



**Essex County College**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**  
November 21, 2023 – 4:30 PM

*Essex County College – Main Campus - Smith Hall*

**In Attendance**

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

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 pm by the Chair, Trustee Bolden. Nine trustees responded to roll call which constituted a quorum for the meeting.

**Open Public Meetings Act Announcement**

Trustee Cruz was asked to read the Open Public Meetings Act Announcement. 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 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 Bolden asked for a motion to approve minutes of the October 24, 2023 meetings. Trustee Robinson provided the motion. The motion was seconded by Trustee Morales. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

**Communications**

Trustee Cruz advised that there were no communications.

**Public Comments on Agenda Items**

Mr. Lev Zilbermints, Class of 1993, came forward and read the comments which follow:

Good day, Board of Trustees, Students, Administrators, Alumni, Guests, Community,

My Name is Lev. D. Zilbermints, Class of 1993. Here are my comments on Agenda items.

301.3/11-2023: Having a new elevator really sounds like a good idea. My question is, will the new elevator be used for freight or will it transport students and ECC community to different floors? I

remember when the elevator by the Cafeteria was built in 1995. That was the last time we had a new elevator.

Congratulations to all who have been appointed to their positions. We wish you the best of luck and success in your new jobs. Also, we would like to wish the best of luck to those who are retiring or have resigned from their positions. Thank you for your commitment to Essex County College and its community.

### Annual Organization of the Board of Trustees

Trustee Zarra was asked to make the Nominating Committee's report. He indicated that the Board was asked to consider the following individuals for office:

Chair – Dr. Marion Bolden  
Vice Chair – Dr. Arnold Lewis  
Secretary – Ms. Jeweline Grimes  
Treasurer – Joseph Zarra

Trustee Morales moved the slate of officers for approval. Trustee Guyton provided the second. ***The motion carried unanimously.*** Madame Chair extended thanks to the officers for agreeing to commit to another year of hard work. ***Applause.***

### Finance Committee Report

Trustee Zarra reported that the Finance Committee met, reviewed and recommended the approval of the six action items presented:

3-1.1/11-2023	Authorize the Award of a Change order for the Physical Education Building Locker Room Renovation at the Newark Campus Molba Construction, Little Ferry, NJ Chapter XII Funded – Capital Expense	\$84,057.58
3-1.2/11-2023	Authorize the Service to Replace the Damaged Parking Gate System in Parking Lot C at the Newark Campus Wanderlogic, Inc., Whippany, NJ Chapter XII Funded – Capital Expense	Amount not to exceed \$41,600.00
3-1.3/11-2023	Authorize the Award of a Contract for Design Services for the new Elevator at the Southeast Corner of the Physical Education Building at the Newark Campus Comito Associates, PC, Newark, NJ Chapter XII Funded – Capital Expense	\$35,800.00
3-1.4/11-2023	Authorize the Award of a Change Order for the West Essex Campus Netta Architects, Mountainside, NJ Building Our Future Bond Funded – Capital Expense	\$77,700.00
3-1.5/11-2023	Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Professional Development Training Scenario Learning, LLC. DBA Vector Solutions, Tampa, FL College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$24,000.00

3-1.6/11-2023	Authorize the Award of a Payment for the College's Annual Golf and Tennis Scholarship Fundraiser Maplewood Country Club, Maplewood, NJ Fundraiser - Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$30,196.00
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The Finance actions were moved for approval by Trustee Cruz. Her motion was seconded by Trustee Morales.  
***The motion carried unanimously.***

**Personnel Committee Report**

Trustee Robinson advised that the committee met and presented for the Board's approval the appointments, retirement, resignation, and action to rescind an appointment listed below:

Appointments

- 4-1/11-2023      Tanya Wright, Associate Director  
Training Inc.  
Effective November 22, 2023  
Salary \$78,000.00
  
- 4-2/11-2023      Mario Reyes, Assistant Director of Extension Centers and ESL Programs  
Community and Continuing Education and Workforce Development  
Effective November 22, 2023  
Salary \$67,000.00
  
- 4-3/11-2023      Nerline Arens, Advisor – Community Resources  
Center for Adult Transition  
Effective November 27, 2023  
Salary \$42,000.00
  
- 4-4/11-2023      Andy Clitus, Enrollment Specialist - Graduation  
Enrollment Services  
Effective November 22, 2023  
Salary \$45,500.00
  
- 4-5/11-2023      Johnathan Fuentes, Student Advisor and Mentor  
Enrollment Management & Services  
Effective November 27, 2023  
Salary \$42,000.00
  
- 4-6/11-2023      Matthew Prado, Technical Support Specialist  
Information Technology  
Effective November 27, 2023  
Salary \$50,000.00
  
- 4-7/11-2023      Juan Olivares, Maintenance Service Worker  
Facilities Management  
Effective November 27, 2023  
Salary \$43,300.00

4-8/11-2023 Keith Burroughs, Security Officer  
Public Safety  
Effective November 27, 2023  
Salary \$31,200.00

Retirement

4-9/10-2023 Roxanne Cunningham, Accounts Payable Clerk  
Accounts Payable  
Effective December 31, 2023

Resignation

4-10/10-2023 Colin Archer, Instructor - Nursing  
Nursing & Health Sciences Division  
Effective December 31, 2023

Rescind Appointment

4-11/11-2023 Julissa Bravo, Student Services Specialist  
Financial Aid  
Effective October 30, 2023  
Salary \$35,900.00

The Personnel actions were moved for approval by Trustee Morales, and seconded by Trustee Wright. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

The Board's Counsel, Mr. Townes, was then asked to read into the record of the meeting Goldenrod action 4-12 – Salary Increase and Bonus: President. Boakye. Mr. Townes noted that this is the President's annual contractual agreement which is performance based and why it has to be done annually. He then read the text of the resolution as follows:

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Augustine A. Boakye has served as the permanent President of Essex County College since November 1, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Boakye's employment contract with Essex County College requires the Board of Trustees of Essex County College to provide him with a one and one-half percent (1.5%) raise following a satisfactory job evaluation on November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. The Board of Trustees may further award a Merit Bonus not to exceed three percent (3%) annually; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees of Essex County College has determined that Dr. Boakye has satisfactorily performed his duties and that both a one and one-half percent (1.5%) raise and three percent (3%) Merit Bonus are appropriate; and

**WHEREAS**, Essex County College has determined that the funds are available for this purpose.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** by the Board of Trustees of Essex County College as follows:

1. The Board of Trustees of Essex County College hereby directs that the President, Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, be paid a one and one-half percent (1.5%) raise and a three percent (3%) Merit Bonus based on his positive job performance in accordance with his employment contract retroactive to November 1, 2023.

Trustee Morales moved the Goldenrod action for approval. Trustee Zarra seconded her motion. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

### **Educational Programs Committee Report**

Trustee Lewis advised that the Educational Programs Committee met and had the following six items to submit for the Board's approval:

- 7-1.1/11-2023 Acceptance of Funds: Essex County Division of Training and Employment
- 7-1.2/11-2023 Acceptance of Funds: Uniform Construction Code, Tuition Remission State of New Jersey
- 7-1.3/11-2023 Contract for Services: Newark Day Center
- 7-1.4/11-2023 Memorandum of Understanding: College Readiness Now X Project Agreement of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges
- 7-1.5/11-2023 Partnership: Camden Dream Center Technology Training School – Cisco Networking Academy Support Center Agreement
- 7-1.6/11-2023 Project Agreement and Acceptance of Funds: NJCCC and Tepper Foundation

Trustee Wright moved the actions for approval. Trustee Zarra seconded the motion. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

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

Trustee Guyton announced that the committee wished to bring forward the following two actions for approval:

- 7-2.1/11-2023 Acceptance of Equipment: T-Mobile's Project 10Million
- 7-2.2/11-2023 Conduct Online Auction: Surplus MLK Library Furniture and Equipment

Trustee Lewis moved the items for approval. Trustee Wright seconded his motion. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

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

Trustee Cruz stated that this Committee did not meet and had no items to bring before the Board.

### **Community Relations Committee Report**

Trustee Wright advised that the Committee did not meet; but, Dr. Boakye would provide an update on relevant Community Relations matters.

### **Alumni Association Report**

Mr. Lev Zilbermints, Treasurer of the Essex County College Alumni Association, presented the report which is attached at Appendix A.

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

Mark Anifowose, Vice President, read the report (see Appendix B) submitted by the SGA Executive Board.

## **Faculty Association Report**

Prof. Alexandre came forward to make the Faculty Association report, which he later submitted in writing. The written report is attached at Appendix C

## **President's Report**

Dr. Boakye opened his report with congratulations to the reelected officers of the Board of Trustees and thanks for the hard work they provide to the College. He also expressed gratitude to the remaining members of the Board of Trustees for everything they do. The President took time to acknowledge the Board's contribution of Shop Rite gifts cards to the Food Pantry which were distributed to thirty (30) students for Thanksgiving provisions.

Referring to his written report (see Appendix D), the President shared the contents wherein.

At the conclusion of his report, Dr. Boakye extended wishes for all to enjoy a special Thanksgiving season.

## **New Business**

Madame Chair congratulated Trustee Morales on her recent election to the office of Assemblywoman, in the New Jersey State Assembly. Madame Chair noted that Assemblywoman Morales will be a strong advocate for the College and commented that her outstanding work as a Trustee was a prediction of the fine work she will accomplish in the State Assembly.

## **Public Comments**

Mr. Lev D. Zilbermints then came to the microphone to make the public comments which follow:

Good day, Everyone,

I take the time to deliver a somber warning about how world events affect Newark and Essex County College. We have not had such a serious crisis in years. I recall 1990, 2002, and 2003, when the first and second Gulf Wars took place. Some ECC students were deeply affected by what happened.

Today, 20 years after 2003, the current crisis in the Middle East makes the previous one look small by comparison. New York, London, Berlin, and other capital across the globe, have seen antisemitic demonstrations. Ignorant people shout, "Ceasefire! Israel out of Gaza!" Jews are assaulted and called names. This is similar to the 1930s. Yet we Americans realize that October 7, 2023 is to Israel what September 11, 2001 was to America. Israel, like any sovereign country, has a right to defend itself against terrorist attacks. And, that is what they are doing. Just as we did after 9/11.

My point is that ECC must teach its students about the Holocaust and genocide so the younger generation can learn. Only 26 states out of 50 teach about the Holocaust and genocide. More must be done, because as we all know, history repeats itself.

We have been fortunate that demonstrations in Newark have been peaceful, without any violence. We must keep it that way. We must, in this dark time of uncertainty, come together and help each other, regardless of religion, political creed or what have you.

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Dr. Bello reported that the previous and current week are designated Nation Hunger and Homelessness Awareness weeks. The Office of Student Care Services and the Food Pantry participated in the program by collecting numerous items from staff and students. The items were given away at the Thanksgiving Giveaway on Tuesday, November 21.

She further reported that in three hours, 90 students were provided over 2K pounds of food (turkeys, roasted chickens, canned goods, etc.). Dean Bello thanked LaDawn Hall, Mark Anifowose, and other members of the SGA who helped with the distribution. She also thanked her staff, Serrietta Johnson, Shenerah Green, Mr. Ott, and Dr. Kirkland for their assistance.

Special thanks were expressed to the following for their contributions: The Alumni Association, IMAC Insurance for 8 food baskets, the West Caldwell Shop Rite for their donation of turkeys, and the Essex County College Board of Trustees for their contribution of Shop Rite gift cards.

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Dr. Khalfani then came forward to thank publicly those who contributed to the success of the 9<sup>th</sup> Health & Wellness Expo. He stated that nine local high schools brought students to the Expo and there were over 400 people in attendance. He personally thanked Dr. Bello, her staff; EOF; the Haitian, Nursing and Social Worker student associations, the Welcome Center staff, Dr. Steplight Johnson and members of her office; Graphics, MPT, Nursing, Allied Health, the Step and Dance Team, the City of Newark – Office of Violence Prevention and other external partners for their support.

Dr. Khalfani noted that the Expo was not only a Community and Alternative Health and benefits service to the community, but a recruitment effort as well. High school and college students were in attendance. Health providers (30) and vendors participated in the Expo. TV/film artist, Tobias Truvillion, was one of the speakers.

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Nerline Arens, a former ECC student and new appointee as Advisor – Community Resources in the Center for Adult Transition thanked the Board of Trustees, President Boakye and Dean Kirkland for her appointment. She said she looked forward to working at the College and was proud that she has been given the chance to prove herself.

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Current, first year student, Trevon Anderson, who said he is enjoying his experience at ECC, approached the Board about an issue. He indicated that he is majoring in Architecture and found out from an advisor that he took a course he did not need. He stated that he is paying for College out of pocket and wanted to know if there was any recourse.

In response, Dr. Kirkland advised that Mr. Anderson had just come to his office regarding the matter. He stated that he told the young man he would look into the situation, follow up and have an answer by the following Wednesday.

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Student Yolanda Wilson a returning student said she loves Essex (County College) and is majoring in Forensic Science presented an issue she is having with the Bookstore. Ms. Wilson indicated that her bookstore voucher has a charge on it which she did not make. Further, she has missed her English class running from the bookstore to the Bursar and back to resolve the issue. She was told that an investigation is underway, but no one has gotten back to her. She asked for guidance to resolve the matter.

Dr. Kirkland advised that Ms. Wilson and two other students are experiencing the same issue. He called the bookstore and spoke to the manager; a thorough investigation is underway, steps are being taken to get to the bottom of the issue and as soon as he has information he will respond to the students appropriately.

Dr. Boakye commended the students on reaching out for assistance and encouraged them to go to Dean Kirkland's office whenever there is an issue. Trustee Robinson asked Ms. Wilson to give the Dean a chance to resolve her issue. Trustee Wright told her to go to her class. Madame Chair offered assurance that the staff would respond to the students.

### **Notice of Executive Session**

Trustee Cruz was asked to read the Notice of Executive Session 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 December 19, 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 asked for a motion to hold the Executive Session. Trustee Robinson made the motion. Trustee Morales provided the second. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

### **Adjournment**

Trustee Bolden asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Cruz moved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned, by acclamation and with wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving, at 5:20 pm.



**Essex County College Alumni Association  
Board of Trustees Report  
November 2023**

- ❖ Good evening Board Members, Students, Staff, Faculty and ECC Alumni,
- ❖ My name is Lev D. Zilbermints and I am the ECCAA Treasurer. It is my pleasure to be here this evening and provide an update on behalf of the Essex County College Alumni Association.
- ❖ Since the last BOT meeting, we have accomplished and discussed the following:
  1. Two board members, the recording secretary, and one member at large have not been responsive via phone calls or emails. According to the bylaws, any member who misses three or more meetings consecutively is subject to removal. These members will be notified of their removal in December. The board members have agreed to begin searching for other alumni who are interested in holding leadership positions so that we can enter the new year with all positions filled with active members.
  2. The alumni association worked together to create a list of fifteen potential donors for Giving Tuesdays. We are hopeful that these individuals will graciously contribute to our school.
  3. We have formed our committees and have also begun reaching out to alumni to create our general membership. We are planning to hold our first general membership meeting soon.
  4. Corresponding Secretary, Daniel Kuraguntla, is working with science/health care professionals to discuss career opportunities for students.
  5. We donated \$300.00 to the student food pantry to purchase any additional Thanksgiving Day food items students may need.
  6. Outreach for Scholarship Fund has secured two donations thus far, and we are in the beginning stages of planning fundraiser events to generate additional funding.

## **STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION FALL 2023 (NOVEMBER) REPORT**

**Good afternoon to the Board of Trustee Members, Dr. Boakye, Faculty, and Administration.**

My name is Mark Anifowose. I am the current Vice President of the Student Government Association. I will be reading the November BOT report for SGA this evening.

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

During our latest ICC meeting on November 10, 2023, we discussed procedures for completing funding proposal forms. Senator of Communication, Kaito was present and reinforced that all clubs must have an Advisor, President, VP, Secretary, and Treasurer. Kaito also made suggestions for collaboration through club projects and mutual promotion to increase student engagement.

### **PIZZA BAKE SALE**

On November 15, 2023, the SGA held a Pizza sale to raise funds for future events such as the upcoming student forum on November 28<sup>th</sup>. From 11:00 to 2:00pm we managed to exceed the cost of expenses and make a \$179.83 return in funds.

### **MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BOAKYE**

A meeting with President Boakye was scheduled on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023. All Executive members of the SGA were present as well as SGA Advisor Mr. Ott, Mr. Graham, Dean Kirkland and Dr. Bello. The agenda included the discussions involving an update on the current progress with the cafeteria, we requested \$15,000 in club funds, and new location and title for the Muslim prayer room. In addition, we requested a hardware update for the SGA office. Thank you to Dr. Boakye for allocating the funds for our request in such a short period of time.

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

- Student forums: November 28<sup>th</sup>, and December 12<sup>th</sup>
- Scavenger Hunt
- Holiday Celebration
- General Hygiene Drive
- Increased civic engagement of General Members

Together, we have been able to build a schedule of events for the betterment of the student body. In summary, our initiatives are multifaceted and geared towards enriching the college experience. We advocate for student interests, promote community building, support student welfare, and contribute to a more sustainable campus environment, all of which enhance the overall quality of student life.

Today, members of the SGA assisted the Food Pantry Staff and the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs, with their Annual Thanksgiving Giveaway to students in the Clara Dasher Student Center. On behalf of the student body and the SGA, we thank the Board of Trustees for their generous donations of Shoprite gift cards that assisted 30 students in need during this Thanksgiving Holiday season.

We will continue to enact our initiatives and we appreciate any further support the board may give us.

Respectfully submitted,

SGA Executive Board  
Essex County College  
Student Government Association

## Faculty Association Report

November 2023

Good evening Members of the Essex County College Board of Trustees,

### General Remark

- In this thanksgiving holiday period, the majority of our members are thankful, grateful and feel confident that the college is moving in the right direction under the current administration.
- On behalf of the ECCFA, I would like to congratulate the officers of ECC Board of Trustees for their reappointment. I would like to thank them for their service.
- Faculty Development Committee (FDC) fund was increased by \$20,000 for the academic year 2023-2024; thereby bringing it from \$16,000 to \$36,000. ECCFA is very grateful for this additional opportunity

### Faculty Activities

1. Dr. Su (Sujatha) Ramakrishnan attended the NJDVHIMSS Conference from October 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> at the Hard Rock Hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The goal of the NJ/DVHIMSS Fall Conference was to provide outstanding education and networking opportunities in support of the members and the Health Information Technology (HIT) community's continued learning and development. This conference was to meet health care professionals who are trying to work with information technology to meet the patients where they are and to improve the future of healthcare delivery. Our college wants to build courses to address this network and provide students with a certification, so that they are job ready as soon as they graduate or to transfer to Rutgers University, New Brunswick to complete the bachelor's degree in the field. The objective is to meet the relevant people in the Healthcare IT field and various sponsors and experts for networking.



2. On Wed October 25, 2023 between 2:30 PM and 3:50 PM Rutgers-Newark Library and on Tuesday, October 31, 2023 from 1 pm to 3 PM at Essex County College, Dr. Eileen DeFreece and Dr. Margaret Stevens participated in a discussion on Higher Ed Insurgency and County-Insurgency.
3. From November 9-10, 2023 many of our faculty members attended the NJEA-Convention in Atlantic City. Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre, Professor Victor Stolberg, Dr. Margaret Stevens, and Dr. Bridget Turner.
4. On Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> 2023 the Africana Institute under the leadership of Dr. Akil Khalfani held the 3<sup>rd</sup> ECC Pan African Martial Arts Conference.
5. On Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> 2023, the members of the faculty we started an open review of the consolidated contract to prepare for the negotiation.
6. On November 14<sup>th</sup> from 2:30PM to 4:00PM in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor Multipurpose Room conducted its first retirement seminar for the members. The content is targeted to those that are enrolled in the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS).
7. On November 14<sup>th</sup> from 2:30PM to 4:00PM many faculty members participated in the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) hot Career Forum. Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre, Mary Ellen Carpenter, Professor George Effah were in attendance
8. On November 15<sup>th</sup> from 2:30PM to 4:00PM many faculty members participated in the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) hot Career Forum. Professor Sue and Professor Darlyn Warner were in attendance to promote their respective academic program
9. On November 15<sup>th</sup> 2023, the Africana Institute under the leadership of Dr. Akil Khalfani held the 9<sup>th</sup> Health and Wellness Expo.
10. Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre received the prestigious Bright Idea Award given on November 17, 2023. This award is given by Seton Hall University along with the New Jersey Collegiate Business Administration Association (NJCBAA) for the most innovative research for the past academic year.
11. On November 21<sup>th</sup> from 2:30PM to 4:00PM in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor Multipurpose Room ECCFA conducted the second retirement seminar. The content is targeted to those that are enrolled in the Alternate Benefits Retirement Program (ABP).

### **Concluding Remarks**

12. On Behalf of the Essex County College Faculty Association (ECCFA) I would like to wish each of you members of the board of trustees, the administration and the whole college community to have a great thanksgiving holiday with friends and family.
13. Thank you kindly for your service to the college and the community in general
14. End of the report

## Memorandum

**To:** Ms. M. Bolden & the Board of Trustees  
**From:** Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, President, Essex County College  
**Date:** November 21, 2023  
**Re:** President's Monthly Report

### General:

Essex County College continues to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") COVID-19 Guidelines to the greatest extent possible and as deemed appropriate by the College in accordance with Board Policy 4-14.

We have commenced Steering Committee meetings with six working groups selected from the campus community to begin work on our 2024-2029 Strategic Plan.

### Academics / Enrollment / Student Support:

- Following a successful start to the fall 2023 semester, the College is well prepared for the Winter/Spring semester. Registration for Winter/Spring commenced on November 13<sup>th</sup>.
- The Winter Intersession starts on December 26<sup>th</sup>
- Bloomfield High School staff toured the West Essex campus on November 7<sup>th</sup>

### The President's November Engagements:

- October 28<sup>th</sup>: Participated in the New Jersey President's Council meeting at Rutgers University in New Brunswick.
- November 1<sup>st</sup>: Participated in the Annual FOCUS gala in Belleville, NJ with a team from ECC.
- November 2<sup>nd</sup>: Met with First Year Experience faculty to review student engagement in this critical introductory course.
- November 2<sup>nd</sup>: Participated in the Buy Newark Procurement event.
- November 3<sup>rd</sup>: Participated in the ECC advisor's meeting.
- November 3<sup>rd</sup>: Met with Dr. Ponds, Superintendent, Montclair Public Schools to discuss our collaborative effort strategies.
- November 6<sup>th</sup>: Called a meeting to discuss our designation as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) and the need to engage this community through direct programming.
- November 7<sup>th</sup>: Met with the leadership of the Student Government Association and Student Affairs to thank them for their role in keeping students engaged on our campus. As a direct result of their leadership, we now have 30 vibrant student clubs on campus - which is the highest number we have ever had.
- November 9<sup>th</sup>: Participated in the Essex County Veteran's Day activities during which Essex County College's Dr. Margaret Stevens was honored by the county with the U.S. Veteran of the Year Award.

- November 9<sup>th</sup>: Met with the Business Division to discuss a potential introduction of the ECC Micro Business Development Center to support local small businesses.
- November 14<sup>th</sup>: Met with the leadership of our Allied Health program to map out a way forward on expansion and increasing opportunities for our students.

**Finances:**

- The 2023 Audit is fully underway and expected to be completed in December.

**Projects:**

The current infrastructure projects include the Cafeteria serving area and the Gym Locker rooms which are both scheduled to be completed in the next few weeks.

**Athletics:**

On October 28, 2023, the Lady Wolverines soccer team won the Division II Region 19 Championship. We are proud of our athletes.

On Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, ECC alumnus **Navasky Anderson** won the bronze medal at the 2023 Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile representing Jamaica. Next year, he will become the 39<sup>th</sup> Olympian from Essex County College.

**Community Relations:**

- The 2023 Golf & Tennis Outing shows a net profit to student scholarships. I thank all of you for your continued support
- The ECC Hall of Fame committee has approved the bylaws and nomination process for inductees. I thank the committee for moving this process forward.
- Our 2023 Giving Tuesday Campaign to raise funds for our Food Pantry and student scholarships is underway. This year's campaign includes short stories on the 55-year history of Essex County College.
- November 10<sup>th</sup>: In commemoration of Veteran's Day, ECC honored our veterans in a colorful flag-raising ceremony led by Dr. Keith Kirkland, Prof. Shawn Yearwood and the ECC Color Guard. We thank you for your service to humanity.
- The Africana Institute and partners across the College community organized the 9<sup>th</sup> Health & Wellness Expo on November 15<sup>th</sup> in the Cleo Hill Physical Education Building. The event was open to the public and attracted students from several high school across Essex County.

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

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