



Essex County College
Board of Trustees
PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA
December 19, 2023 – 4:30 PM

Essex County College – Main Campus - Smith Hall

In Attendance:

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

Excused:

L. Guyton; A. Lewis; B. Robinson

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 4:36 pm by Chair Bolden. Six trustees responded to roll call which constituted a quorum for the meeting.

Open Public Meetings Act Announcement

Trustee Cruz was called upon to read the Open Public Meetings Act 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. 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 Cruz asked for a motion to move minutes of the November 21, 2023 meetings for approval. Trustee Morales presented the motion which was seconded by Trustee Zarra. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Communications

Trustee Cruz announced that there were no communications.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Lev Zilbermints read the following comments which he submitted in writing:

Hello,
My name is Lev Zilbermints, Class of 1993. Here are my comments on agenda items.

3-1.3/12-2023: I see you have awarded five contracts for counseling services. Very nice! The ECC Community needs that.

3-1.6/12-2023: You authorized award of a contract for athletic lockers. My question is, are there video cameras in locker rooms as an anti-theft measure?

4-11/12-2023: Thank you for hiring an Alumni Liaison Officer. The ECCAA has been without since Ernst Dimbo left six months ago.

Congratulations to all who received merit awards! Good job!

Those who are retiring, we wish you the best in your future. Thank you for your service to ECC. You will be remembered.

Regarding resignations, best wishes to those leaving. Thank you for your service to ECC. You will be remembered. By the way, do we have a replacement for Wagnac?

Reverend Guyton, you are the Site Facilities chair. My question is, when will the cafeteria renovations be finished?

Prof. Rebecca Williams, English Department:

Prof. Williams came forward and first thanked the Board for her promotion, in September, to Associate Professor. She explained that she was unable to attend that meeting. Secondly, she expressed support for Board Action 4-5, the appointment of an English Instructor.

Dr. William Tooma, Chair – Humanities:

Dr. Tooma stated that he also supported the hiring of an English Instructor (Board Action 4-5). He thanked the Board for their consideration and explained that Mr. Elborj could not attend the meeting due to travel issues, but, he wanted to thank the Board for the appointment which Dr. Tooma was doing on his behalf.

Finance Committee Report

Trustee Zarra indicated that the seven items listed below were vetted by the Finance Committee during their meeting and were being presented for approval by the Board.

3-1.1/12-2023	Authorize the Service for Snow Removal at the West Essex Campus E.E.C. Contractors, Cranford, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$41,600.00
3-1.2/12-2023	Authorize the Award of a Subscription for ProQuest Library Services ProQuest, LLC, Chicago, IL College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$80,000.00
3-1.3/12-2023	Authorize the Award of Five Contracts for Counseling Services Family Service Bureau of Newark, NJ Irvington Counseling Center, Inc. Main St. Counseling Center Newark Community Street Team Trauma Recovery Center Right to Heal Grant Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$80,000.00

3-1.4/12-2023	Authorize the Award of a Blanket Order of Caps & Gowns for Class of 2024 and 2025 Commencements Oak Hall Cap & Gown Co., Salem, VA College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 per year
3-1.5/12-2023	Authorize an Additional Payment for Insurance Policy IMAC Insurance Agency, LLC, Belleville, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$59,517.01
3-1.6/12-2023	Authorize the Award of a Contract for Athletic Lockers Commercial Furniture Interiors, Mountainside, NJ Minor Capital Funded – Capital Expense	\$160,000.00
3-2.1/12-2023	Member Participation: Educational Services Commission of New Jersey	

Trustee Cruz moved the Finance actions for approval. Trustee Morales seconded her motion. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Mr. Townes, the Board’s attorney, then explained that the College’s FY’23 Audit was complete. He read into the record of the meeting the following Goldenrod action which was presented for the Board’s acceptance of the Audit:

3-2.2/12-2023: Acceptance of FY’23 Audit and Recommendations

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees of Essex County College retained the accounting firm of PKF O’Connor Davies as independent auditors to conduct an audit of the College’s Fiscal Year 2022-2023 financial statements; and

WHEREAS, PKF O’Connor Davies completed an audit of said financial statements and expressed an opinion on same; and

WHEREAS PKF O’Connor Davies has opined that the College’s financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Essex County College as of June 30, 2023 in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles; and

WHEREAS, PKF O’Connor Davies issued the audit report and presented its findings (no finding for FY23 audit) and recommendations to the Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees.

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

1. The Board of Trustees of Essex County College accepts the findings, report and recommendations of the independent auditors and authorizes the release of the College’s Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Audit.

Trustee Morales moved acceptancel of the Goldenrod Action; Trustee Zarra, the second. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Personnel Committee Report

Trustee Cruz was called upon to make the report for the Personnel Committee. She indicated that the Committee met and recommended the approval of the following appointments, merit awards, change of salary, retirement, resignations and action to rescind a resignation which she read individually:

Appointments

4-1/12-2023	Lori York, Chairperson Nursing and Health Sciences Division Effective January 3, 2024 Salary \$101,000
4-2/12-2023	Kenya Wilson, Director Enrollment Services/Registrar Effective January 3, 2024 Salary \$98,000
4-3/12-2023	Paula Catalan, Instructor - Mathematics Mathematics, Engineering Technologies and Computer Sciences Effective January 3, 2024 Salary \$57,577
4-4/12-2023	Jennifer Chapman, Instructor – Counseling Student Development and Counseling Effective January 3, 2024 Salary \$70,186
4-5/12-2023	Jamal Elborj, Instructor - English Humanities & Bilingual Studies Effective January 3, 2024 Salary \$64,841
4-6/12-2023	Monica Matos, Instructor - Mathematics Mathematics, Engineering Technologies and Computer Sciences Effective January 3, 2024 Salary \$55,341
4-7/12-2023	Kodjovi Quenum, Instructor - Mathematics Mathematics, Engineering Technologies and Computer Sciences Effective January 3, 2024 Salary \$ 58,728
4-8/12-2023	Kiana Fitz, Assistant Director Graphics Institutional Advancement Effective January 3, 2024 Salary \$67,533
4-9/12-2023	Adedeji Adigun, Network Engineer Information Technology Effective January 3, 2024 Salary \$60,000
4-10/12-2023	Lilian Palacios, Human Resources Generalist Human Resources Department Effective January 3, 2024 Salary \$50,000

- 4-11/12-2023 Adewale Thompson, Alumni Liaison Officer – Special Projects
Institutional Advancement
Effective January 3, 2024
Salary \$54,000
- 4-12/12-2023 Noemi Izaguire, Campus Assistant
West Essex Campus
Effective January 3, 2024
Salary \$42,000
- 4-13/12-2023 Chuckie Moses II, Student Support Assistant Representative
Enrollment Management
Effective January 3, 2024
Salary \$35,900
- 4-14/12-2023 Xiki’A Reynolds, Student Support Assistant Representative
Enrollment Management
Effective January 3, 2024
Salary \$35,900

Merit Awards – Support Staff

- 4-15/12-2023 Cynthia Cole, Assistant to the Bursar
Bursar’s Offices
Effective December 1, 2023
\$1,000 Lump sum payment
- Thomas Kea, Custodian
Facilities Management
Effective December 1, 2023
\$1,000 Lump sum payment
- Elizabeth Matos, Custodian
Facilities Management
Effective December 1, 2023
\$1,000 Lump sum payment
- Vida Sevor-Kotoh, Custodian
Facilities Management
Effective December 1, 2023
\$1,000 Lump sum payment
- Youssef Yassine, Custodian
Facilities Management
Effective December 1, 2023
\$1,000 Lump sum payment

Merit Award – Support Staff Confidential

- 4-16/12-2023 Maria Garcia, Secretary
Academic Affairs
Effective December 1, 2023
\$1,000 Lump sum payment

Change of Salary

4-17/12-2023 Gretchen Soler, Enrollment Specialist Assistant
Enrollment Management & Services
Effective January 3, 2024
Salary \$38,643.04

Retirement

4-18/12-2023 David Persha, Duplicating Operator
Printshop
Effective February 29, 2024

Resignations

4-19/12-2023 Evens Wagnac, Deputy Chief Financial Officer/Comptroller
Finance Department
Effective December 15, 2023

Hamza Wedam, Assistant Director
Welcome Center+
Enrollment Management & Services
Effective November 30, 2023

Charles Pinderhughes, Associate Professor
Social Sciences
Effective December 31, 2023

Aissatou Atari, Administrative Assistant
Academic Affairs/STEM
Effective December 31, 2023

Rescind Resignation

4-20/12-2023 Colin Archer, Instructor - Nursing
Nursing & Health Sciences Division
Effective December 31, 2023

Trustee Zarra moved the Personnel Actions for approval. Trustee Morales provided the second. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Educational Programs Committee Report

Trustee Morales advised that the Educational Programs Committee recommended the approval of the following five actions:

- 7-1.1/12-2023 Acceptance of Funds: Consolidated Adult Basic Skills and Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education Grant
- 7-1.2/12-2023 Acceptance of Funds: FY24, FY25, FY26, FY27 – State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP)
- 7-1.3/12-2023 Acceptance of Funds: EOF Grant
- 7-1.4/12-2023 Acceptance of Funds: FY24 Some College, No Degree (SCND) Institutional Grant Opportunity

Trustee Cruz provided the motion to approve the actions. Trustee Zarra the second. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Site Facilities and Equipment Committee Report

Trustee Morales reported that the Committee did not meet and had no items to present to the Board.

Policy and Governance Committee Report

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

Community Relations Committee Report

Trustee Wright stated that the Committee did not meet; however, Dr. Boakye would provide an update on what is happening in the community in his report.

Alumni Association Report

The Alumni Association report was delivered by Mr. Lev Zilbermintz. The report is attached at Appendix A.

Student Government Association Report

SGA Vice President, Mark Anifowose, shared with Trustees, the report prepared by the SGA Executive Board. The report is attached at Appendix B.

Faculty Association Report

Prof. Alexandre advised that the faculty accomplishments were so many, that if he read his entire report it would take all night. He, therefore, summarized much of the Faculty Association's written report which is attached at Appendix C.

President's Report

Dr. Boakye submitted his written report to the Board of Trustees in advance. It is attached at Appendix D. The President shared information about and highlighted many of the various items listed. Additionally, he offered congratulations to the new appointees and to those who received merit awards; he also thanked Trustees for their service throughout the 2023 calendar year.

The President acknowledged that it was Trustee Morales' last meeting as a member of the Board of Trustees. He stated that he would like to keep her on the Board, but, she will do greater things for the College as a member of the NJ State Assembly. He extended best wishes and strength to continue to serve the Community she will represent.

Dr. Boakye concluded his report with thanks to everyone, for what they do for the College and best wishes for the Holiday Season.

New Business

In recognition of Carmen Morales' service on the Board of Trustees, Madame Chair presented her with an award which read as follows:

Essex County College Service Award



Trustee Carmen Morales

May 2017 – December 2023

In recognition of excellent service
to the students, faculty and staff of
Essex County College

Everyone stood and applauded Trustee Morales for her service to Essex County College.

Trustee Morales took the floor to express that it was an honor and a privilege to serve on the Essex County College Board of Trustees. She said when she was asked to serve, she was the Vice Principal of Newark Tech, then she became the Principal. She noted that Newark Tech and the College have always had a great partnership where by many Newark Tech students sought to attend ECC. She commented that Essex County College is the best kept secret in the County.

Trustee Morales shared that as she moves forward to serve in the State Assembly, her hope is that she will be appointed to the Higher Education Committee where she can continue to fight for students and the community; regardless of whether she is appointed to the Committee or not she will continue to fight no matter what. In addition, she will continue to let students know what is available to them at ECC; and that Essex County students deserve the best possible education – they can get it, here, at Essex County College at an affordable rate and then have the opportunity to transfer their credits to the many four-year institutions with which the College has agreements.

Trustee Morales concluded her remarks by saying she will continue to fighting for students; she looks forward to the work she will do in the assembly; praised the Board of Trustees for all they do on a voluntary basis; and thanked everyone for what they do to support the College.

Trustee Wright congratulated Trustee Morales; and, for other new business acknowledged the birthday of Trustee Cruz.

Public Comments

Lev Zilbermints, Class of 1993. Here are my public comments:

To begin with, what have you done to bring attention to the 55th anniversary? Where is your big hoopla, the souvenirs, exposition of historical artifacts? A big anniversary such as the 55th is the perfect chance to recruit more students. We should be using this opportunity to the maximum.

Next, when are you going to have a Marketing Department like other colleges? You are falling behind in recruiting students from high schools. In 2010, we had 10,000 students. Today we have 5,000 – odd

students. In 1991, we had over 6000 students. Now we have less than when I was in the Student Government Association, back in 1991-93.

Recruiting new students is the responsibility of the entire school. We need clubs and organizations to join in with projects that might entice high school graduates to attend ECC. We need students, professors, administrators going to high schools and making a pitch about ECC to high school seniors. Other schools are doing it, so why not us?

I must warn you that the less students we have, the fewer money for both the clubs and the school itself. The survival of Essex County College depends on its ability to recruit more new students. In 2015, tuition made up 62% of college revenue. Today it is likely 70% or more.

Let us hope that the New Year, 2024, will be better than this one.

Jennifer Chapman – Faculty

Ms. Chapman came forward to offer thanks for the opportunity and her appointment to Instructor, in the discipline of Counseling. She stated that she brings her expertise in clinical as well as counseling to the position; and that she is excited, is here to serve students and faculty, and to encourage the importance of mental health at the College

Notice of Executive Session

Trustee Cruz was invited to read the Notice of Executive Session. She read as follows:

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Essex County College shall hold, following this meeting and prior to its next scheduled meeting on January 23, 2024 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 Morales moved that the notice to hold an Executive Session be held as indicated. Trustee Wright seconded the motion. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Adjournment

Madame Chair closed the meeting with wishes, on behalf of the Board, for a wonderful holiday. The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 by acclamation.

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

- ❖ Good evening board members & fellow 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 Executive Alumni Association.
- ❖ Since the last BOT meeting, we have accomplished the following.
 1. The board has officially removed two inactive members. They are the Recording Secretary and one Member-at-large.
 2. Our advisor, Mr. Bertheleau set up the Christmas tree on the second floor and today is the last day for students, faculty, staff, and alumni to drop off small presents for the alumni association to donate.
 3. The finance committee created a list of 13 potential ways for the alumni association to raise money. During our meeting on Wednesday, December 13th, the board agreed to hold a vote, and the top three fundraisers will be executed in the new year.
 4. Lastly, our corresponding secretary, Daniel Kuraguntla is working on a science project where he plans to connect with students and establish a mentorship program.
- ❖ On behalf of the alumni association, we would like to wish everyone a happy holiday season!

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION FALL 2023 (DECEMBER) 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 delivering the December BOT report for SGA this evening. Please note that I have added to the original report that was submitted. The new report will be sent to Dean Bello to review and send for the Board minutes.

ICC MEETING/SGA GUIDELINES

Due to the timing of finals this month, the Student Forum was postponed. The SGA will be undergoing new changes during the Spring semester. New guidelines will be enforced for Executive roles, as well as, the addition of new roles for Executive and Senators to help balance the workload.

I would like to express gratitude to the Director of Institutional Advancement, Mr. Bundy, who interviewed myself and the PTK President as a part of the Community Education Forum. I was honored to be a part of it.

HOLIDAY/CLUB EVENTS

The Holiday show held in Smith Hall on December the 7th was a spectacular success with multiple top notch performances. Skits, songs, and showcases were performed by the Music, Taekwondo, Gaming and Anime, and many other clubs that participated in this event. The Gaming and Anime club hosted their final tournament for the semester which was a game jam the following Friday.

INITIATIVES FOR THE JANUARY 2024 AND ONWARD

- New Student Orientation
- Recommend new Policies toward the SGA guidelines
- Recruit more members for Executive positions and succession planning for next year
- Increased civic engagement of General Members

We once again want to give thanks to the Board of Trustees and to the College, for allowing the SGA to help students have a safer and easier transition towards their college experience. During the time off we wish you a Happy Holidays and continued cooperation towards achieving another great year

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

December 19, 2023

ECCFA Board of Trustees Report

Thank you, Madame Chair,

Good afternoon members of Essex College Board of Trustees,

Congratulations

On behalf of Essex County College Faculty Association, I would like to welcome all the new faculty members who are joining this great family today. I would like to thank the administration for adding more fulltime faculty to serve our students.

ECCFA would like to congratulate Dr. Carmen Morales on her election. We thank her for her service in the Board of trustees. We wish her great success in her new role.

ECCFA would like to thank Professor Charles Pinderhughes for his great service to the college community. We will miss the great conversation and especially his hard and creative work at convocation

Faculty Activities

Professor Victor B. Stolberg, Associate Professor/Counselor has his ADHD Medications: History, Science, and Issues, initially published as hardcover in 2017, will be released in February 2024 as a paperback edition by Bloomsbury.

On November 28th, 2023, ECCFA Executive Board held their November meeting to discuss their plans for the end of the fall semester and the spring semester 2024.

On November 28th, 2023, the Business Division held the November Financial Literacy Seminar on basic investments under the leadership of professor John D. Hammond. It was attended by approximately 60 students and staff.

On November 30th, 2023 ECCFA Executive Board held a general membership meeting to listen to the membership concerns and to also inform them about the creation and the composition of the new negotiation team.

On December 1st, 2023, Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre, from Business Division, attended the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) Africa Task Force meeting which goal is to facilitate the accreditation of African business higher education institutions.

On December 5th, 2023, the Business Division relaunched the Association of Latino Professionals for America (ALPFA), a student's organization that cater to Latino students and provide exceptional professional opportunities to them.

On December 5th, 2023, Professor Jean Wilner Alexandre attended Essex County College Education Association (ECEA) Legislative Cocktail Reception. This event was to not only congratulate new elected officials from both parties that we have endorsed but also to develop strong relations with them. These elected officials are mostly pro-education.

On December 6th, 2023, the Business Division organized a transfer trip to New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) so that students can familiarize themselves with the transfer process from Essex County College to NJIT. This field trip was held under the leadership of Dr. John Olotewo and Professor John D Hammond.

On December 6th, 2023, the Business Division hosted GRANGER, a worldwide supply chain management/ distribution company to inform our students about the opportunities available in the industry. GRANGER is a fortune 500 companies. This event was led by Dr. John Olotewo.

On December 6th, 2023, ECCFA Negotiation Team Meeting held a planning meeting before attending the college Negotiation Team “meet and greet”. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce the ECCFA negotiation team members to each other, to outline the expectations and discuss their concerns.

On December 7th, 2023, Essex County College Africana Institute held a great Pre-Kwanzaa event attended by students, staff and faculty.

On December 7th, 2023, the Biology, Chemistry and Physics (BCP) Division held their seminar on Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP) Information Session.

On December 7th, 2023, ECCFA Negotiation Team attended a “Meet and Greet” with the College Negotiation Team as an ice breaker between the two teams before embarking in full rounds of negotiation.

On December 7th, 2023, Essex County College Business Division launched the accounting club to encourage accounting students and students from other related disciplines to network and to prepare them for internship opportunities. It was led by the new accounting professor Patrick St Fort. It was attended by approximately 20 students. The keynote speaker was our former student Juan Maldonado who is currently working on Walls Street.

On December 13th, 2023, Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre attended the Essex County College Education Association (ECEA) Representative Council which mission is to address bargaining unit concerns at the county level that are members of NJEA.

On December 14th, 2023, Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre and professor Victor Stolberg attended Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre attended the Essex County College Education Association (ECEA)’s Professional Development Committee December meeting. This objective of this committee is to plan and hold training meetings with members that could help them serve the students better.

On December 14th, 2023, a group of 10 students led by Dr. John Olotewo, Professor John Hammond, and Professor Patrick St. Fort attended the Sales Force World Tour New York City 2023. The purpose of this event was to help students “explore the latest AI solutions and see how they can help drive productivity and trusted customer experiences”

On December 19th, 2023, ECCFA Negotiation Team held its first meeting to review the consolidated contract and to propose changes in the content.

Holiday Wishes

On behalf of our great faculty members, we would like to thank each trustee for his/her service to the college community throughout the year 2023.

We would like to wish each of you Happy Holidays and a wonderful New Year. We hope your Holiday season will be filled with laughter and cheers.

To ECC President and his cabinet, we thank you and appreciate your leadership. We wish you happy holidays and happy new year 2024.

To the whole college community, ECCFA wish you happy holidays and happy new year 2024

End of my Report

Memorandum

To: Ms. M. Bolden & the Board of Trustees
From: Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, President, Essex County College
Date: December 19, 2023
Re: President's Monthly Report

General:

Essex County College continues to hold on to its mission and vision by providing quality education and wraparound support system to its students.

Academics / Enrollment / Student Support:

- We have finalized plans for the Winter Intersession which begins on December 26th. All classes, staffing, and other resources are set to ensure a successful Winter Intersession.
- Outreach to students with Some College No Degree will commence on December 26th. I thank the leaders and staff who are working on this grant-funded initiative.

The President's November Engagements:

- November 27th: Met with Dr. Evans, President of Bloomfield College of Montclair State University in Bloomfield, NJ.
- November 28th: Held a productive meeting with the leadership of the Student Government Association, Inter Club Council and our Student Affairs leadership team.
- November 29th: Participated in the Essex County dedication of Memorial Busts honoring Honorable Sonia Sotomayor, Honorable Thurgood Marshall and Rabbi Joachim Prinz.
- November 30th: Participated in the ECC Substance Awareness Workshop organized by the Office of Student Affairs. The event attracted students, faculty, staff and representatives from RWJ Barnabas and the Drug Enforcement Administration.
- December 4th - 6th: Attended the MSCHE Annual Conference in Philadelphia, PA.
- December 5th: Participated remotely in the relaunch of ALPFA, the Association of Latino Professionals for America, which has 45 student chapters and 92,000 student participants across the country.
- December 8th: Attended the NJCCC President's meeting at Middlesex College in Edison, NJ
- December 11th: Participated in the annual ECC Tree Lighting ceremony organized by Student Affairs with the ECC Choir providing entertainment. Happy Holidays!
- December 12th: Participated in the ECC Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Induction ceremony.
- December 14th: Honored 55 outstanding employees during this year's Employee Recognition Awards Luncheon.
 - We are grateful for their long-term service to the College.
 - This year's awards included the following staff members who have served our college for 55 years:
 - Ms. Patricia Bartinique;
 - Mr. Gerald Freedman &

- Rev. Dr. Robert Spellman.
- We thank Trustee Wright and Trustee Cruz for attending this year's Award Recognition luncheon and for engaging and uplifting our staff throughout the event.

Finances:

- We are making excellent progress with this year's FY 23 audit and expect to conclude the process by the end of December.

Projects:

- Gym Renovation Phase III covering showers, storage, walls, floor, ceilings and walls, is completed and the Certificate of Occupancy (CO) has been issued by the City of Newark.
- The Cafeteria serving area renovation is near completion. The City of Newark has conducted its inspection and we expect to receive a Certification Occupancy shortly.

Athletics:

- Men's and women's basketball teams are in the second month of the 2023-24 season. Highlights include:
 - Women's Basketball – Freshman/Forward Alana Nickels is averaging 17.5 points per game
 - Men's Basketball – Sophomore Guard/Forward Koi Kirk, Jr. is averaging 22.4 points per game.
 - Men's Basketball – Freshman Guard/Forward Jaidan Gilzene is averaging 20.3 points per game.
 - Congratulations. Go Wolverines!
- The College partnered with the Newark Board of Education to host this year's Brick City Showdown Basketball Classic (tournament) – attracting about 30 High Schools from NJ and NY to our Cleo Hill Snr. PEB, from December 15th to 17th.

Community Relations:

- November 28th: Concluded our Annual Giving Tuesday fundraising activities led by the Office of Institutional Advancement. We thank you for your thoughtful donations which support student scholarships and our Food Pantry.

[Save the dates – Upcoming Events.](#)

Madam Chair, this ends my report. Thank you.