



Board of Trustees

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

February 25, 2025 | 4:30 PM

Smith Hall – Main Campus

In Attendance: M. Bolden, Chair; A. Lewis, Vice Chair; I. Cruz; J. Grimes; C. Martinez; B. Robinson; J. Wright
A. Boakye, President; D. Mejia, Board Counsel; S. Story, Recorder

Excused: J. Zarra; L. Rev. Dr. Guyton

Call to Order/Roll Call:

Chair M. Bolden, called the meeting to order at 4:43 pm. A quorum was achieved with 7 trustees in attendance.

Open Public Meetings Act Announcement:

Trustee J. Grimes read the Open Public Meetings Act into the record. It reads as follows:

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey, adequate notice of this regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Essex County College was provided in the following manner: Advance written notice of this 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 J. Grimes moved that the minutes from the January 28, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Trustee Robinson. ***The minutes were approved unanimously.***

Communications:

Trustee J. Grimes announced that there were no communications.

Public Comments on Agenda Items:

Lev Zilbermintz submitted his report electronically and read it into the record. It reads as follows:

Greetings,

My name is Lev D. Zilbermintz, Class of 1993. Here are my comments on Agenda Items.

3-1.5/Feb.-2025: Dining Hall Renovations are long overdue. Thank you for finally doing that. I would like to bring your attention to the fact that we need more plug-in sockets in walls and floors so students could charge their cell phones. Also, the old electric mover should be renovated. Trays should be brought back. This would make it easier for customers to carry food around. Mini milk cartons should be available in the freezers, so that customers do not have to pour from the big gallon in the center of the room.

Question is, will the Dining Hall get new tables or keep the current ones? From what I understand, the orange tables in the Dining Hall date to at least 1976. Check the 1976 -1977 ECCOLOG Yearbook. But since this building opened in 1976, the tables are from 31 Clinton Street. They could be very well from 1968, when Essex County College first opened. The newer white-colored tables are from the 1990s or 2000s.

4-1/Feb-2025: This school has not had a Director of Marketing and Public Relations since Yla Eason left years ago. Thus, the appointment of one is long overdue. Most schools I know have a Marketing and Public Relations department. Here, because of budget cuts in the past, an identical department was eliminated. We recall the years 2016 – 2017.

Having said that, we would like to congratulate those newly hired and wish them the best in their careers at ECC.

Those given emeritus status, congratulations! Wishing you the best.

Those retiring and resigning, we wish you the best in your future endeavors. Thank you for what you did for ECC and its community.

IX. Site Facilities and Equipment Committee Report: Trustee Guyton, I see that construction on the newly renovated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library is completed. Question is, when will it be open?

Madam Chair, this concludes my Public Comments on Agenda Items.

Finance Committee Report:

Trustee Dr. A. Lewis stated that the Finance Committee met last week.

Counsel D. Mejia asked for the agenda to be amended on the record to read 3.1-1 through 3-1.4.

Trustee B. Robinson moved the Finance actions for approval. Trustee C. Martinez seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Counsel D. Mejia asked for the agenda to be amended on the record **to remove 3.1-5 through 3-1.6.**

3-1.5/Feb-2025	Resolution Authorizing the Contract for Dining Hall Renovations Pal-Pro Builders LLC, Totowa, NJ Chapter 12 Funded – Capital Expense	Amount not to exceed \$1,050,000.00
3-1.6/Feb-2025	Resolution Authorizing the Contract for the Center for Technology Renovation Pal-Pro Builders LLC, Totowa, NJ Chapter 12 Funded – Capital Expense	Amount not to exceed \$3,000,000.00

Trustee Dr. A. Lewis moved the Finance actions for approval. Trustee J. Wright seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Dr. A. Lewis stated that the Finance Committee met last week and recommended the approval of the following items:

3-1.1/Feb-2025	Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Two-Year Blanket Order for Facility Improvement Services <u>Vendor Name</u> AJA Hardwood Floors Sharda Paper Atlantic Uniforms Quadiant Inc Chapter 12 Funded – Capital Expense	Amount not to exceed \$350,000.00 Per year
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3-1.2/Feb-2025	Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Pre-Apprenticeship and Registered Apprenticeship Training Programs <u>Vendor Name</u> Urban League of Essex County, Newark, NJ Knowledgequest Education Solutions, Tampa, Florida NJDOLE Pace Grant/Training Funded	Amount not to exceed \$500,000.00
3-1.3/Feb-2025	Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Two-Year Blanket for Food Services <u>Vendor Name</u> ShopRite La Cocina Sunrise ShopRite Hunger Free Campus Grant Program Funded	Amount not to exceed \$150,000.00 Per year
3-1.4/Feb-2025	Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Class of 2025 Commencement Devils Arena Entertainment LLC., Newark, New Jersey College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$160,000.00

Trustee I. Cruz moved the Finance actions for approval. Trustee J. Wright seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Personnel Committee Report

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

A. Appointment

4-1/Feb-2025	Jessica Sanoh Associate Director of Marketing and Public Relations Institutional Advancement and Marketing Effective: March 3, 2025 Salary \$85,000.00
4-2/Feb-2025	Joana Jean Advisor – Academics & Community Resources Center for Adult Transition Effective: March 3, 2025 Salary \$42,000.00
4-3/Feb-2025	Joseph Corallo Probationary Police Officer Public Safety Effective: March 3, 2025 Salary \$42,000.00
4-4/Feb-2025	Alex Pupo Security Officer Public Safety Effective: March 3, 2025 Salary \$32,500.00

4-5/Feb-2025 Ibrahim Dapore
Security Officer
Public Safety
Effective: March 3, 2025
Salary \$32,500.00

4-6/Feb-2025 Malik Harris
Security Officer
Public Safety
Effective: March 3, 2025
Salary \$32,500.00

B. Emeritus Status

4-7/Feb-2025 Dr. Alvin Williams
Executive Dean of Faculty and Academics
Effective: January 1, 2025

C. Retirement

4-8/Feb-2025 Sanja Dizdarevic
Assistant Director
Registrar's Office
Effective: July 1, 2025

4-9/Feb-2025 Orialys Mendez
Security Officer
Public Safety
Effective: July 1, 2025

D. Resignation

4-10/Feb-2025 Support Staff
LeeAndrea Tello
Print Shop Operator
Information Technology
Effective: February 6, 2025

Trustee I. Cruz moved the Personnel actions for approval. Trustee Dr. A. Lewis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Educational Programs Committee Report

Trustee Dr. A. Lewis stated that the Educational Programs Committee did not meet last week and there were no actions.

Site Facilities and Equipment Committee Report

Trustee C. Martinez stated that the Site, Facilities, and Equipment Committee did not meet last week and there were no actions.

Policy and Governance Committee Report

Trustee I. Cruz 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 Community Relations Committee met last week and there were no actions. They discussed the Hall of Fame and confirmed May 9, 2025, as the date for the inaugural induction ceremony.

Alumni Association Report

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

Student Government Association Report

The Student Government Association Report, 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 was 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.

New Business

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

Public Comments

Four people made public comments.

- Lev Zilbermintz submitted his report as a hard copy and read it into the record. It reads as follows:

My name is Lev D. Zilbermints, '93. Here are my Public Comments.

To begin with, I am reading that some colleges in Pennsylvania have closed campuses because of funding cuts. Where from? We all know that the Trump Administration wants to cut the federal Department of Education. So, this is a trickle down effect. Question for us is, how will this affect colleges and universities across the country? And that includes us!!!

I fought against the elimination of the state Board and Department of Higher Education, back in 1994. We had 25,000 people, faculty, students, labor unions, come out to protest in Trenton, back in June 1994. Despite our efforts, the BOE and DHE were cut. It was a Republican governor, Christine Todd Whitman, that did it. Now we are seeing something very similar on the national level. A Republican president wants to cut the federal DHE. So, Essex County College community, what can we do about it? Because this is going to affect us!!!

Another point that needs to be made is the organization of a town hall to discuss the issues I just mentioned. My sister emailed me information saying that Senator Andy Kim was organizing a town hall for this purpose. I would also propose that the SGA, clubs, alumni, staff, faculty, join forces to fight back. We could organize a demonstration, a bus to Washington D.C., to speak with our elected representatives. Maybe have an Internet conversation via Zoom with our elected representatives, Senator Andy Kim and Congresswoman LaMonica Mciver. What we want to know is, how can we prevent Trump's plans from badly affecting education in New Jersey and the country?

People's Organization for Progress is organizing a people's convention on April 19, 2025. It will commemorate the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as well as address various issues. Education will be one of them. If you want to reach out, the number is 973-801-0001.

What else? The pavement in front of Dasher Center has some broken stones. How about awarding a contract to a company for repairs? Just bring some cement and pour it on the broken stones. Or you can take out the broken stones and install new ones.

- Dr. Khalfani made public comments. He congratulated Dr. Williams. He said it was a rare honor to be recognized. He set an example for others who will come behind him. He also announced that there will be a racial colloquial series in March. People will join in from other countries around the world and he invited the Board.
- Joana Jean made public comments. She was a new employee and she thanked the Board.
- Dr. Alvin Williams made public comments. He said he was truly honored to be there and be honored. He thanked them for the recognition. He also thanked Dr. Yee and Dr. Vieira for the recommendation and said that he was touched and honored.

Notice of Executive Session

Trustee J. Grimes read the Notice of Executive Session. She read as follows:

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Essex County College shall hold, following this meeting and prior to its next scheduled meeting on March 25, 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 J. Wright motioned for the Notice of Executive Session to be approved. Trustee I. Cruz seconded the motion. The Trustees approved it unanimously.

Adjournment

Chair M. Bolden motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 pm by a vote of acclamation.



**Report to Board of Trustees
February 25, 2025 @ 4:30 pm**

1. Greetings to BOT members, President Boakye, ECC staff and 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 his administration for their continued support.
4. The Alumni Association held a book sale on the main campus on February 5, 2025.
5. The Alumni Association held an Executive meeting on February 13, 2025.
6. The Alumni Association will hold a bake sale on the main campus on February 25 & 26, 2025.
7. Thank you.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
February 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 February BOT report for SGA this evening.

MEETING WITH PUBLIC SAFETY

On the 5th of February, the executive board, along with Dean Kirkland, Dean Bello, and President Boakye, met with the Public Safety Department to discuss the ongoing ICE raids. They provided a detailed overview of the steps to take when encountering ICE, both on and off campus. Additionally, they shared a judge-signed warrant for distribution to students and offered other resources, including emergency phone numbers and helpful websites

MEETING WITH GENERAL MEMBERS

The meeting was held on the 5th of February 2025. In this meeting we discussed with the general members about the topic discussed with public safety, and things they could do to help with the issue. We also made the members aware of the upcoming elections in April, we briefed them about the process and will do more in future meetings.

STUDENT FORUM

Our monthly student forum was conducted on February 3rd, 2025, at 2:00pm in the Cafeteria Pit. We briefed the students about the immigration issue currently going on. We made them aware of their rights and provided them with other resources to combat ICE if seen. After the forum, we distributed some cards around campus for other students to use for those who missed the forum.

INITIATIVES FOR MARCH AND ONWARD

- Club Meetings
- Student Forums
- ICC meetings
- Spring Fling

We are excited to implement our initiatives and appreciate any support the board can provide.

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, ECCFA Representative to ECC Board of Trustees/ Class of 2003
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2025
Re: February 2025 ECCFA Report to ECCBOT

General Comments

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

It is a great privilege to address you once again on behalf of the faculty and the Essex County College Faculty (ECCFA). As we enter the second month of the year, I am honored to present the ECCFAA February 2025 Report to the Board of Trustees.

Concerns

First, I would like to respectfully inquire with the Board of Trustees if there are any concerns regarding the ECCFA report I have been presenting over the past two years. As the elected representative of the faculty to the ECC Board of Trustees, I greatly value the opportunity to address any concerns and would appreciate the chance to discuss them at your convenience.

Initially, my report was lengthy and needed to be shortened. We were given the opportunity to provide a summarized version, which was then included as an appendix to the minutes. However, I later received emails requesting that I submit my report to the Board Liaison 48 hours before the public Board meeting, followed by persistent follow-up calls urging me to submit the report before the open meeting. After consulting with our advisors, we decided not to submit the report prior to the ECCBOT open meeting in order to preserve our right to free speech.

More recently, I was informed by a colleague that, in response to this decision not to sharing our report before the ECCBOT open meeting, the administration has chosen to remove the ECCFA report as an attachment to the minutes of the public portion of the Board of Trustees meeting. I believe it is very unfortunate that we have arrived at this point in such a manner. I am concerned about the potential implications of this decision, especially regarding its impact on free speech on campus.

When faculty voice their concerns, it is from a place of deep affection for the college and a strong desire for its continued success. Their feedback should not be seen as personal attacks or criticism, but rather as a sincere effort to support the college's growth and prosperity.

ECCFA Update

- ECCFA would like to congratulate Dr. Alvin Williams on being promoted to Professor Emeritus. He has been one of the best and finest faculty members we have had on this campus.
- ECFFA would like to thank the office of the president for addressing the issues with light in the faculty parking lot
- Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre, along with other faculty members and the ECCFA Vice President, attended the Essex County College Board of School Estimate Meeting on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 11:00 AM in Smith Hall on the Main Campus. We extend our gratitude to the Essex County Executive for his continued support.
- The ECCFA Negotiation Committee continues to meet to discuss strategies for responding to the administration.
- On February 11, 2025, Dr. Lee and Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre met with the Director of the Human Resources Department, Ms. Shaunda Williams, to review how sick days are calculated for faculty members. It was a very productive discussion. We are so proud to have such a gem in our team where we can have two-way conversations.
- On February 11, 2025, ECCFA held a Member Benefits Meeting to inform members about the full range of benefits available to them through NJEA.
- On February 21 and 22, 2025, approximately 10 members of our association attended the NJEA Leadership Winter Conference to enhance their skills and knowledge, ensuring they continue to be strong contributors and effective leaders within our association.
- Dr. Victor Stolberg, Vice President of ECCFA, represented the association at various county-level meetings.

Africana Institute

Dr. Akil Khalfani and the Africana Institute continue to be a source of pride for this college, thanks to their impactful activities and his speaking engagements around the world. I would like to highlight a few of his notable contributions, and we are very proud of his hard work as a faculty member and an active member of our association:

1. The Africana Institute held the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. event on Tuesday, January 28th, 2025, with keynote speaker Bill Davis Jr., author of *Baba and the Crew: A True Story of a Single Black Father's Journey to Redemption*. The event featured exceptional poetry from Craig Bradley and Mia, along with special participation from the Essex County College Choir.

2. The Africana Institute held a Flag Raising Ceremony for Black History Month on February 6th, 2025.
3. Dr. Akil Khalfani spoke at an event entitled "Celebrating Black History in Our Communities" on February 20th, 2025, in a live Instagram event.
4. The Africana Institute, in collaboration with the Social Science Division, is holding a Sociology Colloquium entitled Critical Racial & Cultural Studies, taking place from February 5 to April 16, 2025.

Business Division

The Business Division recently underwent its ten-year site visit for ACBSP business reaccreditation.

On behalf of ECCFA, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the departments involved for their collaboration and support throughout this process, including President Augustine A. Boakye, Dr. John Rundfeldt, Dr. Hamin Shabbaz, and Dr. Leigh Bello. This achievement is the result of months of diligent preparation, with faculty members working tirelessly under the leadership of the division chair, Professor Germaine Albuquerque.

Three tenure-track faculty members—John D. Hammond, Dr. John Olotewo, and Professor Patrick St. Fort—played a key role in preparing this report, often working late into the weekends. Additionally, Professor Racquel Pernia and Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre, took an active part in the preparation. We are confident that we will pass with flying colors."

Faculty Development Committee (FDC)

On Thursday, January 30th, the Faculty Development Committee (FDC) hosted a Call-Back Information Session with previously funded applicants during College Hour in the 4th Floor Multi-Purpose Room. The session included a light lunch and an informative discussion on events and training that faculty members have attended over the past academic year, as well as details on how you can apply for funding through the FDC.

Social Science Division

Dr. Bridget Turner

- Dr. Bridget Turner, Education Coordinator, Academic Advisor, and Assistant Professor of Education, invites the college community to attend the 1st Annual Empower and Connect Autism Awareness for Families and Educators Conference on Saturday, April 5, 2025, at the West Essex Campus.

Professor Mary Jenkins

- After coordinating the site visit for the Science Program, Professor Mary Jenkins received a letter from the Board of the Council for Standards in Human Service Education (CSHSE), which voted to accredit the Human and Social Services Program at Essex County Community College with no conditions. The program's five-year accreditation cycle will run from February 2025 to February 2030.

Student Development and Counseling

Professor Victor B. Stolberg

Professor Victor B. Stolberg's outstanding commitment and involvement have placed him among our most active faculty and counselors. Each month, he goes beyond his core responsibilities, making more than 10 significant contributions. We take great pride in his achievements. Below are some highlights of his exceptional work:

- a. Spoke at Grover Cleveland Middle School Visit to WEC (1/28) to ca. 200 students.
- b. Organized Essex County College Faculty Association "Meet & Greet" (1/23).
- c. Community outreach events including the Essex County Education Association (ECEA) Legislative Action Team (1/27), NJEA Membership Round-table (1/30), and the ECEA Representative Council (1/22), as well as the NJEA's Membership Chair Training (1/14).
- d. Several meetings this month including those for the Faculty Contract Negotiation Team, ECC Faculty Association (ECCFA) (1/23), ECCFA Executive Board (1/20), Student Code of Conduct (1/27), DEI Committee, Board of Trustees (1/28), FDC (1/30), Dr. Shabazz's meeting with Faculty Leaders (1/21), and Dr. Boakye's meeting with College Leaders on Federal Policy Changes (1/27).
- e. Recruited prospective Adjunct Instructors for FYE, BUS, MTH, PSY, & NRS courses.
- f. SafeColleges trainings: "Active Assailant Preparedness," "Conflicts of Interest" and "Human Trafficking Awareness" (1/10-16).
- g. Medscape trainings, including "Addiction," "Alzheimer's Disease," "Dementia," "Hypersomnia," "Infectious Diseases," "Obesity," "Opioids," "PTSD," and "Schizophrenia," and "Women's Health" (1/3-30).
- h. National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments Webinar: "Engaging Families to Support Student Achievement" (1/15).
- i. United States Secret Service Webinar: "Enhancing School Safety Using Behavioral Threat Assessment" (1/15).
- j. Assisted 6 [5: Main; 1: WEC] students about services for students with a disability.

Vision Care Program

Professor Renita D. Mangru

Professor Renita D. Mangru, the Vision Care Program Coordinator and a rising star among the faculty, is proud to present the latest accomplishment of her program:

1. Graduation Rate Cohort (2022-2024): 85%.
2. National Passing Exam Rate: 100%.
3. NJ Board of Ophthalmic Dispensing Passing Exam Rate: 80%.
4. Employment Rate: 92%.
5. Vision Expo East (February 19-22): Student Erica Mariana was selected to represent Essex County College Vision Care Technology Program in the Optical College Bowl, where 11-13 schools competed nationally.
6. Attended Transition Academy Conference 2025: Focused on innovations in lenses and technology with Meta Eyeglasses and ocular eye health.
7. Finalizing Vision Council Recipients: Scholarships dedicated to the VCT Program, worth \$6,000.
8. 3rd Place in the National Optical Bowl hosted by United Opticians Associations and Essilor, with 13 participating schools. We are incredibly proud of Erica Mariana and her achievements!
9. Hosted multiple educational lectures and participated in various events at the conference.
10. Reached out to vendors for support and made business arrangements for meet-and-greet opportunities within the VCT Program.

Concluding Remark

Again, our faculty members have a deep love and dedication to Essex County College, and their comments and concerns should not be construed as attacks or criticism. Instead, they reflect a sincere desire to see the college thrive and succeed. They welcome constructive dialog to move the college

End of Report

Memorandum

To: Dr. M. Bolden & the Board of Trustees

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

Date: February 25, 2025

Re: President's Monthly Report

General:

We started Spring II on February 10th. Our combined Spring I & II enrollment stands at 6,605 with 64,810 credit hours showing a growth of 8.2% and 6.8% respectively over the prior year. Implementation of our *Access to Success 2025-2029 Strategic Plan* is in full force. Let us make the retention of these students our number one priority.

The Essex County Board of School Estimate (BOSE) approved our FY26 budget on February 11, 2025, in Smith Hall. I thank our College family, Board of Trustees, Commissioners and County Executive for their continued support of ECC.

Academics / Enrollment / Student Support:

- The Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) conducted its re-accreditation site visit of Essex County College's Business Programs last week. I thank the Business Division, IEPA, students, alumni and our Advisory Council members for their support.
- I thank the Academics Department, Enrollment Services and our leadership team for their work on our 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 Academic Calendars. These are now available on our website.

The President's January/February engagements have included:

- January 29th: Meeting with New Jersey Council of County Colleges.
- January 29th: Held a successful meeting with Mr. Evans Weiss, CEO & President of Newark Alliance, to discuss matters important to our partnership.
- February 4th: Held a successful meeting with Ms. Robyn Ince, Director of Newark City of Learning Collaborative (NCLC) to discuss matters important to our partnership.
- February 6th: Participated in the annual Black History Month Flag Raising ceremony organized by Dr. Khalfani through the Africana Institute.
- February 7th: Participated in the New Jersey President's Council meeting.
- February 10th: Participated in the New Jersey Community College Student and Alumni Members meeting.
- February 12th: Mr. James Howard, Founder of the Black Inventors Hall of Fame, met with Dr. Khalfani and I at the Main Campus to explore partnership opportunities.
- February 21st: Participated in the President's Council Discussions at Middlesex College in Edison, NJ.

Student Affairs

- The Essex County College App continues to attract users with more than 4,800 students connected. I thank our Student Affairs team for bringing the College community together through technology. I encourage our staff to download and use the App.

Finances

- February 11th: Secured Essex County College Board of School Estimate approval of our FY26 budget.

Projects:

- We are in the final phases of the renovation project for the library and learning center. The General Contractor has applied for the Certificate of Occupancy (CO) with the Building Department of Newark. Our goal is to open the space for student use in early March.
- We are in the process of awarding a contract for renovation of the Center for Technology (CFT) project to Pal-Pro Builders, the lowest responsible bid received.
- The contract to replace the damaged digital marquee on West Market Street and MLK Boulevard has been awarded to AVI-SPL
- Arcari+ Iovino Architects will resubmit proposals to redesign the first floor Red Area in the coming weeks. The renovation project will include a Flex Meeting Room, expanded Collaboration Space and enhanced Art Studio and Lit Lab.
- AVI-SPL is working on technology upgrades to Siegler Hall, Mary Burch Theater, Smith Hall, West Essex Campus Multipurpose Room and Lecture Halls.

Community Relations:

- The West Essex Campus hosted 200 8th graders from Grover Cleveland Elementary School on January 28th. I thank the West Essex team for their dedicated support of the ECC mission.
- Work continues on our Athletic Hall of Fame. I thank Dr. Kirkland and members of the Community Relations Committee for their efforts in moving this process forward.

Save the dates - Upcoming Events.

- May 09, 2025 - Hall of Fame
- May 27, 2025 - Commencement at the Prudential Center.

Madam Chair, this ends my report. Thank you.