



Board of Trustees
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

June 18, 2024 | 4:30 PM
Smith Hall – Main Campus

In Attendance:

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

Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair M. Bolden called the meeting to order at 4:37 pm. A quorum was achieved with 7 trustees in attendance.

Open Public Meetings Act Announcement

Trustee J. Grimes read the Open Public Meetings Act into the record. It reads 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 virtual 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 J. Grimes moved that the minutes of the May 21, 2024 meetings of the Board of Trustees be approved. Trustee B. Robinson seconded the motion. ***The minutes were approved unanimously.***

Communications

Trustee J. Grimes announced that there were no communications.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Mr. Lev Zilbermints congratulated the employees who were being appointed, re-appointed, promoted and given merit pay. He also wished the best to those resigning from Essex County College to pursue other careers. He mentioned that approved expenditures ran in the millions, and were the highest he had seen in years.

Mr. Zilbermints liked that the College purchased new computer supplies. He thanked the Board of Trustees for making sure ECC had all the necessary renovations and supplies. He wished Jonell Congleton a happy retirement. He thanked her for everything she has done for the College.

Finance Committee Report

Madam Chair M. Bolden said that there was an amendment to the finance committee report actions. Counsel Townes stated item 3-1.6/June-2024 had a typo. It should read “Amount not to exceed \$200,000” and not \$2,000,000. Madam Chair motioned to vote. Trustee Grimes seconded the motion.

3-1.6/June-2024	Authorize the Award of Two-Year Blanket Orders for Bio-Chem Lab Supplies/Equipment Carolina Biological School Specialty, LLC VWR International, LLC. Fisher Scientific Co Pocket Nurse Enterprise College Funded - Operating Expenses	Amount not to Exceed \$200,000.00 per year
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Trustee Guyton recommended the following items for the board’s approval:

3-1.1/June-2024	Authorize the Award of a Contract for Data Collection Genius Sis, LLC, Miramar, FL College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$29,500.00
3-1.2/June-2024	Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Facility Improvements JM Beauty Construction Michael Anthony Poth Services Stone Gate Associates Russo Contracting E&F Crystal Clear Cleaning Solanos Fence Ferry Carpet Geronimo Electrical Contractors DeSesa Engineering Sky General Construction American Air Filters Imperial Bag & Paper RFS Commercial, Inc. Pro-Surfacing, LLC JM Lawn Sprinklers Systems Chapter 12 Funded – Operating Expense	American Woodcarving, LLC D&B Service Group/Daikin Applied Americas Inc. GMH Associates of America, Inc. Siemens Industry, Inc. Coast Combustion Mechanical Services, Inc. Tri-County Speedy Sewer Drain Service USA General Contractors National Air Filters Serv Co United Sales USA 195 Lafayette LBJ Flooring LLC d/b/a LBJ Interior Solutions LLC Amount not to Exceed \$1,000,000.00 per year
3-1.3/June-2024	Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Electrical Supplies and Services <u>Electrical Supplies</u> Jewel Electric, LLC Keer Electrical Supply Co., Inc. Pemberton Electrical Supply Co., LLC. Franklin-Griffith, LLC Greenbrook Electronics College Funded – Operating Expense	<u>Electrical Services</u> Sal Electric Co., Inc. NK Electrical LLC Amount not to exceed \$300,000.00 per year
3-1.4/June-2024	Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Maintenance Renewal for Network Infrastructure Equipment	Amount not to Exceed \$4,000,000.00

	Citrix Systems, Inc. Regroup Mass Notification Malwarebytes Corp FS Networks, Inc. ePlus Technology Apple Digicert American Registry Internet-Numbers (ARIN) Dell Insight Public Sector Johnston GP, Inc. New Era Technology Shi Int'l CDW-G, Inc. OculusIT LLC College Funded – Operating Expense	EDUCAUSE BMC Software, Inc. 1 st Run Computer Serv. Helix Technology PTS Data Center Informatics dba: Wasp Data443 Risk Mitigation Sinewave, Inc. Square 9 Soft Works Kronos Ellucian Company Touchnet Info Systems Evisions, LLC Oracle America, Inc Thomas Reuters LS2 Investment, Inc	per year
3-1.5/June-2024	Authorize the Award of Additional Two-Year Blanket Orders for Computer Supplies Dell CDW-G Staples Access NJ HP College Funded – Operating Expense	W.B. Mason Access NJ Stuyvesant Partners Tree House Allied Documents	Amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.00 per year
3-1.7/June-2024	Authorize the Award of an Additional Two-Year Blanket Order for Bus/Train Tickets New Jersey Transit, Newark, NJ Grant Funded – Operating Expense		Amount not to Exceed \$41,600.00
3-1.8/June-2024	Authorize Two-Years of Payments for Membership New Jersey Council of County Colleges, Hamilton, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense		Amount not to Exceed \$90,000.00 per year
3-1.9/June-2024	Authorize the Award of Two-Year Contracts for Testing Materials National Healthcareer Association Assessment Technology Inc. College Board / Accuplacer College Funded – Operating Expense	College Source, Inc. PSI Services, LLC	Amount not to Exceed \$300,000.00 per year
3-1.10/June-2024	Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Maintenance Agreement Optimum Lightpath, Jericho, NY College Funded – Operating Expense		Total Amount of \$250,000.00
3-1.11/June-2024	Authorize the Award of a Contract for Professional Services Arcari & Iovino Architects, PC, Little Ferry, NJ Chapter XII Funded – Capital Expense		\$130,000.00

3-1.12/June-2024	Authorize the Award to Purchase Furniture for the Newark Campus Commercial Furniture Interiors, Mountainside, NJ Chapter XII Funded – Capital Expense	\$950,000.00
3-1.13/June-2024	Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Blanket Order for Institutional Supplies Amazon.com LLC, New York, NY College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$40,000.00 per year
3-1.14/June-2024	Authorize the Payment for Insurance Policy IMAC Insurance Agency LLC, Belleville, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Total amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.00
3-1.15/June-2024	Authorize the Payment for Legal Services Jackson Lewis P.C., Berkeley Heights, NJ College Funded – Operating Expenses	Amount not to exceed \$40,000.00
3-1.16/June-2024	Authorize the Award of Twenty (20) Blanket Orders for Two-Years for Advertisement Services AAAD, Inc. Local Talk Altice Media Capstar dba: iHeart media Comcast Holding Irving Street Rep. Worral Community Intersection Clear Channel Outdoor Advance Local Holdings Welcome to the Neighborhood N. J. College and Grant Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$500,000.00 per year Positive Community Magazine Screen Vision Media TAP Into Local Motor Vehicle Network The Whitney Publishing El Cambio Caldwell Progress NJ Hills New Jersey Advance Media Ground Truth
3-1.17/June-2024	Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Medical Services for Students and Employees Ironbound Medical Services, Newark, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$150,000.00 per year
3-1.18/June 2024	Authorize the Award of Seven (7) Two-Year Blanket Orders for Library and Student Services NJ Transfer Assessment, Registration and Others Virtual Academic Library Environment (VALE) Turnitin, LLC OCLC Online Computer Library Center Skilitics, LLC NJ Edge.Net, Inc. ABET College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$500,000.00 per year
3-1.19/June-2024	Authorize the Purchase of Copier Machines RICOH USA, Parsippany, NJ Minor Capital Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$150,000.00

3-1.20/June-2024	Authorize the Award of a Five-Year Contract for the Operation and Management of College Bookstore University Gear Shop LLC, Drexel Hill, PA College Funded – Operating Expense	
3-1.21/June 2024	Authorize the Payment for Class of 2024 Commencement Devils Arena Entertainment LLC, Newark, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$21,475.00

Trustee L. Guyton moved the Finance Actions including 3-1.6 for approval. Trustee I. Cruz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Personnel Committee Report

Trustee B. Robinson advised the Personnel committee met last week and recommended the approval of the following items:

Appointments

4-1/June-2024	Pavi Jalloh, Chief of Staff and President Initiatives Office of the President Effective July 8, 2024 Salary \$97,000.00
4-2/June-2024	Shalia Story, Liaison to The President/Board of Trustees Office of the President Effective July 8, 2024 Salary \$59,000.00
4-3/June-2024	Christine Palamara, Admission Specialist West Essex Campus Effective July 8, 2024 Salary \$45,500.00
4-4/June-2024	Laseanda McLellan Ford, Buyer Purchasing Effective July 8, 2024 Salary \$60,000.00
4-5/June-2024	Hector Rivera, Student Advisor/Mentor Enrollment Management Services Effective July 8, 2024 Salary \$42,000.00

4-6/June-2024	Krysta Steele, Library Coordinator Library West Essex Campus Effective July 8, 2024 Salary \$52,000.00
4-7/June-2024	Samira Scantling, Administrative Assistant Student Life and Activities Effective July 8, 2024 Salary \$36,500.00
4-8/June-2024	Amit Das, Laboratory Technician Mathematics, Engineering, Tech and Computer Science Effective July 8, 2024 Salary \$50,000.00
4-9/June-2024	Henry De Leon Valerio, Library Services Assistant MLK Library Effective July 8, 2024 Salary \$36,400.00
4-10/June-2024	Shania Kirby, Library Services Assistant MLK Library Effective July 8, 2024 Salary \$36,400.00
4-11/June-2024	Amanda Santiago, Telephone Operator Information Technology Effective July 8, 2024 Salary \$32,500.00
4-12/June-2024	Mirian Munoz, Office Assistant Facilities Management Effective July 8, 2024 Salary \$34,000.00
4-13/June-2024	Kain Carlisle, Security Officer Public Safety Effective July 8, 2024 Salary \$31,470.00
4-14/June-2024	Daniel Collins, Security Officer Public Safety Effective July 8, 2024 Salary \$31,470.00

Re-Appointment

4-15/June-2024	Roy Hart, Admission Specialist Welcome Center Effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025
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Promotions in Academic Rank (Faculty)

- 4-16/June-2024 Emmanuel Aouad, Associate Professor – Chemistry
Effective September 1, 2024
Salary exclusive of contractual promotional one-time bonus amount, pending new contract ratification.
- Samuel Lumbsden, Associate Professor – Bilingual
Effective September 1, 2024
Salary exclusive of contractual promotional one-time bonus amount, pending new contract ratification.
- Mamta Vyas, Associate Professor - Mathematics
Effective September 1, 2024
Salary exclusive of contractual promotional one-time bonus amount, pending new contract ratification.
- Gervida Constant, Assistant Professor - Nursing
Effective September 1, 2024
Salary exclusive of contractual promotional one-time bonus amount, pending new contract ratification.

Merit Awards

- 4-17/June-2024 Administrative Confidential
John Runfeldt-IEPA Executive Director
Institutional Effectiveness, Planning and Assessment
Effective July 1, 2024
\$5,000 added to base salary
- Administrative
Virginia Flanigan, Director
Child Development Center
Effective July 1, 2024
\$5,000 added to base salary
- 4-18/June-2024 Professional
Adrienne Morse, Administrative Assistant
Athletics Department
Effective July 1, 2024
\$3,500 added to base salary
- Professional
Rita Barragan, Financial Aid Officer
Financial Aid
Effective July 1, 2024
\$3,500 added to base salary

Professional
Edmund Akwei, Assistant Bursar
Bursar's Office
Effective July 1, 2024
\$3,500 added to base salary

Professional
Joseph Ott, Program Coordinator
Student Life & Activities
Effective July 1, 2024
\$3,500 added to base salary

Resignations

4-19/June-2024 Joseph Nitti, Instructor- Mathematics
Mathematics, Engineering Technologies, and Computer Sciences
Effective: May 31, 2024

Victoria Timpanaro, Manager of Production Services
Media Production and Technology
Effective: June 20, 2024

Tayannah Clark, Teacher Assistant
Child Development Center
Effective: May 24, 2024

Phillip Wells-Cobbs, Security Officer
Public Safety
Effective May 30, 2024

Rescind Appointment

4-20/June-2024 Kayleen Marino, Administrative Assistant
Student Life & Activities
Effective May 1, 2024

***The motion to move the actions was made by Trustee Cruz. The motion was seconded by Trustee Grimes.
The motion carried unanimously.***

Educational Programs Committee Report

Trustee Martinez stated the Educational Programs committee met last week and recommended the approval of the following items:

7-1.2/June-2024 Acceptance of Funds: NJ Department of Children and Families

7-1.3/June-2024 Acceptance of Funds: EOF Grant

7-1.4/June-2024 Application Submittal: Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st
Century Act (Perkins V) Grant Application

- 7-1.5/June 2024 Acceptance of Funds: Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) Grant
- 7-1.6/June-2024 Contract for Services: FOCUS
- 7-1.7-June 2024 Joint Admissions Agreement – New Jersey City University

Trustee B. Robinson motioned the Educational Actions for approval. Trustee J. Wright seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Martinez advised that the following action be voted on separately:

- 7-1.1/June-2024 Acceptance of Funds: Consolidated Adult Basic Skills and Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education Grant

Trustee B. Robinson motioned the Educational Action for approval. Trustee J. Wright seconded the motion. The motion was approved by 6 trustees and abstained by 1 trustee.

Site Facilities and Equipment Committee Report

Trustee Rev. Dr. Guyton advised that the committee did not meet and there were no actions.

Policy and Governance Committee Report

Trustee Cruz advised that the committee met last week and there were no actions.

Community Relations Committee Report

Trustee Wright advised that the committee did not meet and there were no actions.

Alumni Association Report

The Alumni Association Report submitted to the Board of Trustees was read into the record by Mr. Lev Zilbermints and is attached at Appendix A.

Student Government Association Report

The Alumni Association Report submitted to the Board of Trustees was read into the record by Mr. Mark Anifowose and is attached at Appendix B.

Faculty Association Report

The Faculty Association Report was submitted electronically and read into the record by Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre. It is attached at Appendix C.

President's Report

The Faculty Association Report was submitted electronically and read into the record by Dr. Augustine Boakye President. It is attached at Appendix D.

Public Comments

Mr. Lev Zilbermints submitted his Public Comments in writing and read them into the record of the meeting. He asked for a moment of silence for an ECC alumni who passed away 5 days ago. He talked about the SGA Elections. He said the College has invested money into making improvements and he feels that the College should invest in connecting the Dasher Center to

the Megastructure. He asked when the library will open. He wished everyone a pleasant summer.

Samira Scantling also made public comments. She thanked the President, the Deans and Ledawn Hall for helping her in her new role with Student Life Activities and Organization that came after she recently graduated from ECC.

Professor Lumbsden also made public comments. He thanked the Board, President, colleagues and Cabinet members for his promotion to associate professor. He served ECC for 18 years. He is delighted to serve the students. He said that the work the bilingual department does is outstanding. He said that many ESL students graduated from ECC. He mentioned a successful alumnus who is working to become a doctor.

Trustee Bolden mentioned that Trustee Dr. Lewis was not able to attend the meeting because his father passed. We offer our condolences to him and his family at this time. She also presented Ms. Congleton, the Liaison to the Board of Trustees, with a plaque of appreciation.

Ms. Congleton gave words of appreciation. She thanked God for strength, patience and knowledge. She said she loved the students and working with them. She liked to see them walk across the stage. She said she saw many of them when they started. She mentioned they looked a certain way and then a different way when they graduated. She said that is the reason we are here to make a difference in their lives. She said many of the staff members became her friends and she thanked them for their support.

New Business

There was no new business.

Notice of Executive Session

Trustee Grimes 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 September 17, 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.

She asked for a motion to vote. The motion was approved unanimously.

Adjournment

Madame Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Wright provided the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:33 pm by a vote of acclamation.



**Report to Board of Trustees
June 18, 2024 @ 4:30 pm**

1. Greetings to BOT members, President Boakye, ECC staff and students, and everyone in attendance.
2. My name is Lev Zilbermintz, ECCAA Treasurer, and I am pleased to provide an update on the progress of the Association.
3. First, we thank ECC President Dr. Boakye and his administration for their continued support.
4. The association attended the 2024 commencement ceremony and congratulated the graduating students with membership certificates.
5. The Alumni held Executive Board and General Assembly meetings on June 5th and June 12th, respectively.
6. In collaboration with Newark Downtown District, the association held a game night for alumni on June 11th.
7. The association would like to thank Ms. Jonell Congleton for her support and wish her all the best as she retires.
8. Thank you, and have a happy summer!

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION REPORT - SUMMER I JUNE 2024

Good Evening esteemed 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 SGA activities report for the month of June.

Activity Report:

Recruitment Table (May 27 – May 30, 2024):

- The SGA hosted an informational recruitment table from the week of May 27 to May 30, 2024, reaching out to students for participation in student governance. This event is aimed at raising the awareness and understanding of students on roles and responsibilities within SGA, increase participation, and attract future candidates for elections. The recruitment effort helped generate awareness and interest among the student body.

Elections (June 10 – June 14, 2024):

- The SGA elections were held from June 10 to June 14, 2024. The election was quite impressive, considering there were a total of 16 candidates vying for different positions, and more than 129 casting their votes. This response is overwhelmingly indicative that students on campus do commit themselves to active participation in campus governance. We expect the result to be announced to the candidates later this week.

Outcome and Next Steps:

As a result of the elections, all open positions within the SGA have been successfully filled. The subsequent work would then be focused on supporting these newly elected leaders as they orient themselves through their respective positions. This phase of transition will include orientation programs, training in leadership skills, and mentorship to make sure that they are better-equipped and empowered student-body leaders. We look forward to a very productive term and believe that fresh perspective and eagerness on the part of this SGA team will work in a positive way for our campus community.

Thank you for your attention and continued support of the Student Government Association. We hope that such efforts will continue to be made.

Respectfully submitted,

SGA Executive Board

Essex County College

Student Government Association

Essex County College Faculty Association (ECCFA)

Memorandum

To: Ms. Marion Bolden & the Board of Trustees

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

Date: Tuesday June 18th, 2024

Re: Faculty Report

General Comments

- ECCFA is mourning the passing of Professor Emeritus Hellen Kuruc, who passed away on June 10, 2024, at noon. Hellen retired from the Math Division a few years ago. During her tenure at Essex County College, she held many roles, including Tenured Professor of Mathematics, Dean of Faculty, and Co-Author of Developmental Mathematics textbooks used at ECC, to name a few. Her contributions to the college were invaluable, and she will be dearly missed.



- A special acknowledgment to the graduation committee for their excellent work. ECCFA extends its heartfelt thanks to Dr. Keith Kirkland and Dr. Leigh Bello for their outstanding contributions to making the graduation ceremony a success.
- Congratulations to all the faculty members who are being promoted. Your hard work and dedication have truly paid off, and we celebrate your achievements.
- I would like to recognize the departure of our esteemed support staff and colleagues. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Victoria Timpanaro from Media Technology for her exceptional contributions. We also wish our brilliant Math Professor, Joseph Nitti, all the best in his future endeavors. Your remarkable talents and invaluable contributions will be deeply missed.

Faculty Update/ Activities

Update from the Office of Student Development

- In May, during Mental Health Awareness Month, the faculty counselors from the Office of Student Development—Jennifer Chapman, Ada Torres, Cassandra Johnson, and Dr. Kathlyn Ann Battle—organized and engaged in various discussions and activities aimed at reducing the stigma associated with mental health. These initiatives were open to students, staff, faculty, and administrators alike. This May marked the inaugural Mental Health Awareness Month Symposium and the launch of our mental health campaign. Professor Jennifer Chapman is now offering virtual Talk and Text therapy sessions, as well as in-person Expressive therapy, to students from both campuses.
- As part of our ongoing campaign, we conduct periodic Mental Health First Aid Workshops led by Professor Jennifer Chapman and Dr. Kathlyn Ann Battle. Over the past year, we have organized three workshops catering to various student populations. As Nationally Certified Mental Health First Aid Instructors, these workshops enable us to train students to identify mental health issues in themselves and others, provide initial assistance, and assess the need for further help or referrals to additional services. By the end of the comprehensive 8-hour course, students' awareness, sensitivity, and knowledge about mental health are significantly enhanced, and they receive certification as Mental Health First Aiders. Many of the students trained through these workshops have graduated from ESSEX with degrees in Nursing and Human and Social Services, now equipped with certification valid for the next three years.
- Professor Ada Torres and Professor Cassandra Johnson are Nationally Certified Suicide Prevention (QPR-Question, Persuade, Refer) trainers and they also train students throughout the year to recognize the signs and symptoms in others and themselves to reduce the attempts and completion of suicide.
- Professor Victor Stolberg Update
 1. Attended several meetings this month, including those for Academic Standards Committee (ASC), Academic Policies Advisory Committee (APAC), the Faculty Development Committee (FDC), the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, the Faculty Contract Negotiation Team, and the Board of Trustees; as well as some in the community, such as for the Board of the Friends of the Newark Public Library
 2. Volunteered at the Bessie Green Community “The Red Door” Food Bank.
 3. Completed inclusiveness-related SafeColleges trainings such as “The Influence of Unconscious Bias in Decision Making,” and “Accommodating People with Disabilities,” as well as Medscape continuing education, mainly on various

disabilities, like “Alzheimer’s Disease,” “Dementia,” “Depression,” “Drug Use,” “Multiple Sclerosis,” “Postpartum Depression,” “Schizophrenia,” and “Tuberculosis.”

4. Attended the Retirement Celebration for Cheryl Newton-Banks.
5. Presented on SDC services at a meeting with the West Essex Vocational Technical School Counselors.
6. Presented on opportunities here at ECC to a group of students from Newark Vocational High School.
7. Assisted with the Essex County & Newark Workforce Development Boards’ Haitian Refugee Symposium at the West Essex Campus.
8. Earned “Security Risk Management Professional- Country Certification” from International NGO Safety & Security Association and DisasterReady.org/ Cornerstone On Demand Foundation.
9. Attended U.S. Secret Service Webinar on “Preventing Mass Attacks in Our Communities.”
10. Participated in two Code of Conduct Student Hearings.
11. Recruited several prospective Adjunct Instructors for FYE, BUS: Hosp., CIN, NMT, PSY, & EDU courses.

Update from the Africana Institute

Dr. Akil Khalfani, Director of the Africana Institute, orchestrated and led the successful Pan African Drum Fest & Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday, June 8th, 2024. Spanning from 11 am to 4 pm, the event showcased a dynamic blend of cultural performances, music, and educational activities. It not only paid tribute to the vibrant traditions of Pan African drumming but also honored Juneteenth, emphasizing its historical significance and community importance. The celebration garnered praise for its engaging and enlightening experience, drawing a substantial attendance.



The 2024 Bloomberg Academic Symposium, held in New York City on June 7, 2024, brought together esteemed educators and thought leaders including Dr. Sujatha Ramakrishnan, Prof. Yasser Kabakibi, Dr. John Olotewo, Prof. Nicole Koribanics, Prof. Philip Okoro, Prof. Patrick SaintFort, and Dr. Bridget Turner. This immersive one-day event served as a platform for discussions on Artificial Intelligence (AI), economics, and education technology, offering insights from peers, product experts, and recruiters. Participants gained valuable strategies on leveraging Bloomberg's technology to enhance educational programs, enrich curricula, and prepare students for academic and career success.



- On Tuesday, June 11th, 2024, Accounting Professor Patrick St. Fort and Dr. John A. Olotewo participated in the AI in Teaching and Learning Symposium hosted by Edge and Seton Hall University.
- Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre attended the Association of Historians of Latin America and the Caribbean (ADHILAC) conference in Curacao. This gathering brings together Latin American historians and other experts with the objective of studying the region and facilitating solutions to its problems. Held every four years, the conference serves as a platform to present the latest research conducted in the region. From June 5th to 9th in Willemstad, Curacao, over celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Association.



- Professor Alexandre attended the Safety, Security, and Investigations for Schools Symposium held in Morristown by Porzio Compliance Services on Tuesday, June 11th, 2024. The purpose of this gathering is to help public schools, colleges, and universities stay compliant with security regulations, stay aware of the latest security techniques, and ensure the safety of students.
- Dr. Sujatha Ramakrishnan attended the NJ Pathways Summit held by the New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC) at Bally's in Atlantic City from June 11-13 of 2024. Lot of innovative ideas were presented by speakers from various community colleges and the private sector. Indiana Commission of Higher Education presented the idea of the Indiana State Wallet where students can upload all their credentials and degrees from the past and present. New certificate courses were presented which were a collaboration through various county colleges.



Update from METCS Division

- Professors Selimi and Ines Figueiras, under the guidance of Dr. Hrechak of the METCS Division, created a new A.S. program titled Computer Science: Data Science Option. The program was approved by CCC in March 2024. Data Science is one of the fastest growing fields across all industries. It combines mathematics, programming, artificial intelligence and data visualization using large volumes of data to make strategic decisions. The program will be available for students in the 2024-2025 academic year.
- Professors Carlos Castillo and Ines Figueiras created a new developmental math course whose purpose is to accelerate the completion of developmental math for STEM majors. The course titled MTH 095 Computational and Algebraic Skills will be class tested in the Fall 2024 semester.

- Professor Ines Figueiras coordinated visits from ECC alumni, Bryam Loaiza and Dr. Ton Duong. These ECC graduates provided valuable advice to current STEM students at ECC.



Update from Humanities and Bilingual Division

- Professor Mikal Naeem Nash is preparing to launch a new website for Pioneer Institute Inc., his historical association established in 2012. This initiative is part of his broader effort to enhance and expand the Humanities offerings.
- Professor Nash and his business team actively participated in the Second Annual Small Biz Summit, hosted by Cape Fear Community College on Saturday. This engagement underscores his commitment to entrepreneurship and fostering growth in the Humanities.

Faculty Exceptional Achievement/ Recognition / Kudos

Dr Kathlyn Ann Battle

As mentioned last month, I am pleased to announce that one of our esteemed counselors, Professor Kathlyn Ann Battle, has successfully completed her Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree. This significant achievement reflects Professor Battle's dedication to advancing her knowledge and expertise in the field of education.



Natalee White-Smith, MSN, RN, CEN

Natalee White-Smith, MSN, RN, CEN, Nursing Instructor, Division of Nursing and Health Sciences was honored last month by the Concerned Black Nurses of Newark (CBNN), the local chapter for the National Black Nurses Association (NBNA), with the "Outstanding Educator of the Year Award." The award ceremony was held on 5/18/2024. This is truly an honor to be acknowledged by my peers and students. I am very elated to share this honor with the board.

Bishop Dr. Robert Spellman

Bishop Dr. Robert Spellman, of the Humanities & Bilingual Studies department, was honored with the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ Lifetime Founder's Day Achievement Award at the Awards Luncheon on June 6th, 2024, hosted at Greater Refuge Temple™. With a distinguished career spanning 55 years as a professor at Essex County College and 28 years as a Bishop in the Macedonia Church of Christ Apostolic in Newark, NJ, he has also served as a Captain in the Armed Forces. This prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes his unwavering dedication to the ministry, his community, and his students, celebrating his profound impact and exemplary service over the years.

Division of Nursing and Health Sciences

Radiography Program

Darlyn J Warner, MSRS, RT (R)(M) , Radiography Program Coordinator

Essex County College Radiography Program is ranked #3 in New Jersey for 2023 with an American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) Mean score of 87.0 (Program #1 has mean score of 88.5 and #2 is 87.6) in The NJDEP Radiologic Technology Board of Examiners' annual comparison of New Jersey and ARRT examination results of the 15 programs reporting ARRT scores.

Our program surpassed the #1 ranked program in the sections of Radiation Protection (8.9 vs. 8.8), Image Acquisition and Evaluation (9.2 vs. 8.9), Equipment Operation and QA (9.1 vs. 8.9), Thorax and Abdomen Procedures (8.8 vs. 8.6) and scored the same (8.7) in Head, Spine, and Pelvis Procedures.

ECCFA would like to thank Professor Darlyn J Warner, MSRS, RT (R)(M) , Radiography Program Coordinator for her outstanding work with the radiology program.

Faculty Summer Tentative Activities

While I will report these activities at the ECCBOT meeting in September, it is worth highlighting that several faculty members will remain exceptionally active during the summer, contrary to common expectations:

1. Dr. Akil Khalfani will assume leadership of the ECCFA Negotiation following Dr. Jeffrey Lee's departure from the role.
2. The ECCFA negotiation team members are committed to progressing on the new contract.
3. Faculty members in the Business Division will be dedicating their time to prepare faculty orientation that will be held in August.
4. Professor Patrick St. Fort from the Business Department will attend the NJEA Treasurer seminar in Atlantic City.
5. Approximately 80% of the faculty in the Business Division will engage in preparing the ACBSP Self-Study for our 10-year reaffirmation.
6. Dr. John Olotewo will participate in the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP Global) Conference in Miami.
7. Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre will conduct research at Coimbra University in Portugal and serve as a visiting scholar at Adventist University of Medellin.

Concluding Remarks

As we close the academic year 2023-2024, ECCFA would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to all its members and support staff who have worked tirelessly to make this academic year another successful one:

- We extend sincere thanks to the Board for their exceptional dedication and for their commitment to thoroughness rather than merely rubber-stamping decisions. They consistently ask critical questions, embodying the essence of an exemplary board.
- Dr. Alvin William, we cannot imagine a better provost for our institution. Your leadership has been instrumental in guiding us through challenges and fostering growth.
- Ms. Jonelle Congleton, your departure from our Essex County College community leaves a profound void, and your presence will be greatly missed. Your dedication and contributions have made a lasting impact on all of us, inspiring colleagues and students alike with your commitment to excellence, infectious enthusiasm, warm smile, and positive spirit. While we are saddened by your leaving, we are grateful for the time we shared and wish you abundant success and happiness in all your future endeavors. Thank you for everything you have done for our college and for leaving an indelible mark on our hearts.
- Dr. Boakye, your steadfast leadership has been crucial in guiding us through challenging times this academic year. Your dedication and vision have enabled our college to achieve remarkable milestones and foster an environment of academic excellence. We are deeply grateful for your unwavering support and impactful leadership throughout the year.
- We look forward to witnessing ongoing enhancements in our institutional culture during the upcoming academic year, particularly in fostering collegiality, promoting teamwork, and nurturing mutual respect among all members of our community. These values are essential for creating a supportive and inclusive environment where everyone can thrive and contribute to our shared goals. Let's work together to make these aspirations a reality

I wish you all a wonderful summer.

End of the report.

Jean-Wilner Alexandre

Appendix

Mental Health Awareness Month

**ESSEX**
COUNTY COLLEGE
STUDENTS FIRST

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT & COUNSELING

Join the Office of Student Development and Counseling

**MENTAL
HEALTH
AWARENESS
MONTH**

In partnership with SGA, Student Life, and EOF

Mental Health Linking Resources

Fostering Collaboration through Community

Featuring ECC Clubs

Our Community Partners

**Location: First Floor**

**By the bookstore**

**14th May 2024**

10 AM – 3 PM

Disclosure: AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES Essex County College complies with Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. You are not required to advise the College of any physical or mental impairment. However, if you wish to contact Disability Support Services Coordinator, Mr. M. Mercado, you may visit Room 4122 or call (973) 877-3186. Essex County College does not deny admission to any educational program or activity or deny employment on the basis of any legally protected status or discriminate on the basis of race, ethnic or national origin, citizenship, color, sex/gender, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions, age, creed, religion, actual or perceived disability (including persons associated with such a person), arrest and/or conviction record, military or veteran status, sexual orientation, gender expression and/or identity, an individual's genetic information, domestic violence victim status, familial status or marital status, or any other category protected by law. Essex County College is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.



Faculty on a field trip at the Bloomberg Headquarter



Memorandum

To: Dr. Marion A. Bolden & the Board of Trustees

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

Date: June 18, 2024

Re: President's Monthly Report

General:

On behalf of our graduates, I thank the College community for celebrating the accomplishments of our students during the May 23rd Commencement ceremony. Our graduates are living proof that Essex County College continues to live our mission to serve the diverse needs of students through comprehensive educational programs, training and continuing education. The almost 1,200 graduates, Class of 2024, will never forget ECC.

Academics / Enrollment / Student Support:

- The launch of RedShelf (Textbook Vendor) for Summer I course offerings was successful. We are reviewing student and faculty participation data to increase consistency in preparation for Summer II and the Fall semesters.
- Our Academic Affairs team is making progress with the following institutions on Articulation Agreements:
 - **NJIT:** Regarding ECC Associate Degrees in Engineering, Computing and Mathematics,
 - **Rutgers University – Newark:** Regarding ECC AS degree in Psychology.
 - **Saint Elizabeth University:** A pathway for ECC AS degree graduates in General Science to transfer to the Nursing program at St Elizabeth.
- Our Community, Continuing Education and Workforce Development office is in the final stages of implementing the PACE grant's Fiber Optics project. We are thrilled to work with our community partners to bring this to Essex County.

The President's May/June 2024 Engagements:

- May 23rd: Participated in the Nancy Cantor Scholarship fundraiser.
- May 24th: Participated in the NJCCC Presidents Lampitt 2.0 discussion to continue to provide a seamless transition from public associate to public baccalaureate degree programs in NJ.
- May 29th: Met with ECC union leaders representing our college's collective bargaining units. I thanked them for their dedication to the ideals of our institution and we each committed to work hard to move our institution forward for the benefit of our students and the community.
- May 31st: Participated in the NJ Presidents meeting.
- June 11 – 13: Attended the New Jersey Community Colleges Opportunity Summit in Atlantic City focusing on Pathways and Promising Practices for Holistic Student Supports. I was accompanied by Deans Williams, Kirkland, Vieira, Mr. Bundy and a few other staff.

Finances:

- Both the Office of the Secretary of States (OSHE) and the New Jersey Office of the State Comptroller (NJOSC) have recently been tracking the Higher Ed institutions including ECC to ensure that each institution is financially sound and maintaining a reasonable reserves against future financial risk.
- The NJCCC is still pushing for the \$20m state budget restoration for FY 25.

Projects:

Main Campus

- On June 17th, we began the installation of energy-efficient HVAC ventilation and air quality improvement systems in the Child Development Center, Penthouses and Center for Technology.
- Large-scale renovation of the MLK Library and Learning Center is underway with the completion of demolition and installation of metal studs. The General Contractor began masonry work last week. This project is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

West Essex

- We are working with KONE Elevators on a preventive maintenance contract for the West Essex Parking Deck and OTIS Elevators for the Academic Building.

Community Relations:

- Our Summer Youth Program is scheduled for July 8th – August 16th for grades 1–8 / ages 6-13.

Save the dates – Upcoming Events.

- The College will be Closed for SUMMER RECESS from **Friday, June 21st through Sunday, June 30th, 2024**. Also, SUMMER HOURS, Monday to Thursday each week, will be in effect from **Friday, July 5th through Friday, August 30th, 2024**.
- Faculty and Staff CONVOCATION is scheduled for **Monday, August 26, 2024**.

We appreciate Ms. Jonnel Congleton for her many years of service to the Board, the Presidents and the College community. We wish her nothing but the best.

Madam Chair, this ends my report. Thank you.