

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

March 25, 2025 | 4:30 PM
Smith Hall – Main Campus

In Attendance

- M. Bolden, Chair
- I. Cruz
- J. Grimes
- Rev. Dr. L. Guyton
- C. Martinez
- B. Robinson
- J. Wright
- M. Townes, Board Counsel
- Dr. H. Shabazz, Vice President of Academic Affairs/CAO
- S. Story, Recorder

Excused

- A. Lewis, Vice Chair
- J. Zarra

Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair M. Bolden, called the meeting to order at 4:33 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 February 25, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cruz. ***The minutes were approved unanimously.***

Communications

Trustee J. Grimes announced that there were no communications.

Public Comments on Agenda Items:

Two people made public comments on agenda items:

- Dr. Jeff Lee asked about Resolutions 4-6 and 4-7 regarding the Radiography Professors. He stated that once they retire, there will be no radiography professors left for the program.
- Dr. Shabazz responded that the process to replace the two retiring Radiography Professors is underway.

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

Greetings, everyone,

Here are my Public Comments on Agenda Items.

Spring is here. Now we can relax and let go of winter. That's good news!

Welcome all who were appointed to their positions. We wish you the best of luck in your endeavors at ECC.

Those retiring & resigning, we thank you for your long and dedicated service to the school. We wish you the best of luck, long life, and happiness.

So who is going to take over the Child Development Center? Being the head of that department is a challenging role.

Any idea when we are going to have the grand opening of the library? I am looking forward to it.

I see the Radiography Professors retiring. Question is, will we have replacements for them?

Finance Committee Report:

Trustee Rev. Dr. L. Guyton stated that the Finance Committee met last week. He recommended board approval for the following:

3-1.1/Mar-2025	Resolution Authorizing the Award for Legal Services Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri & Jacobs, LLC, Oakland, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$50,000.00
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Trustee Rev. Dr. L. Guyton moved Finance action 3-1.1 for approval. Trustee I. Cruz seconded the motion. There were 2 abstentions from Trustees B. Robinson and J. Wright and 5 affirmations. The motion carried.

3-1.2/Mar-2025	Resolution Authorizing the Contract Renewal to support remote learning Zoom Video Communications, Inc., San Jose, CA College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$22,000.00
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3-1.3/Mar-2025	Resolution Authorizing a One-Year Contract for Nursing Software Trajecsys, Cumberland, RI College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$37,550.00
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3-1.4/Mar-2025	Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Nursing Equipment Laerdal Medical Corporation, Wappingers Falls, NY Carl D. Perkins Grant Funded	Amount not to exceed \$70,000.00
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Trustee Rev. Dr. L. Guyton moved Finance actions 3-1.2; 3-1.3 & 3-1.4 for approval. Trustee J. Grimes seconded the motion. There were 2 abstentions from Trustees B. Robinson and J. Wright and 5 affirmations. The motion carried.

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/Mar-2025	Professional I George Ordonez Academic Computing Support Specialist Student System Support Center Effective: March 31, 2025 Salary \$46,000.00
4-2/Mar-2025	Professional I Hajara Sulley Administrative Assistant Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library Effective: April 7, 2025 Salary \$38,000.00
4-3/Mar-2025	Security Jalen Minor Dispatcher Public Safety Effective: March 31, 2025 Salary \$33,150.00
4-4/Mar-2025	Security Jimmy Smith Security Officer Public Safety Effective: March 31, 2025 Salary \$32,500.00

B. Retirement

4-5/Mar-2025	Faculty Theophilus Acquaye Assistant Professor Math, Engineering, Technology and Computer Science Effective: April 30, 2025
4-6/Mar-2025	Faculty Mary Ellen Carpenter Assistant Professor Radiography Effective: September 1, 2025
4-7/Mar-2025	Faculty Darlyn Warner Instructor Radiography Effective: September 1, 2025

C. Resignation

4-8/Mar-2025 Administrator
Virginia Flanigan
Director
Child Development Center
Effective: March 28, 2025

Trustee I. Cruz moved the Personnel actions for approval. Trustee J. Grimes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Educational Programs Committee Report

Trustee B. Robinson stated that the Educational Programs Committee met last week and recommended the approval of the following items:

- 7-1.1/Mar-2025 Agreement between Essex County College and New Jersey Health Care Employers District 1199J to provide services for the Youth Transition to Work Grant
- 7-1.2/Mar-2025 Acceptance of Funds: Consolidated Adult Basic Skills and Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education Grant for FY 26 for \$2,366,615

Trustee B. Robinson moved the Educational Programs actions for approval. Trustee J. Grimes 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 and there were no actions.

Policy and Governance Committee Report

Trustee I. Cruz stated that the Policy and Governance Committee met last week and there were no actions.

Board Counsel, M. Townes read a Goldenrod resolution into the record and it reads as follows:

ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE

Board of Trustees

Request for Board Action

Subject:	Board Action Plan
Contact:	Board of Trustees: Policy and Governance Committee
Meeting Date:	March 25, 2025
Agenda Item No.:	7-2.1/Mar-2025

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Essex County College recently had its annual retreat on March 8, 2025, and discussed the Board's self-evaluation; and

WHEREAS, Board Policy 1-5 (3) requires the Board of Trustees of Essex County College to discuss its self-evaluation at the annual retreat and to vote on a plan at the next regularly scheduled meeting following the annual retreat; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Board Policy 1-5 (3), the Board has formulated the attached board action plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: by the Board of Trustees of Essex County College as

follows:

1. The Board of Trustees of Essex County College hereby approves the attached board action plan in accordance with Board Policy 1-5 (3).

Chair M. Bolden moved the Goldenrod action for approval. Trustee I. Cruz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Community Relations Committee Report

Trustee J. Wright stated that the Community Relations Committee met last week and there were no actions. They discussed the date for the Athletics Hall of Fame, which is scheduled for May 9, 2025.

Trustee J. Wright also mentioned the Alumni Volleyball Game, which took place recently.

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, 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. Hamin Shabazz, Vice President of Academic Affairs/CAO. It is attached as Appendix D.

New Business

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

Public Comments

Five people made public comments.

- Jessica Sanoh thanked the Board of Trustees for approving her appointment as the new Associate Director of Marketing and Public Relations. She thanked them for the incredible opportunity and she looks forward to amplifying the message of this phenomenal institution through the marketing and PR efforts.
- Lev Zilbermintz submitted a hard copy of his report and it reads as follows:
Greetings,

I would like to comment on a number of things.

First, the federal Education Department has been eliminated by President Trump. The question is, how will it affect college education? Given that the Education Department was established by President Jimmy Carter in 1980, maybe the effects will not be too bad. Only time will tell.

This reminds me of 1996, when I and my friends at ECC, Bloomfield College and other schools gathered signatures to preserve the six-month grace period. At the time the Republican Congress wanted to eliminate the six - month grace period for those taking out student loans. The 1995-1996 Student Government Association, myself, the Bloomfield College Day Student Government and many other

colleges across the nation joined forces. We sent lots of signatures to Congress, demanding that the six-month grace period be preserved.

Thanks to our hard work and allies in Congress, the 6-month grace period was preserved. Now there has to be a co-signee of the student loan. Some of you were not at Essex County College when this happened. Just so you know what I and the students of my generation did.

Perhaps the 2024-2025 ECC SGA should start pressuring Congress. There is a congressional election coming up next year. This year there is an election for governor of NJ.

Mahmoud Khalil is a green card holder. His political views leave much to be desired, but that is not the issue here. The point is that Khalil was detained for participating in a demonstration that supported a terrorist group, Hamas. Now the government wants to deport him. My problem is the legality of this whole thing. If you violated your student visa, that is one thing. But a green card holder has the right to see his case tried before a judge in a court of law. Khalil did not have that option.

So, what about our students? If green card holders can be arbitrarily detained, who is next? American citizens? Seems to me that our school and schools across the country must be ready for anything. Should we have a seminar about how to deal with ICE in April?

Sincerely yours,

Lev D. Zilbermints, '93

President of BCDSG, 1995-96

- Dr. Chestnut made public comments. He talked about the salary for some of the professors after Covid-19. He said that his professor friends suffer and come to his office to get food. He stated that he buys over \$500 worth of groceries for students. He said that he feeds his students every day. He said it is time to change the salary for the professors. He said that the professors cannot afford to live in Newark. He stated that he is fortunate that he made a lot of money before coming to Essex. He stated that he makes a lot of money and lives in a nice community in Red Bank. He stated that the new faculty at the college earns \$59,000 and those who have been here for thirty or more years earn \$70,000. He said he thinks it is time to change the salaries, and they should do it for the good of the community, the faculty, and the College.
- Dr. Sujatha Ramakrishnan made public comments. She thanked retiring Professor Dr. Jeffrey Lee for his more than thirty years of leadership, mentorship, and support to faculty and students. She asked the Board of Trustees and the College administration to consider asking Dr. Lee to serve as Grand Marshall for this year's commencement.
- Dr. Khalfani recognized his former student, Jenika Scott, who recently received full scholarship offers to attend Rutgers University or Washington University for a doctoral program. He congratulated Ms. Scott on her achievements and added that she will be an Africana Institute Scholar-in-Residence, following the footsteps of Dr. Kesha Moore and Dr. Janice Johnson Dias, among others.
- Dr. Stohlberg, stated that he hopes the Trustees received the invitation to attend the Annual Faculty Association Appreciation Dinner hosted by the Faculty Association. He said he hopes to see representation from the board.

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 April 22, 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 B. Robinson motioned for the Notice of Executive Session to be approved. Trustee C. Martinez seconded the motion. The Trustees approved it unanimously.

Adjournment

Chair M. Bolden motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 pm by a vote of acclamation.



**Report to Board of Trustees
March 25, 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 for honoring the volleyball game between the Alumni Association and the Volleyball Club, and for joining our general assembly meetings on March 15th and 20th, respectively.
4. The Alumni Association competed with the ECC Volleyball Club in a volleyball game on the main campus on March 15, 2025.
5. The Alumni Association held a general body meeting on March 20, 2025.
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

March 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 March BOT report for SGA this evening.

SPRING FLING

The Spring Fling, held on March 7th in the gymnasium, was an exciting and vibrant event that brought together students from various clubs and organizations. The event featured a variety of engaging displays and activities, allowing students to showcase their talents and interests.

Throughout the day, students participated in a range of activities, including chess, basketball, and more. The gymnasium was filled with energy as students enjoyed friendly competition and collaboration.

In addition to the activities, the event featured delicious food, upbeat music, and lively dancing, creating a fun and festive atmosphere. It was a great opportunity for students to connect, relax, and enjoy the spirit of the season.

Overall, the Spring Fling was a huge success, and we look forward to hosting this event again next year for an even better experience!

FARMERS MARKET

On March 19th, the Food Pantry hosted a successful Farmers Market on the second floor of the school. The event provided students with a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, promoting healthy eating and supporting local agriculture.

Several members of the Student Government Association (SGA) volunteered their time to assist with the event, ensuring everything ran smoothly and efficiently. Their efforts helped streamline the process, making it easier for students to access the fresh produce.

Dean Kirkland and Dean Bello were also present, checking in on the event and offering a helping hand where needed. Their presence added to the positive and supportive atmosphere of the day.

Overall, the Farmers Market was a great success, and we look forward to hosting another one soon!

INITIATIVES FOR April AND ONWARD

- Club Meetings
- Student Forums
- ICC meetings
- Graduation

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 economics and finance, ECCFA
Representative to ECC Board of Trustees/ Class of 2003
Date: Tuesday, March 25, 2025
Re: March 2025 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 speak to you once again on behalf of the faculty and the Essex County College Faculty Association (ECCFA). As we step into the third month of the year, I am pleased to present the ECCFA March 2025 Report to the Board of Trustees.

Concerns and Strong Optimism

Like many citizens in the country, our faculty members are expressing concerns about the direction in which the country is headed. As you may know, a significant portion of our faculty comes from abroad, and they are deeply worried about the well-being of their families and the impact on their students. Despite these challenges, they remain optimistic and are committed to continuing their work with the same passion and dedication, ensuring their service to both the students and the institution remains strong.

Retirement

It is with a heavy heart that we have learned the retirement of three exceptional faculty members.

1. Theophilus Acquaye, Assistant Professor, Math, Engineering, Technology, and Computer Science
2. Mary Ellen Carpenter, Assistant Professor, Radiography
3. Darlyn Warner, Instructor, Radiography

I want to take this opportunity, with the ECCBOT permission, to express my sincere gratitude for the privilege of having worked alongside such exceptional faculty members. Your commitment to the college has been marked by professionalism, dedication, and excellence, and it has been a true honor to be your colleague.

The outstanding performance of our students on external exams each year serves as a testament to the remarkable impact you have had in the classroom. Your expertise, passion, and unwavering dedication have left an indelible mark on both our students and the institution.

On behalf of the entire faculty and the ECCFA, I extend our heartfelt wishes as you embark on this new chapter of your life. You will forever remain a cherished part of our community, and your contributions will not be forgotten.

Negotiation

Faculty members are increasingly concerned that contract negotiations may extend beyond a year, leaving them without a formal agreement despite their significant efforts in revising the previous contract. Negotiation meetings have continued even on weekends to expedite the process. However, amid the broader political climate, the uncertainty surrounding the contract remains the primary concern for faculty members, highlighting the urgency of reaching a resolution.

Regional Meetings

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

National Conference Attendance

Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre and Dr. Victor Stolberg attended the NEA Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from March 13 to 16, 2025. The key message from the conference was the importance of staying unified and strong, as the middle class, the poor, and diverse groups in the country are under severe attack. The conference emphasized that these challenges should not be addressed through conventional methods, as the current administration's tactics are ruthless, and our responses should be proportional to the strength of their attacks.

Members Services

The ECCFA Member Health Fair took place on Thursday, March 20, 2025 providing members with access to free health screenings and wellness resources. The event was led by Renita D. Mangru, LDO, ABO-AC, NCLEC, Program Coordinator of Vision Care Technology, who played a key role in organizing and facilitating the screenings. Attendees had the opportunity to receive valuable health assessments and gain insights into their well-being.

ECC Faculty Senate

After reviewing the bylaws and the ECCFA Constitution, the Essex County College Faculty Senate will hold its first meeting on April 1st, 2025, to discuss potential revisions. During this meeting, members will review the bylaws and propose suggestions before presenting them for consideration at the general meeting.

Faculty Members Activities Update

Africana Institute

The Africana Institute under the Leadership of Dr. Khalfani held many events for the last month and I have highlighted three major ones for the record in this report.

1. Dr. Khalfani received the prestigious International Cultural Cooperation Award at the 15th Anniversary of *All Eyes On Africa*, held at Eko Hotel & Suites in Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria. The event was organized by one of the Oloris of the Ooni of Ife to promote indigenous culture and traditions. It also featured the launch of *All Eyes On Africa* magazine and the presentation of awards to numerous deserving individuals, including our esteemed Dr. Khalfani. The theme of the event, "Celebrating the Past, the Present, and the Future," highlighted the importance of preserving cultural heritage while embracing progress.
2. The "Race and Peace in Africa" panel, organized by the Africa Institute under the leadership of Dr. Khalfani, took place on campus as part of the Social Science Critical Racial and Cultural Studies Sociology Colloquium on March 5th, 2025. The panel featured Dr. Marcel Yameogo as the main speaker, who provided valuable insights into the complex dynamics of race and peace in Africa.
3. The 7th Annual African Spirituality Conference, themed "Divine Feminine Energy in African Spirituality," held in Smith Hall on Saturday, March 22, was an outstanding event. It was well attended by both the community and students, with many participating either in person or via Zoom. The conference garnered a great turnout and sparked meaningful discussions. Events like this elevate the college's stature in the community and should be promoted more through the media channels available to the college to maximize their reach and impact.

Business Division

Professor John D. Hammon

Professor John D. Hammon hosted the March Monthly Financial Literacy event on March 5th, 2024, featuring Dr. Patrick Wang as the speaker. The session covered essential topics, including the basics of investments.

Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre

1. The Association of Latino Professionals for America Essex County College Chapter celebrated Women's History Month by honoring a first-generation college graduate, Ms. Jessica Cavagnaro, who is of Ecuadorian descent. Ms. Cavagnaro is a full-time Spanish and English teacher in the Maplewood School District. The event was supported by Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre, the advisor for ALPFA students, and Dr. Miriam Ochoa, the Coordinator of the LatinX Engagement Center.
2. Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre's research on Latin America and the Caribbean has been selected for presentation at the NASBITE International Conference 2025 in Detroit, Michigan.

Biology

Dr. Sujatha Ramakrishnan, B.Sc., M.S., Ed.D.,

On Friday, February 28, 2025, I attended the Caldwell University Social Justice Symposium. The event featured thought-provoking discussions and workshops aimed at advancing awareness and understanding of social justice issues. It was an enriching experience, offering an opportunity for students, faculty, and community members to engage with important topics related to equality, inclusion, and societal challenge

Professor Lynn Wilson

The Middle States Region Alumni Association Phi Theta Kappa Middle States Regional Convention took place from March 7th to 9th. Professor Lynn Wilson from the Biology Department was one of five advisors to receive the prestigious Distinguished Chapter Advisor Award for 2025.

Humanities

Professor Jhestarri DePasquale

On March 13, 2025, Prof. DePasquale delivered an impactful and well-attended presentation on Women in Advertising. As a professor of the Women's History course, it was a valuable opportunity for her to share her expertise with the college community in celebration of Women's History Month.

Dr. Margaret Stevens

Dr. Margaret Stevens and her Women's History class delivered a thought-provoking and engaging presentation to the ECC community on March 20, 2025, at Siegler Hall, challenging common misconceptions with insight and humor

METCS

Professor Ines Figueiras

Eight ECC students and Professor Figueiras attended a SWE Local Conference in Cherry Hill, NJ on 3/7 - 3/8. The attendees participated in professional development events, workshops and a career fair. Professor Figueiras also presented at the conference. The title of the presentation was "SWE and Community Colleges: A Celebration of Reciprocity." SWE stands for the Society for Women Engineers. ECC has been a SWE Affiliate since 2018. Professor Figueiras is the faculty advisor of the ECC SWE Affiliate.

Professor Quenum Kodjovi

Also, on 3/5 - 3/8, 13 ECC students and Professor Quenum attended the NSBE National Conference in Chicago, IL. Attendees also participated in professional development events, workshops, an industry mixer event and a career fair. NSBE stands for the National Society for Black Engineers. The NSBE Chapter was established at ECC in 2024. Professors Figueiras and Quenum are the co-advisors for the NSBE Chapter.

Professor Quenum Kodjovi and Professor Ines Figueiras

On 3/18, the ECC NSBE Chapter and the SWE Affiliate met to share conference experiences with each other, as well as other students interested in participating in these clubs. 94% of the students that attended these conferences participated in the career fair, and 24% received internship offers. Dr. Boakye, as well as other members of the College's administration attended the meeting as well and gave the students encouraging messages.

Dr. Teryn Cha

Artificial Intelligence Student Club Advising: Dr. Teryn Cha advises the Artificial Intelligence Student Club in Spring 2025. The club has garnered significant interest, with 51 students enrolled. Biweekly in-person meetings are held to explore cutting-edge AI technologies and develop user-friendly AI systems. The club successfully showcased generative image AI at the ECC gymnasium club expo on March 7, 2025.

National Conference on Artificial Intelligence: Dr. Cha was invited to attend and will participate in the National Conference on Artificial Intelligence at Houston Community College from April 9–11, 2025. She received a \$1,000 stipend to support this professional development opportunity.

Social Science

Professor Mary Jenkins

On Thursday, March 20, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Professor Mary Jenkins hosted a celebratory event in honor of the Human and Social Services Accreditation. Held in the Division of Social Sciences, this event was a wonderful showcase of the achievements of the Social Science program. It was a significant milestone for the department, and the celebration was well-attended by faculty, staff, and students. This recognition not only highlights the hard work and dedication of the faculty and students but also elevates the stature of the program within the college and the broader community.

Dr. Clare Kajura, Dr. Bridget Turner, Dr. Christina Pennington

Dr. Kajura attended and co-presented at the West Caldwell University Annual Social Justice Symposium on Friday, February 28, 2025, from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. The presentation, titled "Motivational Interviewing: Conversations for Social Justice," was a collaborative effort with Dr. Turner and Dr. Pennington.

Acknowledgment of the Social Science Team and Women's Month Celebration Team

ECCFA would like to extend its gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of International Women's Month. The event was excellently organized, featuring a diverse range of distinguished speakers who shared valuable insights with the 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. For the record, I am highlighting his 11 most prominent activities from the past month in this March report.

1. Assisted at the NJEA Membership Benefits Fair (2/11).
2. Attended African History Month Flag Raising (2/6).
3. Attended NJEA "Winter Leadership Conference North" (2/21-22).
4. Attended Caldwell University Social Justice Symposium (2/28).
5. Community outreach events including the Essex County Education Association (ECEA) XYZs of Retirement (2/12), the ECEA Coordinated Bargaining Council (2/19), ECEA Professional Development Committee (2/26), and the Friends of the Newark Public Library Trustees Meeting (2/5).
6. Medscape trainings, including "ADHD," "Alzheimer's Disease," "Myeloma," "PTSD," and "Schizophrenia," "Women's Health," and "Mental Health" (2/5-21).

7. Chronicle of Higher Education Webinar “Donald Trump & Higher Ed: What’s Next?” (2/20).
8. Alison “Diploma in Cultural Anthropology.”
9. Udemy “Mental Health for Coping with Stress and Anxiety” (2/20).
10. Jed Foundation Webinar on “Creating an Inclusive Community of Care for Our Students” (2/5)
11. Express Newark/ RU-NWK “Exhibit Opening: Ritual” (2/25).

Memorandum

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

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

Date: March 25, 2025

Re: President's Monthly Report

General:

This month, we pause to celebrate the contributions of women in our global village.

The theme of the 2025 Women's History Month is "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations". As educators, we must recommit ourselves to the cause of freedom and the equalizing effect of education in our quest for upward mobility of our students. Rolling back the gains we have made as a society should never be an option. We must move forward together by educating and inspiring generations.

Academics/Enrollment Services:

- My gratitude to Enrollment Services, Academics and Student Affairs for preparing our students to compete for the 2025 Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarships. This year, we have three semi-finalists in the pool.
- I thank Academic Affairs, the Social Sciences Division, and IEPA for their work on the American Bar Association (ABA) site visit on March 17-18. We look forward to the re-accreditation of our Paralegal Studies program.
- Eight ECC students participated in the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Conference in Cherry Hill, NJ this month.
- Thirteen ECC students attended the 2025 National Society for Black Engineers (NSBE) National Conference in Chicago, IL from March 6th - March 8th.
- Academic Affairs has confirmed the following course offerings for Summer I & II:

Main Campus:

- 268 courses for Summer I and 138 courses for Summer II

West Essex Campus:

- 21 courses for Summer I and 19 courses for Summer II

- More than 2,000 students representing 7 High School districts are participating in our dual-enrollment program. This includes 46 students at our West Essex campus. Thank you to our dual-enrollment team headed by Dr. Vieira.

The President's January/February engagements have included:

- March 6th: Attended the 2025 State of the County update by the County Executive, Hon. DiVincenzo. Trustees J. Zarra and Trustee Cruz were in attendance.
- March 7th: Participated in the President's meeting that included a discussion on the Workforce Consortium Governance Board.
- March 8th: Attended the Spring 2025 ECC Board of Trustees Retreat.

- March 11th: Ms. Judith Celestin, Director of the Adult Learning Center, collaborated with campus staff and student leaders to launch the grant-funded Period Poverty Prevention program.
- March 11th: Participated in the Newark Alliance Members meeting.
- March 12th: Participated in the NJCCC FY 2026 Budget Briefing and Strategy Session.
- March 20th: Participated in the CLNA Stakeholders meeting organized by Academic Affairs and Institutional Advancement.

Student Affairs

- Confirmed Thursday, October 16th for the Annual Golf Scholarship Tournament at Maplewood Country Club.
- The March 7th Spring Fling and Club Expo attracted more than 100 students and staff to the gymnasium.
- Thirteen ECC athletes participated in the NJCAA Indoor Track Championships hosted by Texas Tech University.
- Women's Basketball team freshman, Kaley Lynch, made 2nd Team All-Region.
- Women's Basketball team Sophomore Jakira Coar scored 40 points in her final game as a Wolverine.
- Men's Basketball team sophomore Jaidan Gilzene made 1st Team All-Region.
- Our renovated and refurbished Fitness Center is back to full operation.

Finances

- Completed the college's Perkins budget modification request.

Projects:

- We have received the Certificate of Occupancy for the renovated and refurbished MLK Library and Learning Center. I thank you all for your patience.
- The re-bid process for the Center for Technology renovation project is underway.
- The re-bid process for the Cafeteria Dining Hall renovation project is underway.

Community Relations:

- ECC's Inaugural Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony is few weeks away from now. I thank the HOF Committee and all those supporting the event.

Save the dates – Upcoming Events.

- April 04, 2025 - Autism Awareness, Families and Educators Conference, West Essex Campus at 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.
- April 24, 2025 - Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting of the MLK Jr. Library and Learning Center at 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.

Madam Chair, this ends my report. Thank you.