wormhole).



- Gervida G. Constant, MSN, RNC-MNN, CLC, Instructor, Department of Nursing attended a Youth Violence Prevention Fair at West Side High School in Newark, New Jersey, with students from Nurs 114 and LPN 102

on Thursday, April 20, 2023. It was anticipated that many young people would participate in the program. As a result, she planned some youth-related activities or games to serve as a warm-up for our table. Therefore, they had two winners, to whom prizes were given.

More importantly, our students educated them on violence, drugs, tobacco, and other issues. Several teachers approached her and asked her to return to their classrooms to speak about the same topics. Finally, the number of high school students received information to attend Essex County College that day was impressive.

- Nidhal Marashi, PhD ,NASA -ECC PI & Coordinator, ECS Adviser, PTK Co-adviser, Professor,Biology, Chemistry & Physics Division,Essex County College announced that this year eleven students from the ECC-NCAS -2022 & 2023 program are selected for NCAS -Mission 3 which allows them to participate in an amazing opportunity to experience the NASA center, network with NCAS alumni, and learn more about NASA missions. The NCAS Mission 3 Capstone Project is preceded by a two-week, team-based, virtual course required to attend the on-site portion. This portion involves occasional events (speakers, workshops), and team-based work including research and proposal development.
- The Faculty Development Committee (FDC) is inviting a very last round of submissions for reimbursement for Professional Development support, including any advance travel authorization, by May 23, 2023, for the 2022-23 Academic Year [for activities ending by June 30, 2023]. No paperwork for the 2022-23 fiscal year will be accepted after May 23. Dr. Bridget Turner, Education Coordinator, Assistant Professor of Education
- In the same spirit of collegiality and support to the college many faculty members, even after the end of the academic year, are fully engaged in all the activities that are preceding the graduation.
 - Many attended the EOF gala for the graduating students that was held on May 5th 2023
 - Two faculty members lead ECC Graduating Award Ceremony for Class 2023 on May 17th , 2023: Professor Carlos Rivera and Professor Bridget turner. They have done an excellent job
 - On Friday, May 19, 2023, the Human and Social Services Program celebrated their graduation students with a Human and Social Services Recognition Program at Costa Del Sol Caterers in Union
 - Many faculty members have plan to attend Haitian Students Association gala for the graduating students of Haitian descent that will be held on Thursday May 25th, 2025
- It has been so motivating to see how our faculty members are involved on campus and in the academic of our students.

End of Report

Memorandum

To: Dr. M. Bolden & Trustees
From: Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, President, Essex County College
Date: May 23, 2023
Re: President's Monthly Report

General:

The College is thriving and keeping its mission and vision alive.

The month of May was dedicated to celebrating the many accomplishments of our students who are graduating this year. Events included pinning ceremonies, graduation parties and end-of-year get-togethers. The excitement is growing on campus as we look forward to our 2023 Commencement - scheduled for Friday, June 2nd at the Prudential Center.

I am happy to share that we have submitted our final response to the MSCHE's site visit team report.

Academics/Enrollment/Student Support:

- ❖ The Summer I 2023 semester started on May 8th and so far, instruction and learning are moving on very well. The total number of Summer I credit hours is **13,077** which is **3.0%** higher than Summer I, 2022.
- ❖ Registration is now open for Summer II and Fall 2023. Our staff and faculty are helping students register for these terms.
- ❖ Congratulations to ECC graduate Ms. Silvia Huerta Lopez. She is the proud recipient of a \$90,000 scholarship from the Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans. Ms. Lopez is currently in the Harvard Medical School joint Harvard-MIT MD/PhD program.
- ❖ The EOF had their graduation end-of-year party at the Brookside, Bloomfield on May 5th.
- ❖ The Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA) pinning ceremony was held on May 9th.
- ❖ Academic Affairs recognized 15 faculty members (FT & Adjuncts) who successfully completed the *Effective College Instruction* training through the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) on May 11, 2023. The faculty development program, launched a year ago, prepared participating faculty in evidence-based teaching practices proven through independently validated research to improve student achievement and close equity gaps. The faculty are now awarded a nationally recognized *Certificate in Effective College Instruction*, the only college teaching credential endorsed by the American Council on Education (ACE).
- ❖ The ECC Scholarship Award Ceremony was held on May 17th.
- ❖ The ECC Registered Nurse (RN) pinning ceremony was held on May 18th.

The President's April/May Engagements have included:

- ❖ Meeting with the Chair of the ECC Foundation Board Dr. Leila Sadeghi and Mr. Al Bundy on April 19th to discuss the future of the Foundation Board and the leadership transition process.
- ❖ Meeting with Assemblywoman Eliana Pinto on April 20th for State funding discussion.
- ❖ Welcoming His Majesty, Osagyefuo Amoatia Ofori Panin, Okyenhene of Abuakwa State, Ghana on April 21st. The King's visit brought a lot of publicity to the College and was admired by the College Community as an opportunity to witness the African culture and African-American Ancestral Pride.
- ❖ Attending the end-of-year faculty celebration on April 21st where the retirees were honored and new faculty were welcomed. Trustee I. Cruz was in attendance to support the faculty.
- ❖ Meeting with the Title IV Recertification team on April 25th to discuss the application process and requirements.
- ❖ Welcoming Dr. Aaron Fichtner, President of NJCCC, on April 26th to the ECC cabinet meeting to discuss the new state funding formula and its implications for ECC.
- ❖ Meeting with the Finance Counsel on May 11th.
- ❖ Participating in the "*ECC Alumni Meet the President*" on May 12th. This event was well attended by the Alumni and served as an opportunity for them to learn about the new developments and vision of the College.
- ❖ Participating in the BOT retreat on May 13th.
- ❖ Representing ECC at the Rutgers University - Newark graduation ceremony on May 16th, at the invitation of Chancellor N. Cantor.
- ❖ Launching the first Committee meeting for the Hall of Fame on May 17th. Trustee J. Wright represented the Board.

Finances:

The College continues to work on initiatives to bring funds through grants and auxiliary services while exploring ways to reduce expenses. Currently, we are working on our Title IV recertification application.

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 July 2023. Both the construction of the classroom block and the parking deck are progressing well. Trustee L. Guyton, Chair of the Facility, Site and Equipment committee, paid a visit to the West Essex campus on May 3rd to assess the progress of the project.

The renovation of the cafeteria at the Newark campus is underway. The third phase of the Cleo Hill Jr., Physical Education Building in Newark is progressing well. Both projects are slated for completion this 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 April 18, 2023, I had a meeting with the University Hospital's President & CEO Ed Jimenez, Supt. Roger Leon and Supt. James Pedersen to discuss partnership and collaboration projects. This meeting was coordinated by Trustee J. Zarra.

On April 18, 2023, I attended Mayor Baraka's State of the City address at the NJPAC.

On April 20, 2023, I attended the NJ Pathway program meeting to discuss the Health Information Technology which ECC is the lead institution.

On April 25, 2023, we organized an Advisory Board meeting for the West ECC campus. Mayor Joe Tempesta (West Caldwell), Mayor Garret Jones (Caldwell) and County Executive, Joe D. were present to show their support.

On April 27, 2023, I attended the Newark Alliance Collaboration (NAC) meeting with Mayor Baraka at NJ PAC.

On April 27, 2023, I attended the State of the County Address led by the County Executive, Joe D. at Essex County Hospital in Cedar Grove.

On April 28, 2023, I joined other College/University Presidents to witness the inauguration ceremony of Dr. Teik Lim, the 9th President of NJIT.

On May 8, 2023, Dean E. Vieira, Ms. S. Choudhury and Ms. J. Ramos-Ribeiro joined me to participate in Essex County Correctional Department's Press Conference where ECC is a partner in offering English, ESL and GED to the inmates.

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 2023 Commencement is scheduled for **Friday, June 2, 2023** at the Prudential Center.

Madam Chair, this ends my report. Thank you.