

56<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE

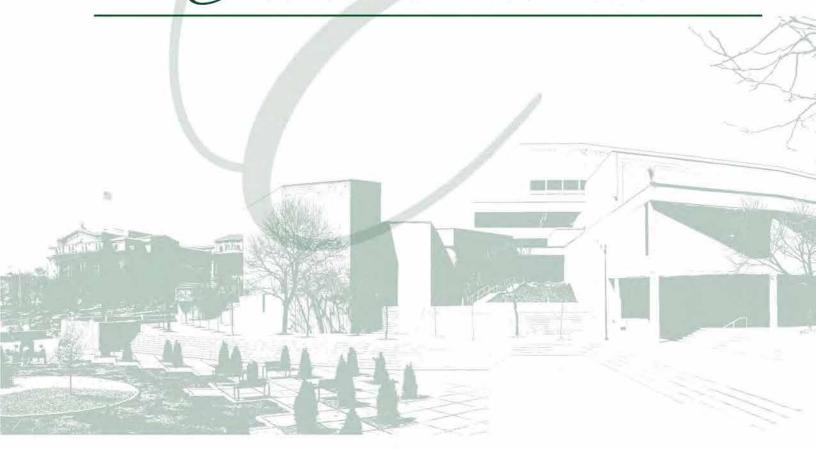
# COMMENCEMENT



May 27, 2025
Prudential Center - Newark, New Jersey



# Commencement 56th Annual

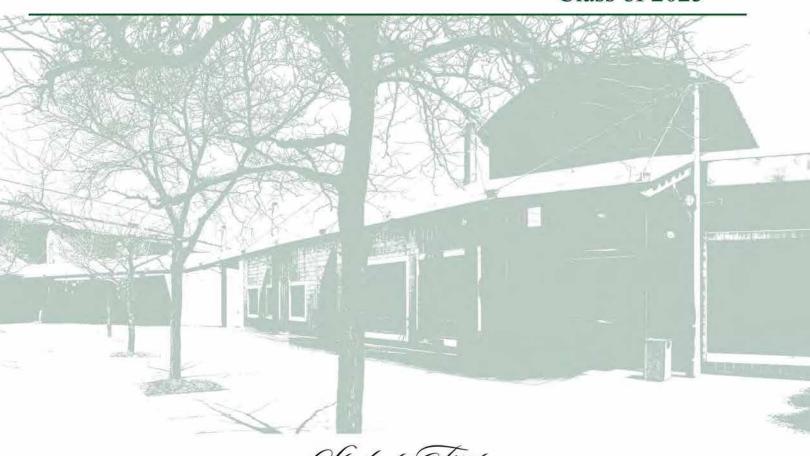




Every great dream begins with a DREAMER. Always remember, you have within you the STRENGTH, the PATIENCE, and the PASSION to reach for the STARS to change the world.

Harriet Tubman

## Class of 2025



Hudents First

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE DR. AUGUSTINE A. BOAKYE



Congratulations, Essex County College Class of 2025!

It is a privilege and a joy to congratulate you—the Class of 2025—on this magnificent occasion, on behalf of our faculty, staff and Board of Trustees. I know this is a moment we will all carry in our hearts for years to come.

Soon, you'll leave the Prudential Center not just as students, but as graduates—ready to take on the world. Before you do, allow me a moment to

reflect on the path ahead.

You are entering a rapidly changing world—one that demands ingenuity, resilience and bold leadership. The road ahead won't always be easy, but perseverance will be your greatest ally. Progress begins with collaboration—our willingness to come together with empathy and mutual respect. Leading with compassion and seeking common ground allows us to build stronger communities and lasting, meaningful change.

I am especially grateful for the way you have strengthened Essex County College's culture. Your energy and creativity brought new life to athletic teams, student government, entrepreneurial ventures and academic research.

Your accomplishments have been recognized statewide—from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation to the New Jersey Collegiate Business Administration Honor Society and the All-USA New Jersey Community College Academic Team. You have represented ECC with pride and determination.

As you move forward, I encourage you to stay connected and give back through the Essex County College Alumni Association. Whether through mentorship, service or support, your continued involvement will uplift future generations of students.

We wish you continued success on the journey ahead. We look forward to welcoming you back as proud alumni of this great institution.

Congratulations, Class of 2025. You will always be a part of the ECC family.

Dr. Augustine A. Boakye

President

#### ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Marion A. Bolden – Chairperson

Dr. Arnold C. Lewis – Vice Chairperson

Jeweline Grimes – Secretary

Joseph S. Zarra – Treasurer

Isabel Cruz Rev. Dr. Lanel D. Guyton Cynthia D. Martinez Beth Robinson Johanna L. Wright



#### ESSEX COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.

#### ESSEX COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Carlos M. Pomares - President

Tyshammie Cooper – Vice President

Brendan W. Gill

Romaine Graham

Leonard M. Luciano

Robert Mercado

A'Dorian Murray-Thomas

Wayne L. Richardson

Patricia Sebold



#### **PROCESSIONAL**

Essex County College Honor Guard
Assistant Student Marshals
Faculty, Administration and Staff
Division and Department Chairpersons
Candidates for Associates Degrees
Candidates for Certificates
Alumni Representatives

#### MACE BEARER

Dr. Jeffrey Lee Professor & Grand Marshal

#### **HONORED GUESTS**

Cabinet Members
Board of Trustees
Keynote Speaker and Honorary Degree Recipient
Class Salutatorian
Class Valedictorian
Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, President

PRESIDING	Dr. Augustine A. Boakye President, Essex County College
	Trestaem, Essen Gounty Gouege
PRESENTATION OF COLORS	Essex County College Honor Guard
(Pleas	e stand)
NATIONAL ANTHEM	Sillia Francois, Student
	Accompanied by Professor Rachel Gasataya
INVOCATION	The Reverend Dr. Mamie Bridgeforth
WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	Dr. Augustine A. Boakye
GREETINGS TO THE COLLEGE	Dr. Aaron Fichtner
	President, New Jersey Council of County Colleges and
Executive Director, New Jersey Community Colleg	e Consortium for Workforce & Economic Development

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS	Dr. Roger Mitchell Jr.
	President of Howard University Hospital
AWARDING OF HONORARY DEGREE	Marion A. Bolden
	Chair, ECC Board of Trustees
	Dr. Augustine A. Boakye
MESSAGE TO THE GRADUATES	
RECOGNITION OF ASSISTANT STUDENT MARS	HALSBeth Robinson Cynthia D. Martinez ECC Trustees
RECOGNITION OF SALUTATORIAN	Johanna L. Wright ECC Trustee
INTRODUCTION OF VALEDICTORIAN	
VALEDICTORY ADDRESS	Laela Lawal Class of 2025
MUSICAL INTERLUDE	Sillia Francois, Student
"Greatest Love Of All" by Whitney Houston	a - Accompanied by Professor Rachel Gasataya
	Dr. Hamin Shabazz President of Academic Affairs/Chief Academic Officer
PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREE	S & CERTIFICATESAcademic Chairpersons
Division of Biology, Chemistry & Physics Division of Business Division of Humanities & Bilingual Studies Division of Math, Engineering Tech. & Compute Department of Nursing & Health Sciences	ns
CONFERRAL OF DEGREES	Dr. Augustine A. Boakye
COMMENTS AND CHARGE TO THE CLASS OF 2	
1 ASSEL TUKNING	Dr. Jeffrey Lee Grand Marshal
CLOSING REMARKS	Dr. Augustine A. Boakye

#### **WALEDICTORIAN ◆**

#### LAELA LAWAL

A.S. Biology / Pre-Medicine



When **Laela Lawal** steps to the podium as valedictorian of the Class of 2025, she will represent not only academic excellence but also leadership, resilience and a deep commitment to community.

A biology/pre-med major, Lawal chose Essex County College as the launchpad for her academic journey. "I saw it as an opportunity to build a strong foundation before moving on to a four-year university," she said. "The faculty members in the Division of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics challenged and encouraged me in my studies."

While at ECC, Lawal immersed herself in academic and student life. She served as secretary and later parliamentarian of the Student Government Association, vice president of service for Phi Theta Kappa, and secretary of the Bio Pre-Med Club. One of her proudest accomplishments was establishing the Muslim Student Association (MSA).

"Creating MSA at ECC was not just about forming a club—it was about building a community where students felt seen, heard and supported," she said.

Her impact on campus and beyond earned her a spot on the 2025 All-USA New Jersey Community College Academic Team. She was recognized at the Phi Theta Kappa regional convention and is a semifinalist for the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, which awards up to \$55,000 per year.

Lawal maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA throughout her studies at Essex County College.

"There were times when I felt like giving up, but I've learned that struggles aren't just roadblocks—they can be stepping stones," she said. "I persevered by seeking support from professors and reminding myself of my long-term goals."

After graduation, Lawal plans to pursue a degree in neuroscience. Her goal is to contribute to groundbreaking research in neurological disorders and ultimately become a physician assistant.

"The next step is both exciting and daunting," she said, "but I am ready."

#### **SALUTATORIAN S**

#### PATRICK LAMPORT

A.S. Business Administration



**Patrick Lamport** never imagined he'd be standing at the top of his graduating class—let alone serving as salutatorian for the Class of 2025.

"When I was younger, I had never seriously considered higher education because I thought it was unattainable," said Lamport, a business administration major. "ECC was an opportunity for a second chance."

After struggling academically in high school, Lamport took a gap year to focus on work and his mental health.

"It was at my lowest that I decided to take a gamble and try something new," he said.

He placed that bet on Essex County College—and began to thrive both socially and academically.

"Over time, I adjusted to life at ECC, watching my progress with every passing semester and gaining a renewed sense of worth, and a passion for education and success that had once felt unfamiliar and distant."

As his confidence grew, so did his involvement on campus. Lamport became active on campus through the Association of Latino Professionals for America (ALPFA) and served as vice president of fundraising for the Accounting Club. "Biweekly meetings, club events and our fundraisers were things I looked forward to," he said. "They gave me an extra push whenever the going got tough."

That toughness was tested early on, as he juggled coursework and unexpected health challenges. "Every day was a struggle," he said. "But everything can be overcome through resilience and the will to manifest your future."

His academic efforts culminated in a perfect 4.0 GPA, further affirming his place as salutatorian.

Patrick is now pursuing a bachelor's in accounting and finance, with a concentration in entrepreneurship, at Rutgers Business School in Newark. He also hopes to publish his first book.

#### ► ASSISTANT MARSHALS FOR THE CLASS OF 2025 ►



#### MAUD MAVIS ANNOR - A.S., Social Sciences

"I am a mother and a wife," said **Maud Mavis Annor**, a social sciences major and one of Essex County College's 2025 Assistant Marshals. "Coming back to school to earn a degree was more of a personal goal—to learn and acquire knowledge."

Annor is part of ECC's growing population of adult learners. After emigrating from Ghana, she prioritized her children's education. "When they entered college, I realized

it was time to develop myself. My age is not a barrier to whatever I set my mind to achieve."

Balancing school, work and family came with sacrifices. She paid tuition out of pocket, forfeited sleep and social time to meet deadlines, and adapted to new technologies in the classroom. Still, she remained focused. "There were times the workload felt overwhelming," she said, "but I didn't give up."

Her dedication paid off—Annor graduated with a 4.0 GPA.

Annor credits ECC's faculty for helping her succeed. "Each class I took helped me to see the world through a different lens."

Now honored as an Assistant Marshal, she serves as a role model to others who are returning to school to pursue their goals. After graduation, Annor plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in sociology with a minor in economics.



#### ALEXANDER TAKCHAND - A.S., Business Administration

"ECC has changed my life for the better," said **Alexander Takchand**, a business administration major and Assistant Marshal for the Class of 2025. "I will never forget my time here, nor the people who helped me."

An international student from Guyana, Takchand once feared returning to school in a new country. That changed the moment he connected with ECC's advisors and faculty. "I said to myself, 'I think I could do this,'" he recalled.

He thrived academically, earning a 4.0 GPA and finding support through the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF). He also credits Business Chair Germaine Albuquerque and Professor Rachel Pernia for encouraging his ambitions. "They believed in me, and that gave me the confidence to aim higher," he said.

Takchand's unwavering commitment led him to graduate with a 4.0 GPA.

On campus, Takchand became active in student life and found strength in the ECC community. Now, as an Assistant Marshal, he is proud to represent his graduating class.

Takchand plans to transfer to Rutgers Business School and continue his studies in the field of leadership and management.

#### **IONATHAN PHILIPPE** – A.S., Accounting

When **Jonathan Philippe** enrolled at Essex County College, he didn't imagine he'd be selected to serve as an Assistant Marshal at graduation. "I was considering trade school, but my [high school] counselor encouraged me to apply to ECC," he said. "Thank God I did!"

Now a dedicated accounting major, Philippe credits ECC with helping him grow professionally and personally. "When it comes to talking to people and selling myself, I've been able to get those skills here."

He serves as secretary of the Accounting Club and gained confidence through résumé workshops and networking events.

Professor Patrick Saint Fort played a pivotal role in his journey. "He made me fall in love with accounting," Philippe said. "He helped me realize this was the right path for me."

Balancing work and school was tough. "I worked from 3 p.m. to midnight and took a two-hour bus ride," he said. "But I was committed to making it work."

Philippe also credits his mother for inspiring his drive. "She's kept me going."

After graduation, he plans to transfer to Rutgers-Newark and pursue a career at a CPA firm.

#### LYLE THIBODEAU - A.S., Business Administration

**Lyle Thibodeau** began his journey at Essex County College in August 2023 after transferring from another institution where he had taken only two or three classes per semester. His advisor encouraged him to take on a heavier course load—four classes—a challenge he hadn't attempted before.

"My first advisor at ECC encouraged me to take on a heavier course load than I was used to —a significant step up from the amount I had been taking at my previous school. However, his confidence in me led me to push beyond my limits, proving to myself that success was within my reach."

He quickly found that success at ECC required more than just attending class. He immersed himself in tutoring sessions, collaborated with peers on group projects, and committed to engaging fully with coursework. He also revamped his lifestyle—prioritizing healthy eating to stay energized through demanding semesters.

"It gave my body a shock, but it was like, a burst of energy that gave me the stamina to power through those late nights and dense afternoons where I pushed and crammed to accomplish things I thought simply couldn't be done."

That hard work resulted in a 4.0 GPA, a milestone that reflected his growth and commitment.

During his time at ECC, he participated in the Bloomberg Global Trading Challenge, toured Bloomberg LP Headquarters, and was inducted into the Delta Psi chapter of Kappa Beta Delta International Honor Society.

Now an Assistant Marshal for the Class of 2025, he plans to study financial technology at NJIT and pursue a career in market strategy and consumer engagement.

#### GRAND MARSHAL

#### JEFFREY NEIL LEE, PHD

Professor, Division of Biology, Chemistry & Physics



Essex County College is honored to recognize **Dr. Jeffrey Neil Lee** as Grand Marshal of the Class of 2025. A longtime professor in the Division of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, Dr. Lee has served the College with distinction for more than 30 years and will retire in December 2025.

Dr. Lee has held multiple leadership positions—including Chair of the Division of Biology & Chemistry, Course Coordinator for Microbiology, and Vice President for Academic Affairs. He has led initiatives supported by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the United

Negro College Fund (UNCF), championing undergraduate research and interdisciplinary learning. A passionate advocate for collaboration, he believes that those collaborative actions "got people to talk to each other—that simple act moved mountains."

His work inside and outside the classroom has helped students thrive across disciplines, particularly in the sciences. "By allowing students to learn from and mentor each other—and by having faith in them—I saw them rise to the challenge," he said.

Dr. Lee holds a Ph.D. in Microbiology from North Carolina State University, an M.S. in Geoscience from Mississippi State University, and a B.S. in Life Sciences from MIT. His industry and research experience includes positions at Princeton University, Novartis Pharmaceuticals, and Exxon Corporate Research.

As he prepares to retire in December 2025, Dr. Lee hopes to be remembered as "someone who always had the best interest of the students and the College at heart."

His selection as Grand Marshal reflects a career marked by integrity, insight, and unwavering dedication to student success.

#### COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

ROGER A. MITCHELL JR., MD, FCAP

President of Howard University Hospital



Essex County College is proud to bestow upon Roger A. Mitchell, Jr., MD, FCAP, an honorary associate degree. Mitchell is the President of Howard University Hospital, where he leads the strategic vision of the hospital to improve quality and safe practices and ensure continued growth and alignment with Adventist Healthcare (AHC). Today, he addresses the Class of 2025 as the keynote speaker at commencement.

Dr. Mitchell is a nationally recognized physician leader, forensic pathologist and medical doctor with decades of experience in healthcare. He is known for his strategic leadership, collaborative approach, and ability to lead high-level healthcare organizations with complex challenges.

Dr. Mitchell holds a B.S. in biology from Howard University and a Doctor of Medicine from UMDNJ New Jersey Medical School. He completed his pathology residency at George Washington University and a forensic pathology fellowship at New York University/NY OCME. Additionally, Dr. Mitchell has served as a tenured professor at Howard University's Department of Pathology and on multiple institutional committees. He is currently the President-Elect for the National Medical Association.

Dr. Mitchell is also the co-author of Death in Custody and a passionate advocate for raising awareness about gun violence in the community.



## **DEGREE RECIPIENTS**

for

AUGUST 2024
DECEMBER 2024
MAY 2025
JUNE 2025
EARLY COLLEGE SCHOLAR 2025

#### DEGREE RECIPIENTS FOR AUGUST 2024

This is a list of degree candidates and not an official list of graduates. Degree candidates will have to be officially certified for graduation by the Registrar.

\*\*\*Highest Honors 3.85 to 4.00 grade point average

\*\*High Honors 3.65 to 3.84 grade point average

\*Honors 3.50 to 3.64 grade point average

#### DIVISION OF BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, AND PHYSICS

#### **BIOLOGY PRE-MEDICINE**

Associate in Science

Rose Kelly Torres

#### **CHEMISTRY**

Associate in Science

Sulaiman Ayinde Zhulqadar

#### **GENERAL SCIENCE**

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE

Oluwafunmilola F. Adeniyi \*\*
Shanique S. Campbell
James Carson
Sadrina Holness \*\*
Chante Sheila Johnson
Carissa Martinez
Rose Carmelle Metor
Elizabeth Nieves
Affi Hollali Nouvedeji
Kikanwa Gloria Nwokoro
Ikechi G. Ogbuagu \*
Bibiane M. Ouedraogo \*\*
Tabitha O. Oyenuga

Laika Pierre
Desrine C. Pusey
Johanna Rodas \*\*
Arayno Soineus \*\*\*

Ravyn-Nicole Travers

#### **DIVISION OF BUSINESS**

#### **ACCOUNTING**

Associate in Science

Stephanie Cortesao Taina Gervais \*\* Manuel Novillo Garcia

#### BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Associate in Science & Associate in Applied Science

Maireni Ceballos Paulino \*\* Elizabeth Duarte \* Joshua Pacheco Shelby Rebecca Robinson

#### SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

Associate in Science

Zalissa Bouda \*

## DIVISION OF HUMANITIES AND BILINGUAL STUDIES

#### LIBERAL ARTS

Associate in Art

Aysha Chevez Chuck Demose J. Cortejos Sanai Fisher John Westly Jackson Qi Rivers \*\* Isaiah D. Valentine

#### LIBERAL ARTS: SPANISH LANGUAGE

Associate in Arts

Solange Amaya \*\*

#### NEW MEDIA TECHNOLOGY

Associate in Applied Science

Yadira Perry Diagne

# DIVISION OF MATHEMATICS, ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIES AND COMPUTER SCIENCES

#### **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

Associate in Science

Victor Chima Agbara \*\*

#### CIVIL ENGENEERING TECHNOLOGY

Associate in Applied Science

Flavio Camacho

## CYBERSECURITY NETWORK TECHONOLOGY

Associate in Applied Science

Witmayll Zidor \*\*

## DIVISION OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

#### VISION CARE TECHNOLOGY

Associate in Applied Science

Denisse Ramos Carla Mae Valdez \*\*

## DIVISION OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

#### CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Associate in Science

Fajr Bilal Al-sjamese T. Cummings Marissa G. Stille \*\* Adrian Fernando Yanez \*

#### **EDUCATION**

Associate in Arts

Alexis DePalma-Wereschagin Sheron Pinto

## HUMAN AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Associate in Applied Science

Bridgett M. Ellis \*

#### DIVISION OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Associate in Science

Gerald Abreu
Elijah M. Escorsa
Jae'me Lee Hairston
Babatunde A. Owokoniran \*
Maria J. Penafiel
Keziah Rose Rue
Allison Wilson \*\*

## DEGREE RECIPIENTS FOR DECEMBER 2024

This is a list of degree candidates and not an official list of graduates. Degree candidates will have to be officially certified for graduation by the Registrar.

\*\*\*Highest Honors 3.85 to 4.00 grade point average

\*\*High Honors 3.65 to 3.84 grade point average

\*Honors 3.50 to 3.64 grade point average

#### DIVISION OF BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, AND PHYSICS

#### **BIOLOGY PRE-MEDICINE**

Associate in Science

Eric Nana Kwame Boateng Doku Anthony Martín Laos \*\* Nataly F. Yagual

#### **CHEMISTRY**

Associate in Science

Sulaiman Ayinde Zhulqadar

#### ENVIROMENTAL SCIENCE

Associate in Science

Fabrizio M. Candiani Estrada \*\*

#### GENERAL SCIENCE

Associate in Science

Gifty A. Adjei Marianni Alvarez Keene Abigale Amsterdam Bethlehem Assegide Emmanuelle Baptiste \* Angela T. Boyd Shanaya Bussey Erica Caguana Jennifer Lizeth Chavez Melissa Dessejour Dennis Daniel Diaz Jose Mariano Flores Bunay Augusta A. Godwin Elian Gabriel Herrera Oluwaseun Ikponmwen Chineze P. Ileogbunam \*\* Krishnarajah Isme Iameila C. Iames Chika Kalu Derissa J. Kissoon

Abra Nora Manyo
Ashley A. Matta
Michedanette M. Milfort-Charles
Nuve Morocho
Ngozi Gloria Osemeka \*\*
Amber Reid
Lorna E. Robinson \*
Tisson A. Simpson
Abiodun Habibat Toriola \*\*
Raissa Toure \*
Brian Alarcon Tulud \*
Joshua Velez
Genesis M. Villacis
Latasha A. Way

#### **DIVISION OF BUSINESS**

#### **ACCOUNTING**

Associate in Science

Natalie Yeye Jean \*

Albaraa Riyad Amro
Juan Gonzalo De La Torre \*\*
Idaline Fombrun
Thao Ho \*\*
Kiara Monique Jones
Danny Monroy
Fatima Elisa Nascimento
Juan Niama \*\*
Carine E. Noeljeune
Arlyn D. Perez \*\*\*
Ekollo Peter
Maydelin Almudena Soto Miranda

#### **BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

Associate in Science

Margaret Adzeley Ackman Shakielle Cody Beckles \*\* Kamilly Fernanda Berrospi Kayla Kristen Brown Tyrell J. Brown Jennifer Cabrera Pietro Monte Santo Cascardo \*\* Edgar Arturo De Jesus Javier \* Alexandra Diaz-Calixto Oluwatosin Dievi Melanda Excellent Anasimon Girgis Shamiir Z. Goldsmith Angelli Eunice Hernandez Jair Hernandez-Lopez Johyndina In Jacques Jamal H. Khan \* Patrick Lukas Lamport \*\*\* *Katie Marylou Linares* Amarilis Dayanara Machasilla \*\* Uchechukw M. Mgbikeh Joshua Bayetah Okyere Edhy M. Quimbayo Urrego Jabes David Reyes Albert Rosa Samir L. Silver Raniaya S. Stuckey Lyle Scott Thibodeau \*\*\* Mariana Toba Gonzalez Bridny Vanessa Villacis Jaquan Williams Andrea Karolina Zambrano

#### **FINANCE**

Associate in Science

Sumayyah Hafsah Abdur-Rahman Keury Grullon Adassah N. Hall \* Yahia Agamy Hassan \*\* Daksh Mahajan \*\* Guillermo Rosario \*\* Harmanpreet Singh

#### SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

Associate in Science

Camille Burnett Anselm Katie-Ann Kealy Ashley M. Oliver Nicholas Passafiume \*\*\*

#### BUSINESS CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Certificate

Fiifi Agen-Davis Daniel Aghaji Grisel S. Belen Daniela Cajamarca Francisco Chacon Iohn Chacon Keili S. Guallpa Tenezaca Johnny Roy Guaman Mizhquiri Christopher Humala Theodore Amador Jackson-Izurieta Grabiela L. Lopez Yanish Malivert *Iairo Jericho Morocho* Gian Alejandro Perez Yulis P. Rivas Fatimah Sales Nilda Milagros Sanchez Camacho Jeremy Alberto Tamay Issac A. Vasquez

## DIVISION OF HUMANITIES AND BILINGUAL STUDIES

Nela Del Carmen Vera Toala

#### ART

Associate in Art
Ajalon J. Brice
Ambar P. Garcia
Samuel Merced
Jeffrey Pillcorema
Sheila M. Ruiz \*\*
Natalyia Seh \*
Samantha Vivero Mancero \*\*

#### LIBERAL ARTS

Associate in Art

Wesley Brujan Moseale D. Coker \* Gaelle Coqmar \*
Afara Dunell
Alejandro Felipe Guaigua
Thalia Samantha Guerrero
Victor R. Lisboa \*\*\*
Aniyah Martinez \*
Daysy L. Mingo Morocho
Marisa Rodrigues
Matthew Rodriguez
Ann Renatta Saldana Chinchay
Ricardo Santos
Johanna Scaffo
Jackeline D. Vega \*\*

## LIBERAL ARTS: COMMUNICATIONS

Associate in Art

Allahambra Bey \*\* Joanem Michel Cindy Catherin Novoa Gil \* Rosalba Pena Bradlee Toran \*\*\*

## LIBERAL ARTS: AFRICAN STUDIES

Associate in Art

Iames M. Evans \*

#### LIBERAL ARTS: JOURNALISM

Associate in Art

Jarred Collis

#### LIBERAL ARTS: SPANISH LANGUAGUE

Associate in Art

Baldelit Nunez

#### **NEW MEDIA TECHNOLOGY**

Associate in Applied Science

Marylin Caza Marquis T. Hooten Jalen Christopher Lyles Alexus McLaughlin Edwin Mendez Abdulbarri T. Muhammed Josh Angelo Orejola \*\* Kenwood Thermitus \*

#### HISTORY

Certificate

Junita Pullins

#### DIVISION OF MATH, ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

#### APPLIED COMPUTER SCIENCE

Associate in Science

Chad-Leigh A. Thompson

## ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY

Associate in Applied Science

Carla Paulina Carrillo Cheick Tohir Somtore

## CIVIL ENGENEERING TECHNOLOGY

Associate in Applied Science

Tamuno Belema Dennis Cesar Benjamin Otavalo Alba \* Kenley Toulous

## COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Associate in Science

Feryal Ahmed Alnairab \*\*
Evelin Merino-Torres

#### **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

Associate in Science

Ibukunoluwa T. Arotiba \*
Oluwadara Jeffrey Bodunrin
Jesse Steven Cepeda
Michael J. Hanson
Neil Inahuazo
Bilal Muhammad
Amin Farid Naycir
Jose V. Ortiz
Nicole Liliana Ortiz De Orue
Antonio Rodriguez
Rendy Rodriguez
Xavier Rodriguez Rodriguez \*\*
Emily Yupangui

#### CYBERSECURITY NETWORK **TECHONOLOGY**

Associate in Applied Science

Tomiwa P. Ajibade Marc A. Garcia Ioshua David Iagroop Emmanuel Winmi Musah Evans Kwabena Nketia Mensah \*\* Amir Jihan Porter Gedlor Raymond \* Witmayll Zidor \*\*

#### ELECTRICAL & COMPUTER ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Associate in Applied Science

Calixte Abanda Ngono Mohamed Talaat

#### **ENGENEERING**

Associate in Science

Iessica Clarke Jessica Jocelyn Morocho

#### SOFTWARE DEVELIPMENT TECHNOLOGY

Associate in Applied Science

#### **CYBERSECURITY**

Certificate

Leon Martinez

#### DIVISON OF NURSING AND **HEALTH SCIENCES**

#### **VISION CARE TECHNOLOGY**

Associate in Applied Science

Alyssa R. Coplan \* Andre Matos \*

#### LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE

Certificate

Mianna Tawana Alleyne Oluwadamilola Ibukun Anigbami Folake M. Bello

Iyanah Chiquita Brown Sherif Eyitayo Busari Rechelle Bynum

Atasha Richania Campbell

Ishod Ali Coley

Sharon Natasha Connell-Phillips

Mecca H. Cureton Benedicta Darko Anshina Dupiton Peterson Francois Farah Ghneim

Ionathan Alex Gordon Conza

Imani D. Grier-Johnson

Kaosarat Ishola Gabriel Jaworski Kimberlly V. Martins Keresha Nathania Moncrieffe Jessica Nneka Okpegbuo

Idiat O. Olatunji

Sunday Chijioke Ozoani

Mindy Pabon

Rushida Melisa Phillips-Thompson

Caroline A. Rose Natalia Sierra Enrie Raquel Simms Kenneth Scott Terry Kelly Tulud Nieven Ed Urbano

#### **DIVISION OF** SOCIAL SCIENCES

#### CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Associate in Science

Ana Cunha Christian M. Obiano \*\*\* Christian Paul Pierre Taneja Pierre-Louis \*\* Adrian Fernando Yanez \*

#### **EDUCATION**

Associate in Arts

Makeda Bower-Carter \* Ernestine S. Carmichael Montserrat Coutino Pastrana \* Eniale Tiffany Hernandez Janayah Legrier Ashly Mantilla Christina E. McFadden Sophonie Merant Ashley Esmeralda Sanchez Gianella Vazquez

#### HUMAN AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Associate in Applied Science

DIimise K. Pierrevil

#### PARALEGAL STUDIES

Associate in Science

David Phelps

#### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Associate in Science

John A. Ojeda

#### SOCIAL SCIENCES

Associate in Science

Fuseini Abarigah Cheshire Boone \*\*\* Nkosozana K. Chambers \*\*

Antoinette Coke Angelina Coulote Kaitlyn Cozzer \*

Ross Mery Encarnacion De Brown

Carmen M. Gilbert \*\*\* Wilma M. King Angie Tatiana Llanos \*

Paula H. Moore Al-nisa Muniz \*\* Natasha K. Nicholson \* Charlotte Ivy Nickason

Laura N. Pitts

Dahiana E. Polanco Feliz \*\*

Tamia Robinson Katie Saguay Aracelys Santana \*\* Mary Sasona \* Ebony C. Washington

#### DEGREE RECIPIENTS FOR MAY 2025

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\*\*High Honors 3.65 to 3.84 grade point average

\*Honors 3.50 to 3.64 grade point average

#### DIVISION OF BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS

#### **BIOLOGY PRE-MEDICINE**

Associate in Science

Yair Abreu
Rebecca Bendina Alexandre
Galilea S. Avendano
Vanessa Loren Da Silva
Angela Delos Santos
Laela Aderonke Lawal
Towela Mwale
Karla Valeria Nolli Venegas
Angel O. Odugbile
Mike Morel Nguimdo Zemele

## BIOLOGY PRE-MEDICINE: MD OPTION

Associate in Science

Krisvan Folas Jhuliana Mishell Niama Emily Robles Angelina Mareh Sanabria Mihee Suh

#### **CHEMISTRY**

Associate in Science

Steven Hernan Naula

#### ENVIROMENTAL SCIENCE

Associate in Science

Hodari Patrick Morrison

#### **GENERAL SCIENCE**

Associate in Science

Real Miriam Acosta Chidalu Prisca Ajawuihe Ololade Maria Akinbowale Hannah Gabriele Alexandre Francis P. Amaya Nathalie Augustin Sakisha S. Bell Rayaunna Jaunte Benjamin Diana S. Casper Bertha Udochi Chijioke Brandon E Conde Precious Chelsea Cooper Gabriel Correa Jennifer V. Criado Aslyn V. Cruz Ianna Dixon Annabella L.R. Felix Alyssa Figueroa Van Lucci Francois Dariel Frederick Tameer S. Goode Shantal Shadae Hanson Zy; Fere Massiah Hughes Veronica Inahuazo Calva

Eba Kadjo
Altina Lajci
Ashley Anahi Legelen
Zulimar Lopez
Shanice Lynch
Daniela L. Manasse
Bridgette Etornam Mensah
Darlene F. Momo Anoubon
Jasmine Narine
Shakeema Lateefa Nero
Sandra Thu Nguyen
Ifeoma Nwisu

William Adah Ochojila

Keanna C. O'Garro-Benders

Abigail Irizarry

Evelyn Angelica Juarez

Obson Joseph

Abimbola Fatimoh Ogungbemi Titilayo A. Olusegun Stefany Micaela Ortiz Andre Y. Pascal Ashley Monique Pearson Makiyah Pearson Christopher Josua Perez Iessica Pineiro Mickale N. Reid Yerenia Rodriguez Suyanthini Savunthararasa Fauzia Seidu Givishcar St Phiryn Khalid Tan Margaret Mary Tsike Jerry M. Vital Ahmyah Williams Tyonnah Yarrell Madraka Yussif

#### HEALTH SCIENCE

Associate in Science

Tishina V. Dowdell

#### **DIVISION OF BUSINESS**

#### ACCOUNTING

Associate in Science

Doris Samantha Chabla
Olga A. Chavez De la Cruz
Lori Ann Cofield
Anthony J. Cordova
Medgine Desir
Joseph M. Destine
Ariana Noemi Espinal
Kenny Fetiere
Eduardo Gomez
Sherriza Q. Green
Christopher Humala

Gabriela L. Lopez Glendy M. Pena Yaira Ramos Renita T. Rodgers Nilda M. Sanchez Camacho Kelly Sejas Ilisha Sherrod Thommy S. Tamay

#### BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Associate in Science

Michael Aghaji Zevn Ahmad Michel A. Almonte Peralta Darcel Archibald Pierre Ionas Azolin Charline Bardett Amirr T. Carter-Smith Sharon N. Castillo Quezada Anthony G. Chalet Kristina A. Dar Gaelle Lindsay ludgyne Delice Chikeluo Okenwa Emeh Amy Gianella Evangelista Alexandra Felipe Da Costa Tyrecce Joel Francis Casiano Franco Iustin Ghamandi Geraldo Marlando Gibson Iaidan Gilzene Dulce Vanesa Gomez Luis A. Hernandez *Emife Christopher Iwediebo* Markeith B. Leverett Rebecca Macena Lola O. Mair Redjina Manasse Uchenna JC Ogbennaya Abimbola Christana Ogundele Jeffrey Pando Melissa Ramsaywack Heslie Rodriguez Rosalie Rodriguez Darek Sanjinez Teonna C. Sheppard

Francilene Silva

Katherine F. Simbana Ramirez

Anthony Aryon Sinanan

Alexander Eric Tackchand

Celeste Wiafe Alison Lilliam Zurita

#### BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT

Associate in Applied Science

Aliyah L'chele Joyce FINANCE Associate in Science

Daniel Aghaji

Paul C. Battaglini
John Chacon
Irish Yvonne Canla Curameng
Simon Dike
Samaia L. Dixon
Jorge Izurieta
Akram Lechguar
Catherine Mayancela
Edvard Judy Pean
Gian Alejandro Perez
Andrea N. Perez Rivera
Khushi Pradhananga
Nicolas Rodrigues de Souza

Aasiyah Salaam Nela Del Carmen Vera Toala

#### SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

Faheem N Williams

Associate in Science

Douglas H Cheung David DeLisca Fritzlyn Eugene Natalie Ann Gonzalez Shivan O. Lakhan Ariel Alessandro Palma

## BUSINESS CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Certificate

Natore Pearl Baldwin Francisco Guerrero Mame-Fama Gueye Maria Esperanza Loja Brianda N. Matos Lauriele Melleiro Genesis Mieses Andres J. Oviedo
Jonathan Junior Philippe
Alexis Quishpe
Shandell D. Rivera
Jareth Fernando Romero
Gabriela S. Sampaio
Sariya N. Shaw
Jennifer J. TanTao
Tunicia O. Thomas

#### DIVISION OF HUMANITY AND BILINGUAL STUDIES

#### ART

Associate in Arts

Olivier Prince Antoine
Theron Britton
Derek J. Cruz
Alan Dimperio
Veronica Margaret Gravato
Andy J. Hernandez
Sarah Khelifi
Kiara B. McSwain
Samia Morisseau

#### LIBERAL ARTS

Associate in Arts

Paul George Almasri Adrian Alvarez Jesus Apolinaris Jr Hunter B. Arnott Brianna Nicole Castillo Vanessa C. Clark Edward Cohen Chloe Consalvo Skylla Dalce Margas Franklin Melissa G. Gonzalez Aaron Keith Henry Laverne McFadden Maryann Rodriguez Peralta Joshua Alexander Rodriguez Violeta Sanchez Krystal Vargas Maria Isabela Vega Lillie Mae Walden Iakira Wilson

#### LIBERAL ARTS: AFRICANA STUDIES

Associate in Arts

Kaleda A Joseph

## LIBERAL ARTS: COMMUNICATIONS

Associate in Arts

Joshua Jeremy Pierrelouis
Orlando Rincon
Malika Scott
Andrea Stevens
Miracle Stewart
Janiya Taylor
Dafne C Vasquez

#### LIBERAL ARTS: ENGLISH

Associate in Arts

Tia King Britany S. Story Camilo Santiago Velasquez

#### LIBERAL ARTS: HISTORY

Associate in Arts

Alba Maria Rodriguez

#### LIBERAL ARTS: SPANISH LANGUAGE

Associate in Arts

Selma Elsayed Bibiana Maldonado

#### LIBERAL ARTS: THEATER

Associate in Arts

Ismael Alvarez Karen Sofia Paez

#### MUSIC/MUSIC EDUCATION

Associate in Applied Science

Simeon Brown Dania Jean-Louis Gary Nash Norhreena Thomas Elijah Whitaker

#### **NEW MEDIA TECHNOLOGY**

Associate in Applied Science

Angelique Cuevas Daniel Gallardo Jayla Alle Johnson Christian G. Richardson Eunice Micah V. Sarza

#### DIVISION OF MATH, ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

## ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY

Associate in Applied Science Helena Edem Babator-Tettey Ashanti Beary Matthew Alexander Belchior Aboubacar Sidiki Camara Mateus F. Ferrao Aldred Wendy M. Quintuna Quinche Mellina Andrea Rojas Paula A. Yagual

#### CIVIL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Associate in Applied Science

Suranda Enyon Anyinefa Andrew Jose' Ariza Patrycio Andry Maza

## COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEM

Associate in Science

Adeleke Osinuga Afolabi

#### **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

Associate in Science

Amirat M. Alao
Douglas Alfaro
Jermine Colin George
Pavel Jiofack Tsafack
Bhartendra Kumar Mandal
Christian D. Mercado
Yaseen Mohammed
Oluwaferanmi E. Odugboye
Chinemerem J. Onyeagolum
Vanessa Porta
Brian Rivera
Mekhi Rodriguez
Krishna Sangani

Ethan Luis Schivel Alyssa Patricia Walker

## CYBERSECURITY & NETWORK TECHNOLOGY

Associate in Applied Science

Oluwakayode A. Adewale Emmanuel A. Anacletus Shannon L. Bell Alexander Maurice Bragg Elvin Eddy Darius Nelson Alfonso Estrada Abiola A. Fagbemi Andy R. Gomez Saphire R. Harris Samuel Kofi Hattoh Raymond M. Jackson Dennis Morocho Faith I. Omo-Ote Chukwuebuka Orjiakor Nishan Avinash Parmeshwar Alin Marco Rodriguez-Gomez Jehiel Amani Rose Garry Sybrun Zoewendbeem Marie Tapsoba Pascal Telliano Jacques Teri Bryant Nathaniel Torres Thais A. Viteri Perez Rafael Stephan Viust Emmanuel Donte Williams Geovanny A. Zeas Ordonez

## ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Associate in Science

Mamadou Hamid Doumbia Hussein Sherif

#### **ENGINEERING**

Associate in Science

Lunise Cherazard
Naiomi Chin
Qahaar M. Dawkins
David Mohammed Eshaq
Mamadu Jalloh
Kwame A. Jamieson
Augustin Kolamou
Jose Paul Matute

Gregory Mendez Michael O. Ogbinaka David Robles Gideon Sebesebe Christina N. Sukhnandan

#### **MATHEMATICS**

Associate in Science

Homero Palaguachi

#### MECHANICAL AND **MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY**

Associate in Applied Science

Hakem Elijah Habrahamshon

#### SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT **TECHNOLOGY**

Associate in Applied Science

Keven Anthony Baez

#### **DIVISION NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES**

#### NURSING

Associate in Applied Science

Khabirah-Ub-Dunya Abdul Olusegun Emmanuel Adeniyi Vitalis U. Agunanna Grace Ankomah-Twum Orobosa Oghogho Asabor Oluwafemi Asenuga Sandra Asidi Nakeeyah Kayla Aubain Alexus S. Booth **Emily Casseus** Tiarah A. Cobb Sophia Darko Mensah Nastassia C. De Leon Isabelle Deshommes *Iustina Chinwendu Duru* Denisse Ebersole Oueeneth Chibunna Edoziem Nickson Samwel Ekekwe Ethan Franco Erfe Christel Faustin

Corry K Frimpong

Iasmin Guzman

Iainah Nicole G. Habibul Oge N. Ileogbunam Sara-Ann Viola Jones Trina Kerubo Kamila Khadjieva Fanta Konneh Tashina LaLanne Weigiu Li Dolphine B. Matini Paolo Mendoza Laquanda Louise Mitchell Arianna Nichole Moreno Kaydene S. Nelson Lawrence Alimat O.Olorunnisola Anulika Ozoani Alexandra Pacorme Amandalie Racine Kristie Lynn Rangel Ashley Rodriguez Aila Jae A. Romero Oluwatosin E. Shoyinka Antwanisha St. Louis Isha Tarawally Naika Vernet

Angela R. Wray Naylah B. Young PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Lauraleigh A. Werzen

Ruth A. Walker-Adewunmi

ASSISTANT Associate in Applied Science

Emanuel Alana Kristin Nicole Andrascik Michael Corona Deidre Ann Ronique Dias Sara Ford Priyanka Gupta Adrian Haro Amir Adam Lee Denise Lopez Isaiah Lozada

Adeel Malik Ioanna Anna Matusek Wady Nelson Mercado Garcia Tiffany Opoku-Asamoah Hannah Rolfes

Dontae Radcliff Whyte

#### **VISION CARE TECHNOLOGY**

Associate in Applied Science

Chetan P. Barot Courtney Cashmore Catherine Fernandez Erica Mariani Estrella Matos Jennifer Melchor Miriam Morales Leslie Marie Ruiz Iazmin S. Simbana Marina Yacoub

#### **VISION CARE TECHNOLOGY**

Certificate of Achievement

Cory Clement

#### **DIVISION OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

#### CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Associate in Science

Dayana A. Cabrera Gallegos Alison N. Contreras Yvenson Dulysse Adensky Gedeon Denissa J. Kissoon Anika N. Mars Kim Mayancela Maleah McKenzie Jorge Patricio Miranda Orlando Giovanni Moses Taofeegah I. Muritala Miguel Angel Mutter Luis Daniel Rodriguez Fione S. Webster

#### **EDUCATION**

Associate in Arts

Loude Donatus Mariana Salgado Fulweiler Deborah Garrette Ana Gonzalez Marilyn Gonzalez Eduardo A. Gutierrez Ramirez Meca Sha'bree King Anabel Lopez Javier Jasmine Mickens Priscila J. Negron Deinthirly Saint Jean Glenda Turner

Vianelly Ventura

## HUMAN AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Associate in Applied Science

Regina Arrington
Jodi-Ann K. Bingham
Nakiyah S. Davis
Tiffany Shamica Grannum
Miyan Gray
Shaquanah Moneak Hayes
Christine Holloway
Ngozi J. Ibegbulem
Tiana Jones
Tanya A. Livingston
Glorianna Maria Ortiz
Paula I. Santiago De Jesus
Miriam G. Torres
Juan Xiao
Arlene F. Young

#### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Associate in Science

Kristin C. Castel Kalei A. Cheek Joshua Ogbonnaya

#### PARALEGAL STUDIES

Associate in Science

Cora L. Jordan Nicole Casey Maharaj Camoy K. Walcott

#### **SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Associate in Sciences

Anthony J. Agosto Ashley Alvarez Maud Mavis Annor Jasmine S. Blue Keyani Cadet Gabriela Giselle Cantos Kelly Sasha Chhangur Andy Cook Destiny Mariah Coursey Gift O. Egesionu Az-Zubair Faruq **Brittney Francis** Jairinza Maria Gadea Ariel Gaiani-Colchado Aminah I. Germain Najeebah Higgs Nicole M. Jackson

Glenwood L. Jones Nykelle Jones Dasia Alona Lewis Marjorie Magdalena Lopez Nasira Malik *Justin Ronald Moore* Nataly E. Morocho Michael I. Morris Kim Movd Annlisa Ninou Wilfry Jose Paulino Ariela Patricia Pimentel Vrynn Pryde Steven Quinones Melony D. Rodriguez Yelenna Saleth Rodriguez Kaosara Funmilayo Sanni Ty-Ciona Shipman Nathoya Shury Cincy C. Tarpkin Andrea M. Wynter Karen Estefania Zambrano

#### MASSAGE THERAPY

Certificate

Dyheem T. Simmons

#### DEGREE RECIPIENTS FOR JUNE 2025

This is a list of degree candidates and not an official list of graduates.

Degree candidates will have to be officially certified for graduation by the Registrar.

\*\*\*Highest Honors 3.85 to 4.00 grade point average

\*\*High Honors 3.65 to 3.84 grade point average

\*Honors 3.50 to 3.64 grade point average

#### DIVISION OF BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, AND PHYSICS

## BIOLOGY PRE-MEDICINE: MD Option

Associate in Science

Denique Dejenae Campbell Armita Safavisohi

#### **BIOLOGY PRE-MEDICINE**

Associate in Science

Leslie N. Andrade Alexandra Salinas Villa

#### **ENVIROMENTAL SCIENCE**

Associate in Science

Maryam B. Washington

#### **GENERAL SCIENCE**

Associate in Science

Temitope O. Adekunbi Myar Ahmed Alnairab William Alvarez Oyindamola Elizabeth Ayorinde Chailyn J. Carswell Vanesa Jones Dajon Jordan Ashlly M. Martinez Sherwin Michaud Oluwadamilola Ojo Adeyinka Olubodun Grace Serwaa Opoku Vanessa Previlon Marie Michel Prosper Aisha Sidibe Christian Francis Soto Estefania E Tuba-Rojas

Tajae Kirk Turner

Emmanuella Vincent

#### **DIVISION OF BUSINESS**

#### ACCOUNTING

Associate in Science

Thais F. Medeiros Dos Santos Bruce Mayancela Adrian Ramirez Rivera Gustavo Tenorio

#### **BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

Associate in Science

Ikechukwu Charles Adighimadu
Fiifi Agen-Davis
Chazz Alexander
Jorge Andrade
Macy Conde
Michael Dupree
Alexis Francis
Miguel Franco
Anita J. Green
Keneesha Haynes
Onaldy M. Melo Santana
William J. Mielinicki
Alexis A. Quishpi
Merlange Rene

Adnay De Ceita Sousa P. Rita Joseph Bryan Rodrigues Jasiah S. Speed

Tunicia O. Thomas Shawn Livingstone Yearwood

#### FINANCE

Associate in Science

Johnny Roy Guaman Mizhquiri Mishell A. Morocho Songor Brittany Perez Jeremy Alberto Tamay Thaira F Valderrama Ayala

#### BUSINESS CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Certificate

Taheesha K. Green Allenson Jean-Louis

## DIVISION OF HUMANITIES AND BILINGUAL STUDIES

#### ART

Associate in Arts

Gabrielle Mongul

#### LIBERAL ARTS

Associate in Arts

Giounaldine Aristilde Kelsey Avila-Torres Tyasia Brown Deana D. Olaechea Plath de Leon Joana Filipa Gomes Sequeira Andres Solano

## LIBERAL ARTS: AFRICANA STUDIES

Associate in Arts

Andre Smith

#### LIBERAL ARTS: COMMUNICATIONS

Associate in Arts

Jayshawn E. Gomez Marcus James McNeil

#### LIBERAL ARTS: ENGLISH

Associate in Arts

Jasiri Davis

LIBERAL ARTS: SPANISH LANGUAGE

Associate in Arts

Maria D Casais Brion

DIVISION OF
MATHEMATICS,
ENGINEERING
TECHNOLOGY AND
COMPUTER SCIENCES

ARCHITERURAL TECHNOLOGY

Associate in Applied Science

Brenda J. Guerrero Francisco Aguilar Serrano

**COMPUTER SCIENCE** 

Associate in Science

Obinna Michael Ndu

CYBERSECURITY &
NETWORK TECHNOLOGY

Associate in Applied Science

Aissata Faouzia Nikiema Chima C. Ozonwoye Ahmed Roudane Milagro Velazquez

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Associate in Science

Clement Larbi

DIVISION OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

NURSING

Associate in Applied Science

Praise Tamunotonye Dennis

**RADIOLOGY** 

Associate in Applied Science

Chevohnae N Heath

VISION CARE TECHNOLOGY

Associate in Applied Science

Karen C. Azcona Yarlene Altagracia Pena Rosario Raul Francisco Torres

DIVISION OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Associate in Science

Jessica Colon Amayah S. Dent Omar Jerel Harper Ibn A. Muhammad Lissette Ann Pattaway

**EDUCATION** 

Associate in Arts

Rahsheeda K. Jones-Suggs Kiah Tattyana Joseph Je'la McCleod Kathy J. Mizhquiri Chadia Nhili Erica Sierra Tinajero Brittany A Thornton Sherry A. Timmers

HUMAN AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Associate in Science

Marie L. Luiggi Vanessa Polite Joselyn Yamileth Rafael Tyler Ashley Wilson

PARALEGAL STUDIES

Associate in Science

Rafaela Alvarenga Carvalhaes Katherine A. Ordonez Villagomez

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Associate in Science

Daniel Adejonwo
Milanda Alexis
Janetta Camara
Ugonma Chioma Chima
Mary A. Dixon
Gabrielle Feraco
Jeanith Fernandez
Nasir Gaines
Sarae Gomez
Denisse Gonzalez
Enieylah S. Herrera
Ayanah S. McCall
Samuel Tyler Petrasek
Jenally Rivera
Karina E. Ruilova

Courtney V. Salter Chanel A. Veras Contreras Natasha N Wright

#### DEGREE RECIPIENTS FOR EARLY COLLEGE SCHOLAR 2025

This is a list of degree candidates and not an official list of graduates. Degree candidates will have to be officially certified for graduation by the Registrar.

#### EAST SIDE HIGH SCHOOL

DIVISION OF HUMANITIES AND BILINGUAL STUDIES

#### LIBERAL ARTS ASSOCIATE IN ART

Drailis Alcantara Krystal Alvarado Luis Alvarez Castillo Allexia Alves Fernanda Andrade Robert Aquirre Kelsey Avila-Torres Ana Azevedo Silva Kayla Barbosa

Juan Caicedo Mendoza Joselyn Carabajo Yauri Kevin Cardenas

Litzy Cardenas Bustos Stacy Cardenas Bustos Karina Carrion

Karina Carrion Alliscya Cassiano Ariadna Castillo Odalys Castillo Morales

Mishell Chamba Dulce Chinga Cevallos

Vinicius Clauss

Emmanuel Colon Peneda

Derick Davila Isabella De Freitas Maria De Jesus Maia De Lucena Wylik De Mello

Amabile De Oliveira Verly

Keneky De Souza

Pedro Dos Santos Marques

Bryanna Duarte Soranyi Duran David Ekhelar Sintya Duran Julia Ferreira Jeysi Garcia Ethan Geronimo Isabell Gomes Aline Gomes Brando Gomez

Mayke Goncalves De Andrade

Adrian Guaman Becerra

Nicole Illescas Khadija Khatun

Jacqueline Larrosa-Serans

Michelle Lima Leslie Lovato

Leticia Madera Rosario Sheila Maldonado Sanchez

Luis Marino Desmin Martinez Kevin Mayancela Gabriel Medeiros Nicole Neira Padilla Jessica Ojeda Bustamante

Edwin Patuizaca Cristopher Perez Claudio Quezada Anna Ramos Scardua Tahleim Reeyes Sofia Saldana Michael Salgado

Erika Sanchez Rayssa Santos Cunha Nicole Silva Nunes Sibele Silva-Melo Evelly Siqueira Da Cruz

Kevin Tacuri-Agudo Erica Tenezaca Roberto Torres

Christian Torres Velez

Aly Trejo Isiah Tucker Jonathan Velasquez

Jonathan Velasque: Ruben Vieira Jennifer Villatoro

Ana Yegros

Natalie Zelaya Rainho

#### NEWARK TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL

DIVISION OF HUMANITIES AND BILINGUAL STUDIES

#### LIBERAL ARTS ASSOCIATE IN ART

Eyitayo Ajibola Gabriela Alcantara Uhurah Bev Kayla Blakewood Christopher Clavijo Emily Cordova Darwyn Cungachi Qeren Enangue Nahzir Holligan Esther Ishola Moises Lazo Dominic Legelen Valenda Limage Jayden Michel Anaya Mondesir Oluwadunni Olatunji Eltaicha Philippe Takara Phillips Elian Quezada Sean Rivera Angie Romero Hilary Samo Ekoudi Herve Sanon

#### ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL

DIVISION OF HUMANITIES AND BILINGUAL STUDIES

### LIBERAL ARTS

ASSOCIATE IN ART

Giounaldine Aristilde SiMarr Askew Amiyah Banks Cameron Booker
Arieal Dorcely
Andre Dyer
Jefferson Erazo Santos
Alyssa Joseph
Edward Morocho
Delilah Repollet
Amiyyah Warner

WEST SIDE HIGH SCHOOL

#### **DIVISION OF BUSINESS**

ADMINISTRATION ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE & ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED

**SCIENCE** 

**BUSINESS** 

Joshira Adams Knalidat Akinsola Darrin Baez-Nunez Saniya Butler Tashay Carter-Johnson

Kyanni Collado Sammy Deleon Janiya Gamble Maria Gonzalez Taquell Holden Oamerdeen Lawal
Jalynn Mitchell
Kristyn Mitchell
Abdul R. Nuhu Suka
OCtevia Pierre
Shavon Reley
Jose Salazer
Yahzeed Thomass
Lanajah Womack

#### UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL

DIVISION OF HUMANITIES AND BILINGUAL STUDIES

LIBERAL ARTS ASSOCIATE IN ART

Sofin Alvarada
Geraldine Alvarado
Mary Aribo
Najae Baxter
Maria Campoverde
Rehanna Coppedge
Marlez Edwar
Brianna Monroe
Tawanah Smith



#### Family and Patron Awards

Dr. Bridget Turner's Early Childhood Teacher Edu. Foundation Scholarship	Deborah Garrette
The Darlene Liggins Scholarship	Doris Chabla
Dr. Linda McDonald Carter Esq. Roots Foundation Scholarship	Tonia Whidbee Luis Rodriguez
Essex County College Alumni Association Scholarship	Andre Smith Laela Lawal Clayton Prial Michael Ogbinaka Nilda Milagros Sanchez Camacho
Florence Wideman Bey Scholarship	Jessica Clarke
Professor John Hills International Student Scholarship	Dahiana Polanco Zalissa Bouda Karen Zambrano Nataly Yagual Angie Llanos
Robert Sydney Needham Memorial Scholarship	Gregory Mendez Christopher Humala Ibukunoluwa Arotiba
Essex County College Foundation Board Academic	
Excellence & Outstanding Achievement Awards	Andre Smith ra Felipe da Costa Santos
Drs. Mary B. and Reynold E. Burch Scholarship Fund	Samia Morisseau Towela Mwale Jasiri Davis
Dr. Matilda Akinyemi-Oloba Memorial Scholarship	Towela Mwale Angel Odugbile

Hon. Patricia Juliano Memorial Scholarship	Jessica Clarke
Organization and Administration Awards	
Presidential Scholarship	Laela Lawal Andre Smith Jessica Clarke Michael Ogbinaka Gideon Sebesebe
Administrative Association Scholarship	Chima Ozonwoye Christopher Humala
African Student Association Scholarship	Oge Ileogbunam
Haiti Edu-Action -Haitian Student Association Scholarship	Remielle Blanc Garry Sybrun Krishnarajah Isme
Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship	Laela Lawal Towela Mwale Vanessa Porta
Future Teachers Club Scholarship	Ugonma Chima Ashley Pierre
Academic Programs and Department Awards	
Math, Engineering Technology, & Computer Science Scholarship	Jose Matute Vanessa Porta Michael Ogbinaka
Academic Achievement Award	Kwame Jamieson Alexandra Felipe da Costa Santos Angel Odugbile Nilda Milagros Sanchez Camacho
Division of Biology, Chemistry & Physics Scholarship	Emily Robles Myar Alnairab Armita Safavisohi Laela Lawal
Faculty Association Scholarship	Jose Matute David Eshaq William Ochojila Sara Ford

#### Christian Obiano Alexandra Felipe da Costa Santos

Humanities & Bilingual Studies Student Scholarship	Dennis Morocho
The E.O.F. Xiomara Torres Legacy Scholarship	Dennis Morocho
Community & Continuing Education West Essex Campus – Charles G. Lovallo Scholarship	
Kassa, Cofer, Slade Academic Achievement & Student Success Scholarship	Angel Odugbile Vanessa Previlon Vanessa Porta

#### ACADEMIC REGALIA





#### THE CAP AND GOWN

The academic costume originated in the universities of the Middle Ages when a warm gown and hood were useful for clerics and scholars in unheated buildings. The distinctive gown served to set students apart from their fellow citizens. Until after the Civil War, students at most American universities wore caps and gowns daily while in residence. These varied in design until they were standardized by the American Intercollegiate Commission in 1894. Although black is the traditional color of academic gowns, a number of institutions in the U.S. now use gowns of distinctive colors. Members of the Class are wearing green caps and gowns with gold tassels to reflect the colors of Essex County College.

The gowns for the bachelor's degree have long, pointed sleeves whereas the gowns for the master's degree have oblong sleeves, open at the wrist. Gowns for the doctorate carry broad velvet panels down the front and three open bars on the full, open sleeves. Among the gowns you will see worn by faculty at ECC are scarlet and black for Rutgers, silver gray for Columbia, violet for New York University, and yale blue for Seton Hall. The cap, or mortarboard, also derives from the medieval costume. The tassel is worn on the right side before the conferral of the degree and then is worn on the left.

#### THE HOOD

The hood indicates the type of degree and the school from which the degree was earned. The velvet around the collar is colored according to the type of degree earned and the lining is distinctive for each school. Colors indicative of some fields of learning include white for arts, gold for science, light blue for education, purple for law, brown or gray for business.

#### THE MACE

Ceremonial maces, symbols of internal authority and the independence from external authority, are used at many educational institutions. The 42-inch cherry wood mace carried by the Grand Marshal at today's Commencement contains two 4-inch 24K gold plated brass medal accents on wood surrounded with gold plated wreaths along with the 4-inch diameter gold plated College seal. The fluted wood staff is finished with a 24K gold plated brass neck piece, sixteen 24K gold plated brass rings and a 24K gold plated brass foot.

Please observe that some graduates, including the Valedictorian and Salutatorian, are wearing honor stoles. These stoles identify candidates who are graduating with honors, high honors, and highest honors.

# Congratulations Class of 2025



# CLASS OF 2025



MAIN CAMPUS 303 University Ave., Newark, NJ 07102

WEST ESSEX CAMPUS
730 Bloomfield Avenue West Caldwell, NJ 07006

essex.edu

## Celebrating Excellence: The Distinguished Graduates of 2025

when I felt like giving

just roadblocks—

they can be stepping

stones.



We are excited to celebrate the achievements of the Essex County College graduating Class of 2025.

This year's scholars will now join the ranks of thousands of ECC graduates whose resilience, hardwork and determination have defined the academic year. ECC will present

degrees and awards to hundreds of graduates representing more than 50 areas of study. These include associate degrees in disciplines such as Liberal Arts. Social Sciences, Nursing, Engineering and Biology.

Among the graduates are two high-achieving students who have earned the distinct honor of serving as Valedictorian and Salutatorian.

#### Valedictorian - Laela Lawal, A.S. **Biology / Pre-Medicine**

Laela Valedictorian Lawal exemplifies academic excellence,



leadership, and resilience. A biology/ pre-med major, she chose Essex County College to build a strong foundation before transferring to a four-year university.

"The faculty in the Division of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics challenged and encouraged me in my studies," she said.

There were times Laela held leadership roles in student up, but I've learned government, Phi Theta that struggles aren't Kappa, and the Bio Pre-Med Club. She also founded ECC's Muslim Student Association (MSA).

> "Creating MSA wasn't just about forming a club—it was about building a community where students felt seen, heard and supported."

> A semifinalist for the Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarship and a member of the 2025 All-USA NJ

> > Continued on Pg. 3

#### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:** Dr. Augustine A. Boakye



Dr. Augustine A. Boakye

Dear Members of the Class of 2025,

Congratulations! Today is a time to celebrate your achievements, your growth, and your incredible resilience—all of which have led to this milestone: earning a degree

from one of the finest public community colleges in the nation. On behalf of the entire Essex County College community, we salute you!

As you move forward into the next phase of your lives, taking your place among our distinguished alumni, know that your families, friends, faculty, and all those who have supported you are proud. I have been honored to witness the accomplishments and triumphs of the Class of 2025, who seized opportunities and overcame challenges. Each of you embodies our values and perseverance and offers distinct perspectives to be used for good in communities local and global.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our students' guests, whose encouragement helped guide our graduates along their ECC journey.

Remember: You are a Wolverine forever. . We hope you will keep in touch throughout your life and consider becoming active in the Essex County College Alumni Association, as we strive to make you ever prouder.

Congratulations again to the Essex County College Class of 2025!

Sincerely,

Dr. Augustine A. Boakye President Essex County College

## Commencement Day Speaker: Roger A. Mitchell Jr., MD, FCAP President, Howard University Hospital

E R a a H s s i a a g (// k k

Dr. Roger A. Mitchell, Jr.

Essex County College is proud to bestow upon Roger A. Mitchell, Jr., MD, FCAP, an honorary associate degree. Mitchell is the President of Howard University Hospital, where he leads the strategic vision of the hospital to improve quality and safety practices and ensure continued growth and alignment with Adventist Healthcare (AHC). He addresses the Class of 2025 as the keynote speaker at this year's commencement.

Dr. Mitchell is a nationally recognized physician leader, forensic pathologist and medical doctor with decades of experience in healthcare. He is known for his strategic leadership, collaborative approach, and ability to lead high-

level healthcare organizations with complex challenges.

Dr. Mitchell holds a B.S. in biology from Howard University and a Doctor of Medicine from UMDNJ New Jersey Medical School. He completed his pathology residency at George Washington University and a forensic pathology fellowship at New York University/NY OCME. Additionally, Dr. Mitchell has served as a tenured professor at Howard University's Department of Pathology and on multiple institutional committees. He is currently the President-Elect for the National Medical Association.

Dr. Mitchell is also the co-author of Death in Custody and a passionate advocate for raising awareness about gun violence in the community.

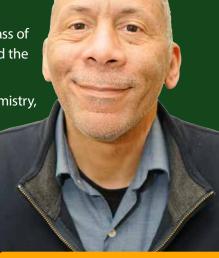
## Commencement Day Grand Marshal: Jeffrey Neil Lee, PhD Professor, Division of Biology, Chemistry & Physics

Essex County College is honored to recognize **Dr. Jeffrey Neil Lee** as Grand Marshal of the Class of 2025. A longtime professor in the Division of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, Dr. Lee has served the College with distinction for more than 30 years and will retire in December 2025.

Dr. Lee has held multiple leadership positions—including Chair of the Division of Biology & Chemistry, Course Coordinator for Microbiology, and Vice President for Academic Affairs. He has led initiatives supported by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the United Negro College Fund (UNCF).

As he prepares to retire in December 2025, Dr. Lee hopes to be remembered as "someone who always had the best interest of the students and the College at heart."

His selection as Grand Marshal reflects a career marked by integrity, insight, and unwavering dedication to student success.



Dr. Jeffrey Neil Lee



## In Memoriam

Essex County College mourns the loss of Rev. Dr. Lanel D. Guyton, a beloved member of our Board of Trustees, respected faith leader, and dedicated public servant.

Rev. Dr. Guyton brought wisdom, compassion, and a deep commitment to student success and community uplift. He held degrees in sociology and divinity, and most recently served as Presiding Elder of the New Jersey Northern AME District. He was also a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

He is lovingly remembered by his wife, Tanzania Gisselle Guyton, and their children, Gisselle and Lloyd.

His passing leaves a profound void in the ECC family, but his legacy of service and faith will continue to inspire all who knew him.

## **Spotlighting ECC's 2025 Assistant Grand Marshals**

This year's graduating class is proud to recognize four exceptional students serving as Assistant Marshals. Each one exemplifies the perseverance, leadership, and academic

excellence that define the Class of 2025.

## Maud Mavis Annor – A.S., Social Sciences

Returning to college as a mother and wife, Maud Mavis Annor pursued her degree as a personal goal. "My age is not a barrier to whatever I set my mind to achieve," said Annor, who emigrated from Ghana and prioritized her children's education before enrolling at ECC. Juggling work, family, and school, she persevered through long nights and self-funded tuition. Now, as an Assistant Marshal, she encourages others to embrace learning at any stage of life. She plans to pursue a bachelor's in sociology and minor in economics.

#### Alexander Takchand – A.S., Business Administration

An international student

from Guyana, **Alexander Takchand** was initially uncertain about returning to school in a new country. "I said to myself, 'I think I could do this," he recalled. With the support of ECC's EOF program and faculty mentors, Takchand excelled academically, earning a 4.0 GPA. "They believed in me, and that gave me the confidence to aim higher," he said. Now a





proud Assistant Marshal, he will transfer to Rutgers Business School to continue his studies in the field of leadership and management.

#### Jonathan Philippe - A.S., Accounting





Jonathan Philippe wasn't sure college was the right path until a counselor urged him to consider ECC. "Thank God I did!" he said. Balancing a full course load with late-night shifts and long commutes, Philippe maintained a 4.0 GPA while serving as secretary of the Accounting Club. He credits his growth to supportive professors and his mother's encouragement. He plans to attend Rutgers-Newark and pursue a career at a CPA firm.

#### Lyle Thibodeau – A.S., Business Administration

After transferring to ECC, Lyle Thibodeau pushed past his limits with the encouragement of his advisor. "That confidence helped me realize success was within reach," he said. He fully immersed himself in tutoring, group projects,

and academic life—transforming his study habits and daily routine. His commitment and renewed passion for learning led to his selection as Assistant Marshal. Thibodeau will continue his studies in financial technology.

#### Celebrating Excellence: The Distinguished Graduates of 2025 (con't)

Academic Team, Laela will pursue a degree in neuroscience with plans to research neurological disorders and become a physician assistant.

"There were times when I felt like giving up, but I've learned that struggles aren't just roadblocks—they can be stepping stones," she said.

## Salutatorian – Patrick Lamport, A.S. Business Administration

Salutatorian Patrick Lamport never thought college was within reach—until

he found a second chance at ECC.

"When I was younger, I had never seriously considered higher education because I thought it was unattainable," he said.

After a gap year to focus on work and mental health, Patrick enrolled at ECC and began to thrive.

He became active in student life through the Association of Latino Professionals for America (ALPFA) and the Accounting Club, where he served as vice president of fundraising. He also faced and overcame early academic and health challenges.

"Every day was a struggle," he said. "But everything can be overcome through resilience and the will to manifest your future."

Patrick is now pursuing a bachelor's in accounting and finance, with a concentration in entrepreneurship, at Rutgers Business School in Newark. He also hopes to publish his first book.

## PTA Graduates Honored in Pinning Ceremony

Essex County College celebrated 21 graduates of its Physical Therapist Assistant Program during a heartfelt pinning ceremony held May 1 at the Newark campus. The event marked the students' transition from learners to licensed health care professionals. Faculty, alumni and students spoke about resilience, compassion and the impact these future PTAs will have in the field.







## Honoring Excellence: ECC Celebrates 2025 Scholarship Recipients

ECC's annual Scholarship Awards Night, held May 14, recognized the outstanding achievements of students earning academic, leadership and community-based scholarships. Here are just a few of this year's remarkable recipients—congratulations to all!

#### **Finding Confidence and Community at ECC**

The biggest change can start with the smallest step.



That was true for **Ariana Espinal**, a graduating senior and accounting major at Essex County College.

"My older cousins, who are ECC alumni, encouraged me to look into community colleges," Espinal said. "They believed I'd benefit from smaller class sizes. My experience here has been rewarding and helped me overcome the fear of uncertainty that was holding me back."

Before ECC, Espinal was

intimidated by the transition from high school to college. Her fear of rejection led her to abandon several college applications. But with encouragement from loved ones, she found a college that supported her goals.

"I believe ECC was the type of environment I needed to figure out what I wanted from my education."

Espinal is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society and the Accounting Club.

"I've been presented with countless opportunities to learn more about accounting, accounting firms, and how to network," she said. "My club members have been incredible sources of motivation."

She also participated in the Accelerating Scholars in Accounting program and plans to build on that foundation.

"I plan to transfer to Rutgers to continue as an accounting major," Espinal said. "I'll work on securing internships and preparing for the CPA exam."

With her confidence renewed and goals in focus, Espinal is ready for the future.



## **ALUMNI CORNER**



#### Lighting the Way: ECC Alumna Latina Byrd Leads Through Service

The ECC Alumni Association continues to spotlight graduates who are living proof of the College's lasting impact—leaders who credit their time at ECC as the spark for personal growth, purpose, and community service.

**Essex County College boasts** an expansive alumni network that spans countries, industries



Latina Byrd

and experiences. What unites its vibrant graduates is a lasting appreciation of ECC and the role it played in shaping their paths.

"Looking back on my time at ECC- was a transformative period in my life," that's where your true "Leadership said Latina Byrd, journey began." valedictorian of the

Class of 2022, Liberal Arts. A career firefighter, Byrd has served her community for more than 17 years. "Overall, my time at college wasn't just about earning a degree. It was more about shaping my character, expanding my horizons and fulfilling career goals."

The foundation laid at ECC

continues to guide her todayboth in the firehouse and in how she defines leadership.

"One of the biggest influences ECC had on me was showing

that leadership Remember to give is all about back to ECC because service," she said. is all about taking action to

improve the life of others."

Recently, Byrd was appointed by Mayor Ras J. Baraka as building manager of a new training facility— the William Mobile Ashby Community Care & Training Center which serves as a hub for police officers, firefighters, and social workers. The role gives her an opportunity to

apply all that she has learned at ECC and beyond.

She earned a bachelor's degree from Seton Hall and is pursuing her MPA at Fairleigh Dickinson University while beginning the Certified Public Manager program at Rutgers.

"Success is never a straight path and you will meet challenges along the way. Therefore stay on your path, keep learning, be resourceful, give back to your community, and above all enjoy the process along the way," Byrd said. "Remember to give back to ECC because that's where your true journey began."

#### **ECC Reopens Dr. Martin Luther King** Jr. Library and High-Tech Learning Hub

On April 24, Essex County College celebrated the grand reopening of its renovated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library and Learning Center. The reimagined 16,000-square-foot space now features sustainable design, advanced technology and flexible learning areas—all part of ECC's commitment to student success and community impact.







From left to right: Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo Jr., and Learning Center Director Ledawn Hall

# Empowering Others While Building a Path to a CPA Career

"It makes me proud that I can serve as an inspiration to others, who feel like they are not good enough or that because they were not born here, they can't succeed," said **Doris Chabla**, a graduating accounting major at Essex County College.



Originally from Ecuador, Chabla is one of many international students who pursue higher education in search of opportunity and belonging. In doing so, they bring diverse perspectives that enrich the campus community.

"I've been working as an accounting tutor for the business division for two semesters now," Chabla said. "It has helped me to adapt to different learning students and help other students improve their accounting skills. It has [also] helped develop my communication skills, think critically and develop creative learning lessons suited to student's needs."

Chabla is a member of the Accounting Club and the Association of Latino Professionals for America (ALPFA), and credits ECC's EOF program and faculty for supporting her growth.

"When I first arrived at ECC, I had many insecurities about my professional future," she said. "But knowing I was able to achieve this goal—even though English isn't my first language—shows that with effort, dedication, and clear goals, anything is possible."

Chabla plans to transfer to Rutgers Business School and pursue CPA certification.

#### Building a Future in Architecture Through Flexibility and Focus



Essex County College's commitment to flexible learning has played a pivotal role in the success of students like architecture technology major **Mateus Pessanha.** 

"This was very important because I could not simply quit my job to focus on studying full-time," he said. "During most of my semesters in ECC, I have taken classes that would only occupy 1-2 days of the week, while I could work for the other three or four days. This flexibility allowed me to have a solid academic career."

Pessanha will graduate with a 4.0 GPA from the Division of Mathematics, Engineering, Technologies & Computer Sciences (METCS). Affordability was also a key factor in his decision to attend ECC.

"Many of us seek a community college not only for the affordable price, but also for the flexibility that it allows us to have," he said.

"Coming from an immigrant background, I have always had a hard time getting financial aid," he said. "[B]ut I have always believed that we create our motivation, and that comes from our will to succeed in life."

His dedication earned him membership in Phi Theta Kappa. He credits professors Hossein Assadipour and Ruben Petrela for their support as he prepares to transfer to NJIT or Rutgers-Newark.

## From Uncertainty to Honor Society

The transition from high school to college is an exciting time— but for students facing housing insecurity, it can also be overwhelming.

"Entering college, I believed that it would be hard for me to obtain soaring grades and do a satisfactory performance in my courses," said **Emily Robles**, graduating student and biology major. "It wasn't easy."



While adjusting to college, Robles also faced serious challenges at home.

"The landlord was going to sell the apartment we were renting at the time, and it was hard," Robles recalled. "It affected my schoolwork and I had to go to Essex County in the summer to complete my assignments as we struggled with the wifi. I was needed at home, my church and had to do schoolwork. I still do all these things, but that is when I learned to manage my time better."

Despite the obstacles, Robles remained focused. She joined Phi Theta Kappa honor society and serves as secretary of the Biology / Pre-Medicine Club.

"The advisor for the Biology Pre-Medicine Club is Professor Yasser Kabakibi," she said. "He took time to plan out what courses I should take. He looks out for every one of his students and wants to guarantee their success."

Robles plans to transfer to Rutgers University's School of Arts and Sciences this fall.

"I aspire to become a physician assistant and I plan to do everything that is required of me to complete this personal life goal," she said.

#### Essex County College Dual-Enrollment Program Paves the Way for Student Success

Essex County College offers programs that help high school juniors and seniors bridge the gap to college—giving them a head start on their academic journey. Through these partnership programs, students experience a rigorous curriculum designed to promote college readiness, boost retention, and support long-term success.

Here are a few of this year's dualenrollment graduates:

#### Geraldine Alvarado, A.A. Liberal Arts University High: GPA 3.85

"Because I am earning college credits while still in high school, I won't have to pay for a full four years of college, only about two. This significantly reduces the cost of tuition, fees, and other expenses. Additionally, completing college courses early allows me to enter the workforce or pursue my education further in a shorter set of time."

Alvarado added, "For anyone

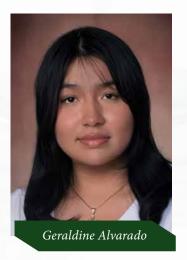
hesitant about joining, I would describe the experience as both rewarding and transformative –

a chance for one to grow academically and personally."

#### Jefferson Erazo Santos, A.A. Liberal Arts Orange High: GPA 3.88

"The transition from high school to college seems less complicated to me because of the program and it has prepared me with the necessary skills to take the necessary actions for my future college classes."

Reflecting on one of the most memorable moments from the program, Santos added: "My first visit to the college's campus







Lanajah Wom<u>ack</u>



for my Cinema class made me feel like I was definitely going to learn valuable skills and critical thinking skills essential for the future."

#### Lanajah Womack, A.S. Business Administration West Side High: GPA 3.83

"Just because I struggle in a class doesn't mean it's going to defeat me. And not many high school students get this chance, so I looked at it as an opportunity and made the best of it. It made me believe in myself more and showed me that I belong in these kinds of spaces just like anyone else."

Reflecting on what she had to give up — and what she gained — Womack added: "Yes, I'll miss some of the high school experiences, but I'm thinking about my future and what comes next. It feels amazing knowing that by the time I get to a university, I'll already have two years of college done."

#### Vinicius de Oliveira Clauss, A.A. Liberal Arts East Side High: GPA 3.97

"Participating in the Dual

Enrollment Program has been one of the most transformative experiences of my academic journey. It has pushed me to go beyond the limits of a normal high school curriculum, helping me develop many skills and experiences needed to succeed in college."

Building on that growth, Clauss reflected on one of the most memorable learning experiences: "Our class performed our own made-up story and explored profound themes such as the cognitive comfort in our society. This brought up many thoughtprovoking questions and deep reflections."



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## ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE HETIC

#### **ECC Launches Wolverines Athletics Hall of Fame**

Essex County College unveiled its first-ever Wolverines Athletics Hall of Fame on May 9 at the Cleo Hill Physical Education Building. The Hall of Fame class included Hon. Sharpe James, ECC's first director of athletics (1968–1986); Russell Rogers, the college's first national champion and former track and field coach (1971–1978); and Cleo Hill Sr., former men's basketball coach and athletics director (1984–1995). The 1973-74 men's basketball team, which set the national junior college scoring record, was also honored.

Olympians inducted were Melanie Walker (2002–2004), Olympic gold medalist; Novlene Williams-Mills (2001–2002), Olympic silver and bronze medalist; and Kerron Stewart (2003–2005), Olympic silver and bronze medalist.

The Hall of Fame celebrates more than 50 years of athletic excellence, from Olympians to championship coaches, and reflects the College's ongoing commitment to honoring student-athlete achievement.







Essex County Commissioner-at-Large Wayne Richardson

