



**NATIONAL COUNCIL ON
BLACK AMERICAN AFFAIRS**
OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Visit our website at www.ncbaa-ne.org

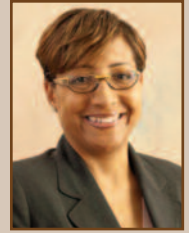
Northeast Region Fall 2015 Newsletter



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings!

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as the president of the National Council on Black American Affairs, Northeast Region (NCBAA-NE). I am excited to welcome five new board members, Dr. Michael Baston, Dr. Gale E. Gibson, Dr. Alicia B. Harvey, Dr. Gordon F. May, Dr. Sheryl L. Nelson, and Dr. Claudia Schrader. Read more about in the in the Accomplishments, Awards, Appointments, and Honors section of the newsletter. WELCOME!



This year's focus for the Northeast Region is recognizing and preparing for the changes. NCBAA-NE has a rich history and the board is committed to keeping the legacy of the organization vibrant through connections and interactions with members and supporters. It is our goal to raise awareness of NCBAA in the Northeast Region and extend opportunities for professional development and networking throughout the region.

Our commitment to sustainability, professional development, and networking is reflected in the Northeast Region 2016 Spring conference "**The Changing Face of the American Community College**" We hope you will join us on **March 17 and 18, 2016 at Essex County College in Newark, New Jersey**, for two days of enriching workshop sessions and speakers, networking opportunities and our esteemed President's Panel discussion. For conference updates, please visit www.ncbaa-ne.org.

A huge thank you to our 2016 spring conference host, Essex County College! A warm welcome letter from **Dr. Gail E. Gibson**, President of the Host Institution article confirms Essex is rolling out the red carpet for NCBAA-Northeast.

To further support the Northeast region goals, an award recognition given to honor research supporting the mission of NCBAA-Northeast. In March 2016, we will award the NCBAA-NE Dissertation of the Year award. Stay tuned for details.

Another major step toward our sustainability goal is the formation of the Baltimore Metropolitan Area Chapter of NCBAA Northeast region in July 2014. We are excited to have a group of professionals mobilized and committed to the NCBAA mission.

I encourage you to stay connected to NCBAA-NE by visiting our website, looking for us on LinkedIn and in your email box, and contacting us directly. I personally welcome your feedback, input and comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me at president@ncbaa-ne.org, or any of our board members.

I hope you enjoy the Northeast Region Fall Newsletter! If you have any news you would like to share for future newsletters, please send it to Dr. Gwendolyn W. Sanders, Vice President, Public Relations at publicrelations@ncbaa-ne.org. Hope to see you in Newark, New Jersey in March!

Rhonda Rhonda Spells Fentry,
Ed.D. President, NCBAA-Northeast Region

**MONTGOMERY COLLEGE
Completion Leads to Success:
MC Now Offers Three Fully Online Degrees**



The Maryland Higher Education Commission has approved Montgomery College's request for three fully online degrees. Business and computer system and technologies were approved over the summer and are both being offered to

students this semester. General studies was approved this month. Total enrollment for these three programs is about 12,000 students.

For more information on each of these degrees, please visit <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/onlinedegrees>.

**MONTGOMERY COLLEGE
Kindergarteners Write an Epic Tale**

Kindergarteners at Daly Elementary learned their imagination can take them anywhere.

Miriam Laufer, instructional associate for the Writing, Reading, and Language Center at the **Germantown Campus**, facilitated a writing workshop for Ms. Kelley's kindergarten class. Students created a story as a group.

As each student contributed a detail to the story, an intergalactic adventure unfolded before their eyes. *Fernanda and Lenny the Cat* arrived by rocket at *Sea Star Planet* only to be attacked by starfish fighters. Forced to make a mad dash for Mars, they were caught in a meteor storm—their efforts derailed. When all hope was lost, they safely arrived to Germantown on planet Earth, where they were greeted by the earthling Ms. Kelley.

Students learned about the critical components of a great story, and practiced character and plot development by creating characters, scenes, and most importantly, solving a problem. Upon completing their story, the entire class acted out the gripping adventure.



River Valley CC Expansion to Lebanon NH

(Lebanon, NH) – Officials from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), The Community College System of New Hampshire and **U.S. Rep. Ann McLane Kuster** announced that the former Lebanon College will reopen as a branch of River Valley Community College next year.



“Strong community colleges play a vital role in ensuring the economic and social vibrancy of rural America,” said USDA Rural Development New Hampshire and Vermont State Director Ted Brady. “The USDA is excited to follow President Obama's lead in promoting rural community colleges through supporting projects such as River Valley Community College's expansion.”

President Alicia Harvey-Smith said that the new campus will serve as a hub for workforce development and business and industry training. In developing the new campus, River Valley Community College partnered with two of the region's most prominent employers, Hypertherm and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, to ensure that potential students receive industry relevant academic and professional experiences in one of the region's most economically vibrant areas.



PGCC president, Dr. Charlene M. Dukes, to lead AACC board



Dr. Charlene Dukes, president of Prince George's Community College (PGCC) in Maryland, became chair of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) board of directors on July 1, 2015.

2016 SPRING CONFERENCE HOST INSTITUTION



Greetings!

Welcome to Newark, New Jersey and to the campus of Essex County College, where we are the home of the Wolverines and our motto is "Exceeding Expectations." It is indeed our pleasure to host the **2016 National Council on Black American Affairs – Northeast Region's Spring Conference**.

Essex County College has been a long-term supporter of the organization, hosting the conference twice in previous years. We welcome you back to our campus and look forward to sharing the many exciting and innovative activities that are in progress – all geared toward making a significant impact on student success, retention and graduation.

As you attend your workshops, I invite you to tour our campus and interact with our faculty, staff and students. We encourage you to take a look around and visit our Art Gallery, Center for Technology, Africana Institute, and state-of-the-art Health Sciences Nursing Simulation Lab and Media Production Technology Center. In these areas you will find a unique blend of culture, language, art, science and technology that enhances the learning experience that we offer our students.

As we endeavor to fulfill the goals of our strategic plan, you may also see areas in various stages of construction. The college recently was awarded \$19.1 million dollars in grant funding to complete five major capital projects to enhance various areas of the college campus, technology, and student services.

The planning committee is hard at work to ensure that your experience at the conference is enjoyable, yet impactful. This conference will be one to remember, so we ask that you share the information with your colleagues and friends - and invite them to share in the NCBAA experience in Newark, NJ. Essex is playing an integral role in revitalizing the City of Newark and we are confident that you will not only enjoy the conference and campus – but the city as well.

Again, it is my pleasure to welcome the NCBAA to Essex County College and I look forward to seeing you at the regional spring conference.

Regards,

Dr. Gale E. Gibson
President



HOLD THE DATE

**NATIONAL COUNCIL ON
BLACK AMERICAN AFFAIRS/
NORTHEAST REGION**

**Essex County College
Newark, NJ**

March 17-18, 2016

**"The Changing Face of the
American Community College"**



Dr. Walter G. Bumphus
President & CEO AACC

College Promise Toolkit

The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) joins President Barack Obama in the announcement of the College Promise Campaign, which aims to make community college as universal as public high schools in the nation's educational system.

The College Promise Campaign is a national, nonpartisan, local- and state-leg higher education initiative—moving the nation fully into the 21st Century where completing two-years of college is becoming a necessity to achieving the American Dream.

AACC, in conjunction with the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), released Supporting the College Promise, a toolkit to help community college leaders propel the movement to expand educational opportunities for qualified students to include two years of community college education.

The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) President J. Noah Brown and American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) President Walter G. Bumphus, Ph.D., will serve on the National Advisory Board for the College Promise Campaign supporting free community college for responsible students. For more information about the College Promise Campaign, visit collegepromise.org and headsupamerica.us.

Network with Community College Distance Education Practitioners

The Instructional Technology Council's eLearning 2016 will take place in February 14-17 in Scottsdale, Arizona. Learn about best practices for teaching online, how to create successful online learning environments for student success, quality assurance, the latest technologies, and eLearning trends. Rio Salado College is the host institution. AACC Contact: Mary Heiss.

Promoting Cross-Cultural Communication

The J. Christopher Stevens Virtual Exchange Initiative has launched an award competition to fund virtual exchanges that equip young people in the United States and the Middle East and North Africa to communicate with respect and understanding across diverse cultures and perspectives. Awards will range between \$10,000 and \$500,000, depending on the scope and scale of the proposed projects. Deadline to apply: November 12, 2015. AACC Contact: Wayne Wheeler.

Training to Improve Teaching, Support for Young Men of Color

A new, large-scale online professional development training program in California aims to better prepare faculty at community colleges to teach young men of color. Lead by the co-directors of the Minority Male Community College Collaborative (M2C3), J. Luke Wood and Frank Harris III, the 1-week intensive training is designed to equip faculty with the tools needed to facilitate relationship-building to support men of color in the classroom. AACC Contact: Kevin Christian.

Introducing Guttman Community College, CUNY



Dr. Scott E. Evenbeck,
President, Stella and Charles
Guttman Community College

I am delighted to introduce you to the first new community college at the City University of New York in more than four decades. The college held its inaugural commencement on August 27, 2014. We are proud of the achievements of our 80 graduates. Our College is dedicated to fostering students' success and keeping them on the path to graduation. Our faculty and staff are fully committed to student

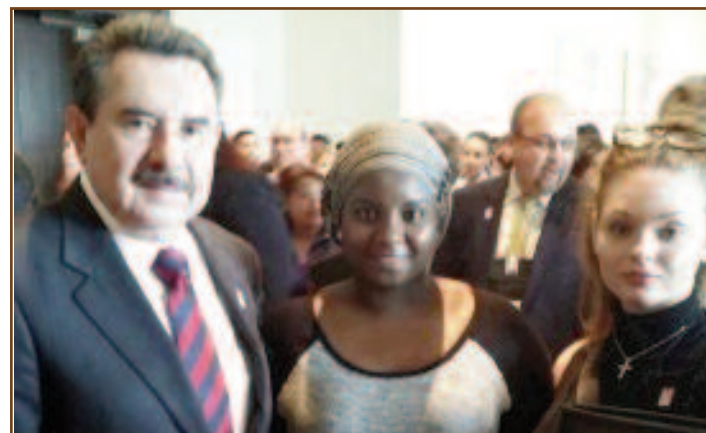
success, developing a dynamic program to prepare them for the changing demands of the workforce and continuing their studies to earn a bachelor's degree.

At Guttman Community College, we challenge students to think differently about New York City and the larger world—and their role in shaping the future of both. Our courses are designed to link learning in the classroom to “hands-on” career experiences with city organizations and businesses in the outside world. Most of all, we support students as they express their unique talents and achieve your aspirations.

Guttman Students Attend HACU Conference: Career Development

Guttman students Howlatu Sowe and Shannon McGinn attended the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) conference October 10-12 in Miami, Florida, to participate in a leadership training track and explore career options.

HACU's Student Track is a three-day career development and networking symposium designed to build the career skills of undergraduate students. Over 400 students from the U.S. and Puerto Rico attended the HACU's Student Track a three-day career development and networking symposium designed to build the career skills of undergraduate students. Over 400 students from the U.S. and Puerto Rico attended HACU's Student Track a great opportunity for participants to grow and strengthen career-building skills; network with federal agencies, corporations, colleges and universities, profits; expand knowledge of careers in different sectors.



Dr. Thomas A. Isekenege Named President of Bronx Community College



Dr. Thomas A. Isekenege, who has been President of Cumberland County College, a community college in Vineland, N.J., for the past six years. President Isekenege (pronounced "Secken-egbe") has an outstanding administrative, teaching and leadership record that spans nearly 30 years at both two-year and four-year institutions of higher education.

Dr. Isekenege earned a bachelor's degree in biology with honors from the University of Nigeria, and a master's in science education as well as an Ed. S. and Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction, from from Indiana State University.

In 2012, the United States Department of the Interior designated a portion of Bronx Community College as a national historic landmark.

Ivory A. Toldson Named Director of the White House Initiative on HBCUs



Ivory A. Toldson, was named director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. He has been serving as acting director since the death of George Cooper in July. Dr. Toldson has served as deputy director of the office since 2013.

Prior to joining the staff at the White House, Dr. Toldson was an associate professor of education at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Earlier he taught at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He is the editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Negro Education* and the lead author of *The Quest for Excellence: Supporting the Academic Success of Minority Males in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Disciplines* (Association of Public Land Grant Universities, 2012).

Dr. Toldson is a graduate of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, where he majored in psychology. He earned a master's degree in counselor education at Pennsylvania State University and a Ph.D. in counseling psychology at Temple University in Philadelphia.

Community Colleges: Union and Bergen Receive a \$2.6 Million "First In The World" Grant



Dr. Margaret M. McMenamin
President,
Union County College

The DOE announced the winning grant proposals. **Union County College**, with partner and lead **Bergen Community College**, are one of only 17 winners nation-wide and will split a \$2.6 million award over four years. U.S Dept. of Education challenged the nation's 1,200 community colleges to help the American educational system restore its "first in the world" status.

The idea Union and Bergen will pursue to help improve



Dr. B. Kaye Walter
President,
Bergen Community College

graduation success for students involves basic-skills math. For the joint project, Union and Bergen will include a combined 8,400 students from both community colleges. **The cohort will be randomly divided into three groups.**

The **first group** receives instruction through a 'Boot Camp' as a short-term, pre-semester bridge program and then moves immediately into College-level math. The **second group** is enrolled directly into **credit-bearing college math**—regardless of how these students fare on their Accuplacer test—but are also afforded the services of a tutor for at least one hour per week.

For the **third group**, students will receive the traditional developmental-math courses which are predominantly in a lecture format at both Union and Bergen. The goals of this program are to: 1) increase the 3-semester retention rates of first time students placing into remedial math, and 2) decrease time to completion of first-time full-time students placing into developmental math. It's making America number one again.

Dean DeCordova Named One of Hartford Business Journal's "40 Under 40"



MANCHESTER, Conn. – **Manchester Community College's** Dean of Development and Community Engagement **Endia DeCordova** was selected as a winner of Hartford Business Journal's "40 Under Forty Award." The award identifies young leaders who have already had success but who also have the

potential to lead the professional world of tomorrow. The "40 Under Forty" Class of 2015 was recognized both in a special issue of the Harford Business Journal and at a special ceremony at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. DeCordova is the recipient of the 2015 MCC African-American History Month Employee Leadership Award.

Dean DeCordova was asked "Who gave you your best career advice?" The best career advice I received was from Veronica Leonard, former vice president of human resources for Fleet Bank now Bank of America. She passed away a few years ago and was my very first boss and mentor. She was the first African-American woman I saw in a leadership position and my role model. She stated, "We each have to find our unique purpose, there will be setbacks, but pick yourself up and move on. Never make someone else's opinion of you more important than your good opinion of yourself; stay open to new opportunities and don't be afraid to take risks."

Union County College Welcomes Two New Deans

Student Development Vice President **Helen Brewer** (center) announced the appointment of two key administrators to help improve the way the College serves and supports students. **Dr. Terrence Hardee** has become the College's Dean of Students, and **Ms. Rebecca Royal** is the Dean of Student Success. Vice President Brewer says, "These Deans have the energy and the acumen to help ensure that the 'One Stop' student-service model is a success, particularly in our new Student Services building."

Dr. Hardee joins Union as the Dean of Students after having served previously at two New Jersey community colleges. He was the Vice President for Student Success at Rowan University and the Dean of the University Center at Cumberland County College. He has a doctorate of Letters in Humanities from Drew University, a master's degree in Political Science from Marshall University, and a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Concord University (Athens, WV).

Ms. Royal the new Dean of Student Success served Union since 2012 as the Director of Financial Aid. Ms. Royal's previous employer was the Central Career School of South Plainfield, where she served as co-executive director. Before that she directed the Financial Aid department at St. Peter's University (Jersey City).



Takoma Park/Silver Spring Becomes First Community College Campus in the Nation to Earn "Green Seal" Certification



Montgomery College's Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus has been awarded Green Seal certification for cleaning services, becoming the first community college in the country to ever earn certification under the GS-42 standard for Commercial and Institutional Cleaning Services. Green Seal is the nation's premier environmental organization and the original "Green Seal of Approval."

Green Seal's certification process involves an in-depth review of the cleaning service's processes, procedures, and purchasing records. It also includes an on-site audit of facilities cleaned by the service. Periodic monitoring is required to maintain certification.

"We now recognize the significant role each custodian plays in protecting the health and well-being of the students, faculty and staff," Evelyn said. "There has been a positive change in the overall motivation and outlook of each custodian as training, environmental and procedural changes are implemented," said Terrence Evelyn, director of facilities on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus."

Capital Community College Receives Diversity Award



Hartford, CT – For the third year, **Capital Community College (CCC)** has received the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education. As a recipient of the annual HEED Award – a national honor recognizing U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion – Capital Community College will be featured in the November 2015 issue of INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine. Capital was one of only ten community colleges awarded, and the only college in Connecticut honored.

"Diversity is not just what we do, it's who we are," said **Dr. Wilfredo Nieves**, president of Capital Community College. "We truly embrace and celebrate the many communities that make up the college and that enrich the CCC experience."

Capital is one of the most diverse colleges in Connecticut and New England, with mostly students of color, and a significant number of students who have immigrated from other countries.

NCBAA/NE REGION WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Dr. Alicia B. Harvey-Smith
President, River Valley Community College, Claremont, New Hampshire.



Dr. Claudia Schrader
Vice President, Academic Affairs & Provost, Bronx Community College, Bronx, New York.



Dr. Gordon F. May
President, Baltimore City Community College, Baltimore, Maryland.



Dr. Gale E. Gibson
President, Essex County College, Newark, New Jersey.



Dr. Sheryl L. Nelson
Executive Director Human Resources, Baltimore City Community College & President, Baltimore Metropolitan



Dr. Michael Baston
Vice President, Student Affairs & Academic Provost, LaGuardia Community College, Long Island City, New York.

Chapter/NCBAA/NE Region.

Dr. Rhonda Spells Fentry Named Interim VP for Technology Services & CIO at Prince George's Community College



Colleagues,

I want to take the opportunity to inform the College community that **Dr. Rhonda Spells Fentry** will assume the role of interim VP for Technology Services & CIO at Prince George's Community College, effective October 1, 2015. She will assume responsibility for providing a technology-rich teaching, learning, and working environment for our students and employees.

– Dr. Charlene Dukes, President Prince George's Community College

Dr. Ronald Milon Named Co-Chair of Enrollment Management and Student Success at FIT



Dr. Ronald Milon, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, has been appointed Co-chair of the Diversity Council at Fashion Institution of Technology (FIT). The FIT Diversity Council is an advisory group, increasing diversity awareness and assisting the President and the Affirmative Action Officer in matters concerning equity, inclusion, and diversity including racial and ethnic identity, age, cultural identity, religious and spiritual identity, sexual orientation, gender identity or

expression, physical and mental ability, nationality, social and economic status, and political and ideological perspectives.

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON BLACK AMERICAN AFFAIRS / NORTHEAST REGION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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