



Board of Trustees

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

March 24, 2026 | 4:30 PM

Virtual Meeting

In Attendance

- Dr. A. Lewis, Chair
- C. Martinez, Vice Chair
- I. Cruz
- B. Robinson
- J. Grimes
- J. Zarra
- M. Townes, Board Counsel
- Dr. H. Shabazz, VP of Academic Affairs CAO
- S. Story, Recorder

Excused

- J. Wright

Call to Order/Roll Call

Board of Trustees Chair, Dr. 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 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 8, 2025, 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 to approve the minutes from the February 24, 2026, meeting. Trustee Lewis seconded. ***The minutes were approved unanimously.***

Communications

Trustee Grimes announced that there was no new communication.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no public comments on agenda items.

Finance Committee Report

Trustee Zarra advised that the **Finance Committee** convened on March 16th and recommended the approval of the following items:

Actions – Submitted for Recommendation for the Board’s Approval

3-1.1/Mar-2026	Resolution Authorizing the Award of a One-Year Contract for the Academic and Medical Supplies Catalogs	Amount not to exceed \$500,000.00
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<u>Company Name</u>	<u>Company Name</u>	<u>Company Name</u>
Bio Corporation	Bound Tree Medical, LLC	Pocket Nurse Corp.
Henry Schein, Inc	VWR International, LLC	Laerdal Medical Corp
Mock Medical Corp	Fisher Scientific Co LLC	Collins Sports Medicine
BVH Marketing dba Medical Mega	Carolina Biological Supply Co	Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc
School Health Corp	Arbor Scientific	J & H Berge, Inc.
DiaMedical, USA	Gall's, Inc	McKesson Medical-Surgical
MedicalEShop, Inc	MedicalEShop, Inc	Pasco Scientific
Midwest Scientific	Nasco	School Specialty
Sargent Welch	Spectrum Chemical	VE Ralph & Sons, Inc
Thomas Scientific, Inc	Triarch, Inc.	Your Science Hub
Sirchie Fingerprint Laboratories	Wallcur, LLC	Weber Scientific.

College Funded – Operating Expense

3-1.2/Mar-2026 Resolution Authorizing the Award of a One-Year Contract for Elevator Maintenance, Repair, Testing and Inspection Amount not to exceed \$350,000.00
Schindler Elevator Corporation, Morristown, NJ
 Securing Our Children's Future Bond Grant Funded – Capital Expense

Trustee Zarra motioned for the approval of the Finance actions. Trustee Grimes moved the motion for approval. Trustee Robinson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board considered the goldenrod item below to be included in the finance resolutions.

GOLDENROD

Subject:	Finance: STX Inc dba STX Labs
Contact:	Denise Williams/Director of Purchasing
Meeting Date:	March 24, 2026
Agenda Item No.:	3-1.3/Mar 2026
Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Science Equipment	

WHEREAS, Essex County College needs the Board’s approval to purchase science equipment under the Carl D. Perkins Grant funds for the chemistry department to **STX Inc dba STX Labs**, located at PO Box 2095, Ashland, VA 23005 in the total amount not to exceed **\$140,000.00**, in which contract goods are exempt from bidding pursuant to the provisions of County College Contracts Law N.J.S.A.18A:64A-25.5.a(19), Providing goods or services for the use, support, or maintenance of proprietary computer hardware, software peripherals, and systems development of the hardware; N.J.S.A.18A:64A-25.10 and N.J.S.A.18A:64A-25.11.(b) A county college may make purchases and contract for services through the use of a nationally recognized and accepted cooperative purchasing agreement, including a cooperative purchasing agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Comptroller of Essex County College has done an assessment and indicated that money will be available for this purpose; and

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

1. The Essex County College Board of Trustees hereby approves the purchase of science equipment under the Carl D. Perkins Grant funds for the chemistry department to **STX Inc dba STX Labs**, in the total amount not to exceed **\$140,000.00**.

2. The specific line item against which this contract is to be charged is as follows:
29151-9151-7325 Funded by Carl Perkins Grant/Grants Equipment
FY 2026

Trustee Zarra motioned for the approval of the Finance actions. Trustee Robinson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Personnel Committee Report

Trustee Robinson advised that the Personnel Committee met on March 17th and recommended the approval of the following items:

Actions – Recommended for the Board’s Approval

A. Appointment

- 4-1/Mar-2026 Professional
Ariel Duncan - Athletic Coordinator
Athletics
Effective Date: March 30, 2026
Salary \$55,000
- 4-2/Mar-2026 Professional
Tanya Gillespie
Coordinator – Career & Transfer Services
Student Development
Effective Date: March 30, 2026
Salary \$50,000
- 4-3/Mar-2026 Professional
Gertrude Arthur
Student Services Representative – Transcript Evaluator
Enrollment Services
Effective Date: March 30, 2026
Salary \$45,000
- 4-4/Mar-2026 Support Staff
Maximo Alonso-Guerra - Maintenance Technician
Facilities Management
Effective Date: March 30, 2026
Salary \$40,000
- 4-5/Mar-2026 Support Staff
Tyrone Turner - Security Officer
Public Safety
Effective Date: March 30, 2026
Salary \$33,475

B. Retirement

- 4-6/ Mar-2026 Yelena Pirtskhalava
Director – Pre – College Readiness
College Readiness, Dual Enrollment Program and Extension Centers
Effective Date: October 1, 2026

4-7/ Mar-2026 Judy Ortiz
Accounts Receivable Officer
Bursar's Office
Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Trustee Robinson motioned for a vote on the Personnel actions. Trustee Cruz moved the motion, and Trustee Zarra seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Educational Programs Committee Report

Trustee Dr. Lewis reported that the Educational Programs Committee met on March 16th, but there were no action items.

Site, Facilities, and Equipment Committee Report

Trustee Martinez reported that the Site, Facilities, and Equipment Committee convened on March 16th, and recommended approval of the following item.

7-2.1/Mar-2026 Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of a New Jersey Higher Education Facilities Trust Fund (HEFT) Grant for the Campus-Wide Classroom & Learning Environment Modernization Project

Trustee Lewis motioned for a vote on the Site, Facilities, and Equipment Committee action. Trustee Robinson moved the motion, and Trustee Martinez seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Policy and Governance Committee Report

Trustee Cruz reported that the Policy and Governance Committee convened on Tuesday, March 17th and recommended approval of the following items.

7-3.1/Mar-2026 Revised Board Policy: 4-4 Affirmative Action Policy

7-3.2/Mar-2026 Revised Board Policy: 5-5 Tuition Waiver

7-3.3/Mar-2026 Revised Board Policy: 6-2 Emeritus Status

Trustee Cruz motioned for a vote on the Policy and Governance Committee actions. Trustee Robinson moved the motion, and Trustee Zarra seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Community Relations Committee Report

Trustee Grimes stated that the Community Relations Committee convened on Tuesday, March 17th, and there were no action items.

Alumni Association Report

The Alumni Association Report was submitted electronically to the Board of Trustees. A copy of the report is attached as Appendix A.

Alumni Association President, Ms. Robinson, asked the Trustees what success looks like to them from the Board's perspective.

Student Government Association Report

The Alumni Association Report was submitted electronically to the Board of Trustees and read into the report by Ms. Akinsola. A copy of the report is attached as Appendix B.

Faculty Association Report

The Faculty Association Report, submitted electronically to the Board of Trustees, was read into the record and is attached as Appendix C.

President's Report

The President's Report was submitted electronically to the Board of Trustees and was read into the record by Dr. Hamin Shabazz, Vice President of Academic Affairs/CAO. The report is attached as Appendix D.

New Business

The Board of Trustees reported that there was no new business to discuss.

Public Comments

There were six public comments.

1. Lev Zilbermintz submitted his report electronically.

Hello everyone,

If this is being read into the record, then it means I am not feeling well and cannot make it to the meeting. My apologies, but I will have to just come next month, health permitting.

Pierre Damis, the Garden State Chess League Secretary, is at the meeting. He is giving you his viewpoint on the matter. So let me say a few words here.

Essex County College has a chess club. I have offered to teach chess club members how to play better chess. You keep saying Students First, but do you practice what you preach? How are students supposed to become better at chess if there is no one to teach them openings, strategy and tactics?

I am the President of the Garden State Chess League. We have ten teams that play each other once a month, online or in person. The league has existed since 2009. I have been its president since 2019.

I proposed that I teach the chess club players how to become better at chess. For this, I need access to the Clara Dasher Center where the chess club meets on Mondays and Thursdays.

I do not charge money, so you can only benefit from this. FYI, I have been chess champion of the entire Essex County since 1995 and of Union County since 2014. I have published chess articles, played and defeated strong players, captained teams at the annual United States Amateur Team East tournament in February.

ECC Chess Club has participated in the Garden State Chess League for at least two or three years now. They have won a game here and there, but never won a match. I have proposed that I teach them openings, strategy, tactics. This would improve their play. However, ECC has denied me -- and other alumni -- access to the Dasher Center.

This is wrong. I know what chess players need. So I am asking the Board of Trustees to give me access to the Dasher Center. You want your chess club to show accomplishments, such as winning matches and beating other schools. Right now the ECC Club is dead last in the league. Zero points. Is this what you call Students First?

Make the right choice. Allow me to teach ECC Chess Club members how to play better chess. That means access to the Dasher Center.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Lev D. Zilbermints, '93

2. Mr. Pierre Damis expressed interest in coordinating chess lessons for students and inquired about concerns regarding restrictions on playing chess with students. He also asked how alumni may gain access to student clubs. Mr. Damis indicated a willingness to discuss the matter further and provide any necessary information to ensure student safety.
3. Dean Leigh Bello responded to Mr. Damis, stating that she would be open to further discussion. She explained that access to the Student Center is limited to students, as it is supported by student fees. She also noted that there is an existing student organization, Chess Etc., which is no longer solely focused on chess and is not competitive in nature.
4. Dr. Khalfani invited the Trustees to attend the Sankofa Royal Celebration and Dinner scheduled for May 14.
5. Dr. Victor Stolberg invited the Trustees to the Faculty Association Annual Dinner.
6. Ms. Shelby Robinson invited attendees to the Alumni Volleyball Game. She stated that four executive board members from the Alumni Association will attend the Laptop4Learning fundraiser.

Notice of Executive Session

Trustee 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 March 24, 2026, 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 Martinez motioned for a vote on the Notice of Executive Session. Trustee Cruz moved the motion, and Trustee Robinson seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Adjournment

Board Chair, Dr. Lewis, motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 PM by a vote of acclamation.

ECCAA Board of Trustees Report

Submitted by: Shelby Robinson, President
Essex County College Alumni Association
Reporting Period: March 24, 2026

Alumni Mentorship Initiative

Mentors and mentees have been successfully paired, and introductory emails have been sent. The program is now transitioning into its active phase, with initial meetings currently being scheduled. This milestone represents meaningful progress in strengthening alumni-student connections and supporting student development.

Alumni Engagement and Membership Growth

Membership growth remains a priority. A goal has been established to increase membership by 31 members this month, supported by weekly reminders encouraging each member to invite one fellow alum. Increased membership directly contributes to scholarship funding and strengthens alumni engagement and student connections.

Institutional Partnership: Laptops for Learning Initiative

Four representatives from the Executive Board will be participating in the Laptops for Learning initiative. The Alumni Association is honored to support this effort and looks forward to engaging in the fellowship and contributing to student success.

Strategic Reflection and Alignment

I come before you each month to provide updates; however, as I close out my first year, I've been reflecting on the impact of the Alumni Association and how we can continue to grow. I would welcome the opportunity to hear from the Board—what does success look like to you when it comes to the Alumni Association? That insight will help guide our next phase of work. As we continue to work in partnership with Dr. Boakye, Mr. Bundy, and the College administration, I welcome the opportunity to better understand what success looks like from the Board's perspective for the Alumni Association. As we move forward, I look forward to expanding opportunities for collaboration beyond this setting to strengthen our collective impact in support of the College's success.

Student Government Association (SGA)

Board of Trustees Report

Reporting Period: January – March 2026

Overview

The Student Government Association (SGA) continued its efforts to represent student interests, enhance campus life, and strengthen engagement across the college community during the reporting period. Activities focused on student feedback, collaboration with campus partners, and support for student organizations. SGA's work during this period was carried out with consistent coordination, ensuring that student concerns, initiatives, and outcomes were accurately documented and followed through.

Leadership Updates (January-February)

During the month of January, the Student Government Association conducted leadership elections for the positions of President and Vice President. The election results were announced on February 9, 2026, confirming Oluwana Akinsola as President and Romissa Elsheriff as Vice President. Both officials officially resumed their positions on February 12, 2026. These leadership transitions supported the continuation of SGA operations and strategic planning for the spring semester.

Meetings and Engagement

Planning Meeting (Virtual)

Date: February 26, 2026

A virtual planning meeting was held with SGA leadership, including President Oluwana, Vice President Romisa, Secretary Daphnee, Treasurer Valerie, and members of the executive team including Senator of Communications Jeri, Senator of Academics Metisha. The meeting focused on coordinating upcoming initiatives, planning student engagement activities, and outlining priorities for the semester.

General SGA Meeting (First Meeting)

Date: March 4, 2026

SGA held an official general meeting with both in-person and virtual attendance, including President Oluwana, Secretary Daphnee, Senator of Communications Jeri, and general member Matthew.

Key discussions focused on student engagement initiatives, campus concerns, and planning for upcoming events.

Major topics included planning for the Coffee Hour event, improving communication with students, increasing social media presence, addressing Wi-Fi connectivity concerns, and supporting student organizations through funding processes. Additional discussions included potential programming for Women's History Month and strategies to increase overall student engagement.

Coffee Hour

Date: March 10, 2026

SGA hosted a Coffee Hour designed as an open forum for student interaction. The event had strong participation and provided valuable insight into student experiences. The event was successfully coordinated with the guidance and support of Dean Bello and Mr. Graham, who were present and instrumental in its execution. Administration support helped ensure a well-organized environment, including providing refreshments.

Attendees/Contributors: Dean Bello, Mr. Graham, President Oluwana, Secretary Daphnee, Treasurer Valerie, Senator of Communications Jeri, and Senator of Academics Metisha.

Key Outcomes:

- Students reported overall satisfaction with their campus experience
- Students expressed interest in increased activities and engagement opportunities
- Concerns were raised regarding affordability of food and campus services
- Students shared suggestions for improvements to enhance campus life and support services

General SGA Meeting (Second Meeting)

Date: March 11, 2026

Attendance for this meeting was limited to a small number of executive members. The meeting focused on reviewing the outcomes of the Coffee Hour and discussing student feedback collected during the event.

Topics reviewed included:

- Student concerns and satisfaction
- Requests for more affordable food options
- Interest in additional student events and programming

The agenda also included discussion topics such as gym hours, student events (movie nights, talent shows, cultural showcases), transportation concerns, and engagement activities. These items were noted for further development and future planning.

Inter-Club Council (ICC) Meeting

The ICC meeting focused on strengthening collaboration with student organizations and addressing common challenges faced by clubs.

Key Highlights:

- Introduction of Vice President to club representatives
- Discussion of overall club satisfaction

Challenges Identified:

- Low membership and engagement
- Need for improved retention of members
- Limited funding and access to resources
- Need for increased visibility and communication

Club Goals and Initiatives:

- Increase student participation and recruitment
- Collaborate with clubs from other colleges
- Organize intercollegiate events (e.g., volleyball matches)
- Host themed events such as fashion shows and cultural showcases
- Upgrade equipment, particularly for performance-based clubs
- Encourage collaboration between clubs

Upcoming Events:

- Student Fair (March 25, 2026)
 - Spring Fling
 - Club Expo
 - Freshman Games
 - Next ICC Meeting scheduled for April 17, 2026
-

SGA Initiatives and Contributions

During this reporting period, SGA engaged in several initiatives aimed at improving student life:

- Collaboration with Dining Partnership Services to advocate for more affordable and improved food options
 - Monitoring dining services and gathering student feedback on meal quality
 - Conducting student interviews and increasing engagement through social media platforms
 - Outreach efforts across campus departments to improve visibility and communication
 - Volunteer support in the campus pantry to assist students in need
-

Closing Statement

The Student Government Association remains committed to advocating for student needs and enhancing the overall campus experience. Through continued collaboration with administration, student organizations, and the broader campus community, SGA aims to address student concerns and implement meaningful improvements.

Throughout this reporting period, records of events, meetings, and student engagement activities were consistently maintained and organized by the Office of the Secretary to ensure accurate documentation of SGA initiatives.

Submitted by:

Daphnee Demervil
Secretary, Student Government Association

**Essex County College Faculty Association (ECCFA)
Memorandum**

To: Dr. Arnold C. Lewis, Chair of the Essex County College Board of Trustees (ECCBOT)

From: Jean-Wilner Alexandre, Associate Professor Economics and Finance, ECCFA
Representative to ECC Board of Trustees/ Class of 2003

Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Re: Essex County College Faculty Association (ECCFA) Report to Essex County College Board of Trustees (ECCBOT)

General Statement

Distinguished Trustees, President Boakye, esteemed Cabinet members, and members of the Essex County College community:

It is a privilege to once again present the March 2026 report on behalf of the faculty and the Essex County College Faculty Association.

As we enter the final five weeks of the semester, our faculty remain fully committed to supporting our students and ensuring their success through the completion of their coursework.

Finally, faculty members undergoing retention and promotion have diligently prepared and submitted their binders to the Administration. We commend their hard work and dedication, and we look forward to their successful retention and promotion.

ECCFA

The ECCFA Executive Board meeting was held on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, followed by the general membership meeting on February 26, 2026.

Faculty Report and Activities

Afro-Latino Contributions Program (February 18, 2026)

Sponsored and hosted by ALPFA and the Office of Student Excellence and Engagement Center, and co-sponsored by the Africana Institute, this campus dialogue highlighted the historical and contemporary contributions of Afro-Latino communities. The event fostered cross-cultural awareness and promoted interdisciplinary engagement among students, staff, and faculty.

Biology, Chemistry & Physics Division

Business Division

Professor Timothy Kucerov: Selected to serve as a panelist for the Gilman Scholarship Program's March 2026 application review cycle. In this role, he will evaluate up to 70 applications over a two-week period.

Mathematics

Professor Chengwen Wang: His abstract has been accepted for a poster presentation at the Genome Informatics 2025 Conference at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory—one of the most prestigious conferences in genomics and computational biology. This collaborative research involves a Rutgers undergraduate student and a Johns Hopkins University postdoctoral researcher, highlighting interdisciplinary and inter-institutional engagement

Student Development and Career Services

Victor B. Stolberg

Dr. Victor Stolberg: Actively participated in multiple professional development activities throughout February 2026, including trainings and workshops on community college transfer pathways, AI in higher education and equity, clinical education topics, union leadership, retirement planning, mental health awareness, and disaster readiness. He also attended the ECCFA Executive Board meeting and completed ongoing Medscape modules on key public health issues.

1. Princeton University: Community College Transfer Pathways Institute (2/6).
2. ECEA Association Rep Training (2/10).
3. NEA: "AI in Academia: What Higher Education Unions Need to Know" (2/11).
4. Decera Clinical Education: "Detecting and Treating Alzheimer's Disease" (2/12).
5. ECEA: XYZ's of Retirement (2/18).
6. NJ Division on Civil Rights: "AI and Algorithmic Discrimination" (2/19).
7. Disaster Ready: "Writing and Editing with AI" (2/19).
8. NJEA Winter Leadership North Training (2/20-21).
9. ECCFA Executive Board meeting (2/24).
10. JED Workshop: "Unraveling the Stigma" (2/25).
11. Medscape: "Alzheimer's Disease," "Clinical Burnout," "Closing Disparities," "Tourette Syndrome," and "Vaping" (2/5-29).

Concluding Remarks

Our faculty members thank you for your continued service and commitment to the college community.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean-Wilner Alexandre

Associate Professor of Economics and Finance

ECCFA Representative to the ECC Board of Trustees

Class of 2003

Memorandum

Appendix D

To: Dr. Lewis & the Board of Trustees

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

Date: March 24, 2026

Re: President's Monthly Report

General:

This month, we observe the contributions of women to history, culture and society. This year's theme of "*Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future*" honors women who are fostering environmental, economic, and social equity and designing a more resilient, inclusive future for our global village.

Academic Affairs:

- Eight students and two faculty members represented ECC at the 2026 National Society for Black Engineers (NSBE) National Conference in Maryland from March 18th to March 22nd. I appreciate the support of their sponsors, Glenn Best of T3 Creators Collective, Gary Mann of Jasfel Analytics, our Student Affairs office, and faculty advisors Prof. Figueiras & Prof. Kodjovi.
- Our Academic Affairs office has confirmed the following course sections for the summer:

Main Campus:

- 235 courses for Summer I
- 115 courses for Summer II

West Essex Campus:

- 26 courses for Summer I
- 12 courses for Summer II

Enrollment Services

- Registration for Summer I, Summer II, and Fall 2026 is now open. These terms will start and end as follows:
- Summer I: May 11th to June 25th
- Summer II: July 13th to August 20th
- Fall 2026: September 2nd to December 21st

Continuing Education and Workforce Development:

- We continue to expand our dual-enrollment program with 7 school districts and 19 high schools currently participating. One hundred and thirty dual-enrollment students are en route to graduate on May 26th. I appreciate the work of Dr. Vieira and her team as we continue to expand this critical relationship between ECC and our high schools.
- We are anticipating a 20% budget reduction for our summer EOF programs.
- We are serving 264 ESL students this Spring term across all instructional levels of Literacy, Beginning, Pre-Intermediate, Intermediate, and Advanced.

The President's February/March engagements have included:

- February 25th: Attended the retirement breakfast for Hon. William Payne.
- February 25th: Attended the JED training workshop: Unravelling the Stigma, organized by Student Affairs.
- February 26th: I was joined by institutional leaders in a strategic meeting with IMAC Insurance to discuss current and future concerns related to cost.
- February 26th: I was joined by institutional leaders in a meeting with Dining Partnership Group (DPG) to discuss student concerns and the upcoming bid process.
- February 27th: Participated in the New Jersey Council of County Colleges' (NJCCC) Strategy Meeting: Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grants (SCCTG).
- February 28th: Participated in the MLK Health Equity Summit held at the ECC gymnasium and led by Rev. Dr. David Jefferson, Sr. – Metropolitan Baptist Church, Newark.
- March 2nd: Attended the Advisory Committee for Fiber Optics/Cabling meeting hosted by Continuing Education and Workforce Development.
- March 4th: Attended the Pre-Apprenticeship in Career Education (PACE) Round 1 Grantee meeting organized by the Department of Labor.
- March 5th: Held a partnership meeting with the MCJ Amelior Foundation regarding the Laptop4Learners fundraising event.
- March 6th: Attended the combined President's and Workforce Consortium Governance Board meeting.
- March 9th: Attended the New Jersey President's Council (NJPC) Executive Board meeting.
- March 9th: Held a partnership meeting with the PSE&G Foundation leadership with a focus on developing mutually beneficial programs for our students and community.
- March 11th: Attended the Essex County Women's History Month Celebrations organized by the County Executive's office.
- March 13th: Attended Governor Sherrill's FY27 budget briefing to the state's education stakeholders by OSHE.
- March 17th: Attended the New Jersey Council of County Colleges Budget meeting with Assemblyman Venezia.
- March 17th: Attended the Annual Social Work Month celebration organized by Prof. Jenkins and the Social Sciences Division.
- March 18th: Attended the Garvey/Nkrumah Lecture Series organized by Dr. Khalfani. Senator Allan Bernard of the Parliament of Jamaica served as the keynote speaker.
- March 18th: Attended the New Jersey Council of County Colleges Budget meeting with Assemblyman Morales.
- March 18th: Attended the Power of Women in the Labor Movement

Student Affairs

- Through our Student Affairs office, ECC and ReUp Education continue to engage stop-out students. For the Spring 2026 semester, 49 stop-out students were readmitted to the College and 254 were retained from the prior semester.

Athletics

- Xiomara Rivera of the ECC Women's Soccer Team has been named the recipient of the Althea Gibson Leadership Award for Essex County. The award recognizes students who have demonstrated

academic success, contributed to their community and show promise of becoming a future leader. The award was presented by the County Executive on March 11th at the Essex County Martin Luther King, Jr. Justice Building.

- The Annual Athletic Banquet will be held at the Newark Campus this year. It is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 30th.
- The ECC Men's and Women's soccer teams held a Youth Soccer Clinic with the Girls and Boys Club of Newark, bringing mentorship and skill development to our city youth.

Finances

- Our finance and enrollment services teams have completed our financial aid recertification process.
- The FY 25 audit process has been completed.

Projects:

- We will conclude our 2nd-floor corridors renovation project at the end of the month.
- The Center for Technology project is ahead of schedule. It will be ready for occupancy before the summer.

Community Relations:

- We are making progress with the April 9th Laptop4Learning Fundraiser at the West Essex Campus. Information regarding event tickets, sponsorships, and ad journals can be found on the ECC website.

Save the dates - Upcoming Events.

- April 9th: Laptop4Learning Scholarship Fundraiser at the West Essex Campus.
- April 30th: Annual Athletic Banquet at the Newark Campus.
- May 14th : Africana Institute Sankofa Royal Celebration and Dinner.
- May 26, 2026 - Commencement at the Prudential Center.

New Board Members:

The County Executive has recommended two new Board members for the review and approval by the County Board of Commissioners: They are **Mr. Maurice J. Brown** and **Ms. Norma Gonzalez**.

Mr. Chair, this ends my report. Thank you.