



Board of Trustees

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

June 16, 2026 | 4:30 PM

Smith Hall – Main Campus

In Attendance:

- Dr. A. Lewis, Chair
- C. Martinez, Vice Chair
- M. Brown
- R. Butts
- I. Cruz
- N. Gonzalez
- B. Robinson
- J. Wright
- J. Zarra
- M. Townes, Board Counsel
- Dr. A. Boakye, President
- S. Story, Recorder

Excused:

- J. Grimes

Call to Order/Roll Call

Board of Trustees Chair, Dr. Lewis, called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m. He welcomed the new board members, including the newest member, Ms. Rita Butts. A quorum was achieved with 9 trustees in attendance.

Open Public Meetings Act Announcement

Trustee 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 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 Martinez moved to approve the minutes from the May 19, 2026, meeting. Trustee Robinson seconded. ***The minutes were approved unanimously.***

Communications

There was no new communication.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Lev Zilbermints submitted his public comments electronically:

LEV'S PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Hello, everyone,

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

4-1/June - 2026: Congratulations to those all appointed, promoted to their positions!! Those receiving a merit award or supplements are to be commended for their dedication and hard work. You are making the ECC community very proud of you and your work. Thank you!!

To those retiring, we say thank you for your service to Essex County College. We thank you for your service, hard work and dedication to the school, and wish you a happy retirement.

IX. Site, Facilities and Equipment Report: I would like to inquire when the cracked stones in front of Dasher Student Center can be fixed? It should be as simple as pouring cement into the cracks. Or perhaps the cracked stones could be replaced and new ones put in their place?

The other issue I would like to ask Trustee Martinez is when the water fountains in the main building will be examined and fixed? I have seen one on Level 3, by the Ladies Restroom, not far from the MPT Center. That fountain is out of order. Summer starts on June 21. Temperatures will be high, making people thirsty.

These are my public comments on agenda items for this month. I will have new ones in September.

Finance Committee Report

Trustee Zarra advised that the **Finance Committee** convened, on June 8th, and recommended the approval of the following items:

Actions – Recommended for the Board’s Approval

3-1.1/June-2026	Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Food Management and Operations Services Holding Company Inc. d.b.a. Epicurean Feast , Boston, MA College Funded-Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.00																											
3-1.2/June-2026	Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Advertisement Services	Amount not to exceed \$500,000.00 Per year																											
	<table> <tr> <th><u>Company Name</u></th><th><u>Company Name</u></th><th><u>Company Name</u></th></tr> <tr> <td>Intersection</td><td>Capstar dba: iHeart Media</td><td>XAD, Inc. DBA Groundtruth</td></tr> <tr> <td>Clear Channel Outdoor</td><td>AAAD, Inc. Local Talk</td><td>Altice Media</td></tr> <tr> <td>Comcast Holding</td><td>Irving Street Rep</td><td>Worral Community</td></tr> <tr> <td>Advance Local Holdings</td><td>Positive Comm. Magazine</td><td>Screen Vision Media</td></tr> <tr> <td>Welcome to the Neighborhood</td><td>Motor Vehicle Network</td><td>The Whitney Publishing</td></tr> <tr> <td>TAP Into Local</td><td>Caldwell Progress</td><td>NJ Hills</td></tr> <tr> <td>El Cambio</td><td>Multiview, Inc</td><td>Mass Interact INC</td></tr> <tr> <td>New Jersey Advance Media</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	<u>Company Name</u>	<u>Company Name</u>	<u>Company Name</u>	Intersection	Capstar dba: iHeart Media	XAD, Inc. DBA Groundtruth	Clear Channel Outdoor	AAAD, Inc. Local Talk	Altice Media	Comcast Holding	Irving Street Rep	Worral Community	Advance Local Holdings	Positive Comm. Magazine	Screen Vision Media	Welcome to the Neighborhood	Motor Vehicle Network	The Whitney Publishing	TAP Into Local	Caldwell Progress	NJ Hills	El Cambio	Multiview, Inc	Mass Interact INC	New Jersey Advance Media			
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3-1.3/June-2026	Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Legal Services	Amount not to exceed \$300,000.00 Per year																											

	<u>Company Name</u> Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, Jacobs Souder Law Group Genova Burns College Funded-Operating Expense	<u>Company Name</u> O'Toole Scrivo Antonelli Kantor Rivera, PC	<u>Company Name</u> Fernandez Garcia, LLC Carmagnola & Ritardi, LLC
3-1.4/June-2026	Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Internet Access and Data Transmission Services Cablevision Lightpath Inc , Piscataway, NJ College Funded-Operating Expense		Amount not to exceed \$250,000.00
3-1.5/June-2026	Resolution Authorizing the Award of a One-Year Contract for Medical Services for Employees Ironbound Medical Services , Newark, NJ College Funded-Operating Expense		Amount not to exceed \$100,000.00
3-1.6/June-2026	Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Athletic Travel and Charter Bus Services Urban Sherpa Inc. , Island Heights, NJ College Funded-Operating Expense		Amount not to exceed \$150,000.00 Per year
3-1.7/June-2026	Resolution Authorizing the Award of a One-Year Contract for Athletic Training Services Atlantic Health System Inc d.b.a. AHS Hospital Corp , Morristown, NJ College Funded-Operating Expense		Amount not to exceed \$70,000.00
3-1.8/June-2026	Resolution Authorizing the Payment for Athletic Medical Accident Coverage Acrisure NJ Partners Insurance Services LLC , Grand Rapids, MI College Funded-Operating Expense		Amount not to exceed \$60,000.00
3-1.9/June-2026	Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Library and Student Services <u>Company Name</u> NJEdge.Net, Inc d.b.a. Virtual Academic Library Environment (VALE) College Funded-Operating Expense	<u>Company Name</u> Learning Technologies Corp d.b.a. Moodlerooms	Amount not to exceed \$250,000.00 Per year
3-1.10/June-2026	Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Food Supplies and Services <u>Vendor Name</u> Shoprite Sunrise Shoprite, Inc GLN Shop Associates LLC dba Shoprite of Newark Hunger Free Campus Grant funded		Amount not to exceed \$150,000.00 Per year
3-1.11/June-2026	Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Three-Year Contract for Human Resources Software GovernmentJobs.com Inc d.b.a. NEOGOV , El Segundo, CA College Funded-Operating Expense		Amount not to exceed \$120,000.00

Trustee Wright motioned to approve the Finance actions, and Trustee Cruz seconded the motion. The

motion carried unanimously.

Personnel Committee Report

Trustee Robinson advised that the Personnel Committee met on June 9th and recommended the approval of the following items:

Actions – Recommended for the Board’s Approval

A. Appointment(s)

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 4-1/Jun-2026 | Administrative
Holger Henke– Associate Dean, West Essex Campus
West Essex Campus
Academic Affairs
Effective: August 10, 2026
Salary: \$110,000 |
| 4-2/Jun-2026 | Administrative
Jelena Stosic – Associate Director of Capital Planning
Facilities Management and Planning
Operations and Information Technology
Effective: July 27, 2026
Salary: \$90,000 |
| 4-3/Jun-2026 | Professional
Claudette Cudjoe – Administrative Assistant
Student Development and Counseling & Career Services
Student Affairs
Effective Date: July 7, 2026
Salary \$41,100 |
| 4-4/Jun-2026 | Security
Jose Rosa Alvarado – Security Officer
Public Safety
Operations and Information Technology
Effective Date: July 7, 2026
Salary \$33,475 |
| 4-5/Jun-2026 | Support Staff
Elizabeth Frimpomaa - Custodian
Facilities Management
Operations and Information Technology
Effective Date: July 7, 2026
Salary \$34,008 |

B. Promotion(s)

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 4-6/Jun-2026 | Dr. Kathlyn Battle, Professor
Division of Counseling
Effective Date: September 1, 2026 |
|--------------|--|

- 4-7/Jun-2026 Dr. Carlos Castillo, Professor
Division of Mathematics, Engineering, Technology & Computer Science
Effective Date: September 1, 2026
- 4-8/Jun-2026 Germaine Albuquerque, Associate Professor
Chair - Division of Business
Effective Date: September 1, 2026

C. Merit Award

- 4-9/Jun-2026 Patty Howard
Director of Financial Aid
Enrollment Management
Effective July 1, 2026
\$4,500 added to base salary
- 4-10/Jun-2026 Dr. Mirian Ochoa
Coordinator – Student Engagement Center
Enrollment Management
Effective July 1, 2026
\$3,000 added to base salary
- 4-11/Jun-2026 Carmen Crespo
Program Assistant– Continuing Education
Community Continuing Education & Workforce Development
Effective July 1, 2026
\$3,000 added to base salary
- 4-12/Jun-2026 Xiomara Gavidia
Administrative Assistant – Information Technology
Operations & Information Technology
Effective July 1, 2026
\$3,000 added to base salary

D. Supplement

- 4-13/Jun-2026 Karen Bridgett
Title IX Coordinator
Compliance
Effective July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027
\$5,000
- 4-14/Jun-2026 Elizabeth Barkley
Title IX Coordinator
Compliance
Effective July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027
\$5,000
- 4-15/Jun-2026 Ledawn Hall
504 Coordinator
Compliance
Effective July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027
\$5,000

4-16/Jun-2026 Jeanine Chambers
OPRA Records Custodian
Compliance
Effective July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027
\$5,000

E. Retirement(s)

4-17/Jun-2026 Norbert Beckles
Maintenance Service Worker
Maintenance
Operations and Information Technology
Effective Date: July 1, 2026

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

Educational Programs Committee Report

Trustee Dr. Lewis reported that the Educational Programs Committee met on June 8th and recommended the approval of the following items:

Actions – Recommended for the Board’s Approval

7-1.1/June-2026 Acceptance of Funds: Educational Opportunity Fund Program (EOF) from the State of New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education for \$2,272,717

7-1.2/June-2026 Dual Enrollment Program: Spectrum360

7-1.3/June-2026 Dual Enrollment Program: Irvington Board of Education

7-1.4/June-2026 Contract for Services: FOCUS

7-1.5/June-2026 Application submittal for: The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) Grant Application

7-1.6/June-2026 Acceptance of Funds: Strengthening Career & Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V)

7-1.7/June-2026 Transfer Articulation Agreement: William Paterson University

7-1.8/June-2026 New Certificate Program: Culinary Arts Academic Certificate

7-1.9/June-2026 Approval of Application Resubmission: Consolidated Adult Basic Skills and Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education Grant

Trustee Robinson motioned for a vote on the Educational Programs Committee actions, and Trustee Zarra seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Site, Facilities, and Equipment Committee Report

Trustee Martinez reported that the Site, Facilities, and Equipment Committee met on June 8th, but there were no actions.

Policy and Governance Committee Report

Trustee Cruz reported that the Policy and Governance Committee did not convene, and there were

no actions.

Community Relations Committee Report

Trustee Wright reported that the Community Relations Committee convened on June 9th and had no action items.

Trustee Wright further reported that the Africana Institute Pan-African Drum Festival took place over the weekend and that a play titled Family Reunion was held at the Mary Burch Theater. Trustee Wright also noted that the President is scheduled to visit her church in July and speak about the College.

Alumni Association Report

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

Student Government Association Report

No report was submitted.

Faculty Association Report

The Faculty Association Report was submitted electronically. The report is attached as Appendix B.

President's Report

The President's Report was submitted electronically to the Board of Trustees and was read into the record by Dr. Augustine A. Boakye. The report is attached as Appendix C.

New Business

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

Public Comments

There were five public comments.

- Lev Zilbermints submitted his report electronically and read it into the record.

LEV'S PUBLIC COMMENTS

Please share photos of a genuine 1864 with arrows half dollar inscribed "April 3, 1865" on one side and "W. F." on the other with the Board. The inscription gives the date Federal troops went into Richmond, Va. - April 3, 1865.



Hello, everyone,

Here we are at the end of another school year. I have a surprise for you. On EBay I bought an 1854 with arrows half dollar. It is inscribed "April 3d, 1865. Richmond, Va." on one side, and "W.F." on the other side. As such, it is a historic medal from the U.S. Civil War.

On April 3, 1865 Federal forces entered the Confederate capital. The first to enter were the 6 regiments from Brig. General Edward H. Ripley's 1st Brigade of 24th Army Corps, and U.S. Colored Troops of the 25th Army Corps. Infantry and cavalry were the first to enter Richmond. Thus, the medal is from that time period. I will show it to you after the meeting is over. Hopefully you got the photos from Shalia. This interesting thing is just in time for Juneteenth.

What else? As I said at a previous Board meeting, there is a time capsule buried at ECC. It should be exhumed come September. That time capsule was buried 50 years ago, when the building we are now in was first opened to the public, September 12, 1976. You can find it using ground-penetrating radar.

Having said that, you still have an opportunity to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the A.Zachary Yamba Building. Have a committee created over the summer. Make plans, reservations. When autumn arrives, you will have everything in place. The hoopla should help attract more potential students. I would be willing to help plan this.

Again, it is up to you whether you want to grab an opportunity.

Have a nice summer.

- Trustee Robinson commended Dean Vieira for her dedication and hard work in developing the Dual Enrollment program for East Orange. She noted that the program had been in development for several years and highlighted Dean Vieira's continued advocacy for students at East Orange High School.
- Dr. Khalfani offered remarks during public comments, expressing appreciation to the administration for his selection as Grand Marshal for the May 2026 Commencement. He congratulated faculty members on their promotions and thanked the Board of Trustees for their participation in the Africana Institute's 25th Anniversary Celebration. He noted that the Pan-African Drum Festival took place over the past weekend and referenced the play *1921*, adding that a version of the production will be presented again for high school students. He also shared that a closing meeting was held for the Sankofa Dinner celebration with participants and committee members and invited a round of applause in recognition of their efforts. Additionally, he acknowledged the former President of the Faculty Association for her service.
- Professor Dr. Kathy Battle expressed gratitude to the Board of Trustees for her promotion. She described the process as lengthy and thanked her colleagues for their support, noting her many years of service to the College.
- Dr. Castillo thanked the Board of Trustees for his promotion and shared personal reflections, including the recent loss of his dog. He expressed gratitude for the support he has received, including prayers during a difficult period following his divorce. He thanked the President, Dr. Shabazz, Dr. Tooma, and his colleagues for their encouragement. He also acknowledged a security officer, James Buchanan, for his support, and expressed appreciation to students for bringing him joy. He concluded by extending blessings to those in attendance.
- Professor Albuquerque thanked the President and the Board of Trustees for his promotion and reflected on his 17 years of service at the College. He spoke about his professional journey and expressed appreciation for the support of his colleagues and staff. He emphasized a leadership approach rooted in trust and inspiration. He also noted that the Bloomberg Lab is available to all students, not only those in business programs. In his remarks, he shared an analogy comparing growth and aspirations to the redwood tree, encouraging others to pursue ambitions greater than their past experiences.
- Dr. Lewis thanked the College community for their efforts throughout Fiscal Year 2026 and expressed appreciation for their continued service.

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 September 22, 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 Robinson moved the motion, and Trustee Cruz seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Adjournment

Board Chair, Dr. Lewis, motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM by a vote of acclamation.

ECCAA Board of Trustees Report – June 2026

Presented by Shelby Robinson, President, ECC Alumni Association

Graduation 2026

- Graduation was a beautiful ceremony from start to finish. Congratulations to the Board of Trustees, Dr. Boakye, the executive team, professors, faculty, and staff on another successful academic year.
- We are excited to welcome the Class of 2026 into the ECC alumni family.

Graduation Recap & Appreciation

- A special thank you to Kalia Best and Yanilda Munoz for proudly carrying our alumni banner during commencement.
- Thank you to Juanita Simon for representing the EBoard.
- Thank you to Bertheleau Ngakam, our ECCAA Advisor, for his continued guidance and helping us navigate the behind-the-scenes work that makes our efforts successful.
- Thank you to Mr. Bundy for his ongoing support and guidance.
- Thank you to Tosin Thompson for capturing memorable graduation footage and moments.

General Assembly Meeting

- Our General Assembly meeting will be held via Zoom on June 17, 2026, at 6:30 PM.
- We look forward to welcoming our newest graduates. We have already received emails from graduates eager to obtain their membership credentials, which is a promising sign of engagement and connection to ECC.

Membership & Summer Engagement

- ECCAA has developed a draft summer calendar of events and community tabling opportunities to increase alumni awareness, engagement, and membership growth.
- We look forward to strengthening connections with our alumni community throughout the summer.

Laptops for Learning Initiative

- Laptops for Learning remains ECCAA's main fundraising priority for the upcoming year.
- We will officially introduce the initiative at our General Assembly meeting tomorrow, with planning and committee work beginning next month.
- This initiative reflects our commitment to supporting student success by providing students with the technology and resources they need to thrive.

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**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, June 16, 2026
Re: Essex County College Faculty Association (ECCFA) Report to Essex County College Board of Trustees (ECCBOT)

General Statement

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

It is a privilege to once again present the June 2026 report on behalf of the faculty and the Essex County College Faculty Association, even from thousands of miles away.

We can never fully express our appreciation and gratitude for your outstanding service as trustees to the College and the broader community. In a world where public service is increasingly measured by direct personal benefits, you continue to devote countless hours to fulfilling your fiduciary responsibilities with dedication, integrity, and a steadfast commitment to student success.

ECCFA Activities and Comment

1. On May 26, 2026, Essex County College held its 57th Annual Commencement Ceremony. Faculty members enthusiastically participated in celebrating our graduates and their families, marking the culmination of months and years of hard work and dedication.
2. Following commencement, the Essex County College Faculty Association (ECCFA) hosted a luncheon to welcome new faculty members and recognize the service of outgoing Executive Board members.
3. We are delighted by the promotion of several outstanding faculty members to the ranks of Associate Professor and Full Professor. These well-deserved promotions recognize their excellence in teaching, service, scholarship, and commitment to student success.
4. The Faculty Senate has continued its work reviewing and updating the Faculty Constitution and Faculty Bylaws.
5. The Faculty Association continues to meet regularly and prepare for the upcoming academic year under new leadership. Many officers have already registered for NJEA and NEA conferences, workshops, and professional development opportunities.

6. The newly elected ECCFA Executive Board will begin its term on September 1, 2026. We look forward to working collaboratively with the Administration and Board of Trustees to advance the mission of Essex County College.
 - a. President – Dr. Akil Kokayi Khalfani
 - b. Vice President – Renita D. Mangru
 - c. Treasurer - Patrick Saint Fort
 - d. Corresponding Secretary - Dr. Bridget Turner
 - e. Representative to the Board - Prof Jean-Wilner Alexandre
 - f. Recording Secretary – Prof India Calloway
 - g. Membership Chair – Prof Pablo Ramos Silva
 - h. Immediate Past President – Prof Mingyon McCall

Faculty Report and Activities

Africana Institute

The Africana Institute, under the leadership of Dr. Akil Khalfani, has engaged in numerous activities, which will be highlighted in the main report. Full details are included in the appendix.

1. The Africana Institute convened its 25th Anniversary Celebration on May 14, welcoming approximately 220 attendees. We extend our gratitude to the members of the Board of Trustees, the College community, and all supporters for their presence and continued support.
2. Dr. Khalfani was invited by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Togo to serve in a prestigious committee.
3. As a member of the African Union Committee of Experts on Reparations, Dr. Khalfani participated in the Joint Meeting of the African Union and CARICOM.
4. The Africana Institute convened the 11th Annual Pan-African DrumFest and Juneteenth Reflection on June 13.
5. Dr. Khalfani served as a panelist at the SÉNÉGAL REK Investment conference.

Biology, Chemistry & Physics Division

Sujatha Ramakrishnan, B.Sc., M.S., Ed.D., Associate Professor

Dr. Sujatha Ramakrishnan, reported that she earned a Microsoft Elevate badge this month on the topic “Introduction to Generative AI for Education.

Student Development and Career Services

Dr. Victor Stolberg, Associate Professor/Counselor ,Student Development and Counseling

Dr. Victor Stolberg has reported a significant number of activities, all of which are included in the appendix. I would like to highlight a select few in this report; however, the full report can be found in the appendix.

- ECCFA Spring Banquet to Honor Retirees & Welcome New Faculty (5/1)
- NJEA Membership Chairs Conference (5/2)
- ECEA Legislative Action Team (LAT) Meeting (5/4)
- West Orange Board of Education Meeting (5/4)
- Newark Public Library: “Equipping Educators: Latino History” (5/6)
- EOF Graduation Gala (5/8)
- ECEA Human & Civil Rights Committee Dinner: “Immigration Acknowledgement Statement” (5/19)

Concluding remark

Graduation Committee

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude for the outstanding graduation celebration that marked the culmination of the hard work and dedication that our students, faculty, and staff have invested throughout the academic year.

ECC Board of Trustees,

At a time when higher education faces significant challenges, including budget constraints, increasing external pressures, and concerns regarding academic freedom, your continued support, dedication, and service provide a source of hope and stability.

College Community

On behalf of the Essex County College Faculty Association, we thank you all for your partnership and support throughout the year. We look forward to continuing our work together during the upcoming academic year with our newly elected Executive Board.

We wish each of you a restful, enjoyable, and well-deserved summer. End of Report

Appendix

- Faculty, Adjunct and Staff at the Bloomberg Headquarter in New York City



- Dr Khalfani was a Panelist in the SÉNÉGAL REK INVESTMENT



- Invitation to Dr. Akil Kokayi Khalfani from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Togo

REPUBLIQUE TOGOLAISE
TRAVAIL-LIBERTE-PATRIE
MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES,
DE LA COOPERATION, DE L'INTEGRATION
AFRICAINNE ET DES TOGOLAIS DE L'EXTERIEUR
CABINET *ABJ*
GUICHET DIASPORA *feh*
N° *0544* /MAECIATE/CAB/GD

REPUBLIC OF TOGO
WORK-FREEDOM-HOMELAND
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
COOPERATION, AFRICAN INTEGRATION
AND TOGOLESE ABROAD
MINISTER'S OFFICE
DIASPORA DESK

Lomé, on *17* 2 JUIN 2026

The Minister

To
Dr. Akil Kokayi KHALFANI,
Sociologist and expert in African and religious studies
Email: *khalfani@essex.edu*

Doctor,

Referring to the meeting concerning the establishment of the Monitoring Committee for the recommendations of the 9th Pan-African Congress, held on March 13, 2026, I have the honor of inviting you to participate in the **second meeting of the said Committee, which will be held online on June 30, 2026.**

Please find attached the Draft agenda for the meeting, the report of the meeting establishing the Monitoring Committee, the draft Terms of Reference and Action Plan for the Committee, and the link to the meeting.

I thank you in advance for your availability and your unwavering commitment to pan-African renewal, as well as for your contribution to the implementation of the Agenda of the Decade of African Roots and the African Diaspora (2021-2031).

Yours sincerely,


Prof. Robert DUSSEY

• **Dr. Akil K. Khalfani Full Report**

The Africana Institute, under the leadership of Dr. Akil K. Khalfani, has engaged in numerous activities, which are highlighted in the appendix .

1. The Africana Institute convened its 25th Anniversary Celebration on May 14, welcoming approximately 220 attendees. We extend our gratitude to the members of the Board of Trustees, the College community, and all supporters for their presence and continued support.
2. Dr. Khalfani was invited by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Togo, Professor Robert Dussey, to serve as a member of the Monitoring Committee for the implementation of the recommendations of the 9th Pan-African Congress.
3. As a member of the African Union Committee of Experts on Reparations, Dr. Khalfani participated in the Joint Meeting of the African Union and CARICOM to develop mechanisms for reparatory justice and strengthen collaborative work between the two bodies.
4. The Africana Institute convened the 11th Annual Pan-African DrumFest and Juneteenth Reflection on June 13.
5. The Africana Institute hosted its 25th Anniversary Celebration on May 14, welcoming approximately 220 attendees. We again thank the members of the Board of Trustees, the College community, and all supporters for their participation and continued support.
6. Dr. Khalfani served as a panelist at the SÉNÉGAL REK Investment – Technology, Real Estate, Culture & Sport Business Forum (Special Edition – FIFA World Cup 2026), held

on June 14–15, 2026, at Rutgers University, Livingston Student Center, Piscataway, New Jersey, USA.

- **Dr. Victor Stolberg Full Report**

Below is the full report submitted by Dr. Victor Stolberg. However, only a selection of these activities was presented to the Board for the sake of conciseness:

1. ECCFA Spring Banquet to Honor Retirees & Welcome New Faculty (5/1).
2. NJEA Membership Chairs Conference (5/2).
3. Student Affairs Project Re-Enrollment meeting (5/4).
4. ECEA Legislative Action Team (LAT) meeting (5/4).
5. West Orange Board of Education meeting (5/4).
6. SDC: “Mental Health Awareness Month Opening Ceremony” (5/6).
7. ECCFA Banquet Committee & Executive Board meeting (5/6).
8. Newark Public Library: “Equipping Educators: Latino History” (5/6).
9. EOF Graduation Gala (5/8).
10. Collegewide Committees: APAC (5/5); FDC (5/12), AI Steering (5/13), CCA (5/19).
11. SDC: “From Connection to Compassion: Supporting Students in Everyday Interactions” (5/13).
12. Student Affairs: “Scholarship Awards Night” (5/13).
13. Chaired Academic Standards Committee meeting (5/14).
14. Africana Center: “Sankofa Royal Celebration and Dinner” (5/14).
15. Austen Riggs Center: “Psychological Assessment & Access: A Multidisciplinary Population Health Approach” (5/15).
16. Kappa Beta Delta 3rd Induction Ceremony (5/15).
17. Nursing Class of 2026 Pinning Ceremony (5/15).
18. Campus Community Alliance meeting (5/19).
19. ECCFA Executive Board meeting (5/19).
20. ECEA Human & Civil Rights Committee Dinner: “Immigration Acknowledgement Statement” (5/19).
21. Student Affairs: Graduation Rehearsal (5/20).
22. Medscape trainings: “Anorexia nervosa,” “Autism Spectrum Disorder,” “Cancer,” “Hantavirus,” “Homeless Populations,” and “Ketamine” (5/6-22).
23. SafeColleges trainings: “Accommodating People with Disabilities” (5/8).

Memorandum

To: Dr. Lewis & the Board of Trustees

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

Date: June 16, 2026

Re: President's Monthly Report

General:

The 57th Commencement exercises of Essex County College, held on May 26, 2026, affirmed our mission-driven commitment to the success of our students and our focus on community engagement.

This year's commencement included 1,300 graduates with 135 dual-enrollment graduates from American History High School, East Side High School, Newark Technology High School, West Side High School and University High School.

Good news for Essex County College. Dr. Kirkland, Dean of Student Affairs, received statewide recognition as the recipient of the 2026 Dr. Lawrence A. Nespoli Leadership Award and Senator Renee C. Burgess, ECC's Alumnus, received the Distinguished Alumni Award, both for shaping the future of higher education in New Jersey through innovative student engagement programs and advocacy.

This is the second year in a row that ECC staff have received this coveted Dr. Lawrence A. Nespoli Leadership Award. Congratulations, Dr. Kirkland.

Our Campus Community Alliance organized a historic Community Day event in the Cleo Hill, Sr. Physical Education Building on June 5th bringing together 240 staff across the College to celebrate ECC employees and engage in team-building activities.

Human Resources

- The College will be closed for Juneteenth on Friday, June 19, 2026.
- The College will close for summer recess from Monday, June 29th to Friday, July 3rd.
- The College will close in observance of Independence Day on Monday, July 6th, returning to campus on Tuesday, July 7th.
- Summer hours will be in effect from July 13th to August 21st.

The College will be closed on the following Fridays during the summer:

- July 17, 24 & 31
- August 7, 14 & 21

Academics

We will launch ECC Online on July 1st. The ECC Online Campus will offer fully online programming to students around the globe. I thank Academic Affairs, Enrollment Services, Graphics, IEPA, Student Affairs, IT, and the many staff and faculty members who are working to bring ECC Online to the world.

Our summer programs are fully underway at the Newark and West Essex campuses.

- Summer I: May 11th – June 25th
- Summer II: July 13th – August 20th
- This year's convocation is scheduled for Monday, August 24, 2026.

Enrollment Services:

- Our Enrollment Services team is conducting strategic outreach to non-enrolled Spring 2026 applicants to support their educational goals.
- The Registrar has completed CRM updates for Essex Online.

Continuing Education and Workforce Development:

- Our Summer Youth program is scheduled for July 13th – August 21st this year, targeting youths in grades 1 – 8 (ages 6 – 13). Participants will be exposed to several education and recreation programs, including basketball, coding, entrepreneurship, fashion, fine arts, game animation, video gaming, writing, study skills and test prep, among others.
- Training, Inc. held a luncheon for the PACE 2 Low Voltage program students on June 2nd.
- Fifteen students completed the 3-D printer certification program at the end of May. I thank our Continuing Education and Workforce Development team and Prof. Amit Das for leading this effort.
- ECC signed a partnership agreement with East Orange School District on June 5th as we launched the District's Jaguar University Dual Enrollment program with Essex County College. The event was attended by the District's Board of Education President and East Orange Mayor, Ted R. Green, among others.

The President's May/June engagements have included:

- May 26th: Presided over the 57th commencement exercises of Essex County College.
- May 27th: Attended the MSCHE Committee on Evaluation Reports meeting.
- May 29th: Attended the Haitian Students Association Annual Graduation Dinner and Awards.
- June 2nd: Participated in the Quarterly Meeting of the ECC Foundation Board.
- June 4th: Participated in the EOSB Press Conference with East Orange Campus High School to launch a strategic dual enrollment partnership.
- June 5th: Attended the President's meeting with the Workforce Governance Board.
- June 8th – 11th: Attended the NJCCC Pathways and Community College Opportunity Summit in Atlantic City.
- June 13th: Attended the Pan African Drumfest, organized by the Africana Institute.
- June 15th: Attended the President's Council meeting.

Student Affairs

- **Epicurean**, our new food service vendor, will start operations on September 1st. The contract is for two years with an option to add three years following a review during the second year.

Athletics

- ECC ranked #7 in the Women's 100m Hurdles and #5 Men's Javelin throw in the 2026 NJCAA Outdoor Track and Field competition?

Finance

- Completed the audit process and successfully submitted Form 990, the F.A.R.M. survey and the financial portion of IPEDS.
- The transition to operate accounts payable and payroll with a single bank is fully underway with Wells Fargo.

Projects:

- Flooring materials for the CFT arrived in May and installation is underway. Building inspection is pending the installation of the new floor. Similarly, furniture and equipment are on their way to complete the project for use. Installation of the elevator remains on schedule for October.
- Completed relocation plans for the Red Area renovation project.

Community Relations:

- We will host the Newark Regional Business Partnership (NRBP) breakfast with Mayor Baraka on June 17th.

Save the dates – Upcoming Events.

- June 17th: Newark Regional Business Partnership (NRBP) breakfast with Mayor Ras Baraka in Smith Hall.
- August 24th: Convocation

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