



**Board of Trustees
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

May 20, 2025 | 3:00 PM
Multipurpose Room
West Essex Campus

In Attendance

- Dr. A. Lewis, Vice Chair
- I. Cruz
- J. Grimes, Secretary
- C. Martinez
- B. Robinson
- J. Wright
- J. Zarra, Treasurer
- M. Townes, Board Counsel
- Dr. A. Boakye, President
- S. Story, Recorder

Excused

- M. Bolden, Chair

Call to Order/Roll Call

Vice Chair, Dr. A. Lewis, asked everyone to have a moment of silence for our late Trustee, Rev. Dr. Lanel Guyton, who recently passed. He had served on the Board of Trustees since 2017.

Vice Chair Dr. A. Lewis called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. 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 April 22, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting be approved. Trustee B. Robinson seconded the motion. ***The minutes were approved unanimously.***

Communications

Trustee J. Grimes announced that there was no new communication.

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.

Nice to see you approving money for overall college improvement, maintenance, and such. Fixing damaged sidewalks is important. What about the broken windows outside the Cleo Hill Physical

Education Building Entrance and opposite it? Did we catch the creeps that did it?

The elevator in front of Cafeteria is slow. Can the Otis Elevator vendor fix it?

4-4 and 4-5/May 2025: I call your attention to the fact that Colin Archer and Tiago Dos Santos have both resigned. This school should offer higher salaries to its employees, otherwise we will always be short of qualified, competent employees. I would suggest you compare salaries at other schools in NJ and see what salary ECC can offer.

We thank those newly appointed and those resigning their positions. Wishing you all the best in your future endeavors.

Congratulations to ECC Support Staff Association on getting the contract ratified.

Madam Chair, this concludes my Public Comments on Agenda Items remarks for May 2025.

Finance Committee Report

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

3-1.1/May-2025	Resolution Authorizing the Award of an Emergency Repair – Damaged Sidewalk <u>Company Name</u> Ochoa Enterprises, LLC, Belleville, NJ NRWK Restoration, LLC, Newark, NJ Chapter 12 Funded – Capital Expense	Amount not to exceed \$170,000.00																														
3-1.2/May-2025	Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Two-Year Blanket Order for Facility Improvements <table><tr><td><u>Vendors</u></td><td><u>Vendors</u></td><td><u>Vendors</u></td></tr><tr><td>A Speedy Sewer & Drain Service</td><td>Mark Andy Inc</td><td>Clarity Water</td></tr><tr><td>GMH Associates of America</td><td>Quadient, Inc.</td><td>Champion Elevator</td></tr><tr><td>Clarity Water Tech</td><td>Ricoh</td><td>Kone, Inc.</td></tr><tr><td>Grainger</td><td>WB Mason Co Inc</td><td>Otis Elevator</td></tr><tr><td>Silva Mechanical Services</td><td>Modern Group LTD</td><td>Lizza Construction</td></tr><tr><td>Bergen Fire Equipment & Service LLC</td><td>E.E.C Contractors</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Tri-County Termite & Pest Control</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Alarm & Communication Technologies</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Johnson Controls Fire Protection, LP</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> College and Chapter 12 Funded – Operating and Capital Expense	<u>Vendors</u>	<u>Vendors</u>	<u>Vendors</u>	A Speedy Sewer & Drain Service	Mark Andy Inc	Clarity Water	GMH Associates of America	Quadient, Inc.	Champion Elevator	Clarity Water Tech	Ricoh	Kone, Inc.	Grainger	WB Mason Co Inc	Otis Elevator	Silva Mechanical Services	Modern Group LTD	Lizza Construction	Bergen Fire Equipment & Service LLC	E.E.C Contractors		Tri-County Termite & Pest Control			Alarm & Communication Technologies			Johnson Controls Fire Protection, LP			Amount not to exceed \$400,000.00 Per year
<u>Vendors</u>	<u>Vendors</u>	<u>Vendors</u>																														
A Speedy Sewer & Drain Service	Mark Andy Inc	Clarity Water																														
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Bergen Fire Equipment & Service LLC	E.E.C Contractors																															
Tri-County Termite & Pest Control																																
Alarm & Communication Technologies																																
Johnson Controls Fire Protection, LP																																
3-1.3/May-2025	Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Two-Year Blanket Order for Maintenance Renewal for Network Infrastructure Equipment	Amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.00 Per year																														

<u>Vendors</u>	<u>Vendors</u>	<u>Vendors</u>
Citrix Systems, Inc.	EDUCAUSE	Allegheny Educational Systems
Regroup Mass Notification	BMC Software, Inc.	American Registry Internet-Numbers (A.R.I.N)
Malwarebytes Corp.	1st Run Computer Serv.	SmartEvals LLC
F5 Networks, Inc.	Helix Technology	Genius Sis
ePlus Technology	PTS Data Center	Learning Technologies Corp dba
Moodlerooms	Thomas Reuters	CDW-G, Inc.
Apple	Informatics dba: Wasp	Oracle America, Inc
Digicert	Data443 Risk Mitigation	SHI Int'l
Kronos	Ellucian Company	Evisions, LLC
Numbers (A.R.I.N)	Square 9 Soft Works	New Era Technology
Dell	DocuSign Inc	LS2 Investment, Inc
Insight Public Sector	ProQuest	Touchnet Info Systems
Johnston GP, Inc.	OculusIT LLC	B & H Foto & Electronics Corp
Trajecsys	Bloomberg Finance L.P.	

College Funded – Operating Expense

3-1.4/May-2025	Resolution Authorizing Award of a Two-Year Contract for Testing Materials <u>Vendors</u> National Healthcareer Association Assessment Technology Inc. College Board / Accuplacer College Source, Inc. PSI Services, LLC College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$300,000.00 Per year
3-1.5/May-2025	Resolution Authorizing the Contract for Travel Agency Services Gateway Travel, West Caldwell, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$200,000.00
3-2.1/May-2025	Chapter XII Reallocation for Capital Expenditure Improvement Projects	

Trustee I. Cruz moved the Finance actions for approval. Trustee C. Martinez 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/May-2025 Brian Basque
Military and Veterans Coordinator
Enrollment Services
Effective Date: May 27, 2025
Salary \$ 55,000.00
- 4-2/May-2025 Zainab Al Badri
Student Service Representative – International Specialist
Enrollment Services
Effective Date: May 27, 2025
Salary \$ 47,200.00
- 4-3/May-2025 Gretchen Soler
Student Service Representative – International Specialist
Enrollment Services
Effective Date: May 27, 2025
Salary \$ 47,200.00

B. Resignations

- 4-4/May-2025 Colin Archer
Instructor - Nursing
Division of Nursing and Health Sciences
Effective: July 31, 2025
- 4-5/May-2025 Tiago Dos Santos
Assistant Athletic Director
Athletic Division
Effective: April 23, 2025

E. Termination

- 4-6/May-2025 Ibrahim DaPore
Security Officer
Public Safety
Effective: April 24, 2025

F. Contract Ratification

- 4-7/May-2025 Essex County College Support Staff Association

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 met last week and recommended the approval of the following items.

- 7-1.1/May-2025 Acceptance of Funds: Consolidated Adult Basic Skills and Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education Grant

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

Site, Facilities, and Equipment Committee Report

Trustee C. Martinez stated that the Site, Facilities, and Equipment Committee met last week, but there were no actions.

She mentioned that the MLK Library is open and is being enjoyed by students. She also stated that the President and Cabinet members listened to the suggestions on repairs around the campus.

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 committee met last week and there were no actions.

She shared that the Athletic Hall of Fame event was a tremendous success, describing it as a remarkable evening of excellence, celebration, and heartfelt moments filled with love, light, joy, and lasting memories. Trustee Wright praised the Hall of Fame kiosk, calling it one of the best she had ever seen. She also took a moment to honor those who were part of the program, including the late Sharpe James and Trustee Dr. Lanel Guyton, who had passed on that weekend. In addition, she paid tribute to the late wife of the late Cleo Hill Sr., for whom the gymnasium is named, who also passed away around the time of the event. She thanked the Hall of Fame committee.

Alumni Association Report

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

Student Government Association Report

The Student Government Association Report, which was submitted electronically to the Board of Trustees and is attached as Appendix B.

Dean E. Vieira thanked the trustees for their support and talked about what has been happening with the WEC. She wanted to show how our community College touches many lives. She mentioned that the number of students attending classes at the West Essex Campus increased from a little over 450 to over 700 students since they opened a year ago. She said that they had received about 3,000 visitors in the first year of the WEC being opened and expect to see that amount again in the second year. They are doing workforce development events and pole-voting training for the local community. They are generating revenue from that and more.

She introduced three students to talk about their experiences. Dean Vieira explained that many students will be graduating at the commencement. She said that it's about helping the students when they come to us at different stages in their education. She thanked the staff for creating a sense of community. She said that Mr. Clayton was not able to be at the meeting, but he was a student who would be attending Michigan University after attending ECC.

Carmen Gilbert, a non-traditional student from Newark, talked about her experience at ECC. She attended the

school while raising her daughter. She will be graduating in the 2025 commencement and attending Rutgers in the fall. She was on the dean's list and part of EOF and PTK. She is grateful to ECC.

Edvard Pean, a graduating finance student, talked about his experience at ECC. He works at a financial company while serving as a tutor at the West Essex Campus. He originally chose Essex County College for its affordability, but stayed because of the supportive community. He founded the Portfolio Manager Club, a unique initiative that brings together alumni and faculty to explore investing and trading strategies, and he is also a proud member of the Kappa Beta Delta Honor Society. He plans to attend Rutgers University in the Fall and believes that choosing a community college can be one of the best decisions a person makes.

Jemima, a dual enrollment student, shared her story of attending ECC. She stated that the dual enrollment program is amazing and that she will be attending Howard University soon after she graduates. She will be studying Biology and Pre-Med. She mentioned that the program has helped her not only gain credits, but also college experience. She expressed gratitude for the program and the efforts of the trustees and staff.

Vice Chair, Dr. A. Lewis, thanked them on behalf of the Board of Trustees for sharing their stories. He thanked the faculty and staff who helped the students. He congratulated the students on their achievements.

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.

New Business

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

Public Comments

Mr. Lev Zilbermints made public comments. He submitted his report electronically and it reads as follows:

Greetings,

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

The appointment of Brian Basque to the position of Military and Veterans Coordinator is a very good idea. Years ago, back in the early 1990s, we had Edward Frontera. He was responsible for Veterans Affairs in the Student Support Services Program. Then he left for Florida. The position went through several different employees. I believe Dr. Margaret Stevens helped military veterans out, back in the 2010s. We had the Urban Issues Institute back then.

Our former mayor, Sharpe James, passed away. He had a larger than life presence, always fighting for Newark. At ECC Sharpe James was the first athletic director, an associate professor, head of the Africana Institute, champion of Essex County College. We should honor him by creating a scholarship in his name. It would be awarded to the most deserving political science student. How say you?

A moment of silence for Sharpe James, please.

The Supreme Court has given President Trump its approval in getting Venezuelans deported. I am not Venezuelan, but it seems to me each case must be reviewed based on facts. That being said, I wonder about the Supreme Court's decision on Essex County College and its community. Who will be next?

Student Life and Activities Office will be in charge of organizing the first election for Student Representative to the Board of Trustees in five or six years. Because of time constraints, the election will be done electronically. Seniors will be sent emails announcing the election. They will be asked to provide information about themselves. After that, an electronic vote will take place. All this will happen at the end of May. By June we will have a new Student Representative to the Board of Trustees.

Madam chair, this concludes my Public Comments to the Board of Trustees.

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 June 17, 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 C. Martinez motioned for a vote on the Notice of Executive Session, and Trustee J. Wright seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Adjournment

Vice Chair, Dr. A. Lewis, motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:31 pm by a vote of acclamation.



**Report to Board of Trustees
May 20, 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 supported the inaugural Hall of Fame on May 9th, 2025.
5. The Alumni Association awarded five scholarships worth \$500 each on May 14th, 2025.
6. The Alumni Association held a General Body Meeting on May 15th, 2025.
7. The Alumni Association plans to participate in the May 2025 graduation rehearsals and commencement activities.
8. The Alumni Association plans to hold an inaugural handing-over ceremony in late June or early July after the ongoing general elections.
9. Thank you.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
May 2025 Board of Trustees Report

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

My name is Rhiana Negron. I am the West Essex Representative of the Student Government Association. I will be delivering the May BOT report for SGA this evening.

SGA E-BOARD ELECTION

The SGA Executive Board election concluded on May 5th. Several members actively campaigned for a variety of positions, demonstrating strong leadership potential and enthusiasm for serving our community. The election process was smooth and engaging, reflecting our commitment to transparency and student involvement. *The results are as follows: President: Cynthia Fancher and Vice President: Yamile Arcela Rivera have been elected. A special election will be held for the remainder of the vacant positions in June as we have begun collecting applications from interested students.* Their contributions will be vital as we prepare for the upcoming term and continue to build on the great work of our current leadership team.

EVENTS WITH THE OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Throughout the term, the SGA partnered closely with the Office of Student Affairs to host a variety of student-centered events. These initiatives were primarily led by Student Affairs, with SGA supporting and participating in planning and execution. One of the key highlights was the Farmers Market event, where local farmers provided fresh produce directly to students. This initiative supported student wellness and food accessibility on campus. We also hosted a fun and interactive Walking Nacho Day, where students were able to create custom nacho bowls with a variety of toppings. The event encouraged community engagement and provided a casual way for students to unwind and connect.

INITIATIVES FOR THE REST OF MAY AND ONWARD

- Graduation
- Swearing-in of new executive members

On behalf of the Student Government Association, thank you for your continued support this year. Your dedication to student success has made a real difference, and we appreciate the opportunities you've helped create. We look forward to continuing our work together in the coming term.

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, May 20, 2025
Re: ECCFA Report to ECCBOT

General Comments

Dr. Lanel Guyton, Honorable Sharpe James and President Joseph Biden

1. First and foremost, we are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Trustee Dr. Lanel Guyton. We are profoundly grateful for his dedicated service and lasting contributions to our academic community.
2. We also join in mourning the passing of the Honorable Sharpe James, former Mayor of Newark and Associate Professor. His leadership and unwavering commitment to public service have left an enduring legacy.
3. Additionally, we are concerned by the recent diagnosis of President Joseph Biden—a steadfast friend of education and public service. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family during this challenging time.

These recent events remind us of the fragility of life. As we continue working together to move the College forward, let us do so with renewed compassion, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to one another's well-being.

Special Thanks

1. On behalf of the ECCFA Executive Board and the Annual Gala Committee, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who joined us for the 2025 Faculty Gala. It was a truly memorable evening—celebrating our newest faculty members and honoring our esteemed retirees for their many years of dedicated service to Essex County College.
2. We are also deeply grateful to President Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, Vice President Dr. Hamin Shabazz, Board of Trustees Representative Ms. Johanna Wright, as well as our Deans and Division Chairs, for their unwavering support and steadfast commitment to our faculty community.

Thank you for helping to make this celebration a resounding success. We look forward to continuing this tradition of excellence, unity, and recognition.

ECCFA Activities Update

1. The ECCFA General Meeting took place on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 2:30 PM on the 4th Floor Multipurpose Room.
2. Immediately following, the College Senate Meeting was held on the same day at 3:30 PM, also on the 4th Floor Multipurpose Room.
3. Dr. Victor Stolberg Selected Delivered The Land Acknowledgement at ECEA Human & Civil Rights Awards Dinner. We are proud to announce that Victor Stolberg was selected to deliver the Land Acknowledgement at the upcoming ECEA Human & Civil Rights Awards Dinner. This recognition highlights his ongoing commitment to inclusion, education, and respect for Indigenous histories and cultures.

Please join us in congratulating Mr. Stolberg on this meaningful honor.

Faculty Statement on Contract Negotiations

The ECCFA remains committed to fostering a strong, respectful, and collaborative working relationship with the ECC Board of Trustees and the College Administration. As we continue our contract negotiations, faculty members are eager to see meaningful progress that reflects the shared values and mutual respect essential to the success of Essex County College.

The ECCFA remains hopeful that, together, we can reach a fair and forward-looking agreement that benefits our faculty, our students, and the future of Essex County College.

Faculty Engagement in Year-End Campus Celebrations

Faculty members are enthusiastic about participating in the many exciting events taking place on campus as we close out the academic year and celebrate our students' outstanding accomplishments. While there are numerous activities worth highlighting, we will spotlight just a few:

1. April 24, 2025 – Faculty proudly supported the Grand Opening of the Martin Luther King Jr. Library, a transformative addition to our campus and broader community.
2. May 9, 2025 – Many faculty attended the inspiring ECC Wolverines Athletics Hall of Fame Celebration, which recognized excellence in athletic achievement.
3. Ongoing – Faculty are actively engaged in Convocation Planning as we prepare to launch the 2025–2026 academic year with renewed purpose and energy.
4. In addition, all club advisors are working closely with students to plan and execute their end-of-year activities and celebrations.
5. Upcoming – Faculty are gearing up for the Graduation Ceremony, a joyous occasion to celebrate the hard-earned success of our students.

We look forward to continuing collaboration and a strong finish to another successful academic year at Essex County College.

Faculty Members Report

Africa Institute

Dr. Akil Khalfani

1. We are proud to announce that Dr. Akil Khalfani was selected as the 2025 Racial Advocacy Award recipient by the Essex County Education Association!

In recognition of his tireless dedication to justice, equity, and human rights, Dr. Khalfani will be honored at the Essex County Education Association's Human and Civil Rights Awards Dinner on May 13, 2025, at the Wilshire Grand Hotel in West Orange, NJ.

2. Over 50 students, staff, alumni, faculty, and community members from Essex County College joined the Africana Institute in a powerful tribute to Malcolm X on what would have been his 100th birthday.

The commemoration took place at his gravesite in Upstate New York, drawing hundreds of attendees from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Washington, D.C., and beyond. This momentous occasion served as a reminder of Malcolm X's enduring legacy and his impact on generations committed to justice, education, and empowerment.

Business Division

Dr. John Olotewo: Kappa Beta Delta Honor Society Induction Ceremony

The Business Division, under the leadership of Dr. Joh Olotewo, successfully hosted the 2nd Induction Ceremony of the Delta Psi Chapter of the Kappa Beta Delta Honor Society on May 7, 2025, at 4:00 PM in the Multi-Purpose Hall on the West Essex Campus.

The ceremony honored a new cohort of outstanding business students who demonstrated academic excellence, integrity, and leadership potential. Faculty, staff, family members, and supporters gathered to celebrate this meaningful academic milestone, reflecting the division's continued commitment to recognizing student achievement and fostering a culture of excellence.

Professor John Hammond: Portfolio Management Club Holds Spring 2025 Award Ceremony

Professor John Hammond hosted an Award Ceremony for the Portfolio Management Club on May 5, 2025, at 5:00 PM on the West Caldwell campus. The event recognized the dedication and achievements of student members who actively participated in the club's activities throughout the academic year.

Biology/Chemistry

Dr. Nidhal Marashi

Dr. Nidhal Marashi participated in the First Community College Students Leadership Summit on Friday, April 25th, held at Brookdale Community College. Hosted by the New Jersey Council of Community Colleges, the event honored distinguished student leaders for their achievements in both academia and community service.

Representatives from all 18 New Jersey community colleges were present to celebrate the New Jersey All-State Academic Team Members, recognizing exceptional students and emerging leaders across the state's community college system.

Several Essex County College students attended and contributed to the enriching discussions and valuable networking opportunities. Dr. Marashi had the privilege of representing Alpha Theta, our chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honor Society, further showcasing ECC's commitment to student excellence and leadership.

Sujatha Ramakrishnan

Dr. Sujatha Ramakrishnan successfully completed a professional development course with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Faculty Online Learning Community (FOLC) during the Spring 2025 semester. The program, which ran from January through May 2025, included a series of structured online sessions and the successful completion of all required coursework.

In recognition of her dedication to professional growth and active engagement in the HHMI FOLC program, Dr. Ramakrishnan was awarded a Certificate of Completion. This achievement stands as a testament to her continued commitment to excellence in teaching and lifelong learning. The certificate has been attached for the record.

The Office of Student Development and Counseling

Jennifer Chapman: Counseling Instructor MS Licensed Counselor, RN

The Office of Student Development and Counseling, in collaboration with Student Life and Activities, community leaders, and program-based organizations, successfully promoted Mental Health Awareness throughout the college community. A full month of activities took place from

May 1st to June 4th, 2025, aimed at fostering open communication and support, and promoting mental health and overall well-being.

- May 1st – The month-long initiative kicked off with a “Going Green” campaign. Members of the college community showed their support by wearing green on May 1st and on several other days throughout the month.
- May 2nd – The Clara Dasher Center hosted an expressive therapy session titled "Exploring Relaxation Methods in Mindfulness" in the Zen Room on the 2nd floor. Participants learned various techniques and strategies to reduce stress and anxiety while increasing self-awareness and presence.
- May 7th – A highlight of the month was the Opening Event, a roundtable discussion held in Smith Hall from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Themed "It's Okay Not to Be Okay," the event emphasized the importance of empathy and compassion in reducing the stigma surrounding mental health.

These events collectively contributed to a greater sense of awareness, inclusion, and support within the Essex County College community.

Dr. Victor Stolberg

Activities:

- Chaired Academic Standards Committee (4/10), Counselors & Advisors (4/3), and ECCFA Faculty Senate (4/1) meetings this month.
- Assisted as Discussion Leader at Essex County Education Association Legislative Dinner (4/2).
- Hour with the President (4/3).
- West Essex Campus Open House (4/3).
- William Paterson University Community College Day (4/4).
- NJEA Higher Education Conference (4/4-5).
- NJEA Collective Bargaining Summit (4/6).
- MLK Jr. Library Opening (4/24).
- ECCFA Faculty Appreciation Night (4/25).
- Community outreach events including the Essex County Education Association (ECEA) Human and Civil Rights Committee Meetings (4/1&7), the ECEA Legislative Dinner (4/2), ECEA Professional Development Committee (3/19), and the Friends of the Newark Public Library Trustees Meeting (3/5).
- Several meetings this month including Campus Community Alliance (DEI) Committee (4/2), APAC (4/1), FDC (4/8), ECCFA Negotiations (4/5, 9 & 16), ECCFA Executive Board (4/15), ECCFA (4/24), and the Board of Trustees Meeting (4/22).

Training and Professional Development:

- SafeColleges trainings: “Conflicts of Interest,” “Discrimination Awareness in the Workplace,” “Managing Bias,” “Substance Misuse in Faculty and Staff,” and “Using AI in Higher Education” (4/3-28).
- Medscape trainings, including “Asthma,” “Bipolar Disorder,” “Basal Cell Carcinoma” “Congenital Syphilis,” “COVID-19,” and “Women’s Health” (4/7-30).
- ECEA Workshop: “Cyberbullying: Awareness and Prevention for Educators” (4/9).
- Turnitin Zoom Meeting (4/11).
- Training Workshop with NJ OSHE/JED “Youth Mental Health Sigma: Sparking the Right Conversation to Erode the First Barrier to Care.”

Conclusion / End-of-Academic-Year Reflections from ECCFA

As we conclude another academic year, our faculty members continue to express deep gratitude for being part of the Essex County College family. Despite facing the challenge of working without contracts and with hopes for greater opportunities for advancement, they have remained steadfast in their commitment to our students and our shared mission.

Throughout the semester, our faculty have demonstrated unwavering dedication—holding office hours, helping students prepare for final exams, advising student clubs, serving actively on divisional, college-wide, and governance committees, and participating in professional development activities to enhance their teaching and leadership skills.

They have also gone above and beyond by organizing student field trips, hosting end-of-semester celebrations within their departments, and attending the college-wide faculty reception. Their efforts have continued to foster a collegial and positive academic environment, filled with care, collaboration, and academic excellence.

It has been a joyful and productive academic year, and we thank each and every faculty member for their passion, service, and professionalism.

On behalf of the ECCFA, I would like to wish you all a restful and fulfilling summer. As I will be unable to attend the June meeting, I hope to see many of you again in the fall with renewed energy and shared purpose.

Respectfully Submitted

Appendix



Dr. Akil Khalfani ECEA Human and Civil Rights Award Celebration



ECEA Human and Civil Rights Awardees



Dr. Sujatha Ramakrishnan



Staff, alumni, faculty, and community members from Essex County College joined the Africana Institute in a powerful tribute to Malcolm X.



Staff, alumni, faculty, and community members from Essex County College joined the Africana Institute in a powerful tribute to Malcolm X.

Memorandum

To: Chair Marion Bolden & the Board of Trustees

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

Date: May 20, 2025

Re: President's Monthly Report

General:

Since our April 22, 2025, Board of Trustees public meeting, our college community has experienced bittersweet moments that challenged our faith as well as highlighted our capabilities when we work together.

Last week, we lost key members of the ECC family:

- Essex County College Board of Trustee, Rev. Dr. Lanel D. Guyton and
- The Honorable Sharpe James, former ECC Athletics Director and former Mayor of the City of Newark.

May their souls rest in Perfect Peace.

Our ECC family also experienced mission-focused successes since our last meeting.

We launched the inaugural Wolverines Athletics Hall of Fame Induction ceremony that recognized our many Olympians, record-setting basketball team from the 1973-1974 season and our first Athletics Director, the now late former Mayor, Sharpe James, among others.

This summer, Essex County College will participate, for the first time, in the Princeton University Transfer Scholars Initiative for community college students. Students will enroll in a full-time, eight-week academic curriculum at Princeton University. Princeton University will provide free housing, tuition, a stipend and coaching to enhance student application to selective four-year institutions.

Two ECC students, **Cheshire Boone** and **Jhuliana Niama** will represent ECC in the program from **June 28th through August 15th.**

Academics/Enrollment Services:

- The Summer I term is underway with 240 course offerings at the Main Campus and 31 at the West Essex Campus.
- Confirmation of students slated to graduate in May is now complete.
- ECC students **Ruth Ciprian** and **Adrian Ramirez Rivera** received the NJCPA Scholarship for academic excellence at this year's New Licensee Ceremony.

The President's April/May engagements have included:

- April 23rd: Participated in statewide President's discussion on ACE Carnegie Classifications.
- April 24th: The Essex County College community rededicated our fully modernized Martin Luther King, Jr. library and learning center.
- April 25th: Participated in the NJ Community College Student Leadership Summit at Brookdale Community College.

- April 25th: Attended the Faculty Appreciation Night event. I thank our board of trustees for their support of our faculty and the college community.
- April 28th: Attended the Chairs Council meeting with Dr. Shabazz.
- May 1st: Joined the NJCCC's Legislative Day session at the State House in Trenton.
- May 5th: Attended the Presidents, Provosts, ALOs, and system representatives meeting with the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.
- May 5th: Participated in the Urban League of Essex County community partnership meeting.
- May 6th: Participated in the UHSTP Executive Committee meeting to discuss board membership and filling a board vacancy.
- May 6th: Attended the NJII Venture Studio Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony at the Profeta Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Newark.
- May 6th: Met with Mr. Richard Garcia of Northern Jersey Federal Credit Union.
- May 9th: The Essex County College community launched its inaugural Wolverines Athletics Hall of Fame at the Cleo Hill, Sr. Physical Education Building. This well-attended event featured current and former athletes, including an Olympic gold medal winner.
- May 12th: Executive Director of Institutional Advancement, Mr. Bundy and I met with NBIMC President Derrell Terry.
- May 13th: Hosted the Vice-Rector for International Policy and Global Alliances, Raúl Martín Martín from Universidad de Toledo, Spain. Thanks to Dr. Vieira and her team for their continued efforts to expand ECC partnerships.

Student Affairs/Athletics

- The Essex County College **inaugural Wolverines Athletics Hall of Fame induction ceremony** took place on May 9th and attracted students, staff, faculty and family members of the inductees. This well-attended event featured current and former athletes, including an Olympic gold medal winner. I thank Dr. Kirkland and his team for a job well done, and Trustee Wright, whose presence elevated the importance of the occasion.
- May 14th: Our Student Affairs office, in collaboration with administrators and faculty, held our annual Scholarship Awards Night for graduating students in Smith Hall. I thank our staff, faculty, foundation board and administrators for their generous support of our students.

Finances

- The College successfully submitted its annual (2023) IRS Tax returns – Form 990

Projects:

- Installed upgraded audio-visual equipment in Siegler Lecture Hall.
- Installed a high-resolution LED display sign on Martin Luther King Boulevard and Market Street.

[Save the dates – Upcoming Events.](#)

- May 27, 2025 - Commencement at the Prudential Center.

Madam Chair, this ends my report. Thank you.