



Essex County College
Board of Trustees
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
March 19, 2024 – 4:30 PM

Essex County College – Main Campus - Smith Hall

In Attendance:

M. Bolden; I. Cruz; J. Grimes; L. Guyton; B. Robinson; J. Zarra; A. Boakye, President; M. Townes, Board Counsel

Excused: A. Lewis; J. Wright

Call to Order/Roll Call

Trustee Bolden, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m. Six Trustees answered roll call. A quorum was announced for the meeting.

Open Public Meetings Act Announcement

Trustee Grimes was asked to read the Open Public Meetings Act Announcement. She read as follows:

Advance written notice of this meeting was filed on January 2, 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 Grimes moved that minutes of the February 20, 2024 meetings of the Board of Trustees be approved. Trustee Cruz seconded the motion. ***By acclamation, the motion carried.***

Communications

Trustee Grimes announced that there were no communications.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Lev D. Zilbermints – Class of 1993 commented as follows:

- 3-1.4/Mar-2024 – Expressed that he was pleased to see approval of funding for the renovation of the library and the learning center on the agenda. He questioned how long will the renovations take and what alternative students have to using the library.
- 3-2.1/Mar-2024 - Commented that he hopes ECC does not spend a million dollars on lawyers.
- Personnel Appointments – Extended congratulations to all new appointees and the best in their new careers.
- Regarding Site Facilities and Equipment Committee – asked for more places to charge phones in the cafeteria.

- 7-3.1/Mar-2024 – asked what is the Board Action Plan about and is it accessible through the Open Public Meetings Act.

Finance Committee Report

Trustee Zarra reported that the Finance Committee met and had the following six items to bring forward for the Board’s approval:

I. Action – Submitted for Ratification: Approved by the Executive Committee March 1, 2024

3-1.1/Mar 2024	Authorize the Award of Additional Funds for Legal Services Jackson Lewis P.C., Berkeley Heights, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$40,000.00
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II. Actions – Submitted for Approval

3-1.2/Mar-2024	Authorize the Award of Two-Year Blanket Orders for Child Development Center Supplies/Equipment Kaplan Early Learning Company Lakeshore Learning Materials Kurtz Bros, Inc. Discount School Supplies College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 per year
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3-1.3/Mar -2024	Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Sign Maintenance, Repair, Replacement, New Signage JCM Associates, Middletown, NJ American Woodcarving LLC, Wayne, NJ Chapter XII Funded – Capital Expense	Amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 per year
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3-1.4/Mar-2024	Authorize the Award of a Contract for Library and Learning Center Renovations Pal-Pro Builders, Garfield, NJ Chapter XII Funded – Capital Expense	\$2,590,000.00
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3-1.5/Mar-2024	Authorize the Award of a Blanket Order for Graduation Products D & M Grad Products, Totowa, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 per year
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3-2.1/Mar-2024	Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Qualification for Legal Services Carmagnola & Ritardi, LLC, Morristown, NJ Machado Law Group, LLC, Springfield, NJ Fernandez Garcia, LLC, Morristown, NJ Marmero Law, LLC, Woodbury, NJ Genova Burns, Newark, NJ Decotiis, FitzPatrick, Cole & Giblin, LLP, Paramus, NJ Adams Lattiboudere Croot Herman, LLC, Iselin, NJ Inglesino Taylor, Parsippany, NJ O’Toole Scrivo, LLC, Cedar Grove, NJ Schenck Price Smith & King, LLP, Florham Park, NJ Antonelli Kantor Rivera, Livingston, NJ Hunt Hamlin & Ridley, Newark, NJ Jackson Lewis PC, Berkeley Heights, NJ Cleary Giacobbe Alfieri Jacobs LLC, Oakland, NJ Weiner Law Group LLP, Parsippany, NJ	
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Lum, Drasco, Positan, LLC, Roseland, NJ
Fisher & Phillips LLP, Murray Hill NJ
Walsh Pizzi O'Reilly Falanga, LLP, Newark, NJ

Trustee Robinson moved the Finance Actions for approval. Trustee Guyton provided the second. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Personnel Committee Report

Trustee Robinson advised that the Committee met and recommended the approval of the following thirteen (13) appointments:

- 4-1/Mar-2024 Anika Good, Director, Retention and Recruitment
Welcome Center
Effective March 20, 2024
Salary \$95,000.00
- 4-2/Mar-2024 Yelena Pirtskhalava, Director of Pre-College Readiness, Dual Enrollment Program and
Extension Centers
Dual Enrollment & Extension Centers
Effective March 25, 2024
Salary \$80,000.00
- 4-3/Mar-2024 Leonette Lewis, Assistant Director-Benefits Administration
Human Resources
Effective March 25, 2024
Salary \$72,000.00
- 4-4/Mar-2024 Wilkens Jean, Buyer- Purchasing
Finance
Effective March 25, 2024
Salary \$53,000.00
- 4-5/Mar-2024 Sheree Johnson, Buyer- Purchasing
Finance
Effective March 25, 2024
Salary \$53,000.00
- 4-6/Mar-2024 Nisha Adena, Manager – Auxiliary Services
Information Technology
Effective March 25, 2024
Salary \$55,000.00
- 4-7/Mar-2024 Barbara Lewis, Workplace Readiness Advisor
Student Affairs
Effective March 25, 2024
Salary \$42,000.00
- 4-8/Mar-2024 Ashley Cruz, Financial Aid Officer
Enrollment Management and Services
Effective March 25, 2024
Salary \$45,000.00

- 4-9/Mar-2024 Diana Serquen, EOF Student Support Assistant
Community and Continuing Education
Effective March 25, 2024
Salary \$35,900.00
- 4-10/Mar-2024 Junette Williams, Administrative Assistant
Academic Affairs
Effective March 25, 2024
Salary \$36,500.00
- 4-11/Mar-2024 Alexandra Yanqui, Student Services Specialist
Student Affairs
Effective March 25, 2024
Salary \$35,900.00
- 4-12/Mar-2024 Jonise Dessalines, Teacher Assistant
Child Development Center
Effective March 25, 2024
Salary \$27,537.00
- 4-13/Mar-2024 Hildo Alvez, Maintenance Technician
Facilities Management
Effective March 25, 2024
Salary \$42,000.00

Trustee Cruz presented the motion to approve the personnel actions. Her motion was seconded by Trustee Zarra. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Trustee Robinson then invited the Board’s Counsel, Mr. Townes, to read into the record of the meeting, a Goldenrod Item, Board Action 4-14/Mar-2024, entitled Personnel Termination. Mr. Townes read as follows:

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees accept the termination(s) of the individual(s) listed, effective on the date indicated:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u> <u>Department</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>	<u>Effective</u> <u>Date</u>
Royce	Technical Assistant	Support	05/01/1996	03/14/2024
Jackson	MLK Library	Staff		

FISCAL NOTES: The impact of this recommendation is undetermined at this time.

RESOLUTION: The Board of Trustees of Essex County College accepts the termination of the individual(s) listed, effective on the date indicated.

Trustee Zarra provided the motion to accept the termination; Trustee Guyton, the second. ***The motion carried (five affirmed, one abstention)***

Educational Programs Committee Report

Trustee Zarra indicated that the Committee met and had one action to present for the Board’s approval:

- 7-1.1/Mar-2024 Budget Amendment: Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V)

Trustee Robinson provided the motion to approve the action; Trustee Cruz, the second. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Site Facilities and Equipment Committee Report

Trustee Guyton announced that there were no action items. He noted that the Committee viewed a presentation which provided the progress of ongoing projects on both campuses; further, that the presentation would be made before the full Board at a later date.

Policy and Governance Committee Report

Trustee Cruz indicated that the Committee met and had one item to present for the Board's approval. She commented that the Board agreed to the plan during the Retreat held on March 2, 2024:

7-3.1/Mar-2024 Board Action Plan

Trustee Robinson made the motion to approve the plan. Trustee Guyton provided the second. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Community Relations Committee Report

Trustee Grimes reported that the Committee met but had no actions to present. She advised that during the meeting the Committee discussed the College's 55th Anniversary Gala, the Hall of Fame, the Foundation Board and the dedication of the Public Safety Department the late Senator Ronald Rice which would occur on Thursday, March 21st at 3:00 pm.

Alumni Association Report

Reporting for the Alumni Association, Ms. Judith Llewellyn, newly appointed Vice President of the association, came forward and read the association's written report which is attached at Appendix A. In addition to what is written in the report, Ms. Llewellyn:

- Thanked Dr. Boakye for his interest in rebuilding the Alumni Association.
- Advised that Mr. George Nti is the new President of the association and offered hope that the leadership of the association grows.
- Expressed thanks for the hiring of the Association's Liaison, Mr. Adewale Thompson. She stated that they look forward to working with Mr. Thompson.
- Announced plans to hold the current Board's First General Assembly on April 10th. Correspondence was sent inviting alumni to the meeting and soliciting their participation in the Gala and Scholarship Fundraiser.
- The Social Media Committee is also working on a way to pay membership dues on line.

Student Government Association Report

The Student Government Association (SGA) report was presented by the President of the SGA, Mr. Mark Anifowose. A copy of the report is attached at Appendix B.

Faculty Association Report

Prof. Alexandre, Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees submitted the report which is attached at Appendix C. He summarized, provided commentary and details on some of the items listed in the report; in particular, the key points (page 3) shared at the National Education Association Higher Education Conference in Atlanta Georgia.

President's Report

Dr. Boakye's March Report to the Board of Trustees is attached at Appendix D. The President shared much of the information provided in his written report.

In response to Mr. Zilbermint's concern about student usage of the library, Dr. Boakye expressed hope that the Martin Luther King Library and Learning Center renovations would be complete by September.

Madame Chair thanked the President for his report. She asked the President to address Mr. Zilbermint's concern about additional outlets in the cafeteria to charge phones. The President invited Mr. Zilbermint to meet with him following the meeting so they could do a walk-through of the cafeteria to assess the need for outlets.

New Business

There was no new business.

Public Comments

Mr. Zilbermint came to the microphone to make public comments during which he suggested that contests be held to celebrate the College's 55th Anniversary. He noted that for the College's 25th anniversary there was a contest for a new logo. He announced the April 8th solar eclipse and that the Open Public Meetings Act is now safe; amendments to change it were withdrawn.

Dr. Bello, Associate Dean – Student Affairs/Special Projects, came forward to announce that tickets, sponsorships and ad journal are available for the 55th Anniversary Gala and Scholarship Fundraiser to be held on Thursday, April 11th. She mentioned the dedication of the Public Safety Department to the late senator, Ron Rice, on Thursday, March 21; and spoke about upcoming student events:

- March 27th - Student Resource Fair, sponsored by the Office of Student Cares Services. Public partners have been invited in Clinton Hill Community Action, Essex Newark Legal Services, Save of Essex County, Pride Center of Newark, Leaguers, Mental Health Association and Essex County One Stop Community Center, to name a few.
- April 2nd – Students Affairs, Human Resources and the Office of the General Counsel and Compliance will be hosting Denim Day to kick off Sexual Assault Awareness month. Staff, the 360 Art Club, Student Nursing Association and Social Work Club along with SAVE, the Family Service League of Essex County, will be decorating denim and tee shirts, handing out information on Sexual Assault Awareness, Violence Prevention and other items. Decorated items will be displayed in the Art Gallery to bring awareness to the college community.

Notice of Executive Session

Trustee Grimes was asked to 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 23, 2024 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 Cruz provided the motion to conduct an Executive Session as indicated. Trustee Robinson seconded her motion. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Adjournment

Madame Chair asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Zarra moved for adjournment. Trustee Guyton provided the second. ***The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 pm by a vote of acclamation.***



**Report to Board of Trustees
March 19.2024 @ 4:30pm**

1. Greetings to BOT members, President Boakye, ECC staff and students, and all else in attendance.
2. My name is Judith Llewellyn, ECCAA Vice President, and I am pleased to provide an update on the progress of the Association.
3. First, we would like to thank ECC President Boakye for providing us with seed money, which will assist the Association in achieving its goals.
4. The Alumni held its last meeting on March 14.2024.
5. Resignation(s)/Appointment(s):
 - a. Member-at-Large, Jameel Ibrahim, resigned.
 - b. Member-at-Large, Judith Llewellyn, was voted in Vice President.
 - c. Corresponding Secretary, Daniel Kuraguntla, was voted in as Recording Secretary.
 - d. Vacancies: Corresponding Secretary and one Member-at-Large.
6. Alumni Liaison Officer, Adewale Thompson, has been hired.
7. Five interested candidates have been identified and an invitation has been sent, asking them to attend our General Meeting on April 10 @ 6:00pm. We have also received a list of alumni from 2021–2023. Future outreach will include letters via email and social media.
8. A template for our Alumni ID card is being created by our Social Media team.
9. An application for online payment of membership dues is being created.
10. The association will be represented at the 55 Anniversary Dinner on April 11.
11. Our Vice President represented us at the budget hearings earlier today.
12. Members are excited and looking forward to a successful term!
13. Thank you and have a good evening!

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION WINTER/SPRING 2024 (MARCH) REPORT

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

My name is Mark Anifowose, President of the Student Government Association. I will be delivering the February BOT report for SGA this evening.

SGA ACTIVITIES

During the period between late February and early March, club funding proposals were approved to support their activities and upcoming events. We are currently in the process of reaching out to some companies to request product donations for our student hygiene education event, where we aim to distribute items to the students and educate them on various hygiene practices. We are pleased to inform everyone, that brands such as Dr. Squatch and Egal have responded positively and expressed their willingness to contribute to this event. We remain optimistic about hearing back from other companies and brands as well.

We recently held a meeting with a representative from the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) to discuss the feasibility of establishing a chapter at Essex. As a result, we are currently in the process of handling the administrative workload necessary to create a solid foundation for the chapter, which will enable it to function effectively.

Additionally, we conducted a podcast featuring Loretta Gomez, an engineering alum, and Mamadu Jalloh, the President of the Technology Engineering and Computer Science Club (TECS). The podcast aimed to gain insights into Loretta's experience as a woman in STEM, and how community college education has impacted her professional life and the workforce.

Our West Essex senator conducted a brief survey at our sister campus to assess student interest. Subsequently, we are working towards organizing a midterm lunch at West Essex, where we will have an opportunity to interact with the students.

OTHER SGA ACTIVITIES

Inter-Club Council:

During our meeting, we discussed the sourcing of items for the clubs' upcoming bake sales. We encouraged the clubs to submit their proposal forms to speed up the approval process. Dean Bello also suggested that the clubs participate in Denim Day on April 2nd to help promote Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which begins in April. It was a productive meeting where we were able to brainstorm ideas and come up with solutions to help the clubs be more productive and gain additional active members.

INITIATIVES FOR MARCH/APRIL 2024

- Investigate complaints about the student game room at the dasher center and outdoor sitting facilities.
- Help students resolve complaints about the water fountains around the campus.
- Host the Student Forum at the end of March.

We would once again like to express our gratitude to the school administration for working behind the scenes to make the students here at Essex comfortable.

Respectfully submitted,

SGA Executive Board
Essex County College
Student Government Association

ECCFA

Board of Trustees Report

March 19, 2024

Prepared by: Jean-Wilner Alexandre, Associate-Professor of Economics and Finance ECCFA
Representative to the Board of Trustees

Good evening Trustees, Dr. Boakye and his cabinet, our college community

- On behalf of the faculty association, I would like to commend the initiation of the Student System Support Center. Many faculty members share the belief that addressing students' concerns, especially regarding the quality of student services such as tech support, is paramount. This news is encouraging for our student community.
- Our faculty across all departments are actively organizing or supporting activities to commemorate Women's History Month, just as they did for Black History Month. Given the considerable number of activities, I will not enumerate them all in this report.
- From February 23rd to 24th, I attended the NJEA Winter Leadership Conference in Parsippany, New Jersey. This conference offered comprehensive training sessions to union leaders covering various aspects of union management, including contract negotiation, budget development, recruitment strategies, and more.
- During the month of February, I had the honor of serving as a reviewer for the FEMA Higher Education Department. My role involved evaluating research proposals for their upcoming global conference scheduled for June 2024 in Maryland. In this capacity, I meticulously reviewed 20 out of the 80 research proposals submitted by scholars from around the world. It was an enriching experience to contribute to the selection process and engage with the innovative ideas put forth by fellow academics.

- On February 28th, 2024, the Business Division faculty members, under the leadership of the Chair, Professor Germaine Albuquerque convened their Business Advisory Committee meeting. During this session, they engaged with professionals in the field to gain insights into the evolving needs of the labor market.
- Dr. Sujatha Ramakrishnan, B.Sc., M.S., Ed.D. has attended the Distance Education Conference (DEC) 2024 at Mercer County Community College on March 1st, 2024. There was a discussion about how enrolment in county colleges is on a decline and distance education is picking up as many students want to work and study at the same time. There was a presentation about fostering student success in an online science lab course which was a geology course. In addition, there was an interesting discussion about how we can turn smartphones into a learning device in the classroom and how it can serve as an active learning tool. The keynote address zeroes in on how we can integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) into effective practice, in our classrooms. Finally, there was also another interesting presentation about collaborative approaches to online course development in biology and chemistry.
- On March 12, 2024, the ECCFA Executive Committee convened for its spring meeting to address pressing association matters. Topics of discussion included scheduling new elections for executives with expired terms, addressing current grievances, solidifying our support for the ECC scholarship gala, and planning for our ECCFA end-of-year gala that will be held at The Grove in Cedar Grove on April 26th, 2024 .
- From March 14th to March 17th, 2024, I attended the National Education Association (NEA) Higher Education Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, representing the Essex County College Faculty Association.
- The negotiation committee continues to convene with the aim of amending the previous contract and formulating a new proposal. They recently conducted a meeting to consult with all faculty members to gather insights into their pressing concerns.

Key Points to Share:

- We are entrenched in a battle for the very survival of our profession. The cornerstone of education lies in the formulation of policies.
- Higher education stands at the precipice, buffeted by a perfect storm delineated in the threats it faces:
 - encroachments upon academic freedom,
 - assaults on unions,
 - education budget cut
 - forced consolidation,
 - encroachment of corporate interests,
 - rise of anti-education politicians, among others.
- Alarmingly, last year witnessed the introduction of a staggering 300 educational gag order bills. It is imperative that we rally more educators and individuals who champion education to step forward and take on leadership roles.
- Anti-education proponents are infiltrating administrations at all levels, posing a grave threat to the very foundations of our educational system.
- The school system has opted to employ a subcontracting company known as ELEVATE.
- The \$72 billion pension system in New Jersey is at risk of underfunding. Its fate hinging on the outcome of the upcoming gubernatorial election.
- Escalating healthcare costs present formidable challenges to the operational budgets of colleges and school systems, thereby potentially impacting salary opportunities.

To conclude this report, our faculty members remain the cornerstone of this college, wholeheartedly dedicated to advancing academic pursuits, engaging in extracurricular activities, and diligently serving their departments, the college, and its students. Their commitment stems from a genuine desire to see the college, its students, and the administration thrive.

End of the report

Memorandum

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

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

Date: March 19, 2024

Re: President's Monthly Report

General:

On February 21, 2024, Essex County College (ECC) and Caldwell University (CU) signed an Articulation Agreement supporting a seamless transfer of ECC students to Caldwell University. The signing ceremony took place at ECC's West Essex Campus.

Academics / Enrollment / Student Support:

- February 26th & 27th: Hosted the Vision Care accreditation site visit team.
- March 6th: Launched the Student System Support Center (SSSC) on the 3rd floor of the Main Campus to provide comprehensive support and assistance to students navigating college systems, ensuring seamless access to academic resources, enrollment services, student records and online resources.
- March 12th: Our Student Affairs office, through PTK, held its first activity at the West Essex campus. Drs. Kirkland, Bello and I thank the students for their efforts.
- **Samirah Scantling**, a Business Administration major and President of the Alpha Theta Theta Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society is the recipient of the 2024 Essex County Althea Gibson Leadership Award. Congratulations, Samirah.

The President's February/March 2024 Engagements:

- February 22nd: The Africana Institute, under the leadership of Dr. Khalfani, hosted the 12th Annual Garvey/Nkrumah Lecture series as part of our African American History Month celebrations. The program was highlighted by Special Guest Mark Julian and Keynote Speaker Dr. Julius Garvey (son of Marcus Garvey).
- February 23rd: Hosted the Essex County Superintendent's meeting at the West Essex campus. The meeting was attended by Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo and State Senator T. Ruiz. Thanks to Trustee Zarra for facilitating this.
- February 27th: Hosted the Spring 2024 College-wide Council meeting in Smith Hall to share updates on the state of the College and solicit input that will inform the structure and activities in the 2024 - 2029 Strategic Plan.
- February 28th: Essex County College hosted more than 400 Newark Public Schools (NPS) staff members on our Main Campus. We had the opportunity to share the advantages of a community college education in terms of affordable quality education, small classroom environment and wrap-around services.
- February 28th: Hosted Business Division Advisory Board Meeting at West Essex Campus.
- February 29th: Launched the (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Institutionalization - DEII) Survey in partnership with CUNY.

- February 29th: I participated in the Essex County State of the County Address led by Hon. Joseph N. DiVincenzo.
- March 2nd: Held fruitful discussions with the ECC Board of Trustees during their Spring Retreat.
- March 7th and 12th: We began a series of training activities for our staff beginning with cabinet members, Deans, Academic Chairs, Managers and Supervisors (i.e. Managers Training).

Finances:

- On March 1st, I was joined at ECC by Passaic County Community College President, Dr. Steven M. Rose and Dr. Aaron Fichtner – President of NJCCC, for a Channel 2 interview in response to the Governor’s proposed 12% (\$20m) budget cut to the eighteen New Jersey Community Colleges.

Projects:

Main Campus

- The Main Campus cafeteria renovation project is complete. We returned to full-service operation on February 26th.
- The bid process for the renovation of the MLK Library & Learning Center has been completed.
- Phase I installation of efficient HVAC ventilation and air quality improvement system is scheduled to begin on March 28th. This will cover the Penthouses, Child Development Center and the Center for Technology building.
- We are making great progress on plans for the renovation of the 5th and 6th floors. The work will include the replacement of ceiling tiles and carpet flooring, adding new light fixtures and finishes, and new layouts in the Accounting and Purchasing Departments.
- Waterproofing on the main campus proposal has been accepted. On March 8th, the waterproofing engineers visited and inspected the exterior masonry walls that need to be waterproofed.

West Essex

- The installation of the railing is scheduled to be completed by March 20th.
- The meeting to discuss outstanding issues between DMD, Jingoli, and the College occurred last week. Updates will be provided shortly.
- We are working with Dobco Construction to resolve minor outstanding items with the WEC parking deck.

Athletics:

- ECC’s **Raymond French** is the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) **Atlantic Region's Track Athlete of the Year Award recipient**.
 - Raymond was undefeated at regional competitions in both the 200 meters and 400 meters. He won both event titles at the METS Indoor Championships.
- Sophomores **Jahmani Smith** (400 meters) and **Romar Scott** (800 meters) also competed at the NJCAA Indoor Track & Field Championships.
- On the Women’s side at Nationals, Freshman **Serena Douglas** placed 14th in the 800 meters. Sophomore **Kiana Casimir** (200 meters) and Freshman **Kimberly Baker** (400 meters) also represented ECC.
- Both the Men’s and Women’s teams are coached by **Lionel Leach**.

- **Koi Kirk, Jr.**, leading scorer on the Men’s Basketball team, has received Region 19 First Team honors for the 2023-24 season. The 6-foot, 6-inch sophomore led the team with 22.5 points per game, 17th nationally in Division II of the National Junior College Athletic Association.
- Koi’s season high was 37 points in an 87-75 upset win at Raritan Valley Community College.
- The team is coached by **Dr. Bobbie Morgan II**.

Community Relations:

- February 22nd: Attended the Essex County African American Heritage Celebration at the County Hall of Records.
- February 24th: Dr. Bridgeforth and Mr. Bundy joined me for the Annual Positive Community “Emancipation Day” celebrations commemorating Black History Month. This forward-thinking program attracted equity-minded leaders like the Rev. Al Sharpton.
- March 1st: I joined the NJCC President to develop strategies and steps to appeal for restoration of the Governors’ \$20 million budget cut.
- March 5th: I participated in the NAC Q1 Quarterly 1 meeting at the Prudential Center.
- March 11th: I represented ECC at the swearing-in ceremony of Hon. Ted Stephens II at the Donald Payne Sr. School of Technology.
- March 12th: I represented ECC at Mayor Ras Baraka’s State of the City Address at NJPAC.
- March 14th: I represented ECC at Mayor Tony Vauss’ State of the Township Address at Transcend Worship Center.

Save the dates – Upcoming Events.

- March 21st: Sen. Ron Rice dedication
- April 11th: Scholarship Gala
- May 23rd: Commencement at the Prudential Center

Madam Chair, this ends my report. Thank you.