



Board of Trustees
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

June 17, 2025 | 4:30 PM
Smith Hall – Main Campus

In Attendance

- Dr. A. Lewis, Vice Chair
- I. Cruz
- 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 called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. A quorum was achieved with 6 trustees in attendance.

Open Public Meetings Act Announcement

Trustee C. Martinez 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 C. Martinez moved that the minutes from the May 20, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting be approved. Trustee I. Cruz seconded the motion. ***The minutes were approved unanimously.***

Communications

Trustee C. Martinez 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 comments on Agenda Items.

Personnel Committee Report:

Congratulations to everyone who has been appointed and/or received Supplements or Merit Awards. You are a valued part of Essex County College. Continue to do the good work that you are doing now.

Those retiring and resigning from Essex County College, please accept our thanks for your hard work and dedication. We wish you the best in your future endeavors. I must say that I have a separate statement about the resignation of Dr. Aisha Steplight - Johnson. This will be read out at the Public Comments section.

Wish me luck, everyone. I will be going to Philadelphia in early July to play in a three - day chess tournament. Let's hope I can win some big money!

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

Finance Committee Report

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

Actions – Submitted for Recommendation for the Board’s Approval

3-1.1/June-2025	Resolution Authorizing the Award of a One-Year Contract for Professional Services DMR Architects , Hasbrouck Heights, NJ Go Build Our Future Bond Grant Funded	Amount not to exceed \$21,000.00
3-1.2/June-2025	Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Three-Year Contract for Solid Waste Disposal & Recycling Services Direct Waste Services , Newark, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$195,000.00
3-1.3/June-2025	Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Roof Maintenance and Repair Services Sky General Construction LLC , Paterson, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$100,000.00
3-1.4/June-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 \$500,000.00 Per year
3-1.5/June-2025	Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Two-Year Blanket Order for Facility Improvements	Amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.00 Per Year

Vendors

A Speedy Sewer & Drain Service

Commercial Furniture Interiors (CFI)

Creative Library Concepts (CLC)

MediaTechnologies

Vendors

Siemens Industry, Inc.

American Wear, Inc

Toledo

Exemplis, LLC

Vendors

Uline Inc

Business Furniture Inc. (BFI)

Special-T, LLC

Landscape Forms, Inc.

	Mr.Cheapo dba Stuyvesant Partners	Amazon	B & H Foto & Electronics Corp
	American Woodcarving	Ochoa Enterprises LLC	Russo Contracting
	NRWK Restoration LLC Chapter 12 Funded – Capital Expense	Brantley Brothers Moving	
3-1.6/June-2025	Resolution Authorizing the Award of Two-Year Blanket Orders for Maintenance Renewal for Network Infrastructure Equipment		Amount not to exceed \$500,000.00 Per Year
	<u>Vendors</u>	<u>Vendors</u>	
	Salesforce, Inc DBA Tableau Software, Inc	Johnston G.P. Inc.	
	Everon	Hubspire Corporation	
	Amazon Web Services	CDW-G	
	Dell	Parchment, LLC.	
	College Funded – Operating Expense		
3-1.7/June-2025	Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Laboratory Equipment Lombart Brothers Inc. dba Santinelli International , Jacksonville, FL Carl D. Perkins Grant Funded		Amount not to exceed \$41,000.00
3-1.8/June-2025	Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Printing, Addressing, Labeling, Promotional products, and Mailing Post Cards and Brochures for the College		Amount not to exceed \$200,000.00 Per Year
	<u>Vendors</u>	<u>Vendors</u>	
	Hummel Distribution Corp.	United States Post Office	
	Graphic Image, Inc.,	Fastsigns Solutions	
	ConceptPrint	D&M Grad Products	
	Indiana Printing & Publishing Co., Inc.		
	College Funded – Operating Expense		
3-1.9/June-2025	Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Advertisement Services		Amount not to exceed \$500,000.00 Per Year
	<u>Vendors</u>	<u>Vendors</u>	
	AAAD, Inc. Local Talk	Positive Community Magazine	
	Altice Media	Screen Vision Media	
	Capstar dba: iHeart Media	TAP Into Local	
	Comcast Holding	Motor Vehicle Network	
	Irving Street Rep.	The Whitney Publishing	
	Worral Community	El Cambio	
	Intersection Media, LLC	Caldwell Progress	
	NJ Advance Media, LLC	Mass Interact INC	
	Clear Channel Outdoor LLC	XAD, Inc. DBA Groundtruth	
	Welcome to the Neighborhood New Jersey	Advance Local Holdings	
	NJ Hills	Northeast Advertising Corp	

Multiview, Inc
College Funded – Operating Expense

- | | | |
|------------------|---|---|
| 3-1.10/June-2025 | Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Promotional Items
<u>Vendors</u>
4Imprint
Drew & Rogers, Inc.
Tylexa Enterprises, LLC
Fastsigns Solutions
GNP Specialties ZNC dba GNP Branded Gear
College Funded – Operating Expense | Amount not to exceed
\$100,000.00
Per Year |
| 3-1.11/June-2025 | Resolution Authorizing the Payment for Insurance Policy
IMAC Insurance Agency LLC , Belleville, NJ
College Funded – Operating Expense | Amount not to exceed
\$2,000,000.00 |
| 3-1.12/June-2025 | Resolution Authorizing the Contract for Payment for Workers' Compensation
New Jersey Community College Insurance Pool , Skillman, NJ
College Funded – Operating Expense | Amount not to exceed
\$300,000.00 |
| 3-1.13/June-2025 | Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Maintenance and Repair Services of Tecogen Chillers
Tecogen Inc , North Billerica, MA
College Funded – Operating Expense | Amount not to exceed
\$200,000.00 |
| 3-1.14/June-2025 | Resolution Authorizing an Increased Amount for 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
\$430,000.00 |

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

Personnel Committee Report

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

Actions – Submitted for Recommendation for the Board’s Approval

A. Appointment

4-1/June-2025 Asif Mehmood
Chief Financial Officer / Senior Comptroller
Finance
Effective Date: July 7, 2025
Salary \$135,000

- 4-2/June-2025 Cristhian Altamirano
Associate Dean – West Essex Campus
Academic Affairs
Effective Date: July 7, 2025
Salary \$110,000
- 4-3/June-2025 Joyce Okoth
Instructor - Mathematics
Mathematics, Engineering Technologies and Computer Science Division
Effective Date: September 2, 2025
Salary \$57,577
- 4-4/June-2025 Deepal Shah
Instructor – Information Systems
Mathematics, Engineering Technologies and Computer Science Division
Effective Date: September 2, 2025
Salary \$64,841
- 4-5/June-2025 Susan Elmesslamy
Instructor – Computer Science
Mathematics, Engineering Technologies and Computer Science Division
Effective Date: September 2, 2025
Salary \$59,903
- 4-6/June-2025 Yusuf Parlar
Assistant Professor – Mathematics
Mathematics, Engineering Technologies and Computer Science Division
Effective Date: September 2, 2025
Salary \$66,138
- 4-7/June-2025 Amit Das
Instructor – Mechanical Engineering
Mathematics, Engineering Technologies and Computer Science Division
Effective Date: September 2, 2025
Salary \$ 56,448
- 4-8/June-2025 Anthony Bonassisa
Instructor – Environmental Science
Biology, Chemistry, & Physics Division
Effective Date: September 2, 2025
Salary \$61,101
- 4-9/June-2025 Kanji Ojelade
Instructor – Environmental Science
Biology, Chemistry, & Physics Division
Effective Date: September 2, 2025
Salary \$68,810
- 4-10/June-2025 Ann-Maria Griffiths
Instructor – Nursing Maternity
Nursing & Health Science Division
Effective Date: September 2, 2025
Salary \$70,186

- 4-11/June-2025 Breanna Dickson
Instructor – Nursing Medical Surgical
Nursing & Health Science Division
Effective Date: September 2, 2025
Salary \$70,186
- 4-12/June-2025 Coleen Lambert
Instructor – Nursing Medical Surgical
Nursing & Health Science Division
Effective Date: September 2, 2025
Salary \$70,186
- 4-13/June-2025 Ifeanuli Ona
Assistant Professor – Nursing Medical Surgical
Nursing & Health Science Division
Effective Date: September 2, 2025
Salary \$70,186
- 4-14/June-2025 Nicole Brown
Instructor – Nursing Medical Surgical
Nursing & Health Science Division
Effective Date: September 2, 2025
Salary \$70,186
- 4-15/June-2025 Rebecca Kaiser
Instructor – Nursing
Nursing & Health Science Division
Effective Date: September 2, 2025
Salary \$70,186
- 4-16/June-2025 David Guanzon
Visiting Instructor
Instructor – Nursing
Nursing & Health Science Division
Effective Date: September 2, 2025
Salary \$64,841
- 4-17/June-2025 Timothy Kucerovy
Instructor – Supply Chain Management
Business Division
Effective Date: September 2, 2025
Salary \$59,903
- 4-18/June-2025 Fabian Armilla
Instructor-Criminal Justice
Social Sciences Division
Effective Date: September 2, 2025
Salary \$59,903

- 4-19/June-2025 Nicole DePasquale
Instructor-Psychology
Social Sciences Division
Effective Date: September 2, 2025
Salary \$59,903
- 4-20/June-2025 Serra Kocak
Instructor- Sociology
Social Sciences Division
Effective Date: September 2, 2025
Salary \$61,101
- 4-21/June-2025 Sha’Nia Rivers
Human Resources Assistant
Human Resources Department
Effective Date: July 7, 2025
Salary \$42,000
- 4-23/June-2025 Samantha Nieve-Silva
Coordinator – Welcome Center
Welcome Center
Effective Date: July 7, 2025
Salary \$55,000
- 4-24/June-2025 Ahnad Bowens - Garrison
Testing Center Representative
Testing Center
Effective Date: July 7, 2025
Salary \$38,000
- 4-25/June-2025 Lashawna Webb
Probationary Police Officer
Public Safety
Effective Date: July 7, 2025
Salary \$42,000

Trustee I. Cruz moved the Personnel actions for approval. Trustee J. Zarra seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Trustee B. Robinson motioned to amend the following action to reflect the start date of July 14, 2025, instead of July 7, 2025.

- 4-22/June-2025 Nathaniel Williams
Coordinator - Student Excellence & Engagement Program
Enrollment Management
Effective Date: July 7, 2025
Salary \$55,000

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

The motion carried unanimously.

4-22/June-2025 Nathaniel Williams
Coordinator - Student Excellence & Engagement Program
Enrollment Management
Effective Date: July 14, 2025
Salary \$55,000

Trustee B. Robinson requested that the Trustees amend the following action to reflect the start date of July 14, 2025, instead of July 7, 2025.

4-22/June-2025 Nathaniel Williams
Coordinator - Student Excellence & Engagement Program
Enrollment Management
Effective Date: July 7, 2025
Salary \$55,000

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

Trustee B. Robinson requested that the Trustees adopt the newly amended action.

4-22/June-2025 Nathaniel Williams
Coordinator - Student Excellence & Engagement Program
Enrollment Management
Effective Date: July 14, 2025
Salary \$55,000

Trustee C. Martinez moved the Personnel actions for approval. Trustee I. Cruz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Supplement

4-26/June-2025 Karen Bridgett
Title IX Coordinator
Compliance
Effective July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026
\$5,000

4-27/June-2025 Elizabeth Barkley
Title IX Coordinator
Compliance
Effective July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026
\$5,000

4-28/June-2025 Ledawn Hall
504 Coordinator
Compliance
Effective July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026
\$3,500

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

C. Merit Award

4-29/June-2025 Denise Williams
Director of Purchasing
Purchasing
Effective July 1, 2025
\$5,000 added to base salary

Leigh Bello Bryan
Associate Dean of Student Affairs / Special Project
Student Affairs
Effective July 1, 2025
\$5,000 added to base salary

4-30/June-2025 Phyllis Walker
Assistant Director – Financial Aid Department
Financial Aid
Effective July 1, 2025
\$3,500 added to base salary

Ana L. Cazares
Administrative Assistant
Continuing Education & Workforce Development Extension Programs
Effective July 1, 2025
\$3,500 added to base salary

Frank Cabonilas
Manager – Physical Plant
Facilities Department
\$3,500 added to base salary

Lourdes Medina
Administrative Assistant
Public Safety
\$3,500 added to base salary

Alicia Calleros
Manager – Physical Plant
Facilities Department
\$3,500 added to base salary

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

D. Retirement

4-31/June-2025 Euclides Anico
Security Officer
Public Safety
Effective Date: July 1, 2025

4-32/June-2025 Orialy Mendez
Security Officer
Public Safety
Effective Date: July 1, 2025

Trustee I. Cruz moved the Personnel actions for approval. Trustee C. Martinez seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Resignation

- 4-33/June-2025 Jan'Avon Evans
Teacher Assistant
Child Development Center
Effective: May 20, 2025

- 4-34/June-2025 Natalie Mallamaci
Compliance Associate
Office of the General Counsel
Effective: May 30, 2025

- 4-35/June-2025 Christine Palamara
Admissions Specialist / Recruiter – West Essex Campus
One Stop Center at West Essex Campus
Effective Date: July 17, 2025

- 4-36/June-2025 Stephanie A. Steplight-Johnson
Director – Career Resource Center
Student Development
Effective Date: June 30, 2025

Trustee I. Cruz moved the Personnel actions for approval. Trustee J. Wright 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.

Actions – Submitted for Recommendation for the Board's Approval

- 7-1.1/June-2025 Dual Enrollment Program: Mount Saint Dominic Academy
- 7-1.2/June-2025 Dual Enrollment Program: Irvington
- 7-1.3/June-2025 Application submittal for the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) Grant Application
- 7-1.4/June-2025 Acceptance of Funds: Strengthening Career & Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V)
- 7-1.5/June-2025 Acceptance of Funds: The Hyde and Watson Foundation
- 7-1.6/June-2025 Acceptance of Funds: EOF Grant
- 7-1.7/June-2025 DigitalHire Community Partnership Agreement
- 7-1.8/June-2025 Contract for Services: FOCUS
- 7-1.9/June-2025 Acceptance of Funds: NJ Department of Labor Growing Apprenticeship in Nontraditional Sectors (NJ DOL GAINS) Grant

Trustee J. Wright moved the Education Programs actions for approval. 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 did not meet last week, and there were no actions.

Policy and Governance Committee Report

Trustee I. Cruz stated that the Policy and Governance Committee did not meet last week, and there were no actions.

Community Relations Committee Report

Trustee J. Wright stated that the committee did not meet last week, and there were no actions.

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 submitted to the Board of Trustees was read into the record by C. 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 V. Stolberg 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

Several people made public comments:

- Dean Bello Bryan thanked the Administrative Association for recommending her for the merit award, Dr. Boakye for his support, and the Board of Trustees for their approval. She expressed her appreciation and shared her enthusiasm for continuing to work with students, faculty, staff, and administration. She also congratulated Cynthia on becoming SGA President and noted that they have important work ahead. She closed by wishing everyone a great summer.
- Ms. Denise Williams thanked Dr. Boakye, the Board of Trustees, and the Administrative Union for recommending her for merit pay. She expressed her deep appreciation for Essex County College, describing it as a family, and shared her commitment to continuing excellent work at the institution.
- Mr. Lev Zilbermints submitted his report electronically, and it reads as follows:

Hello, everyone,

My name is Lev D. Zilbermints, Class of 1993. I am here to speak on several important matters.

First, I see that Dr. Steplight -Johnson is leaving at the end of this month. She has been Dean, Director of Career Services, Counselor, etc. Permit me to share a story that happened in September 2014.

Back then I was taking Independent Journalism with Dr. Michael Wattkis. So did Alissa Lopez, then editor in chief of the student newspaper, ECCO. What happened was that Nessie Hill decided that she would be our professor, not Dr. Wattkis. I thought this was nuts, as add/drop had passed already. Nor did I want to be in Nessie Hill's class.

So, Alissa and I had a meeting with then Dean Steplight Johnson. We told her that we just wanted to take the journalism class and did not care about politics. The following day, shortly before 7 a.m., we received an email from Dean Step light Johnson saying that Michael Wattkis was our journalism professor. The dean overruled Nessie Hill. We spent the rest of the Fall semester with Dr. Michael Wattkis. I just thought you should know this.

Second, we need to improve the quality of WiFi at ECC. I would suggest having professors ask students; talk at SGA meetings; Inter-Club Council meetings; faculty meetings. WiFi is serious business. Why don't you go around the school with a cell phone? It will show where there is poor reception.

Third, Cafeteria renovations. I remind you that we need more plug-ins and charging stations in the Cafeteria hall. Now that you are doing repairs, it would be a good idea to install more plugs-ins in the walls and the floor. This would increase the number of places where the ECC Community can recharge their cell phones, lap tops, tablets.

Fourth, it is crazy what is going on in the Middle East and Minnesota. The Israel - Iran war and the shooting of four lawmakers by a crazy man. Stay safe everyone!

**ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE
ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER
11 JUNE 2025**

Dear Board of Trustees,

As usual, I went over the monthly agenda for your June 17 meeting. What caught my attention was the resignation of Dr. Aisha Steplight Johnson. It is for this reason I am writing to you. I feel that Dr. Steplight Johnson should be honored for her dedicated service to the students and Essex County College.

During the Fall 2014 semester, both then-Editor-in-Chief of ECCO Alissa Lopez and I were scheduled to take an Independent Journalism class with Dr. Michael Wattkis. Suddenly we were told that Nessie Hill was going to be our professor. She was the Journalism Coordinator at the time. So, this is three weeks into the semester, way past the add/drop deadline. Neither Alissa nor I wanted to take the class with Nessie Hill.

We scheduled a meeting with Dr. Steplight Johnson, who was Dean of Liberal Arts at the time. At our meeting we told Dr. Johnson that we did not care for politics, we just wanted to take our course with Dr. Wattkis. The result was that by 7 a.m. the following morning Dr. Steplight Johnson emailed Eileen DeFreece, the Humanities Chair at the time. Dr. Steplight Johnson overruled Nessie Hill, and allowed both Alissa Lopez and myself to keep Dr. Michael Wattkis as our professor.

I never forgot that incident.

Given the various roles that Dr. Steplight Johnson held at Essex County College, it would be fair to give her a plaque recognizing her work and honoring her achievements. She was Dean, Vice President, and a Counselor in Career Services.

This is my personal opinion as ECCAA Treasurer.

Wishing Dr. Aisha Steplight - Johnson the best in her future endeavors.

I do remain,

Yours,

Lev D. Zilbermints, '93

ECCAA Treasurer

- Mr. Deepal Shah greeted everyone. He addressed the Board of Trustees in support of his candidacy for the Instructor position in Computer Science at Essex County College. He said it was both an honor and a moment of deep, personal joy to stand before them. He is an educator by profession, a learner at heart, and a firm believer in the transformative power of knowledge. He highlighted over 20 years of teaching experience, holding BS and MS degrees from Gujarat University and certification as an Oracle Professional. He has served as a practical exam chair and board member at Gujarat University, designed curricula at Ida Institute of Technology, authored books on HTML and AI, and contributed to research on the Internet of Things. Mr. Shah also emphasized his commitment to student enrichment, community engagement, and holistic development, reflecting his dedication to education and Essex County College's mission.
- Mr. Kanji Ojelade expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Board of Trustees and the BCP Department for their support throughout his nearly two decades at Essex County College. He acknowledged past challenges in securing a faculty position, attributing delays not to a lack of ability, but to the department's commitment to excellence. He thanked Dr. Kamunge, the BCP faculty, and Human Resources for their guidance, mentorship, and belief in his potential. As he accepted his new appointment, he assured the Board that his best work is yet to come and reaffirmed his commitment to the College's mission of "Students First."
- Dr. Spellman, celebrating 57 years of service at Essex County College, shared his reflections as a proud "senior encourager." He expressed joy at seeing 17 new faculty appointments—something he described as unprecedented in his time at the College—and praised the Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, and President Boakye for their efforts in strengthening the institution. He emphasized Essex's core values of hard work, excellence, and consistency, noting how these values are instilled in students and upheld by staff. He recognized Dean Kirkland for his outstanding coordination of graduation, Dr. Leigh Bello Bryan for her consistent excellence and leadership in areas such as online course development and accreditation, and Dr. John Runfeldt for his professional contributions and recent milestone of becoming a father.

Dr. Spellman also acknowledged Mr. Thomas Kia for his ongoing dedication to maintaining campus facilities, likening his consistency to international standards of excellence. He encouraged all members of the College community to strive for their best and maintain high standards. He emphasized the importance of being "in the right place at the right time." He closed by reminding newly appointed and promoted faculty that Essex County College is more than a job—it's a life—and expressed deep appreciation for everyone's service and commitment.

- Mr. Tim Kucerovy submitted his public comments electronically. It reads as follows:

I want to extend my sincere thanks to the Board of Trustees and Dr. Boakye for the opportunity to join the Business Division faculty. I am excited to be part of the Essex County College community. I look forward to contributing to the college's mission and engaging with students and colleagues. Thank you again for this opportunity.

Thank You,
Tim Kucerovy

Notice of Executive Session

Trustee C. Martinez 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 September 16, 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 a vote on the Notice of Executive Session, and Trustee I. Cruz seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Adjournment

Vice Chair, Dr. A. Lewis, motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm by a vote of acclamation.



**Report to Board of Trustees
June 17, 2025 @ 4:30 pm**

1. Greetings to the BOT members, President Boakye, ECC staff, students, and all attendees.
2. I am Lev Zilbermintz, ECCAA Treasurer, and I am pleased to provide an update on the association's progress.
3. First, we would like to thank ECC President Dr. Boakye and the administration for their continued support.
4. The Alumni Association participated in the May 2025 graduation rehearsals and commencement activities.
5. The Alumni Association's general election is currently ongoing and will conclude on June 17, 2025.
6. The Alumni Association is set to hold its inaugural handing-over ceremony and an in-person General Body Meeting on July 17, 2025.
7. Thank you.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
June 2025 Board of Trustees Report

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

My name is Cynthia Fancher, and I am the incoming president of the Student Government Association. I will be delivering the June 2025 report on behalf of the outgoing SGA headed by president Naylah Young.

Throughout the year, the SGA regularly conducted several forums held in the cafeteria to collect feedback from the student body. Furthermore, we held monthly ICC meetings to connect with the many clubs and organizations on campus. We also conducted many meetings with the school's administration to further the growth and development of the students.

This past year, we have:

- Assisted in the conduction of club fairs in September and January, as well as the Spring Fling event in March
- Assisted in Food Pantry Awareness week, where we provided food to students while promoting the school's food pantry service
- Attended the first annual Student Leadership Summit at Brookdale Community College
- Conducted elections that resulted in the election of a new President and Vice President

On behalf of the SGA, thank you for your continued support throughout the year. We look forward to continuing our partnership in the upcoming year.

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, June 17th, 2025
Re: Essex County College Faculty Association (ECCFA) Report to Essex County College Board of Trustees (ECCBOT)

General Comments

Thank you, Madame Chair,

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

It is both an honor and a privilege to once again address you on behalf of the faculty and the Essex County College Faculty Association (ECCFA). This is our final report for the 2024–2025 academic year, and we are pleased to reflect on a year marked by success and dedication.

The academic year began with a vibrant convocation, where faculty returned with enthusiasm and a renewed commitment to serve our students. It concludes now with the ongoing Summer I session, continuing that same energy and focus.

This academic year brought both challenges and hope. Despite all, once again, our faculty gave 100 percent of themselves — to our students, to the College, and to the broader community.

As our members prepare for a well-deserved summer break, many are understandably disappointed that we were not able to reach a new, well-deserved contract agreement. However, they take pride in having fulfilled their mission with passion, enthusiasm, and unwavering dedication to student success.

New Faculty

The ECCFA would like to take this opportunity to enthusiastically thank the Board of Trustees for approving the hiring of 17 new full-time faculty members who will be joining our outstanding academic community. This is a significant step forward, as our students are best served by dedicated faculty who can focus fully on teaching and mentoring—without the uncertainty of where their next paycheck will come from. While we remain hopeful that progress can still be made in improving the base salary structure, we warmly welcome our new colleagues and look forward to working together to prepare the next generation of students for success.

ECCFA Activities for the Members

1. On May 27, 2025, our faculty proudly participated in the 56th Commencement Ceremony to celebrate the accomplishments of our students. Commencement is not only a milestone

for our graduates but also a deeply meaningful moment for our faculty, who have walked alongside them throughout their academic journey. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Graduation Committee for a job well done.

2. Immediately following the ceremony, ECCFA hosted a welcome luncheon for the newly hired full-time faculty members. This event served both as a warm welcome to our newest colleagues and as an opportunity to introduce them to the core mission and values of the ECCFA. We discussed key issues and emphasized the importance of being an active member of the Faculty Association.
3. On May 27, 2025, at Danaher's, located at 31 Passaic Avenue, Fairfield, NJ, Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre attended the Essex County Education Association (ECEA) Legislative Action Team (LAT) meeting.
4. The event brought together education-friendly candidates. On Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at 4:30 P.M., Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre attended the Monthly Essex County Education Association (ECEA) Representative Council Meeting on behalf of the Essex County College Faculty Association (ECCFA). The meeting took place at the Franklin Steakhouse, located at 318 Passaic Avenue, Fairfield, NJ.
5. On June 6, 2025, ECCFA organized a Retirement and Financial Planning Workshop for our members. The workshop, titled "*Come Join Our Financial and Retirement Planning Workshop*," was held at 2:30 PM and aimed to help faculty better understand how to prepare for retirement. We thank all who attended and contributed to this important session.
6. Also on June 6, Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre, ECCFA Representative to the Essex County College Board of Trustees (ECCBOT), contacted the administration regarding a request that faculty seek permission to attend academic activities during the summer break and sign a liability waiver when participating in conferences.
 - a. ECCFA is deeply concerned—particularly about the request to sign a liability waiver—because participation in academic conferences and community meetings is an integral part of faculty responsibilities. These activities are routinely considered in evaluations for tenure and promotion and are essential to professional development and academic engagement.
 - b. Furthermore, the provision of insurance coverage for such activities is contractual. For these reasons, such participation should not be classified or interpreted as "voluntary" activity requiring a waiver of liability.

Dr. Victor Stolberg

Dr. Victor Stolberg, Vice President of the ECCFA, continues to be one of our most active and dedicated faculty members. We are extremely proud and appreciative of his unwavering commitment, leadership, and dynamic presence at a wide range of events and meetings on behalf of the faculty. During the month of May 2025, Dr. Stolberg represented ECCFA and Essex County College at numerous key activities, including:

1. Presented Land Acknowledgment at Essex County Education Association Human & Civil Rights Dinner (5/13).
2. Main Campus Open House (5/3).
3. NJ Transfer Counselors meeting at Montclair State University (5/9).

4. ECC Hall of Fame Opening (5/9).
5. Town Hall with Candidate for Governor Sean Spiller (5/12).
6. Graduation events: PTA Pinning Ceremony (5/1), Portfolio Management Gala (5/6), Scholarship Awards Night (5/14), Human & Social Services Recognition Ceremony (5/16), Center for Adult Transition (CAT) Graduation (5/20), Graduation Rehearsal (5/21), Nursing Pinning Ceremony (5/22), EOF Graduate Gala (5/23), and Commencement (5/27).
7. Community outreach events including the Essex County Education Association (ECEA) Human and Civil Rights Committee Meetings (5/1&7), ECEA Human & Civil Dinner (5/13), ECEA Professional Development Committee (5/22), and the Friends of the Newark Public Library Trustees Meeting (5/5).
8. Several meetings this month including Campus Community Alliance (DEI) Committee (5/7), APAC (5/6), FDC (5/13), ECCFA Negotiations (5/5,6,7,14 & 22), ECCFA Executive Board (5/15), ECCFA (5/29), and the Board of Trustees Meeting (5/20).
9. Chaired Academic Standards Committee (5/15), Counselors & Advisors (5/2), and ECCFA Faculty Senate (5/29) meetings this month.

Dr. Akil Khalfani and The Africana Institute Activities

Dr. Akil Khalfani continues to enrich the academic journey of students at Essex County College through exceptional programming led by the Africana Institute. These events also provide meaningful opportunities for faculty, staff, and the broader community to engage in culturally enriching and intellectually stimulating experiences.

1. On June 12, 2025, the Essex County College Africana Institute, in partnership with the Martin Luther King Jr. Library, hosted a talk titled “Wisdom Circles on Black Identities and Resilience,” presented by Jenika Scott, Professor and Scholar-in-Residence at the Africana Institute.
2. Earlier that week, on Monday, June 9, 2025, the Africana Institute, in collaboration with the MLK Library, organized “Roots & Rhythms: Storytelling as Liberation Across the Africana Diaspora.” The event incorporated the ANCESTOR Framework to center and celebrate Brown and Black experiences through the powerful tradition of storytelling.

Concluding Remarks

The Essex County College Faculty Association (ECCFA) extends its heartfelt gratitude to the members of the Board of Trustees for their dedicated service to the College.

To Dr. Augustine A. Boakye and his Cabinet, we thank you for your efforts to provide strong leadership and a forward-looking vision for Essex County College. While we acknowledge the progress made, we also recognize that there is always room for improvement—and we believe in the power of open, two-way communication to move the College forward toward an even more successful future.

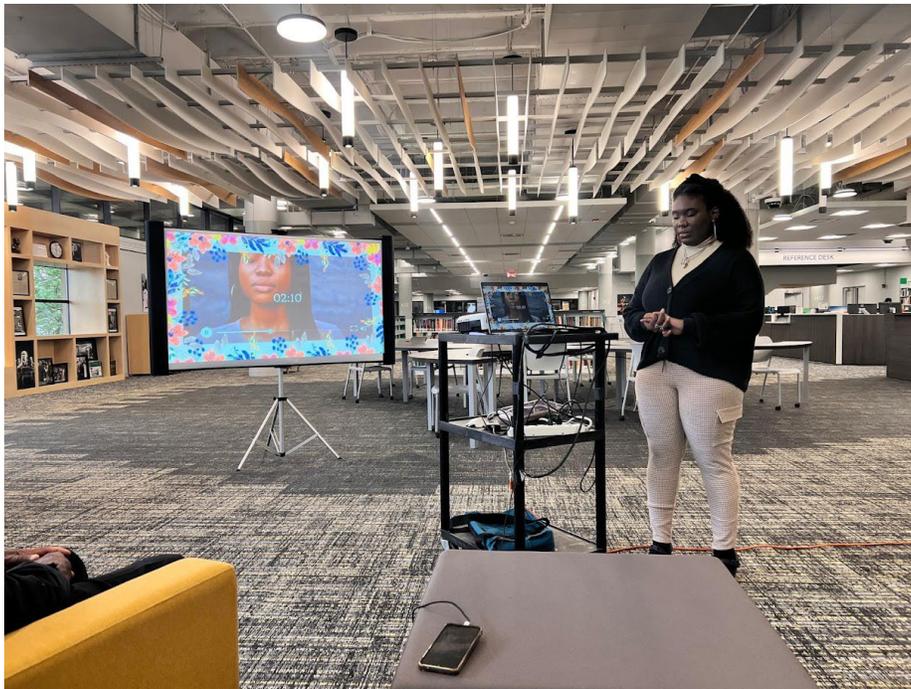
To the entire college community, thank you for your continued commitment and support as we all work together to serve our students and prepare them for bright and impactful futures.

ECCFA wishes everyone a wonderful, restful summer. We look forward to welcoming you back fully recharged and energized for the new academic year.

Thank you, and enjoy your summer!

Appendix

Professor Jenika Scott was a leading participant in a profound reflection during both events co-sponsored by the Africana Institute and the Martin Luther King Jr. Library.



Memorandum

To: Chair Marion Bolden & the Board of Trustees

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

Date: June 17, 2025

Re: President's Monthly Report

General:

We concluded our 56th Commencement on May 27, 2025. We appreciate the support of the College community, the NJCCC and Dr. Roger Mitchell, Jr., President of Howard University Hospital, for serving as our commencement speaker.

This year's commencement included 142 dual-enrollment graduates from East Side High School, West Side High School, University High School, Orange High School and Essex County Schools of Technology - Newark Tech. In all, a total of **1,018** graduates received their Associate degrees and Certificates from the College in the 2024-2025 academic year.

Congratulations to Dr. Elvy Vieira for receiving the 2025 Dr. Lawrence A. Nespoli Leadership Award for shaping the future of higher education in New Jersey through innovative workforce development programs.

Academics/Enrollment Services:

Our programming for the summer is fully underway at the Main Campus and West Essex with terms scheduled as follows:

- Summer I started on May 5th, and will be ending on June 19, 2025
- Summer II starts on July 7th
- The President in conjunction with the Academic Affairs had approved to hire 20 new qualified full-time faculty members for the 2025-2026 academic year, a figure which is highest than all the previous semesters. Most of them are recruited from the existing Adjunct Faculty pool.

The President's May/June engagements have included:

- May 22nd: We kicked off our annual student accomplishments with a colorful Nursing Pinning Ceremony in Smith Hall.
- May 23rd: Attended the annual EOF Gala to support the excellent work being done by our students and the EOF staff.
- May 24th: Attended the funeral service for our late Trustee, Rev. Dr. Lanel D. Guyton in New Brunswick. I thank Trustee Lewis and Trustee Wright for representing the Board at the solemn service.
- May 27th: Led the Commencement Exercises at Prudential
- May 28th: Held a meeting with PTK to discuss their Summer Project
- May 30th: Attended the Haitian Students Association Annual Gala in the PEB.
- June 2nd: Participated in the end-of-academic-year meeting of the New Jersey President's Council at Rutgers University in New Brunswick.
- June 3rd: Hosted the annual NRBP Conference in Smith Hall.
- June 3rd - June 6th: Attended the Statewide Community College Summit with staff and faculty.
- June 12th: Participated in the Pinning Ceremony of the Radiology Program - Class of 2025.

Projects:

- Demolition of the cafeteria dining area is underway. The project is scheduled for completion by the end of September 2025, pending construction permit approvals from the city of Newark.
- Preparation for the renovation of the Center for Technology (CFT) is underway. The College is working with Academic departments to relocate personnel and equipment from the CFT.

Community Relations:

- Our Community, Continuing Education and Workforce Development team has confirmed July 7th - August 15th for this summer's Youth Program for grades 1-8 and 6-13.
- Our Pre-freshman Summer Program (PSP '25), sponsored by EOF, is scheduled for August 14th.
- In collaboration with University Hospital, the College observed Mental Health Awareness Month with a community event on June 4th in the PEB.

Alumni Representative to the Board:

The Alumni Association has selected the following candidate as the Rep to the Board for 2025-2026 Academic year.

Ms. Jessica colon - Class of 2025

Email: Jcolon102086@gmail.com

Phone: 862-668-4356

Save the dates - Upcoming Events.

- June 20 - 29, the College will be closed for Summer recess

Appreciation:

I would like to personally thank you, all the Board members, for your endless support to me and the College. ECC is forever grateful.