



Essex County College
Board of Trustees
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
May 21, 2024 – 4:30 PM

Essex County College – West Essex Campus – MultiPurpose Room

In Attendance:

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

Call to Order/Roll Call

Trustee Bolden, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. Nine Trustees answered roll call. A quorum was announced for the meeting.

New Trustee Introduction

Madame Chair introduced the Board's newest Trustee, Ms. Cynthia Martinez, to the audience. She announced that Ms. Martinez joined the Board during the previous week and everyone is happy with her appointment. Further, Ms. Martinez brings credentials which will be an asset to the Board.

Open Public Meetings Act Announcement

Trustee Grimes 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 2, 2024, 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 Grimes moved that minutes of the April 23, 2024 meetings of the Board of Trustees be approved. Trustee Robinson seconded the motion. ***Eight ayes, one abstention, the motion carried.***

Communications

Trustee Grimes announced that there were no communications.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Mr. Lev Zilbermints was called forward to make comments on agenda items. His comments were provided in advance and are posted below. Mr. Zilbermints read as follows:

Good Afternoon, Board of Trustees, Alumni, Faculty, students. It is such a pleasure to see you at the newly renovated West Essex Campus.

As usual, here are my public comments on agenda items.

3-1.4/May - 2024: Thank you so much for maintenance service to the elevators. It keeps them going. You know, when I was a college student at ECC, I once got stuck in the elevator on the second floor. By the way, the elevator by the Cafeteria at the main campus is slow. Can that be fixed?

4-1/May 2024 thru 4 - 5/May 2024: Congratulations to all those appointed to their positions. Welcome to ECC! I wish you the best in your future endeavors.

4.6/May - 2024 thru 4-9/May-2024: I would like to thank Dr. Gale Gage and Yenny Mendoza for their long service to Essex County College. Dr. Gage has been at ECC for decades. In that time she has taught thousands of students. Many of these students now lead successful lives and careers because of the knowledge they received from Dr. Gale Gage while at ECC.

We would like to wish Dr. Gale Gage and Yenny Mendoza the best in their retirement. Long lives, peace, happiness, and prosperity.

We would like to wish the best in everything to Yelena Lyudmilova and Khadija Bouhmedi, who have resigned from ECC. Thank you for your service to the school.

4-10/May - 2024: Seems to me we have a revolving door for college Comptroller. How many has it been, seven, since 2016? Not one of them has stayed very long. That is cause for concern.

This concludes my public comments on agenda items for May 2024.

Lev D. Zilbermints, '93

Finance Committee Report

Trustee Zarra reported that the Finance Committee met and recommends the following thirteen items for the Board's approval:

3-1.1/May-2024	Authorize the Two-Year Award for Legal Services O'Toole Scrivo Genova Burns Jackson Lewis Walsh Pizzi Juan Fernandez College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$350,000.00
3-1.2/May-2024	Authorize the Additional Payment for the Presidential Scholarship Gala Crystal Plaza Group, Inc., Livingston, New Jersey Self-Funded – Especial Event	Amount not to Exceed \$5,000.00
3-1.3/May-2024	Authorize the Award of Renewal for a Preventive Maintenance Agreement for Printing Equipment Mark Andy, Inc., Chesterfield, MO College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$30,000.00

3-1.4/May-2024	<p>Authorize the Award of a One (1) Year NJ State Contract for Preventive Maintenance Service and Repairs for Elevators #1-11 Champion Elevator Corporation, Clinton, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	\$56,162.00
3-1.5/May-2024	<p>Authorize the Award of a Blanket Order for Facility Supplies and Related Services Grainger, Inc., Palatine, IL College Funded – Operating and Capital Expenses</p>	<p>Amount not to Exceed \$100,000.00</p>
3-1.6/May-2024	<p>Authorize the Award of Six (6) Blanket Orders for Utility Services:</p> <p><u>Water & Sewage Services</u> City of Newark/Water (5 accounts) Township of West Caldwell (1 account)</p> <p><u>Electrical & Gas Services</u> PSE&G Co. (32 accounts) Constellation New Energy (24 accounts) Direct Energy Marketing (23 accounts)</p> <p><u>Telephone Services</u> Verizon College Funded - Operating Expenses</p>	<p>Amount not to Exceed \$2,400,000.00</p>
3-1.7/May-2024	<p>Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Audit Services PKF O’Connor Davies, LLP, Woodcliff Lake, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>Amount not to Exceed \$206,040.00</p>
3-1.8/May-2024	<p>Authorize the Award of a Three-Year Contract for Dental Insurance Services Delta Dental Plan of NJ, Inc., Parsippany, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>Amount not to Exceed \$1,500,000.00</p>
3-1.9/May-2024	<p>Authorize the Award of a Contract Renewal for Supplemental Life Insurance Dearborn National, Lombard, IL College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>Amount not to Exceed \$50,000.00</p>
3-1.10/May-2024	<p>Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Athletic Travel and Charter Bus Services Suburban Trails, Verona, NJ Panorama Tours, Wallington, NJ Wertz Motor Coaches, Marcus Hook, PA College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>Amount not to Exceed \$150,000.00</p>
3-1.11/May-2024	<p>Authorize the Purchase for a Commercial Shredder AB Graphics, Clark, NJ Minor Capital Funded – Operating Expense</p>	\$20,000.00

3-1.12/May-2024	Authorize the Award of Three (3) Contracts for Instructional Services for the Summer Youth Program Black Rocket Productions Caring for Children dba Bricks 4 Kidz Share Joy, LLC dba STEAM To-Go College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to Exceed \$95,000.00
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3-1.13/May 2024 Authorize the Sale of Obsolete Items

Trustee Wright moved the Finance Actions for approval. Trustee Lewis provided the second. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Personnel Committee Report

Trustee Robinson advised that the Committee met and recommended the approval of the following personnel actions for May of 2024:

Appointments

4-1/May-2024 Nicole Conforti, Title IX-504 Coordinator
 Office of The General Counsel
 Effective July 1, 2024
 Salary \$65,000.00

4-2/May-2024 Sadrac Auplan, Police Officer
 Public Safety
 Effective May 26, 2024
 Salary \$43,000.00

4-3/ May-2024 Zaire Ruffin, Police Officer
 Public Safety
 Effective May 26, 2024
 Salary \$43,000.00

4-4/ May-2024 Joseph Corallo, Security Officer
 Public Safety
 Effective May 26, 2024
 Salary \$31,470.00

4-5/May-2024 Gerard Pierresaint Sr., Security Officer
 Public Safety
 Effective May 26, 2024
 Salary \$31,470.00

Retirements

4-6/May-2024 Gale Gage, Professor
 Faculty
 Effective September 1, 2024

4-7/May-2024 Yenny Mendoza, Administrative Assistant
 Purchasing
 Effective June 1, 2024

Resignations

4-8/May-2024 Yelena Lyudmilova, Assistant Dean
Online Education and Resources
Effective: May 3, 2024

4-9/May-2024 Khadija Boumehdi, Dispatcher
Public Safety
Effective: May 1, 2024

Rescind Appointment

4-10/May-2024 Rod Jefferson, Comptroller
Office of the Comptroller
Effective: March 4, 2024

Trustee Cruz provided the motion to approve Board Actions 4-1 to 4-10. Trustee Grimes seconded her motion. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Trustee Robinson then noted the need to address tabled Board Actions 4-11 and 4-12/12-2022. Mr. Townes then stated “Madame Chair, I just wanted to make a few comments on those two pieces of legislation. Just for the record, I want to reflect that these items were previously tabled because they were introduced prematurely, before the Board reorganized the organizational chart to create these two positions. We realize that [almost] two years have gone by now where we did not address these items so procedurally we need to lift them from the table to get rid of these stale items. The positions will be filled in the ordinary course. The Board will need to lift them from the table and take action and proceed with the process to fill those positions at the appropriate time.”

Revisit Tabled Actions: Promotions

4-11/12-2022 Mohamed Seddiki
Vice President – Operations / Chief Information Officer (CIO)
Effective January 3, 2023 through June 30, 2023

4-12/12-2022 Alvin Williams
Vice President – Faculty and Academic Affairs / Chief Academic Officer (CAO)
Effective January 3, 2023 through June 30, 2023

Trustee Cruz offered the motion to lift the actions from the table. Trustee Lewis seconded her motion. ***The motion carried – eight ayes, one abstention.***

Trustee Cruz moved the actions for a vote. Trustee Lewis seconded her motion. ***The motion was denied– eight nays, one abstention.***

Educational Programs Committee Report

Trustee Lewis advised that the Committee met on Monday, May 13th and had two items to present for the Board’s approval:

7-1.1/May-2024 Memorandum of Understanding: CareSparc Community Connections

7-1.2/May-2024 Transfer Agreement: Rutgers University – Newark School of Arts and Science

Board actions 7-1.1 and 7-1.2 were moved for approval by Trustee Wright and seconded by Trustee Robinson. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Site Facilities and Equipment Committee Report

Trustee Guyton advised that the Committee met but there were no action items. He indicated that the information the Committee received would be highlighted in the President's report.

Policy and Governance Committee Report

Trustee Cruz announced that the Committee did not meet and had no action items to present for the Board's consideration.

Community Relations Committee Report

Trustee Wright reported that the Committee did not meet and there were no actions requiring their attention. She added that she was sure Dr. Boakye would fill the Board in about recent updates.

Alumni Association Report

Mr. George Nti, the President of the Alumni Association, greeted the Trustees, President Boakye, students, staff and those in assembly. He stated that he was happy to attend a Board meeting for the first time.

Mr. Nti thanked the President and his administration, especially Accounting, the Bursar's Office and Student Life, for their continued support. He reported the following:

- The Executive Committee met on May 1, 2024
- On May 15, the Association participated in Scholarship Night where they awarded five scholarships of \$500 each to students.
- Members of the Association participated in the Graduation Rehearsal and several graduates registered to join the Alumni Association.

Student Government Association Report

The Student Government Association Report was submitted electronically and receipt was acknowledged by Madame Chair. The report is attached at Appendix A.

Faculty Association Report

Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre opened his report with thanks; he indicated that faculty members had expressed concern about the personnel actions which the Board ultimately denied. He said everyone will be happy with the denial of the actions because of serious concerns.

Professor Alexandre then:

- Introduced himself to Trustee Martinez and welcomed her to the Board of Trustees.
- Thanked the members of the Board of Trustees who attended the Faculty Gala.
- Advised that the Faculty Association Executive Committee had two meetings to prepare for the upcoming Academic Year. He noted that any concerns they have will be shared with the President, first, as concerns are usually resolved at the Presidential level.
- Noted that his full report would be submitted for the Board's review (See Appendix B). He pointed out – as listed in the report – faculty activities: the long list of activities performed by Prof. Victor Stolberg and Dr. Akil Khalfani. Prof. Alexandre highlighted the trip Dr. Khalfani took with students to commemorate the 99th birthday of Malcolm X. He commented that there is a high correlation between student activities and retention. Prof. Alexandre then mentioned the trip Dr. Khalfani took to Angola to gain relationships with the Colleges and Universities there.
- Informed Trustees that he attended the Essex County Legislative Action Team Reception and the funeral of the late Congressman Donald M. Payne, Jr. who was always supportive of the College.

- Noted that faculty members have been active in all events related to graduation, i.e., Awards night, graduation rehearsal, etc.
- Acknowledged that Professor Kathlyn Battle and Professor Clare Kajura earned doctoral degrees. Dr. Boakye added that Mr. Runfeldt also earned his doctoral degree.

President's Report

Dr. Boakye, first, announced that he would share a few events he participated in during the last month via a PowerPoint presentation. He then advised that everything is going well, moving smoothly, and approximately 2,320 students are studying in the Summer I semester. Dr. Boakye announced that commencement will be held on Thursday, May 23rd and about 1,148 students will be graduating; among them 131 high school students who have earned their Associate degree along with high school diplomas from the following high schools: East Side, West Side, University, Orange, and Newark Tech – Essex County School of Technology.

The President stated that the bookstore transition is successfully done. RedShelf will take charge of text books; vendors are being solicited to take over other areas of the bookstore.

The Some College, No Degree grant program is going well. The President thanked Dean Kirkland, Enrollment Management and all other individuals who are reaching out to thousands of students who stopped coming to the College but were close to graduating. Dr. Boakye noted that eighteen students in the program will be graduating on Thursday.

Dr. Boakye advised that he was in Trenton on May 9th, along with three students, to advocate for the restoral of the \$20M budget cut to New Jersey's Community Colleges proposed in the Governor's FY25 budget. He noted that they had a chance to meet with the state's legislators to share concerns regarding the proposed cut; and, he believes our legislators will provide support to restore the funding.

The President then acknowledged the following:

- He and members of his staff attended the viewing and funeral of Congressman Donald M. Payne, Jr.
- Ms. Soto, the College's General Counsel, was honored during the Essex County Bar Association's End of Year Gala. She was acknowledged for Best General Practice.
- On behalf of Essex County College, Dr. Boakye officially welcomed Ms. Cynthia Martinez as the Board's newest Trustee.

President Boakye then proceeded to share a PowerPoint of photos taken at events he attended and are listed in his monthly report to the Board of Trustees. Following the presentation, Dr. Boakye invited Mr. Tomkins, the College's Director of Athletics, to make a presentation.

Mr. Tomkins' presentation summarized the student-athletes' achievements for FY23-24. He advised that the College is a member of the Garden State Athletic Conference (GSAC) and Region XIX of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). Highlights were:

- Fifty-five (55) Fall and sixty-six (66) Spring Student Athletes achieved a 3.0 or higher GPA;
- Men's and Women's Cross Country – coached by Lionel Leach this was the first year the teams participated in the Metropolitan Conference. Essex is the only junior college to be a part of that four-year institution conference which consists of St. Johns, Columbia, Manhattan College, Ramapo, NJIT and a few others in the tri-state.
- Four students in the fall attended the National Junior College Division One National Tournament in Alabama; one ECC freshman, Serena Douglas, was nominated for a NJCAA All Academic Award for achieving a 3.62 GPA
- Sixteen students participating in Men's and Women's Cross Country made the All-Academic Team for the Conference or Region.

- Women’s Soccer – due to injuries, only nine women participated when the team usually consists of eleven players. With prayer, there were no further injuries and the Women’s Soccer team won the 2023 Region XIX Championship; they were one game away from going to the NJCAA Division II National Tournament. Sophomore, Taina Gervais, received a full athletic and academic scholarship to Caldwell University. She was Division II Sophomore Athlete of the Year and ranked 18th in goal scores for the Division II NJCAA. The team’s head coach, Monique Edouard was the Region XIX Division II Coach of the Year for the fifth time. All nine student athletes made the All-Academic Team.
- Men’s Soccer team – did not have the season desired. One student, Jaiden Miller, was named to the Region XIX for his athletic playing ability.
- Women’s Basketball – again not the season desired; the previous head coach had resigned. The new head coach, Jahreal Cadogan, a former ECC student athlete (Men’s Basketball Team 2019 & 2020) has done an outstanding job recruiting and has brought in at least five scholarship student athletes already. During the past season, there were no students on scholarship. Mr. Tomkins commented that he is looking to have a full fall season and getting back to winning.
- Men’s Basketball – also an up and down season. Of the nine losses, during the games, the team was up by 10-15 points at times. Bobby Morgan who had been the coach since 2012 has officially retired. One student, Koi Kirk, Jr. was named First Team All GSAC and All Region for his athletic ability. Eight student athletes made the All-Academic team for the conference.
- Indoor and Outdoor Track Teams coached by Lionel Leach enjoyed an outstanding season and many achievements. Raymond French, from Ghana, won the Indoor Male Athlete for his indoor runs. Lady Wolverines team members, mostly from Jamaica and other Caribbean countries, impressed at almost every meet – indoor or outdoor. The teams competed in the historical Penn Relays in late April – eight qualified for the outdoor nationals and ten for indoor nationals. Raymond French finished, on Saturday, May 18th, 4th in the Nation, in the 200-meter run and will be going to Paris this summer to represent Ghana in the 2024 Summer Olympics.
- Nine student athletes from the Cross Country and Indoor and Outdoor track teams accomplished all academic teams for their conference

Mr. Tomkins’ report was received with thanks and applause.

Dr. Boakye closed his report with information about the West Essex Campus. He said that although the fall semester started slow, 424 students sat in the classrooms, 349 in the spring semester, and 58 this summer; totaling 831 students who physically sat in classrooms at the WEC. Other activities on the WEC were:

- ESL programs have started;
- 20 internal departmental meetings were held at WEC;
- in inauguration was held there with 350 individuals in attendance;
- Bloomberg Terminals were launched this semester;
- There have been about 800 visitors to the campus;
- The Soccer field is used every day, since the weather has been better;
- 14 major external partners have had events there;
- Eight high school staff members have visited; and,
- Events, like the superintendents meeting and Essex County Workforce Development, have been held at the WEC.

The President commented that of course the main focus is on academics, but opening the environment and the space for other events serve the community.

Addressing Mr. Tomkins, Madame Chair asked if there are plans for a baseball or softball team. Mr. Tomkins responded, “Working on it”. She commented that she is impressed with our student-athletes.

New Business

There was no new business.

Public Comments

Mr. Zilbermints submitted his Public Comments in writing and read them into the record of the meeting. They are posted below.

Greetings, everyone,

Here are my public comments.

To begin with, I think our Cafeteria needs to have more variety. It is kind of bland. We used to have a nice salad bar here, but not anymore. Also, why cannot we have miniature milk cartons, as was the case? Then we do not have to pour milk from the big gallon container. I honestly think the prices are too high. Once the Fall 2024 semester starts, the 2024 - 2025 Student Government Association should have a meeting with the Cafeteria Management about the issues I describe here. Also, I would like to see the Cafeteria open longer than until 2 p.m.

When is the Library going to be reopened? I see you have construction going on there, so I am curious.

Some of the hand sanitizers on campus seem to be out of sanitizer. I would ask that Facilities check these out throughout the ECC campuses at Newark and West Caldwell. Better safe than sorry.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the June 2024 Board of Trustees meeting.

Keep in touch!

Lev D. Zilbermints, '93

Notice of Executive Session

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Essex County College shall hold, following this meeting and prior to its next scheduled meeting on June 18, 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 Robinson provided the motion to conduct an Executive Session as indicated. Trustee Lewis seconded her motion. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Adjournment

Madame Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Wright provided the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:44 pm by a vote of acclamation.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SUMMER I 2024 (MAY) REPORT

Good evening members of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Boakye, Faculty, and Administration, I am Mark Anifowose, President of the Student Government Association, and I will be presenting the May report for SGA activities.

SGA ACTIVITY REPORT:

On Tuesday, May 14, 2024, participation in the Fruit Stand was arranged with the assistance of the International Student Club and the Office of Student Affairs to distribute fruit items to the students. Additionally, on Thursday, May 16, 2024, assistance was provided in sharing food and cookies with the evening students.

ON-GOING EFFORTS:

Coordinating with SGA Advisor to Get New Officers:

- As we transition into the summer semester, one of our main tasks is to make sure there is a smooth transition for the next leadership team. To accomplish this, we are actively working with our SGA advisor, Mr. Joseph Ott, to identify and onboard new officers who will continue the mission and initiatives of the Student Government Association. This includes interviewing, reviewing applications, and selecting individuals who show dedication and passion for serving the student body.

Holding a Recruitment Table in the Week of May 27 – May 30, 2024:

- As part of our strategy to recruit new members and leaders for the Student Government Association, we will have a recruitment table set up on the main campus, second floor, the week of May 27 to May 30, 2024. This activity is set up to reach out to students interested in participating in student government and inform them of the roles and responsibilities that go along with participating in the organization. We will continue to actively promote opportunities for students to participate in campus life to make a difference in their college experience.

We take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to the school administration for its continued support in ensuring the safety, well-being, and comfort of the students of Essex County College. We hope such efforts will continue in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

SGA Executive Board

Essex County College

Student Government Association

Memorandum

To: Ms. Marion Bolden & the Board of Trustees

From: Jean-Wilner Alexandre ECCFA Representative to ECC Board of Trustees

Date: May 21, 2024

Re: Faculty Report

General Comments

Welcoming Trustee Cinthia Martinez

On behalf of the Essex County College Faculty Association (ECCFA), I would like to extend a warm welcome to Trustee Cinthia Martinez as she joins the Essex County College Board of Trustees. We are excited to collaborate with her and are looking forward to working together for the success and advancement of the college as a whole. Your dedication and contributions to our institution are highly valued, and we anticipate a fruitful partnership in achieving our shared goals. Welcome aboard!

Faculty Retirement and staff Resignations

On behalf of ECCFA, I extend our sincere gratitude to Dr. Gale Gage from the Nursing Department for her outstanding contributions in advancing the college and the nursing program. Dr. Gage has been an exceptional colleague, and we will deeply miss her enthusiasm, care, and dedication to our institution. Her hard work and commitment have left a lasting impact, and we are grateful for the positive influence she has had on our community. Wishing Dr. Gage all the best in her future endeavors.

We are also deeply saddened to learn of the resignation of Dr. Yelena Lyudmilova, Assistant Dean of Online Education and Resources. Her departure is a loss for the college as she has been one of our most competent colleagues, a valuable resource, and truly irreplaceable. Dr. Lyudmilova's dedication and contributions to our institution have been invaluable, and she will be greatly missed. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for her service and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

Meeting with Alfred Bundy

On May 24, 2024, Professor Victor Stolberg and I had an incredibly productive meeting with Mr. Alfred Bundy, Executive Director of Institutional Advancement, and Dr. Alvin Williams regarding faculty recognition. We are delighted to share that your hard work and achievements will continue to be prominently showcased to the Board of Trustees and featured in various college publications.

Recognizing the work of each of you is a testament to your dedication and contributions to our institution. Your commitment to excellence enriches our academic community, and we are thrilled to ensure that your accomplishments receive the acknowledgment they deserve.

Faculty Reception Attendance

On behalf of ECCFA and President Ming McCall, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all members, including College President Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, Executive Dean Dr. Alvin Williams, Board of Trustees members Ms. Marion Bolden, Ms. Beth Robinson, Ms. Johanna L. Wright, and the entire ECC staff and chairs, for their attendance at the faculty gala held on Friday, April 26th, 2024.

Your presence made the event truly special, and we appreciate your ongoing support and dedication to our institution. Thank you for celebrating this occasion with us and for your continued commitment to excellence in education.

Safety and Security Training

The ECCFA would like to extend our gratitude to ECC Human Resources and The Public Safety Department for the Mandatory Safety & Security Training held on April 30th, 2024. This training was much needed and is a significant step towards ensuring the safety of our campus community.

As Dr. Khalfani has suggested, establishing a CERT team on campus, composed of both employees and students, would further enhance our preparedness and response capabilities. Implementing such a team would strengthen our overall safety infrastructure and foster a culture of readiness and mutual support.

Revisited Tabled Actions

I would like to express gratitude to the board for their decision not to revisit the promotions. It's notable that more than 50% of the concerns voiced during the recent town hall meeting with the President were related to the inadequate state of technology in both the classroom and campus-wide. This substantial proportion underscores a pressing concern that directly affects our capacity to deliver quality education and fulfill our responsibilities effectively. Addressing these technological deficiencies is imperative to ensuring an optimal learning environment and enabling faculty to excel in their roles, ultimately enhancing the overall educational experience for our students.

Faculty Activities

Graduation 2024 Events Participated in by Faculty Members:

- Registered Nurse (RN) Pinning Ceremony
- Equal Opportunity Fund (EOF) Gala May 10th, 2024
- Haitian Students Association Gala May 17th, 2024
- Award Ceremony Night May 15th, 2024
- Graduation Rehearsal

Jean-Wilner Alexandre

1. May 13th, 2024: Attended the Essex County Legislative Action Team Reception
2. Attended the ECEA Professional Development Committee meeting to annual the next academic year

Victor Stolberg

Professor Victor Stolberg continues to exemplify excellence as a faculty member, demonstrating his exceptional skills as a counselor and serving as a remarkable ambassador for the college. Over the past month, Professor Stolberg has been actively engaged in various academic activities, showcasing his commitment to academic advancement and student success.

1. Organized and conducted a monthly “Counselors and Advisors Meeting.”
2. Participated in shared governance by Chairing the monthly meeting of the Academic Standards Committee (ASC) and attending monthly meetings for the Academic Policies Advisory Committee (APAC), and Faculty Development Committee (FDC).
3. Elected Vice President for the ECC Faculty Association.
4. Served on a Search Committee for a new Library Services Assistant at the West Essex Campus.
5. Continued serving as Counselor 2 days per week at the West Essex Campus.
6. Visited class sections for ACC 101, ART 101, BIO 101, ECO 101, ENG 101, HST 111, and POL 104 to announce registration availability for Summer I, II, and Fall semester courses.
7. Planned and conducted the 34th Annual Book Sale of the Friends of the Newark Public Library.

8. Attended several meetings this month including those for the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, the Board of Trustees, and another for the Catalog Team; Chaired meetings for Committee planning the Faculty Association's Spring Party; as well as meetings in the community, such as the Essex County Education Association (ECEA) Legislative Dinner, where elected officials were directly implored to restore the lost \$20 million of community college funding.
9. Attended the NJEA Higher Education Summit in Princeton, NJ.
10. Met, along with Prof. Jean-Wilner Alexandre, Dean Williams and Al Bundy regarding the need for increased regular recognition of Faculty Accomplishments.
11. Met with Assoc. Dean Yelena Lydmilova and Ruth Ware for Library initiatives for coverage of publications by ECC Faculty.
12. Appointed as an Editorial Board Member for the "Journal of Neuroscience and Neurological Surgery."
13. Volunteered at the Bessie Green Community "The Red Door" Food Bank.
14. Completed inclusiveness-related SafeColleges trainings such as "Communication for Inclusion," "Influence of Unconscious Bias," and "Personal skills for a Diverse Campus," as well as Medscape continuing education, mainly on various disabilities, like "ADHD," "Arthritis," "Asthma," "Breast Cancer," "Colorectal Cancer," "Dementia," "Hypercholesterolemia," "Mental Health," and "Schizophrenia."
15. Participated in the West Essex Open House.
16. Assisted with the West Essex Vocational Technical School tour of the West Essex Campus.
17. Assisted with the Essex County Voc. Tech. School- Newark tour of the West Essex Campus.
18. Participated in the Student Affairs Denim Day.
19. Visited "Let's Explore Our Colorful Thoughts" Art Therapy session.
20. Attended Mandatory Safety and Security Training for Staff. Also completed additional safety and security related trainings, such as on "Emergency and Disaster Preparedness" with SafeColleges, and completed an online class on "Emergency Healthcare in Insecure Settings," both from DisasterReady.org/ Cornerstone On Demand Foundation.
21. Earned Personal Safety and Security Certificate from DisasterReady.
22. Attended the Scholarship Awards Ceremony.

23. Attended the ECC 55th Gala.
24. Attended the EOF Gala.
25. Attended the Athletic Banquet.
26. Attended the Graduation Rehearsal.
27. Participated in the ECEA Human & Civil Rights Dinner/Workshop.
28. Participated in the ECEA Importance of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Workshop.
29. Participated in the NJEA Higher Education Town Hall.
30. Assisted with the ECC Open House- Main Campus.
31. Organized and “MC”ed the 2024 ECC Faculty Association Spring Party for Retirees and New Faculty.

Dr. Akil Khalfani

Dr. Akil Khalfani, Associate Professor of Sociology, Director of the Africana Institute, Director of the Center for Global Education and Experiences, and Chair of the Social Justice Council, continues to be highly active in the community. He represents the college and the African Institute at numerous community events, engages with students, highlights college programs, and seeks opportunities for the institution.

Trip to Angola

Dr. Khalfani, the director of the Africana Institute, traveled to Angola to explore opportunities for the college community. Establishing partnerships with African colleges and universities is crucial for Essex County College, as it can enhance academic collaboration, cultural exchange, and research opportunities. These partnerships can also provide students and faculty with valuable international experiences and perspectives. By fostering such connections, Essex County College aims to expand its global reach and impact. Dr. Khalfani's trip underscores the institution's commitment to building meaningful and mutually beneficial relationships with African educational institutions.



Malcom X Field Trip

Dr. Akil Khalfani recently led a group of students on a field trip to commemorate the 99th birthday of Malcolm X. The students were thrilled by the opportunity to learn more about Malcolm X and the significant role he plays in American history. This experience allowed them to connect deeply with the historical and cultural impact of Malcolm X, enriching their understanding beyond the classroom.

Field trips like this are vital for student retention and graduation. They provide experiential learning opportunities that enhance academic engagement and make the educational experience more dynamic and memorable. By participating in such activities, students are more likely to feel connected to their studies and motivated to pursue their academic goals, ultimately contributing to higher retention and graduation rates.



Faculty Accomplishments

Dr. Kathleen Battle

1. We are proud to celebrate the recent accomplishments of our esteemed faculty members. Professor Kathleen Battle has earned her Doctoral degree in Education, reflecting her dedication to advancing her knowledge and skills in the field. This achievement enhances her teaching and research capabilities and inspires her colleagues and students, highlighting the importance of continuous learning in academia.

Dr. Clare Kajura

2. Additionally, Professor Clare Kajura from the Psychology Department has also earned her Doctoral degree. This milestone is a testament to her hard work and dedication to psychology. Her advanced expertise will enrich the curriculum and enhance the educational experience for our students, demonstrating our faculty's commitment to staying at the forefront of their fields.

In Conclusion

Essex County College is fortunate to have an exceptional team of faculty dedicated to advancing our institution. Their unwavering commitment to supporting our students in reaching their academic goals is truly commendable. Our faculty not only prioritize teaching and mentorship but also engage in their own academic and professional development to stay at the forefront of their fields. This dedication ensures that our students receive the highest quality education and are well-prepared for their future endeavors.

Additionally, our faculty actively support and encourage student participation in extracurricular activities, recognizing the importance of a well-rounded educational experience. By fostering an environment where students can thrive both academically and personally, our faculty contribute significantly to the holistic development of our students. Their efforts in enhancing student life and promoting academic excellence are integral to the continued success and reputation of Essex County College.

End of report

Jean-Wilner Alexandre
Associate Professor
ECCFA BOT Representative