



Board of Trustees
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
April 22, 2025 | 4:30 PM
Smith Hall – Main Campus

In Attendance: M. Bolden, Chair; L. Guyton; A. Lewis; B. Robinson; J. Wright; J. Zarra
A. Boakye, President; M. Townes, Board Counsel; S. Story, Recorder

Excused: I. Cruz; J. Grimes; C. Martinez

Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair, M. Bolden, called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm. A quorum was achieved with 6 trustees in attendance.

Open Public Meetings Act Announcement

Trustee B. Robinson 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 meeting was filed on December 3, 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 B. Robinson moved that the minutes from the March 25, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting be approved. ***The minutes were approved unanimously.***

Communications

Trustee B. Robinson announced that there were no communications.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Mr. Lev Zilbermints read his report into the record, and it reads as follows:

Greetings,

My name is Lev D. Zilbermints, Class of 1993. Here are my Public Comments on Agenda Items.

First, 3-1.1/ Apr- 2025 You are authorizing not more than \$1,024,400.00 for Dining Hall Renovations. What I would like to see is more plug-in sockets for charging cell phones in the Cafeteria. You can install these in walls and on the floor, by certain tables.

Also, I would like to see trays, so it would be easier to carry food around. What about having small milk cartons in the freezer? It is very inconvenient to purchase cereals, then go to the gallon of milk in the middle of the room to pour it in, then again go to the Cafeteria past the cashier.

Second, congratulations to those newly appointed and reappointed. We welcome you to County College and wish you the best in your endeavors.

Third, we are sad to see Kiswendida Kaprou resign. As ECCAA Treasurer, I worked well with her with matters regarding to ECCAA finances. I would like to thank her, on behalf of the ECCAA, for her good work at ECC and with the ECCAA. We wish her the best in her future endeavors.

So who will be the new Comptroller? Seems like we have a revolving door here. Can we retain

people for at least ten years? It does not look like it. Kiswendida is the eighth person in this position.

Fourth, I see Doris Tori is retiring. We would like to wish you the best in your future endeavors and thank you for your service to Essex County College.

Finance Committee Report

Trustee J. Zarra read the finance report into the record:

3-1.1/Apr-2025	Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Dining Hall Renovations Rbuild LLC, Bloomfield, NJ Chapter 12 Funded – Capital Expense	Amount not to exceed \$1,024,400.00
3-1.2/Apr-2025	Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Two-Year Blanket Order for Utility Services <u>Water & Sewage Services</u> City of Newark/Water (5 accounts) Township of West Caldwell (1 account) <u>Telephone Services</u> Verizon College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$3,000,000.00 Per year <u>Electrical & Gas</u> PSE&G Co. (32 accounts) Constellation/Direct Energy/Constellation/Direct /NRG Business Marketing #48 Accounts
3-1.3/Apr-2025	Resolution Authorizing the Contract for Center for Technology Renovation Molba Construction, Little Ferry, NJ Chapter 12 Funded – Capital Expense	Amount not to exceed \$3,198,000.00
3-2.1/Apr-2025	Resolution Authorizing the Award of Legal Services Brisman Law Firm, P.C., Passaic, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$10,000.00

Trustee M. Bolden moved the Finance actions for approval. Trustee J. Wright seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Personnel Committee Report

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

A. Appointment

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 4-1/April-2025 | David DiPasquale
Instructor – Art
Humanities & Bilingual Studies
Effective: September 1, 2025
Salary \$62,323.00 |
| 4-2/April-2025 | Shawn Smith
Assistant Professor – Communications
Humanities & Bilingual Studies
Effective: September 1, 2025
Salary \$62,323.00 |

4-3/April-2025 Lateefah Townes
Manager
Enrollment Services
Effective: April 28, 2025
Salary \$58,200.00

4-4/April-2025 Jason Lin
Programmer
Information Technology
Effective: April 28, 2025
Salary \$50,000.00

4-5/April-2025 Aleksandr Greben
Maintenance Technician
Facilities Management
Effective: April 28, 2025
Salary \$40,200.00

4-6/April-2025 Britney Solano -Villa
Library Assistant
MLK Library
Effective: April 28, 2025
Salary \$34,700.00

4-7/April-2025 Security
Zaida Scott
Dispatcher
Public Safety
Effective: April 28, 2025
Salary \$33,150.00

B. Reappointment Listing

4-8/Apr-2024	Administrative:	27
	Administrative Confidential:	19
	Tenure Track Faculty:	32
	Non-Tenure Track Faculty:	7
	Professional:	131
	<u>Professional Confidential:</u>	<u>19</u>
	Total Employees:	235

C. Retirement

4-9/April-2025 Doris Tori
Instructor - Computer Science/Programming
Mathematics, Engineering, Technology and Computer Science (METCS)
Effective: September 1, 2025

D. Resignation

4-10/April-2025 Kiswendsida Kaprou
Senior Comptroller
Finance
Effective: June 30, 2025

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

Educational Programs Committee Report

Trustee Lewis stated that the Educational Programs committee met last week and recommended the approval of the following items. He split the items into three votes.

- 7-1.1/Apr-2025 Budget Amendment: Acceptance of Funds from the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) for \$864,316
- 7-1.2/Apr-2025 Dual Enrollment Program: Bloomfield Board of Education
- 7-1.3/Apr-2025 Dual Enrollment Program: Belleville Board of Education
- 7-1.4/Apr-2025 Dual Enrollment Program: Montclair Board of Education
- 7-1.5/Apr-2025 Dual Enrollment Program: Academy 360
- 7-1.6/Apr-2025 Dual Enrollment Program: Essex County Schools of Technology: Newark Tech High School, Donald Payne, and West Caldwell Tech

Trustee J. Wright moved the Education Programs actions for approval. Trustee B. Robinson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- 7-1.7/Apr-2025 Dual Enrollment Program: East Orange Board of Education

Trustee J. Wright moved the Education Programs actions for approval. Trustee Rev. Dr. L. Guyton seconded the motion. Trustee Robinson abstained the motion. The motion carried.

- 7-1.8/Apr-2025 Dual Enrollment Program: Newark Public Schools Board of Education
- 7-1.9/Apr-2025 Dual Enrollment Program: Orange Public Schools Board of Education

Trustee J. Zarra moved the Education Programs actions for approval. Trustee B. Robinson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Site, Facilities, and Equipment Committee Report

Trustee Rev. Dr. L. Guyton stated that the Site, Facilities, and Equipment Committee met last week, but there were no actions.

Policy and Governance Committee Report

Trustee B. Robinson stated that the Policy and Governance Committee did not meet last week and there were no actions.

Community Relations Committee Report

Trustee J. Wright stated that the committee met last week and there were no actions. She announced that the Hall of Fame would be held on May 9th. She also stated that she attended the Athletics Banquets and was proud of our student athletes.

Alumni Association Report

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

Student Government Association Report

The Student Government Association Report, which was submitted electronically to the Board of Trustees, was read into the record by Cynthia Fancher and is attached as Appendix B.

Faculty Association Report

The Faculty Association Report, submitted electronically to the Board of Trustees, was read into the record by Professor J. Alexandre and is attached as Appendix C.

President's Report

The President's Report was submitted electronically to the Board of Trustees and read into the record by Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, President. It is attached as Appendix D.

Mr. David Tomkins, Athletics Director, talked about the Athletic Awards honorees. It is attached as Appendix E.

Trustee Bolden congratulated the athletes on their achievements and awards. She said it was good to hear about their accomplishments.

Dr. Boakye responded to the faculty's concerns about the incident that happened over the weekend and the radiography program. He mentioned that we have two professors who are retiring and reached out to the chair. They are working to replace the two people who will be retiring. He thanked the faculty for their hard work during the negotiations.

He mentioned that there is a new flyer that talks about the fact that students feel safe on our campus.

He stated that he wants us to be aware of the things that happen around us.

He reported that someone threw stones through the glass windows and doors of the College. The individual also threw stones through the glass of other properties around the area, as well as the next city over.

He also thanked the security team for their efforts.

The President asked Dean Seddiki to speak on the matter.

Dean Seddiki talked about the incident and reported that the suspect had been vandalizing properties for a few weeks in East Orange and other county properties. Then they came to the College. The individual was arrested yesterday. He said that they are working behind the scenes to handle the situation. They assessed the damage and will add new technology to assist the security team in making the campus safer. He said that things happen sometimes, and this is the first time that they have experienced a situation like this.

Mr. Parm stated that we have to consider that we were not the only victims of this incident. The individual targeted multiple properties much larger than our campus, which had more security and police officers. The individual looked to see if any security was around. The officer on duty had left that area two minutes before the incident. Then the individual proceeded to throw stones. He was arrested, and his charges are being added on as the damage is being assessed from the different properties. He had caused at least \$500,000 worth of damage. They look forward to questioning him about why he chose to target the campus.

Dean Seddiki stated that the individual caused about \$16,000 worth of damage on our campus.

The President said that we have to pay attention and be alert. Report dark areas so we can put lighting around.

New Business

The board reported that there was no new business to discuss.

Public Comments

Seven people made public comments on the record:

- Lev Zilbermintz

Lev D. Zilbermints, Class of 1993 here. Here are my Public Comments.

(1) We have people with high salaries who are not faculty here, but what have they produced? If you have high pay, then show something for it. Question is, instead of hiring people for big bucks from outside, why are we not promoting people who are already at ECC and have a history of producing? Is someone playing political games?

(2) Why is faculty being offered very low salaries as compared to administrators? No wonder many are leaving. How can you expect good people to work and produce for the pay they receive? My proposal is very simple. Cut some fat from administration salaries and give these money to the faculty.

(3) I say that faculty needs to be respected by everyone, from the ECC President on down. If you are an administrator and do not respect faculty, then what are you doing here? I do not care if you are Trump, Putin and King Charles III put together. Your job is to find solutions together with faculty, not act like Emperor of All the Russias.

Need I remind you of what happened to Edward Downs in 1970 and Joyce Wilson Harley in 2017? They were forced out by students and faculty demonstrations. If there are those administrators who do not respect ECC or faculty, this is what could happen to them. I was there when Joyce Wilson Harley was kicked out of ECC.

(4) The Student Handbook is inaccurate in many places. It needs to be revised by a committee made of students, alumni, faculty, and administration. There are so many contradictions there. I would not be surprised if there are still a lot of inaccurate information there. Why? Because it happened in the past as well.

(5) At ECC we have lots of inaccurate information. There are signs that still say WISE Women's Center. There is none. Then there is the Fourth floor lower level signs. The ECC website needs to be updated. New people are not listed. There has been no paper directory since 2004 -2005.

- Jen Wager

She thanked the Trustees, President, Dr. Tooma, and the Humanities Department on behalf of Professor Smith. He set up the art gallery that is currently on display to showcase the students' work.

She mentioned that the appointment of Professors Smith and DiPascale will allow them to accomplish great things. From Studio Art to Film to AI, the students are positioned to create and to lead the multitrillion-dollar creative industries in the Newark Region, New York and globally.

- David DiPascale

He stated that he served as an adjunct professor of Art and Art History for 19 years. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to be able to serve as a full-time faculty member. He thanked the President, Dr. Tooma, Dr. Shabazz, the Trustees, his colleagues, and students.

- Dr. Robert Spellman

He wanted to share his appreciation for the faculty and acknowledge the good things that have been happening. He commended the Department Chairpersons as well.

He talked about the Literacy Conference that was hosted by the Business Division and acknowledged the hard work of the faculty.

Dr. Spellman also acknowledged Human Resources for their hard work with the Employee Recognition Ceremony. He said their program was fantastic. He also stated that he likes the gold name badges.

He thanked Dr. Vieira for her dedication to the institution and her hard work.

He announced that everyone is looking forward to the grand opening of the Library and Learning Center. He said we are doing great things here.

He said that we are looking to design academic excellence beyond the classroom. We want to be able to do tutorials and make a difference.

Dr. Spellman mentioned that these are difficult times and edifying times.

He said that this more than a job, but a lifestyle. He ended his comments by saying that as long as we are around, we are going to do everything we can for all the people we can in all the places we can, for just as long as we ever can.

- Ms. Lateefah Townes

She stated that she was honored to start her new position at the College. She was an alumnus of ECC. She said this means a lot to her to be able to give back to her community. Her goal was to create a cultivated community. Ms. Townes stated that it is about more than being a product of your environment, and people associate Newark with the 1960 rebellion. She said it is not about criminology, but about academics. She stated that individuals need to see someone like herself who has succeeded. She also thanked Dr. Turner for her mentorship and for encouraging her to do her best.

- Dr. Su

She requested that all unit contracts be signed at the same time so that no unit is left behind without a pay increase. She said three units are still negotiating, and four were already signed. She requested that they all be signed at the same time. She said that faculty members are concerned about that.

- Dr. Khalfani

In response to Dr. Su, he stated that he is part of the negotiation team, and they are not negotiating the contracts at the Public Session.

He mentioned that this year is the 100th anniversary of Malcolm X and his birthday is May 19th. People will be celebrating this event around the country, especially in New York. In celebration of the event, they will take a bus trip to visit the memorial site. He invited everyone to come and sign up for the trip.

He mentioned that the faculty would be hosting a dinner on Friday, and he wanted to invite the chairs and Trustees.

Notice of Executive Session

Trustee B. Robinson 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 May 20, 2025, at 4:30 PM, an Executive Session to discuss the following topics, the general nature of which is limited to Collective Bargaining Agreements, Pending and Existing Contractual Negotiations, Litigation and Personnel Matters. The discussion of these said topics shall be disclosed to the public as soon as reasonable.

Trustee Lewis motioned for a vote on the Notice of Executive Session and Trustee Wright seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Adjournment

Chair M. Bolden motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:51 pm by a vote of acclamation.



Report to Board of Trustees
April 22, 2025 @ 4:30 pm

1. Greetings to BOT members, President Boakye, ECC staff, students, and everyone in attendance.
2. I am Lev Zilbermintz, ECCAA Treasurer, and I am pleased to provide an update on the association's progress.
3. First, we thank ECC President Dr. Boakye and the administration for their continued support.
4. The Alumni Association participated in the Club Fair on April 9, 2025.
5. The Alumni Association has designed a congratulatory certificate of membership to be issued to all 2025 graduates during the May commencement.
6. The Alumni Association is collaborating with the administration to organize a general election to elect new executive members for the next school year.
7. Thank you.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
April 2025 Board of Trustees Report

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

My name is Naylah Young. I am the current President of the Student Government Association. I will be delivering the April BOT report for SGA this evening.

SGA ELECTION

The SGA elections officially commenced on April 14th and are set to conclude on April 30th. Already, a number of passionate candidates have stepped forward, each eager to serve and represent the student body. These individuals have actively campaigned by putting up posters and promoting their platforms across various channels, showcasing their commitment and enthusiasm. As the election period progresses, we extend our best wishes to all the candidates and encourage a fair, spirited race. Beyond the votes and campaigns, we look forward to supporting the newly elected leaders as they transition into their roles and begin working toward meaningful change and progress within our school community.

FOOD PANTRY AWARENESS WEEK

Food Pantry Awareness Week is officially underway, running from April 21st to April 25th. Throughout the week, various events have been planned to raise awareness about the pantry and its importance to the school community. The first day will provide an introduction to the food pantry, informing students about its purpose, services, and how they can benefit from it. The following days will feature exciting food and fruit giveaways, providing both nourishment and an opportunity to engage with the pantry's mission. These events aim to highlight the pantry's ongoing efforts to support students in need and foster a sense of unity and care within the school. We encourage everyone to participate in the events throughout the week and learn more about how they can contribute to this vital resource.

INITIATIVES FOR April AND ONWARD

- Graduation

As we reflect on the events of this period, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Board of Trustees for their unwavering support and dedication to the success of our school. As we move into a new semester, we are excited for the opportunities ahead and look forward to the growth, collaboration, and leadership that will continue to shape our school community. Together, we embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, ready to build a stronger, more connected future.

Respectfully submitted,

SGA Executive Board
Essex County College
Student Government Association

**Essex County College Faculty Association (ECCFA)
Memorandum**

To: Ms. Marion Bolden, Chair of the Essex County College Board of Trustees
From: Jean-Wilner Alexandre, Associate Professor economics and finance, ECCFA
Representative to ECC Board of Trustees/ Class of 2003
Date: Tuesday, April 22, 2025
Re: ECCFA Report to ECCBOT

General Comments

Esteemed Members of the Essex County College Board of Trustees, Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, Cabinet Members, and the Entire College Community:

It is both an honor and a privilege to once again address you on behalf of the faculty and the Essex County College Faculty Association (ECCFA). As we enter the fourth month of the year, I am pleased to present the ECCFA April 2025 Report to the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Jeff Lee

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to President Boakye for honoring Dr. Jeff Lee as the Grand Marshal for this year's commencement ceremony.

As Dr. Lee prepares for retirement, it is fitting to recognize his decades of dedicated service to Essex County College. Over the years, he has served with distinction as Vice President of Academic Affairs, Director of the Honors Program, Department Chair, an active member of the Faculty Association, and an award-winning faculty member. His leadership, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to academic excellence have left an enduring legacy.

Concerns and Strong Optimism

Our faculty members continue to work diligently and compassionately to ensure our students complete the semester successfully supporting them as they prepare for final exams, meet critical deadlines, and, in some cases, catch up on coursework.

Hiring and Retirement

We are pleased to welcome two new faculty members to our midst and to the ECC family: Professor David DiPasquale and Professor Shawn Smith. It is especially gratifying to see former adjunct faculty transition into full-time, tenure-track roles—a testament to their dedication and to the strength of our academic community.

It is with a heavy heart that we share the news of the retirement of our dear friend and esteemed colleague, Professor Doris Tori. Her dedication, warmth, and years of service have left a lasting impact on our students, our faculty, and the entire Essex community. She will be greatly missed, and we wish her all the best in this new chapter of her life.

Negotiation

The ECCFA Negotiation Team has held eight internal meetings to fine-tune the contract, as well as one joint meeting with the administration to present the proposed terms.

Public Safety and the Act of Vandalism

The ECCFA is deeply saddened by the recent act of vandalism that occurred on campus. We are, however, relieved and grateful that no one was physically harmed.

We view this incident as a serious warning, particularly in light of the concerns we have consistently raised regarding Parking Lot B.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Public Safety team for their swift and effective response, and we thank Dr. Boakye for taking prompt action in addressing lighting concerns on campus.

Considering this recent event, we respectfully present the following questions for consideration:

1. What proactive safety measures will be implemented to prevent future incidents?
2. What is the current protocol for addressing and managing challenging student behavior?
3. Does Essex County College have a Threat Assessment Team, as required by the U.S. Department of Education? If so, is this team actively meeting to evaluate students exhibiting concerning behavioral patterns?

Regional Meetings

Dr. Victor Stolberg, Vice President of the ECCFA, has been actively representing our association at various meetings at both the state and county levels.

Additionally, we are proud to share that many of our faculty members attended the recent NJEA Higher Education Conference in Monroe, where Essex County College had the largest representation among participating institutions. This strong presence reflects our faculty's ongoing commitment to professional development and advocacy in higher education.

College Meetings or Conference

1. We would like to thank President Boakye for formally introducing Dr. Hamin Shabazz to the Faculty Association.
It was a meaningful and engaging conversation, and we sincerely welcome Dr. Shabazz to the Essex County College family. We look forward to working collaboratively in support of our shared academic mission.
2. We would like to acknowledge the outstanding work of Professors Kabakibi and Davis, our AAAC Co-Chairs, for organizing and hosting another highly informative Faculty Assessment Forum this past Tuesday. I would also like to extend my thanks to the faculty presenters, those who attended, and to Lisa Padilla for her invaluable assistance with

logistics and planning. Dr. Shabazz graciously took time from his busy schedule to deliver a well-received address, which kicked off the event. Following his remarks, Professor Kajura presented an engaging session on assessment rubrics.

The main theme of this year's forum focused on the role of assessment in professional accreditation. Professors Oletewo and Pernia (ACBSP), Professor Jenkins (CSHSE), Professor Pennington (ABA), and Dr. Park (ABET) shared their recent experiences with self-studies, emphasizing the crucial role assessment played in their respective fields. My heartfelt thanks to everyone involved. A healthy culture of assessment, such as the one ECC has built, would not be possible without the commitment of such passionate and engaged faculty.

Faculty Members Activities Update

Business Division

Reaffirmation of Accreditation

ACBSP has granted reaffirmation of accreditation to the Business Division without any notes or conditions. This is a significant accomplishment, and on behalf of the division, we would like to extend our gratitude to all faculty involved in preparing the self-study that led to this reaffirmation, as well as to the President's office, Dr. John Runfeldt, Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness, Planning, and Assessment, and their staff, Dr. Leigh Bello-Brian, and all other departments that contributed to the success of the site visit.

Professor John D. Hammon

- Professor John D. Hammon, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the Finance Program, held the 10th Financial Literacy Conference on April 3, 2025, at Siegler Hall. The conference was well attended by staff, faculty, and students, and featured finance professionals who led the public through a highly engaging and informative experience.

Dr. John Oletewo

1. Dr. John Oletewo, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Business in the Business Division, successfully planned and delivered the 7th Annual Business Plan Competition, which was well attended by the college community.
2. Dr. Oletewo has also prepared and trained business students to participate in the Rutgers Case Competition 2025. We are proud to announce that this year, Essex County College Business Division students won first place.

Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre

Jean-Wilner Alexandre, Associate Professor in the Business Division, attended and presented his research at the 2025 NASBITE International Conference as one of the four CIBER-CMCC Awardees selected for this year. NASBITE (National Association of Small Business International Trade Educators) is a leading organization dedicated to promoting international trade education and supporting small business global engagement.

Humanities

Dr. Nessie Hill

Dr. Nessie Hill attended the McGraw Hill Conference in New York for the Composition Event. It was a valuable opportunity to connect with fellow educators and engage in insightful discussions centered on teaching and learning. The event highlighted a shared commitment to student success, an important value we uphold at Essex County College.

METCS

Professor Ines Figueiras

Professor Ines Figueiras invited an ECC alumnus to present and share his experience working for one of the top pharmaceutical companies in the world. His presentation offered valuable insights into the professional journey of a successful graduate and served as an inspiration to current students pursuing careers in science and healthcare.

Professor Petrela Ruben

1. On April 17th, our graduating architecture class presented their final projects in front of a jury of invited critics who gave a very positive reception to the work and dedication of myself and our students
2. Attended meeting with West Orange High School: WOHS CTE Architecture Advisory Committee; presented information on our architecture program at ECC and what we offer for graduating high school seniors
3. Attended meeting with Kean University architecture school to discuss student transfers and establish a relationship with four-year universities such as Kean
4. Created and led ECC Architecture Portfolio Workshop for our architecture students.
5. Attended ACUE Webinar: Increasing Student Retention Through Great Teaching
6. Attended Rutgers Webinar: Confessions of a Black Academic: A Memoir
7. Attended Rutgers Webinar: Making Scholarship Public: Writing Scholarly Books Webinar
8. Attended DCR Webinar: AI and Algorithmic Discrimination
9. Serving in the Faculty Senate

10. Continue to participate in collegewide and divisional governance committees

Nursing

Professor Gervida G. Constant

We are proud to share that Professor Gervida G. Constant has successfully completed her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program. It has been a long and dedicated journey, and we congratulate her on this outstanding achievement. Professor Constant has a question and would like to know if you are present today.

Social Science

Dr. Bridget Turner

Dr. Bridget Turner, Education Coordinator and Academic Advisor, successfully organized the Autism Awareness Conference, with 150 attendees registered. This strong turnout reflects both the relevance of the topic and the commitment of our faculty to promoting inclusive education and awareness across our college community.

Student Development and Counseling

Dr. Victor Stolberg

Dr. Stolberg, the Counselor and Vice-President of the Faculty Association, has been one of the most active faculty members on campus.

- **Prof. Victor Stolberg**
 - Submitted final manuscript for new book *Bipolar Disorder: Your Questions Answered* to be published Dec. 11, 2025 by Bloomsbury.
 - Assisted at the ECC Faculty Association Health Screening Event (3/20).
 - NEA Higher Education Budget Engagement Meeting (3/3).
 - NEA “Higher Education Summit” (3/14-16).
 - Human & Social Services Program Accreditation Celebration (3/20).
 - NJEA “Membership Chair Conference” (3/22).
 - Rutgers-Newark School of Public Affairs and Administration Information Session (3/25).
 - Community outreach events including the Essex County Education Association (ECEA) Human and Civil Rights Committee Meeting (3/3), the ECEA Legislative Action Team (3/24), ECEA Professional Development Committee (3/19), and the Friends of the Newark Public Library Trustees Meeting (3/5).
 - KPMG Information Session (3/28).

- Several meetings this month including DEI Committee (3/5), APAC (3/4), FDC (3/11), ECCFA Negotiations (3/4, 6 & 26), ECCFA (3/27), and the Board of Trustees Meeting (3/25).
- Chaired Counselors & Advisors (3/7), Counselors, Advisors, and Chairs (3/21), and ECC Faculty Association (3/27) meetings this month.
- SafeColleges trainings: “Accident Investigation,” “Accommodating People with Disabilities,” and “Social Media and Your Job” (3/4-28).
- Medscape trainings, including “Asthma,” “Atherosclerosis,” “Biomarkers,” “Cardiology,” “Breast Cancer,” “Obstructive Sleep Apnea” and “Mental Health” (3/4-26).
- Austin Riggs Center Webinar on “Dynamics of Race, Culture, & Sociopolitical Context in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy” (3/3),

Reference

Dr. Bridget Turner: Autism Awareness Conference



Dr. Nessie Hill attended the McGraw Hill Conference in New York



Memorandum

To: Chair Marion Bolden & the Board of Trustees
From: Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, *President, Essex County College*
Date: April 22, 2025
Re: President's Monthly Report

General:

Congratulations to our faculty for their continued focus on pedagogy that prepares our students for the future. Our commitment to rigorous academic standards is confirmed by reaffirmations of programmatic accreditation in multiple areas this Spring semester.

- The American Bar Association (ABA) reaccredited our Paralegal program.
- The Council for Standards in Human Services Education reaffirmed our Human and Social Services programs. Congratulations to Chair Bridgeforth and her team.
- Our business programs, including Accounting, Business Administration, Finance and Supply Chain Management, were reaccredited by the Accreditation Council of Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). Congratulations to Chair Albuquerque and his team

Academics:

- Essex County College won this year's New Jersey County College Case Study Competition organized by the Rutgers University School of Business. This competition attracts participants from our eighteen community colleges each year. I thank our faculty, led by the Business Division, for working with the students. Our winning team consists of the following students:
 - Khadijah Jalloh: *Business Administration*
 - Bryan Martinez: *Business Administration*
 - Sarah Newen: *Supply Chain Management*
 - David Ortega: *Data Science*
 - Adrian Ramirez Riveria: *Accounting*

Congratulations, and thank you for raising the ECC flag.

- On April 2nd, the Business Division held its 7th Annual Business Plan Competition. We appreciate Dr. Singleton for donating \$6,000 each year toward this important student empowerment initiative. This year, former Student Government Association President and ECC alum, Mr. Esdras Malbranche, donated \$5,000 toward the competition.
- On April 3rd, the Business Division held its Annual Financial Literacy Conference with guest speakers from Visions Federal Credit Union, Primemmerica, Merrill Lynch and our very own Prof. Dr. Michael Stewart, a dormer trader/salesperson for JP Morgan Chase.
- The New Jersey Collegiate Business Administration Association (NJCBA) has announced that five ECC will be inducted into the organization's Honor Society on May 2nd. Only the top 1% of students in two and four-year institutions in New Jersey receive this honor.
- The ECC business students receiving this honor are:
 - Doris Chabla
 - Ariana Espinal
 - Gabriela Lopez

- Jonathan Philippe, and
 - Alexander Takchand
- The Biology, Chemistry & Physics Division organized a Recognition Ceremony for the General Science students who have successfully completed 30 credits of their program within the first year of their admission. We appreciate Chair Eunice Kamunge and Program Coordinator, Dr. Frank Duroy.
- Congratulations to our faculty and students!*

The President's March/April engagements have included:

- March 24th – March 26th: The President served as a Peer Evaluator for Middle States Commission on Higher Education in New York.
 - March 27th: Participated in the Irish Day Celebration organized by the County of Essex.
 - March 27th: Held high-level discussions regarding the Child Development Center (CDC) transition process.
 - April 1st: Met with Academic Affairs and the METCS leadership for consultations on programming related to our developmental math program.
 - April 2nd: Attended the 13th annual Garvey/Nkrumah series organized by the Africana Institute.
 - April 5th: Autism Awareness Conference at West Essex. I thank the Social Sciences Division and the West Essex staff for supporting the program, which attracted more than 150 guests and great speakers.
 - April 9th: Joined Dr. E. Vieira, Dr. M. Ochoa and Mr. Mr. Reyes at FOCUS Extension Center for an Executive meeting with their leadership and staff.
 - April 10th: Attended an exploratory partnership meeting and tour of Payne Tech with Dr. H. Shabazz, Dr. E. Vieira and Chair G. Albuquerque. We appreciate Supt. James Pederson and Principal Eric Love, for their partnership.
 - April 10th: Attended the Press Conference at the Turtle Back Zoo for the Australia Boardwalk Opening organized by the County of Essex.
 - Participated in the Higher Education Webinar with New Jersey Attorney General Matthew Platkin.
 - April 16th: The 2024-2025 Athletic Awards Banquet was a resounding success. I thank Dr. Kirkland, Dean of Student Affairs and his staff; Mr. David Tomkins, Director of Athletics, and his staff, for a job well done. Special appreciation to Trustee Wright for gracing the occasion and for serving our students dinner. Our 2024-2025 season yielded many accolades for our Athletics program, including:
 - Region 19 Runners Up for Men's and Women's Soccer
 - 14 athletes qualified for NJCAA Division 1 Indoor Nationals
 - 1 student (**Nafew Mohammed**) set a new school record for Javelin Throw
 - 45 students awarded GSAC All-Academic at 3.0 GPA
 - 36 students awarded GSAC All-Academic at 3.25 GPA
 - 7 students awarded GSAC All-Academic at 3.4 GPA
 - **Serena Douglas** is our female athlete of the year.
 - **Milomir Cvoric** is our male athlete of the year.
- Congratulations to our teams and coaches for an excellent season.

Student Affairs:

- March 25th: The Essex County Women's History Month celebrations, with the theme: *Students Achieving Today – Our Leaders of Tomorrow*, bestowed the Altheta Gibson Leadership Award on ECC students **Laela Lawal** and **Towela Mwale**.
- Laela and Towela also made the 2025 All-USA-New Jersey Community College Academic Team, while Laela is also a 2025 Jack Kent Cooke Scholars semifinalist.
- March 26th: The Office of Student Care Services (OSCS) hosted the Spring 2025 Student Resource Fair on the Main Campus. 19 Community Resource vendors participated.

Finances:

- The President and the CFO continue to conduct best practices to ensure that the College's finances are managed prudently. The CFO is leading the filing of FY 24 Taxes (Form 990) and working with her team to respond to NJ OSHE's Annual Financial Monitoring Questionnaire.

Projects (Infrastructure & Technology):

- Installation of technology, including CCTV cameras in the MLK, Jr. Library and Learning Center, has been completed.
- Advanced & high-tech projector and surround sound speakers installed in Siegler Hall.
- A new and updated marquee has been installed on MLK Blvd and Market Street intersection.

Community Relations:

- May 9, 2025 - Inaugural Wolverines Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, Cleo Hill, Sr. Physical Education Building. We are encouraging everyone to buy tickets and show support.

Save the dates – Upcoming Events.

- April 24th - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Martin Luther King, Jr. Library and Learning Center. Time: 10:00 am.
- May 9, 2025 - Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, Cleo Hill, Sr. Physical Education Building.
- May 27, 2025 - Commencement at the Prudential Center.
- Also, the end of year graduation events are posted on our website and daily email blast for your attention and participation.

Madam Chair, this ends my report. Thank you.