

UNION JUNIOR COLLEGE



YEAR ANNIVERSARY 1933-2023

Celebrating the  
First 90 Years

UCNJ UNION COLLEGE OF UNION COUNTY, NJ

- 1933
- 1943
- 1953
- 1963
- 1973
- 1983
- 1993
- 2003
- 2013
- 2015
- 2018
- 2019
- 2020
- 2021
- 2022
- 2024
- 2025
- 2026
- 2027
- 2030
- 2033

October 16, 2023

# UCNJ through the Decades

The College has been providing excellent and affordable educational opportunities to Union County residents for almost 90 years, transforming our community, one student at a time.

## 90 Years of History

- 1933:** Union County Junior College opens on October 16 as an “emergency junior college” with evening classes at Abraham Clark High School in Roselle.
- 1934:** Dr. Hubert Banks Huntley becomes the first chief administrator of Union County Junior College.
- 1935:** Dr. Charles G. Cole succeeds Dean Huntley and is considered the first “President.”
- 1936:** Union County Junior College is established as a non-profit institution governed by a Board of Trustees.
- 1936:** The College changes its name to Union Junior College (UJC).
- 1940:** Basketball is the only varsity sport at UCNJ. The ‘39/’40 girl’s basketball squad captures first place in the “Powderpuff League.” This is the first championship for a UJC Team.
- 1941:** The College begins offering day courses on Sept. 1 and continues to use the laboratories at Abraham Clark High School.
- 1942:** UJC is housed at Grant School, called the “Old Lady of Holly Street,” and rents the space from the Cranford Board of Education.
- 1944:** To better accommodate returning veterans from WWII, the College creates a Veterans Study Center and changes the academic year from two semesters to one divided into four quarters.
- 1944:** Dr. Kenneth Campbell MacKay succeeds Dr. Cole as president.
- 1948:** For less than \$56,000, the Board of Trustees authorizes the purchase of 56 acres from the Dreyer family in Cranford. A decade later it becomes the home of the Cranford Campus.
- 1949:** Elizabeth General Hospital begins its affiliation with the College in the training of nurses. Later, Muhlenberg Hospital joins the partnership. Elizabeth General is now Trinitas School of Nursing and Muhlenberg Hospital Nursing School is now JFK Medical Center Muhlenberg Harold B. and Dorothy A. Snyder Schools. Both still operate cooperative programs with the College.
- 1959:** The Nomahegan Building is completed in July and the College moves its operations to the 48-acre campus in Cranford.
- 1967:** The word “Junior” is dropped, and the College is officially known as Union College.
- 1968:** Dr. MacKay steps down and is succeeded by Dr. Kenneth W. Iversen, who serves as president until 1974.
- 1970:** The College begins holding classes in Elizabeth at the Bayway Community Center and the Elizabeth YMCA on Aug. 5.
- 1970:** The College begins offering classes in Plainfield on Sept. 2.
- 1973:** The MacKay Library opens on the Cranford Campus.
- 1974:** Dr. Saul Orkin becomes president and serves until his death in 1983.
- 1982:** Union College merges with the Union County Technical Institute and Union County College is established on Aug. 17.
- 1983:** Dr. Derek N. Nunney is named president.
- 1990:** Dr. Thomas H. Brown becomes president.
- 1991:** The Campus Center, now known as the Victor M. Richel Student Commons, opens on the Cranford Campus.
- 1992:** The College purchases the Courier News Building in Plainfield and begins offering courses in the newly renovated two-story building.
- 1992:** The Elizabeth Campus opens on Sept. 1. The former Elizabethtown Gas Company building is named the Sidney F. Lessner Building.
- 1995:** “The Pavilion” opens at the Cranford Campus with a new Fitness Center and the Executive Education Center.
- 1999:** The Annex Building is completed in Plainfield and houses instructional space for the American Sign Language and the Emergency Medical Technician/ Paramedic programs.
- 2002:** Trinitas School of Nursing moves to the Elizabeth Campus.
- 2009:** Thanks to the support of the Union County Board of County Commissioners, the College opens the \$48 million Elizabeth I. Kellogg Building at 40 West Jersey Street in Elizabeth on Sept. 29.
- 2010:** Dr. Margaret M. McMenamin, the College’s eighth and first female president, begins her tenure on July 1.

*continues on the inside back cover*



*Commencement 1936*

# Celebrating the First 90 Years

I look forward to each of our Annual Reports, but this one is special: we're celebrating 90 years of transforming our community, one student at a time. How incredible! That's 90 years of providing access to an affordable and excellent education here in Union County. I am honored to be a part of this legacy and the critical service we provide to our community.

As we mark this significant milestone, we are reminded of the countless individuals—students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners—who have contributed to the rich tapestry of our college's history. Each one has played a vital role in shaping our identity, values, and legacy, and for that, we are eternally grateful.

Beyond the milestone of 90 years, we also had another remarkable year at the College. We were named as one of only 10 finalists for the 2025 Aspen Prize. This recognition is a testament to the incredible work of our faculty and staff and their unwavering commitment to the success of our students.

Our success and longevity is made possible thanks to the support of the Union County Board of County Commissioners and the College's Boards of Trustees and Governors. The visionary leadership of these Boards is critical and fosters the opportunities that the College brings to Union County residents. This Annual Report reflects their leadership and the county they serve.

I hope you enjoy this Annual Report, which is both a look at the last year and a reflection of the past 90 years. We have remained steadfast in our commitment to provide high-quality education, fostering a culture of inclusivity and belonging, and empowering our students to thrive in an ever-changing world. To the thousands of individuals who have earned a degree at UCNJ, from 1933 to today, I am so proud that you are a part of our mission to transform our community, one student at a time.

*Margaret M. McMenamini*

Dr. Margaret M. McMenamini  
President, UCNJ Union College of  
Union County, NJ



YEAR ANNIVERSARY 1933-2023

## Celebrating the First 90 Years



*Investiture 2011*

UCNJ UNION COLLEGE OF UNION COUNTY, NJ

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*Union College Bookstore*



*UJC Food Drive*





90 YEAR ANNIVERSARY 1933-2023

# 90 Years of Newsworthy Moments



## UCNJ Recognized as one of the **Top 10** Community Colleges in the Country!

### UCNJ has been named a finalist for the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.

This award is given out every two years, and the College was chosen from more than 1,000 community colleges across the country as one of 10 finalists for the 2025 Aspen Prize. UCNJ was recognized for having high levels of student success, equitable outcomes for Black and Hispanic students, as well as for students from lower-income backgrounds. UCNJ is the only finalist from New Jersey. The College was first recognized for the 2021 Aspen Prize, being named one of the Top 150 Community Colleges in the country. This was then followed by being named as one of 25 semifinalists for the 2023 Aspen Prize.

Congratulations to the whole UCNJ community for the hard work and commitment to student success which helped garner this prestigious recognition!

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# UCNJ Celebrates 90<sup>th</sup> Founders Day

On October 16, 1933, 243 students began taking evening courses at Union County Junior College. Founded as an “emergency junior college” through the federal Works Project Administration, the goal was to provide jobs for unemployed teachers and professors. Ninety years, four campuses, and thousands of graduates later, the College celebrated its 90th Founders Day with a prohibition-era theme to mark that time. Students, faculty, staff, board members, and alumni gathered outside of the Victor M. Richel Commons to dedicate a new gazebo in honor of the 90th and enjoy prohibition inspired food and beverages as well as a DJ and photobooth. Here’s to the next 90, UCNJ! Together, the College will continue to transform our community, one student at a time.





# Lights, Camera, Action! UCNJ Takes the Big Screen



**Hoo's ready to take a virtual tour of UCNJ? Millions of viewers!**

*The College Tour*, a groundbreaking TV series that tells each school's story through the diverse lens of its students, filmed an episode at UCNJ. Ten UCNJ students were auditioned, cast, and recorded to star in the College's episode of the hit series. The episode features a diverse cast of traditional and non-traditional students, international students, national champions, scholars, and more. UCNJ is the first community college in New Jersey to be featured.

The star students celebrated with a red-carpet premiere for the College's episode. UCNJ faculty, staff, and students celebrated with a premiere party after watching the episode in the Roy Smith Theater. Excitement was in the air and cheers were heard as the featured students were shown on the big screen.



The College's episode came to Amazon Prime this past February in the Premiere of *The College Tour's* 10th Season. To check out UCNJ's episode, scan the QR code!

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# Addressing Food Insecurity is Top Priority at UCNJ

**The Union County Board of County Commissioners, under the leadership of Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouled, have generously provided \$250,000 in support of the College's food insecurity programs.**

This is in addition to the critical operating and capital aid they provide to UCNJ. The Office of Social Work Services opened the renovated food pantry named Hoot's Market. The space allows for supermarket style shelving with an electronic checkout system. The College is increasing the ways for students to receive food, including grubpasses, which allow a student to get a free meal while on campus, and hosting farmers markets with fresh vegetables and fruits. After attending the Hoot's Market ribbon cutting, Union County Commissioner Sergio Granados pledged a donation on behalf of Moving New Jersey Forward, which is a community-based non-profit he founded. The College continues with the goal of having no student go hungry.



**Step Right Up to UCNJ's Open House!**



Send in the students, Open House is back! An opportunity for prospective students and their families to visit UCNJ, this year's Open House was a resounding success with 400 guests in attendance. Attendees were treated to a dynamic lineup of activities, including a Meet the Deans panel, an engaging student panel that featured alumni and current UCNJ students, local food trucks, music, and more.

Prospective students had the opportunity to tour the Cranford Campus and learn about the registration process from the Admissions and Financial Aid Teams. UCNJ boasts a warm and friendly environment, with the Open House welcoming recently graduating high school seniors, non-traditional students, and transfer students.



# Top UCNJ Students Transfer to Elite Institutions

**Each year, UCNJ graduates transfer to some of the most selective institutions in the country.**

**This year, Precious Opaola will be continuing her education at Princeton University.**

Precious Opaola, of Linden, is a UCNJ Class of 2024 graduate who received her Associate Degree in social services. After attending Princeton University's inaugural summer transfer scholar program in 2023, Precious applied and was accepted into Princeton University for the Fall 2024 semester. While at UCNJ, she served as the Vice President of Service and Fundraising for Phi Theta Kappa honor society, a tutor for the Academic Learning Center, a member of American Honors, a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, and a Kaplan Scholar. For her career, Precious wants to own a non-profit organization that focuses on helping lower-income children take advantage of the opportunities around them.



*Precious Opaola at Commencement.*



**In a groundbreaking initiative, the Union County College Foundation has launched the Margolies Family Transfer Scholarship, a pioneering program aimed at facilitating the dreams of students aspiring to transfer to selective colleges.**

This scholarship, the first of its kind at UCNJ, offers up to \$25,000 in transfer funds over two years, providing a unique opportunity for students to embark on a transformative academic journey.

Funded by the Margolies family, this scholarship aims to alleviate the financial barriers that often hinder such aspirations, enabling students to pursue their educational goals without the burden of excessive financial strain.

The two students selected this year are Myrvens Sylvestre, a computer science major from Roselle. He will be transferring to Claremont McKenna College in California, one of the top liberal arts college in the country. Nicole Resende Lucena, an engineering major from Union Township will be transferring to Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey.



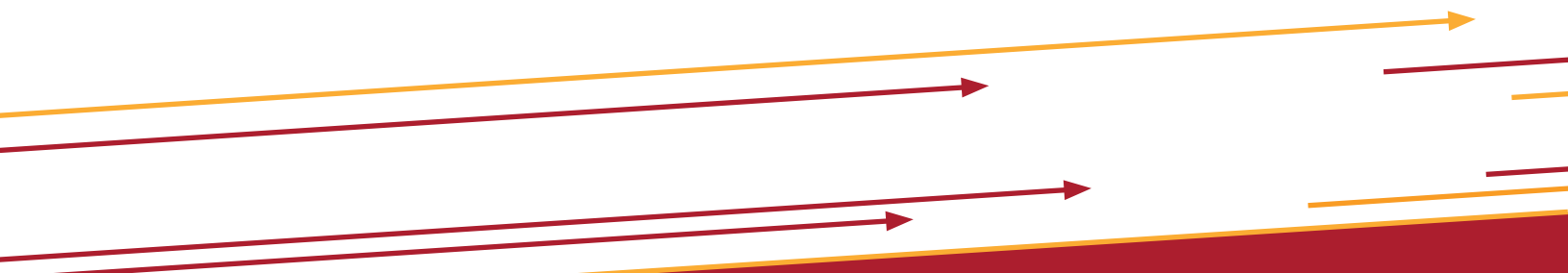
UCNJ UNION COLLEGE OF UNION COUNTY, NJ



## Celebrating the Class of 2024

UCNJ hosts two commencement ceremonies annually for graduates that recognizes those who have earned their Associate in Science, Associate in Applied Science, Associate in Arts, Certificates, and Certificates of Achievement. Commencement is the culmination of the hard work and dedication UCNJ students have invested through their academic journey and marks a significant milestone.

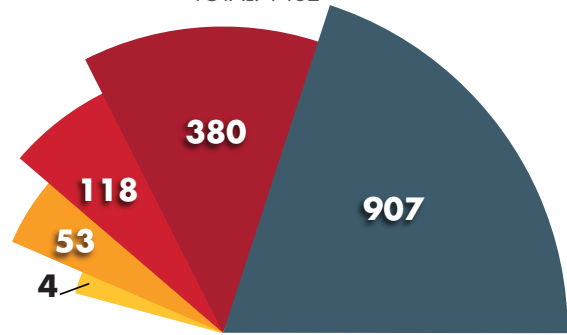
At the winter ceremony, graduates celebrated at the historic Union County Performing Arts Center in Rahway. The Alumni Prize was presented to Brittney Bargasha, a liberal studies major from Linden, and Samantha Suazo, an early childhood education major from Linden. The Abdallah-Thomas Memorial Award was presented to Ozichi Chinedu, a computer information systems technology major from Union, and Anais Santacruz, a business major from Plainfield.





## DEGREES CONFERRED BY TYPE

TOTAL: 1462

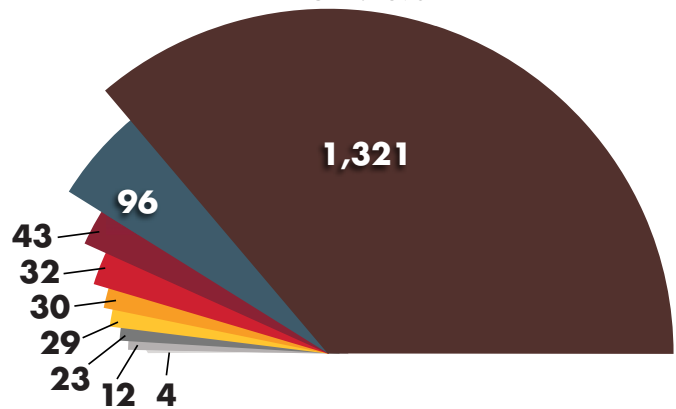


- ▲ ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE..... 907... 61.9%
- ▲ ASSOCIATE IN ARTS..... 380... 26.1%
- ▲ ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE.. 118... 8.1%
- ▲ CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS..... 53... 3.6%
- ▲ CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT..... 4... 0.3%



## ALLIED SCIENCES ENROLLMENT BY PROGRAM OF STUDY

TOTAL: 1590



- ▲ Health Science..... 1,321
- ▲ Practical Nursing..... 96
- ▲ American Sign Language & Deaf Studies..... 43
- ▲ Respiratory Care..... 32
- ▲ Health Information & Technology..... 30
- ▲ Emergency Medical Studies..... 29
- ▲ Physical Therapist Assistant..... 23
- ▲ Paramedic Emergency Health Science..... 12
- ▲ Interpreting Spoken Languages..... 4



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**UCNJ's Cranford Campus hosted an outdoor spring commencement.**

The Alumni Prize was presented to Juan Vasquez, a computer science major from Elizabeth, and Damari Bernia, a business major from Elizabeth. The Post-Day Memorial Award was presented to Nicole Resende Lucena, an engineering major from Union; Myrvens Sylvestre, a computer science major from Roselle; Sophia Argenziano, an English major from Clark; and Michaela Fajardo, a psychology major from Elizabeth.



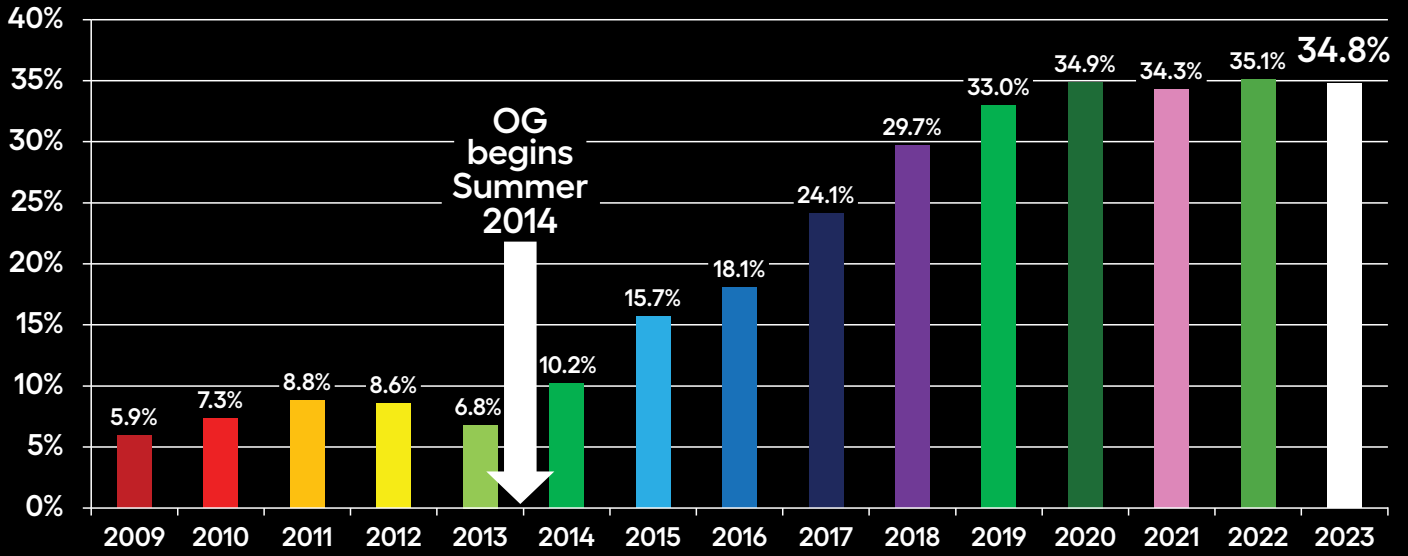
*To conclude the ceremonies, graduates were all smiles as President McMEnamin took a selfie.*



**Congratulations Class of 2024!**



# UCNJ Graduation Rates



**UCNJ's graduation rate has more than quintupled. Additionally, the College went from having the lowest graduation rate in NJ to exceeding both the state and national average.**

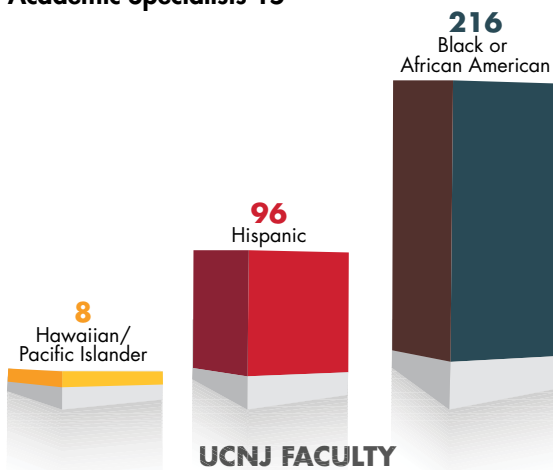
Student success is our priority — the development of Operation Graduation and similar initiatives support our mission to transform our community, one student at a time.

## UCNJ FACULTY TOTAL: 573

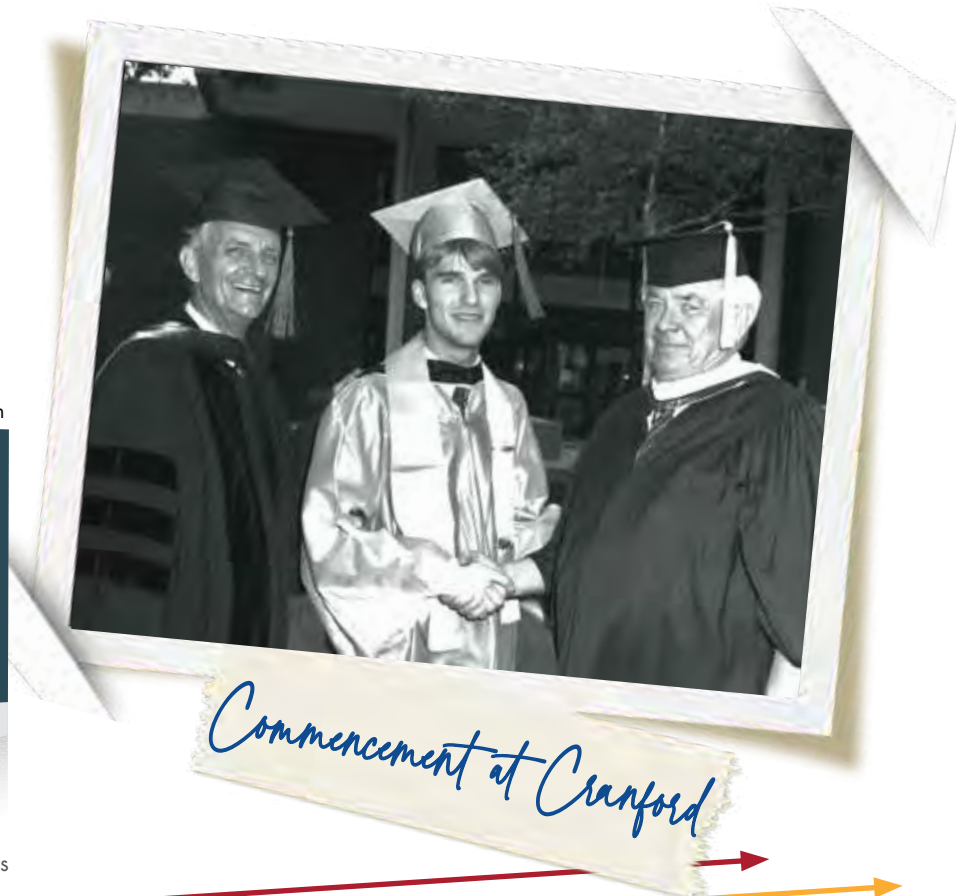
**GENDER**  
Female 299      274 Male

**STATUS**  
Full-time 80      478 Part-time

Academic Specialists 15



Faculty identifying as a race/ethnicity included in the federal definition of historically excluded groups  
TOTAL: 320



UCNJ UNION COLLEGE OF UNION COUNTY, NJ



*Fundraising Fun*



*Club Fair*

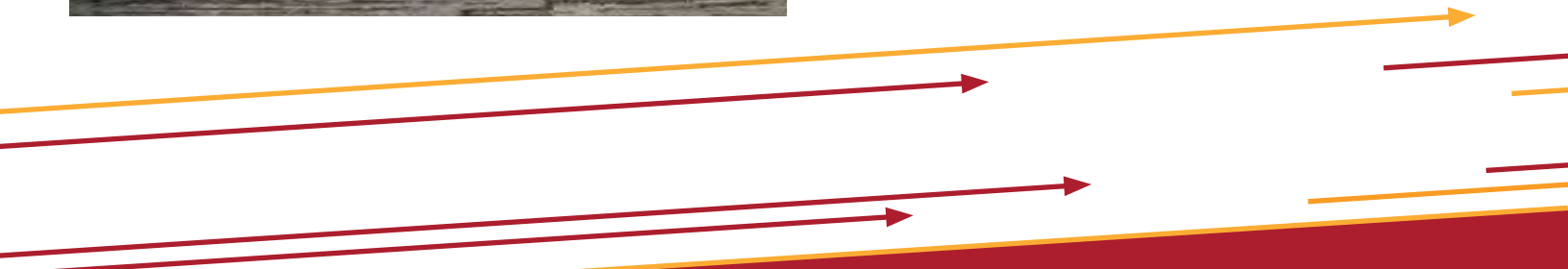


## Welcoming the Center for Adult Transitions

**At UCNJ, all students are encouraged to enroll and given the guidance to succeed.**

Funded by a grant by Governor Murphy, the Center for Adult Transitions was born. The Center allows students up to age 24 who have developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, ADD, ADHD, neurodiversity, and learning difficulties to receive support in their coursework at UCNJ.

The NEST hosts several workshops for students, including career workshops, learning relaxation techniques, learning basic computer functions and Microsoft Office, and financial aid.





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EST. 1985

**ALC Accelerates Student Success**

For nearly 40 years, the Academic Learning Center has provided UCNJ students with free peer to peer tutoring. The ALC typically has almost 70 tutors across the Cranford, Elizabeth, and Plainfield Campuses. ALC tutors have reached high academic success in their given tutoring field and provide support to students. When students visit the ALC, they are provided guidance, a better understanding of their coursework, and develop a mentor relationship with the peer tutor.

**47,782**  
Total ALC visits  
2023-2024

**62,414**  
Total ALC tutoring hours  
2023-2024



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*Tutoring & Learning*

UCNJ UNION COLLEGE OF UNION COUNTY, NJ



# A Variety of Honor Societies

**Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) is the largest honor society at UCNJ.**

PTK promotes scholarship, development of character, and leadership. To become a member, a student must complete at least 12 credits, maintain a 3.5 GPA or higher, and participate in volunteer activities throughout the semester. This spring, PTK held the new member ceremony with 232 inductees. For decades, the Iota Xi chapter at UCNJ has maintained its reputation of being a Five Star Chapter amongst all the chapters in the Middle States Region.



*Dr. Tracy Felton, Sophia Argenziano, and Dr. Anna Brophy received awards at the regional PTK convention*

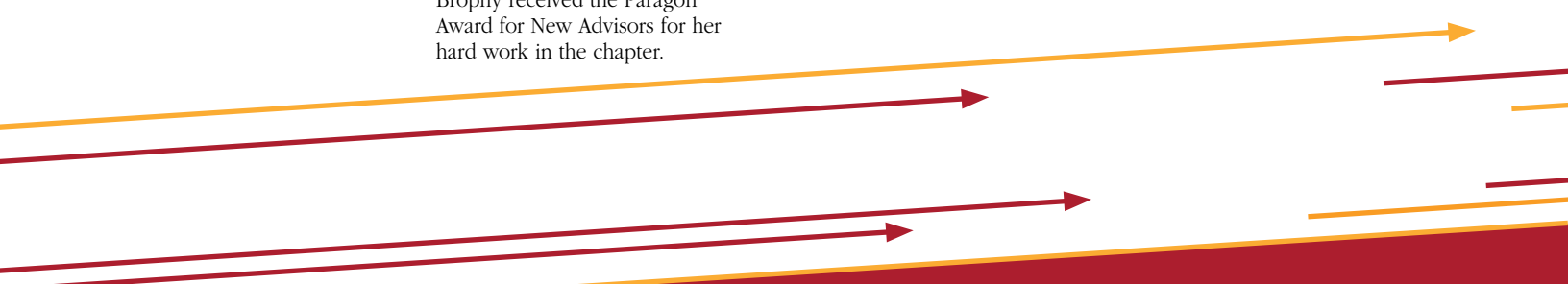
At their annual Middle States Region Convention, the Iota Xi chapter was honored with several awards. Two officers, Michaela Fajardo, the Vice President of Fellowship and Dejanayha Hill, the Vice President of Scholarship were named Distinguished Officers after being nominated by their peers. Also, Senior Professor in Mathematics and newly appointed PTK advisor Dr. Anna Brophy received the Paragon Award for New Advisors for her hard work in the chapter.



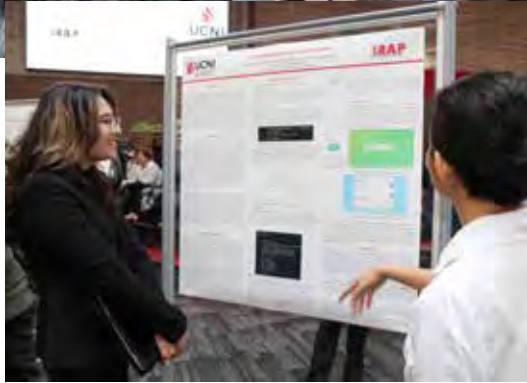
*The Psi Chapter of the Chi Alpha Epsilon is a national honor society for students in the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program.*



*The Omicron Beta chapter of Tau Alpha Pi National Honor Society is a national honor society for students in the engineering and engineering technology programs at UCNJ.*







## Research Days at UCNJ

Union Honors is a program at UCNJ for high achieving, academically motivated students looking to transfer to a four-year institution. Each year, the Honors program hosts a Research Day for their students to present their findings to the UCNJ community. Thirty research projects were on display, including research on tooth decay, preventing Alzheimer's Disease, the role of alkenes in everyday processes, and more. The students were present to showcase their research and answer questions from attendees.

The STEM Division's Research Day had more students present than ever before. More than 100 students presented their research projects on posters and hosted discussions among peers, UCNJ faculty, staff, and esteemed guests. Before the posters were presented, Dr. Alexander Gates from Rutgers University– Newark addressed the crowd of students and discussed the need for research and the career opportunities students can pursue.



## Look Out, Sharks – The Owls are Flying in!

Thanks to the generosity of Union County College Foundation donors, the UCNJ Business Pitch Competition returned for its second year! This year, more than 15 UCNJ students submitted business proposals, with five entering the main competition to pitch to the five judges. The judges were: Robert Coopersmith, President of SNIFFY Scented Products; Colleen Shea, Vice President of Sales at Pen Company of America; Ian Brundenell, National Sales Manager for All American Writing Instruments; Victor M. Richel, President & CEO of Richel Family Foundation and Chair of the UCNJ Board of Trustees; and Jim Della Sala, Head of Strategy & Business for Wilmington Trust and UCNJ Board of Governors member. Judging criteria included the pitch's economic potential, clear description and explanation of the business idea, the potential to attract investors, and more.

Tiffany Reynolds with "Milan Skincare" was the first-place victor, earning \$6,000 for her first prize pitch. She developed a skincare line

designed to address a variety of skin issues with high quality, natural ingredients. Second place was earned by Christopher Darcelin for his proposal on "Propeak University, Productivity Education and Self-Development Program," awarding him \$4,000. Christopher is a passionate advocate for personal development, and his pitch will allow individuals to discover and achieve their life goals. In third place was Daniel Ivanov and Vitaliy Gotsko's "Redezine" pitch, which gave them \$2,000. Using 3D printing, Redezine promises to turn concepts into prototypes in a matter of days, dramatically reducing the cost and time typically associated with traditional prototyping methods.



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At center holding a copy of the New York Times article about her experience is Ellen Magliaro with President McMennamin, Athletic Director Marbely Montas, Dean of STEM William Dunscombe, Assoc. Professor of History Dr. Michele Rotunda, and UCNJ student athletes.

## UCNJ Tennis Spikes the Way for the Future

Following their Women in American History course, UCNJ students Rachel De La Cruz and Cayla Keregyarto published their research paper "I just wanted to play tennis" the story on UCNJ tennis player Ellen Magliaro and gender discrimination in college sports before Title IX. The student researchers investigated news accounts, made inquiries with a variety of organizations (NJCAA, National Archives, the federal court system), and conducted several interviews with key figures including Ellen Magliaro, former athletic director and current Dean of STEM William Dunscombe, and named plaintiff in the civil action Michael Johnson. Following its publication, their paper was chosen as the winner of the NJSAA Stellhorn & Waldron Undergraduate Research Project in New Jersey History award. This award recognizes excellence in undergraduate writing about New Jersey history.



*Taking it on the Road*





## No Gray Area in Archive Quest

Students in Dr. Michele Rotunda's History 290 Course explore the UCNJ archives as part of their course research. This year, the archive hunters worked on a variety of projects, including:

- Bibliography of articles in the student newspapers on LGBTQ/AIDS crisis in 1980-90s
- The "Bride Project" - researching engagement/wedding announcements of students in the 1950s found in a scrapbook
- Video on the College's Historic Tree Grove

One of their primary projects included interviewing two UCNJ alumni ('70) Lisa Sherwin and Tom Taylor, who served on the Gray Committee, an organization created to bring black and white students together. The two described themselves as student activists at the College and wrote several articles for the College newspaper.

UCNJ student Frank Ulrich created a finding guide for the materials in the UCNJ archives and has worked on several archive projects, including researching student surveys published in the 1980s and comparing them to student responses today, conducting an oral interview with a UCNJ alumna on gender discrimination in the 1980s, and conducting an oral history with the former editor-in-chief of the College's newspaper, The Scroll. Frank will be presenting his research in a poster session at the New Jersey History and Historic Preservation Conference, held at Princeton University.



## UCNJ's Salute to Veterans

At UCNJ, the College strives to provide Veterans, Active-Duty Military, and members of the National Guard or Reserve the best possible support services to help meet their educational goals. To better accommodate these students, the Veteran Lounge opened in September on the College's Cranford Campus. Veterans use the lounge to study in between classes and to connect with their peers, creating a sense of belonging on campus.



## Have No Fear, Artificial Intelligence is Here

STEM faculty and staff from the College's Distance Education Department presented two workshops at the C2 STEM Summit. The first workshop, "Designing Sequence Courses and the Importance of Cohorting for STEM Students' Success," was followed by "AI Fight Club." During these presentations, the team shared insights from a decade-long collaboration in redesigning chemistry sequenced courses. They discussed the impact of standardized assessment tools, an independent study project, the creation of an active learning environment, and the implementation of micro-cohorts in the classroom. Furthermore, rather than banning or avoiding artificial intelligence, the presenters advocated for its responsible use, emphasizing its benefits for both faculty and students. -Fun Fact: A draft of this article began with AI!



## Plant-astic Business Opportunity at UCNJ

A groundbreaking partnership was formed this year at UCNJ, turning garden plants into a profit! The College's Business Center and STEM division partnered to develop a hydroponic vertical farming system. Under this system, plants grow vertically indoors with synthetic material instead of dirt. With this system in place, plants are able to be harvested every six weeks! In their role, STEM students observe and document the behaviors of the plants and make the necessary adjustments needed to help the plants grow and thrive. On the business side, students are tasked with creating detailed reports and developing a business plan that will enable this project to become a successful farming business. With their success, the hydroponic plant team has been able to distribute vegetables several times throughout the year to students at UCNJ Farmers Markets.



## Celebrating the Trinitas School of Nursing Graduates and Faculty

Trinitas School of Nursing, in partnership with UCNJ, provides a Cooperative Nursing Program that awards students with both a diploma in Nursing from Trinitas School of Nursing and an Associate in Science from UCNJ. Two ceremonies were held in January and June, celebrating a combined 131 graduates. The graduation ceremony features a traditional pinning ceremony, which symbolizes a rite of passage into the professional world of nursing and the nurse's commitment to those they care for. The ceremony concluded with the graduates taking their oath as graduate nurses.

This year, three faculty members of Trinitas School of Nursing obtained their Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. Before completing their doctoral program at Farleigh Dickinson University, Dr. Illya DeVera-Bonilla, Dr. Ana Paula Grillo-Dias, and Dr Marie O'Donnell graduated from UCNJ with their Associate in Science degree and their Trinitas School of Nursing Diploma.

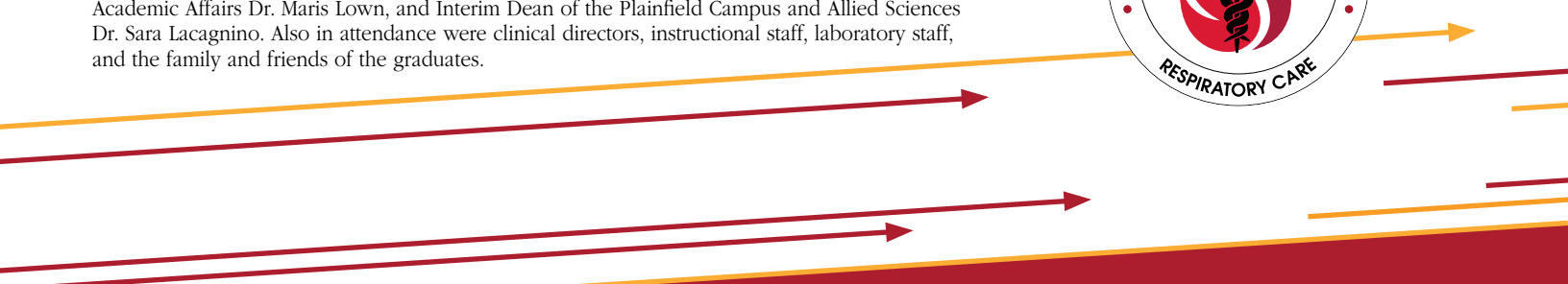
**Trinitas School of Nursing** | **RWJBarnabas HEALTH**



## UCNJ's Respiratory Care Program Breathes New Life into 15 Graduates

This May, the College celebrated 15 new graduates of UCNJ's Respiratory Care Program. Over the course of their program, students learn to administer medical gases and aerosolized drugs, assist physicians with diagnoses, and provide treatment and care to patients with disorders of the heart and lungs. Upon completion, students graduate with an Associate in Applied Science degree and are eligible to sit for the National Board of Respiratory Care credentialing exams.

The completion ceremony included remarks from UCNJ's Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Maris Lown, and Interim Dean of the Plainfield Campus and Allied Sciences Dr. Sara Lacagnino. Also in attendance were clinical directors, instructional staff, laboratory staff, and the family and friends of the graduates.





## EMT Students Learn Critical Life Saving Skills

The College offers several different levels of training in the field of Emergency Medical Services, including a Certificate or a Certificate of Achievement in Emergency Medical Studies. Throughout their time at UCNJ, students complete ambulance ride along hours for field practice and to improve their skills. The EMT program is equipped with lifelike manikins, a simulation ambulance, and a road ambulance for students to practice emergency scenarios and to learn critical thinking skills. Upon successful completion of their program, students are eligible to take the National Registry examination. This year, 173 students completed the EMT program.

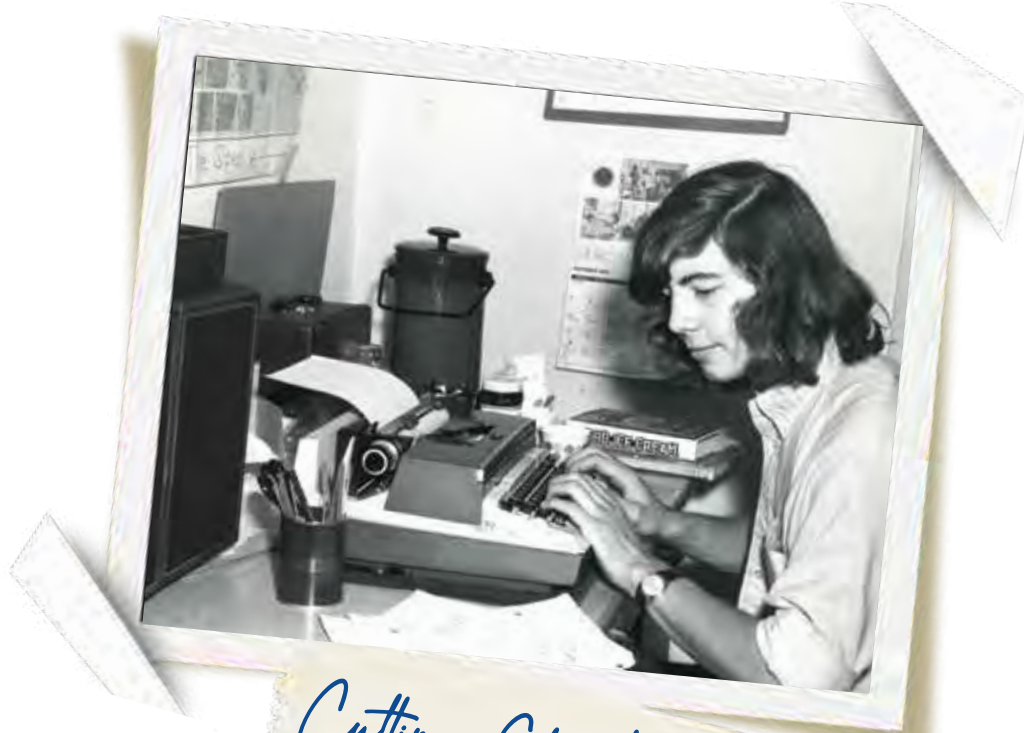
## Practical Nursing Program Celebrates Combined 57 Graduates

The Practical Nursing Program at UCNJ equips students with essential skills in patient care, assisting doctors and registered nurses with various medical tasks and treatments. Students are taught to provide compassionate and competent care to patients in various healthcare settings, including hospitals, clinics, and long-term care facilities. Upon graduating, students are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN examination for Practical Nurse licensure.



The College celebrated 57 new graduates over the spring and fall semesters at their pinning ceremony. Dr. Christiana Nwachukwu and Michele Cislo, Associate Professors in Practical Nursing, awarded the pins to the graduates. Following the pinning, the graduates took the Nurses' Pledge and lit candles, led by Donna Sonsiadek, Associate Professor in Practical Nursing. The candles commemorate Florence Nightingale's nighttime aid to wounded soldiers by candlelight.

UCNJ UNION COLLEGE OF UNION COUNTY, IN



## Cutting Edge Tech



### Six in the Mix for Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship

Six UCNJ students were named semifinalists for the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. This scholarship provides up to \$55,000 annually to attend a four-year college or university. To be eligible, students must have at least a 3.5 GPA and demonstrate unmet financial need.

This year, the semifinalists all had a GPA of 3.8 and above and were involved with numerous activities on campus. The six semifinalists from UCNJ were Mario Alvarado, of Roselle; Myrvens Sylvester, of Roselle; Nicole Resende Lucena, of Union Township; Sophia Argenziano, of Clark; Precious Opaola, of Linden; Zulemy Gomez-Londono, of Elizabeth.

**JACK KENT COOKE**  
FOUNDATION



### Students Named Coca-Cola Scholars

Two UCNJ students, Camila Taddeo, of Union Township, and Maryann Ossai, of Hillside, were selected as 2023 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholars and each received a scholarship. Both students are members of Phi Theta Kappa



Honor Society. Camilla served as Phi Theta Kappa's President and is studying nursing. Maryann is currently pursuing a degree in public administration and was also selected as a 2023 Coca-Cola Military Leaders of Promise Scholar.





# UCNJ Celebrates Black History Month



**YEAR ANNIVERSARY 1933-2023**

# 90 Years of Play, Passion, & Pride

**October 16, 2023**



At this year's opening ceremony for Black History Month, attendees celebrated with the theme "African Americans and the Arts." Zawadi African Dance and Drum opened the ceremony with a drum and dance performance, inviting the audience to join as well. Student Joshua Kwashie read a poem and student Sarah Towler sang the Black National Anthem, which was followed by remarks from President McMenamin and the elected officials in attendance. The keynote address was issued by Rev. Dr. Wanda Lundy, who serves as Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program at the New York Theology Seminary, board member of the Association for Doctor of Ministry Education. She spoke about the 313+ Project, which honors the more than 313 enslaved and freed African ancestors buried in Elizabeth.

UCNJ UNION COLLEGE OF UNION COUNTY, IN

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## Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration At UCNJ

UCNJ celebrated the opening of Hispanic Heritage Month with a kickoff celebration, beginning with the singing of the national anthem in Spanish by UCNJ student Adriana Lemus. Students then presented the flags of Hispanic countries. The keynote speaker was Alvert Hernandez, Director of First-Generation Student Initiatives at Moravian University, who spoke on being a proud Latino and how to persevere in today's world. The event included live music by Los 9 Del Sabor Orquesta and ended with empanadas.

*VP Student Development Dr. Demond T. Hargrove, Asst. Dean of Students Bea Rodriguez, President McMenamin, Union County Board of County Commissioners Vice Chairwoman Lourdes M. Leon, Mr. Hernandez, and Asst. Dean of Learning Resources Jose Páez-Figueroa.*



## Students and Families Enjoy Thanksgiving Meal

The College's Office of Social Work Services helped students celebrate the holiday season by distributing more than 100 chickens, turkeys, and hams, at no cost to students. Thanks to the partnership with the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, students were able to enjoy a meal with their families without having to worry about the price. Students also received a holiday menu containing sides for their meal and vegetables grown by the Business Center and STEM Division's hydroponic farming project.



## Social Work Services Provides Support to Students on and off Campus

The Office of Social Work Services continues to add more services for UCNJ students. At the beginning of the semester, the department hosted Wild 4 Wellness, which promoted the College's free emotional support services.

Finals can be a challenging time for students. Because of that, Social Work Services hosted De-Stress Fest, a two-week event to help students de-stress and focus during final exams. The activities fell into four categories: mindfulness, physical activity, social connection, and relaxation stations.



## Pet Therapy Provides Emotional Support to Students

Look out Icarus, Finneas is flying in! In partnership with the Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs, a volunteer came to the Cranford Campus throughout the year to allow students the opportunity to engage with a therapy dog named Finneas. Finneas sat with students and let them cuddle with him, did tricks, and provided a calming presence overall. The College can't wait to welcome you back, Finneas!



ENROLLMENT BY RACE/ETHNICITY

46.1% **HISPANIC/LATINO**

27.8% **BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN**

14.1% **WHITE**

4.1% **ASIAN**

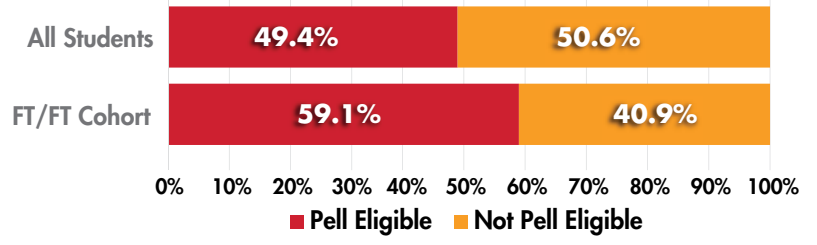
3.6% **UNKNOWN**

1.4% **NONRESIDENT ALIEN**

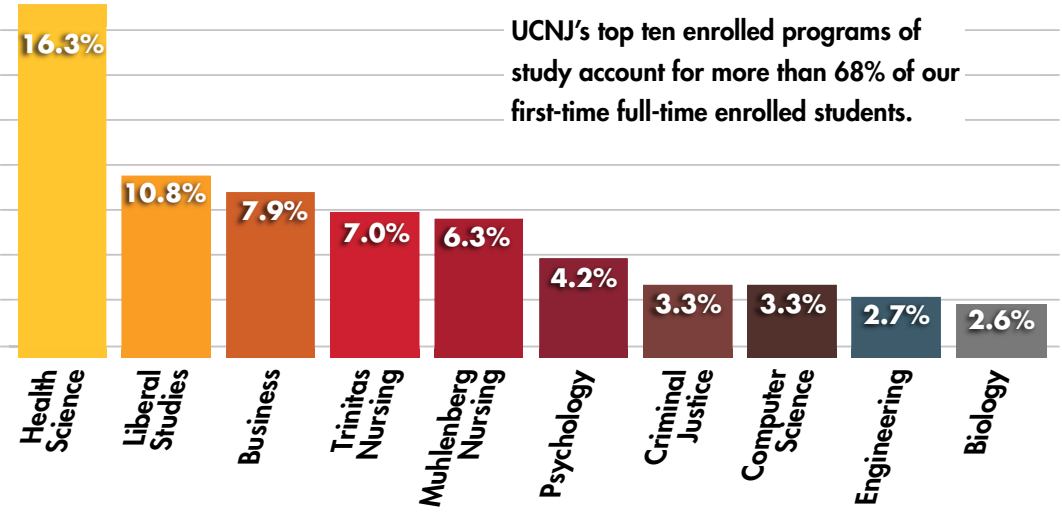
2.8% **OTHER**

Students who received **NJ STARS FUNDS** **60**  
 Endowed & Annual Foundation **SCHOLARSHIPS** **258**  
 Students receiving scholarship funds from the **Union County College FOUNDATION** **422**

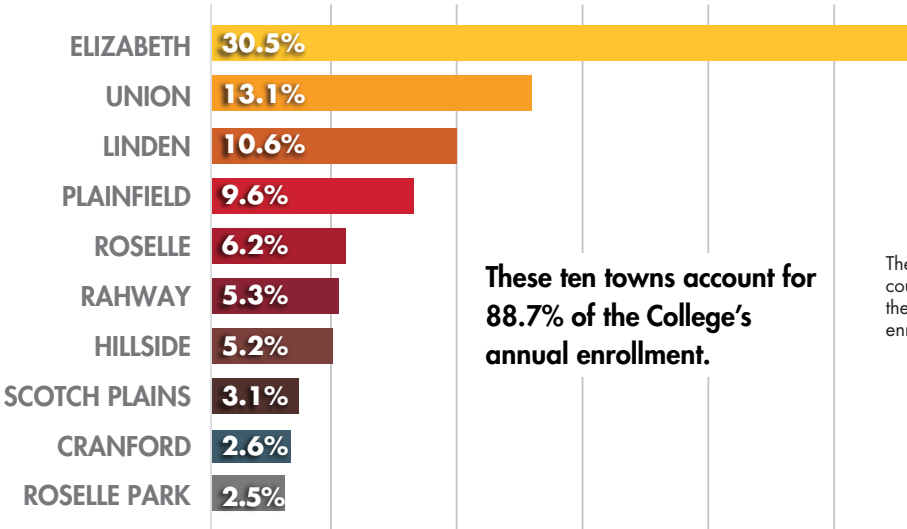
**FALL 2023 PELL ELIGIBILITY**



**FALL 2023 FTFT COHORT, TOP ENROLLED MAJORS**



**UNION COUNTY TOWNS WITH LARGEST ENROLLMENT**



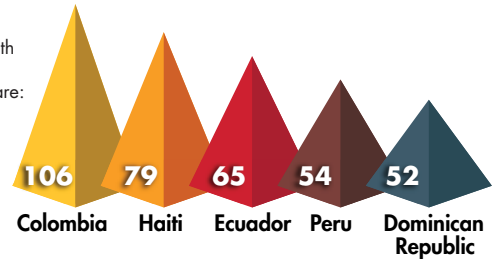
These ten towns account for 88.7% of the College's annual enrollment.

**COUNTY RESIDENCY**

Union County . . . . .	6,707	Middlesex County . . . . .	349
Atlantic County . . . . .	2	Monmouth County . . . . .	42
Bergen County . . . . .	20	Morris County . . . . .	35
Burlington County . . . . .	5	Ocean County . . . . .	10
Camden County . . . . .	4	Passaic County . . . . .	17
Essex County . . . . .	535	Somerset County . . . . .	82
Gloucester County . . . . .	2	Sussex County . . . . .	4
Hudson County . . . . .	77	Warren County . . . . .	3
Hunterdon County . . . . .	8	Out of State . . . . .	171
Mercer County . . . . .	8	<b>Grand Total . . . . .</b>	<b>8,081</b>

**FALL 2023 NATIONALITIES SURVEY**

The top five countries with the highest enrollment are:



UCNJ UNION COLLEGE OF UNION COUNTY, NJ



## From EOF to the Empire State

UCNJ's EOF Career Development Series hosted a work site visit to Google's New York City office. EOF students participated in a day filled

with activities, including listening to a panel of Google employees that are software engineers, a program manager, and professionals from compliance and sales. The panel shared their stories and their path to working at a Fortune 500 company. Throughout the day, students received advice and guidance on making the most of their college experience and how to prepare for the workforce.



## Students Get their Greens (And Reds, Yellows, and Oranges)

Food insecurity initiatives are a priority at UCNJ. The Office of Social Work Services hosts several events for students, including Farmers Markets, Fruit Stands, and Healthy Food Demonstrations. The Farmers Markets distribute free, fresh, and locally grown vegetables for students. In addition, the Fruit Stands and Healthy Food Demonstrations provided samples of healthy snacks and recipes for students, in partnership with the Community Food Bank in New Jersey.



## Celebrate Her: Honoring Black Women of the Past, Present, and Future

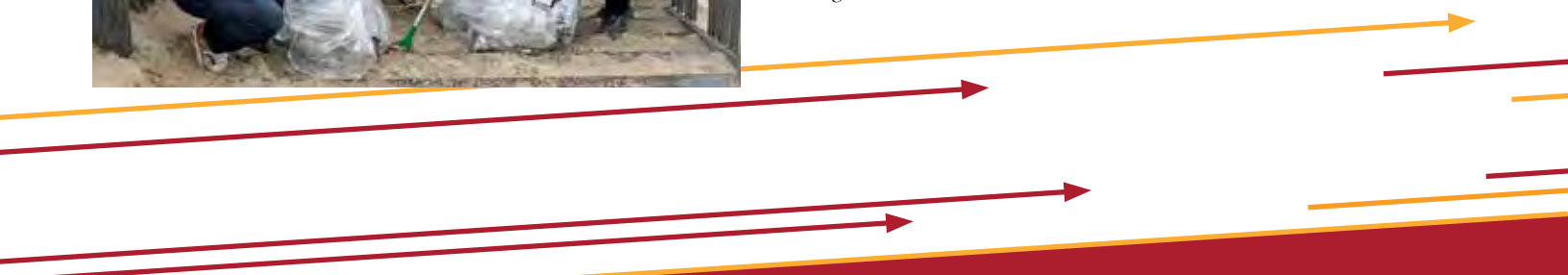
In collaboration with EOF, the Office of College Life, and the Office of Admissions, the Associate Director of Admissions Titilola Price hosted the second annual "Celebrate Her" event. The event honored the remarkable contributions of Black women, past and present, in their communities. Participants engaged in discussions on community health and healing with a focus on wellness and empowerment. "Celebrate Her" served as a powerful reminder of the resilience, strength, and invaluable contributions of African American women.



## Spring Service Break

More than 100 UCNJ students took the time to participate in several service and social activities throughout their spring break. As part of the Office of College Life's alternative spring break and in partnership with Habitat for Humanity, students unloaded donation trucks, landscaped, installed fencing, painted floors, and installed walkways.

Other activities for students included a trip to Washington, D.C. to visit the Holocaust Museum and the National Mall and a trip to Bowlero, a bowling alley, which allowed students to meet new friends and connect throughout the week.





**The Office of College Life [OCL] promotes student engagement and involvement through dynamic co-curricular activities that are designed to complement and enrich students' academic journey and personal development.**

**OCL encourages and plans trips for clubs to expand their knowledge and build skills.**

**The Criminal Justice Club** took students to the Eastern State Penitentiary in October to tour the remains of the first penitentiary in US history and have a spooky experience at their haunted house.

**The OCL and Athletics** took students to an NJ Devils game, where many experienced their first professional sporting event. Also, students got to meet with marketing and sales representatives from the NJ Devils organization.

**Fashion Club and Women's Empowerment Club** hosted a trip to New York where students were able to experience the Metropolitan Museum of Art, followed by the Broadway musical "Six."

**The Jewish Student Union and History Club** hosted a large trip to Washington D.C. for students to visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the National Mall.

With more than 35 student clubs at UCNJ, there is something for everyone to join. Clubs provide a co-curricular opportunity for students to meet other students on campus and be exposed to their areas of interest.

### Some club highlights from this year include:

- **The UCNJ Owl Radio Club** has introduced several new podcasts and opportunities for students to experience audio production and live performance.
- **The Dramatics Society** held two Open Mics, a stage combat workshop, and performed the musical "Now. Here. This."
- **The Muslim Student Association** hosted the first ever Iftar event on campus, allowing the UCNJ community to experience an important part of Ramadan.
- After hosting a viewing of the "Barbie" movie, the **Women's Empowerment Club** invited a panel of professional women to discuss the meanings and values represented in the film.
- **Student Leadership Council** took on the challenge of hosting Day of Culture to celebrate World Day of Culture, representing more than 15 different cultures from around the world for students to get exposure to in hopes of building understanding and cultural respect.



UCNJ UNION COLLEGE OF UNION COUNTY, NJ



*76-77 Lady Owls*

## Lady Owls Conquer the Court and Bring Home NJCAA Region XIX Championship

The Women's Basketball team had several big wins this season. The team won the National Junior Athletic Association (NJCAA) 2024 Region XIX Championship against Harcum College with a score of 57-53. The wins continued, with a District Championship against Niagara County Community College, securing them a spot in the NJCAA Division II National Championship. The third and final win of the season celebrated head coach Marbely Montas (UCNJ '07) who was named NJCAA Region XIX Coach of the Year for the sixth consecutive year!



## Golfer Patrick Murray Driving UCNJ to Victory on the Green

Two-time Garden State Athletic Conference champion Patrick Murray won the National Junior College Athletic Associate (NJCAA) Region XIX Golf Championship at the Ash Brook Golf Course in Scotch Plains, NJ. This is the second NJCAA Region XIX championship for Patrick. He's coached by Associate Professor of Business Marc Postiglione. In 2024, Patrick placed first in all nine tournaments he entered. At Nationals, he placed seventh in the nation. Patrick graduated from UCNJ in May 2024 and will continue his education at Kean University, where he will play on their newly formed golf team.



## Esports Kicks into High Gear with Come from Behind Championship

How do you spell back-to-back national champion? I-A-N F-R-I-E-D-M-A-N! Congratulations to Mario Kart Champion Ian Friedman, who defended his national championships at both the fall and spring national competition. During spring nationals, Ian fought his way back to the top. Following a tough first loss, he won the consolation bracket 4-0 to then compete in the winner's bracket. Ian won the final match 4-3 to bring back the national title to UCNJ.



UCNJ also won Regional Championships in Overwatch, and competed nationally with Valorant, Call of Duty, Overwatch 2, Super Smash Brothers, NBA2K24, FIFA23, and Fortnite Build. At nationals, the two versus two battle in Call of Duty cinched the first place title!



## UCNJ's First Tailgate is a Grand Slam!

The College community celebrated the Owls Tailgate with food, games, and giveaways in support of the Baseball team. For the big game, the College hosted Delaware County Community College for a single game and won 12-2 at the Shane Walsh Baseball Field. To commemorate the event, UCNJ's Director of Athletics Marbely Montas threw out the ceremonial first pitch. Play ball!

UCNJ UNION COLLEGE OF UNION COUNTY, NJ

# Athletics



*Coach Montas 2014 & 2024*

## Student Athlete of the Year

**Michaela Fajardo** – Women's Soccer, UCNJ Female Student-Athlete of the Year 2023-2024

**Ian Friedman** – eSports, UCNJ Male Student-Athlete of the Year 2023-2024

## Fall Sports

### Cross Country

- Union Owls XC competed in the Region XIX Championship. Jen Bueno placed 5th overall and 4th place for DIII Region XIX which secured her a spot at Nationals. She competed in the 2023 NJCAA Women's Cross Country Championship in Huntsville, Alabama against 98 of the best runners in the country, placing 18th in the nation.

### Women's Soccer

- Individual Awards
  - All-GSAC - Kiiani Banks, Goalkeeper, Sophomore (1st team)
- All-Region XIX Selections
  - Kiiani Banks, Goalkeeper, Sophomore (1st team)

### Men's Soccer

- All-Region XIX Selections
  - Henry Valderrama, Midfield, Freshman (2nd team)
  - Jonathan Gonzalve, Forward, Freshman (3rd team)

## ESports

- Mario Kart
  - Regional Champion and National Champion Ian Friedman
- Call of Duty Gunfight 2v2
  - National Champions - Ricky Amaral and Paulo Matias
- Overwatch Team
  - Regional Champions and 3rd Place Nationals – Aaron Alioglu, Jake Castro, Kevin Gomes, Raven (Andrew) Montanez, Santiago Puerto, and Andres Lozada
- NBA2K
  - 2nd Place Nationals – Jake Castro

## Winter Sports

### Women's Basketball

- JUCO Coach of the Week (wHoopDirt.com)
  - Marbely Montas
- GSAC Player of the Week
  - Jaslin Walker
  - Khila Morris
  - Ashley Rojas
  - Amyah Mars
- All-American
  - Khila Morris
- All-Region Teams
  - Khila Morris (1st Team)
  - Miyoshi Ellis (1st Team)
- 2024 Region XIX Champions
  - 57-53 victory over Harcum College
- Region XIX Donna Herran Coach of the Year
  - Marbely Montas
- Region XIX Rose Battaglia Player of the Year Award
  - Khila Morris
- 2024 District East A Champions
  - 72-57 victory over Niagara County Community College
- 2024 NJCAA DII Women's Basketball Nationals
  - Winning both Regional and Districts, women's basketball earned a spot at Nationals in Joplin, MO
- Khila Morris – 2x GSAC POTW, 1st Team All-Region, All-Region Player of the Year, All-American
- Miyoshi Ellis - 1st Team All-Region
- Marbely Montas – Region XIX Donna Herran Coach of the Year
- Union Owls Women's Basketball – 2024 Region XIX Champions
- Union Owls Women's Basketball – 2024 Districts East A Champions

### Men's Basketball

- All-Region Teams
  - Jordan Miller (1st Team)
- Jordan Miller – 1st Team All-Region & 1st Team All-GSAC

## Wrestling

- All-Conference Team
  - Brian Moyer Jr. (Sophomore, 285 lbs)
- GSAC Championships
  - Placed 3rd
- Gulf Atlantic District Wrestling Tournament
  - Naci Robinson (Sophomore, 125 lbs) & Brian Moyer Jr. (Sophomore, 285 lbs) wins 3rd Place Medals. Qualifying for the NJCAA National Wrestling Championships in Iowa.
  - Claudio Sanchez (Sophomore, 133 lbs), Griffin Jones (Freshman, 157 lbs), & Ryan Creary (Sophomore, 197 lbs) earned wildcard selections for Nationals in Iowa.
- NJCAA National Wrestling Qualifiers
  - Naci Robinson (Sophomore, 125 lbs)
  - Brian Moyer Jr. (Sophomore, 285 lbs)
  - Claudio Sanchez (Sophomore, 133 lbs)
  - Griffin Jones (Freshman, 157 lbs)
  - Ryan Creary (Sophomore, 197 lbs)

## Spring Sports

### Men's Volleyball

- Invitationals this Year
  - Monroe College Men's Volleyball Invitational – New Rochelle, NY
  - Finger Lakes Community College Invitational – Canandaigua, NY
- All-Region Teams
  - Alexander Boulin (1st Team)
  - Gianfranco Guarraci (2nd Team)
- All-GSAC Teams
  - Alexander Boulin (1st Team)
  - Gianfranco Guarraci (2nd Team)

### Golf

- GSAC Championships
  - Sophomore Patrick Murray fired a round of 76 including an eagle on hole 16 to win the GSAC Tournament by five strokes. The Owl Team score of 395 for 3rd place honors.
- Region XIX Championships
  - Sophomore Patrick Murray wins the Region XIX Golf Championship for the second year in a row carding two stellar rounds of 73 and 75. The Owl Team finished in 4th place at the two-day event with a team total of 785.



## 2023-2024 NJCAA All-Academic Teams

### NJCAA All-Academic First Team. . . . .4.00 GPA

Michaela Fajardo, Sophomore - Women's Soccer  
 Anais Santacruz, Sophomore - Women's Soccer  
 Ruth Rodriguez, Freshman - Women's Soccer  
 Angie Sanchez, Freshman - Women's Soccer  
 Jennifer Bueno, Sophomore - Women's Cross Country  
 Patrick Murray, Sophomore - Golf

### NJCAA All-Academic Second Team. . .3.80-3.99 GPA

Sarah Polynice, Sophomore - Women's Volleyball  
 Gloria Hernandez, Freshman - Women's Soccer  
 Naci Robinson, Sophomore - Wrestling  
 Gabriel Justo, Freshman - Wrestling  
 Ahjanae Young, Sophomore - Women's Basketball  
 Amyah Adair-Mars, Sophomore - Women's Basketball  
 Yasmeen Brightwell, Freshman - Women's Basketball  
 Patrick Bauman, Freshman - Men's Volleyball

### NJCAA All-Academic Third Team . . .3.60-3.79 GPA

Guillermo Miranda, Sophomore - Men's Soccer  
 Fredys De La Cruz, Sophomore - Men's Basketball  
 Lucas Mincoelli, Sophomore - Golf  
 Gregory Ayube, Freshman - Baseball  
 Thomas Scanio, Freshman - Baseball  
 Faris Areiqat, Freshman - Men's Volleyball



*Coach Dunscombe before he became Dean of STEM!*

UCNJ UNION COLLEGE OF UNION COUNTY, NJ



# The Other Side of the Rainbow:

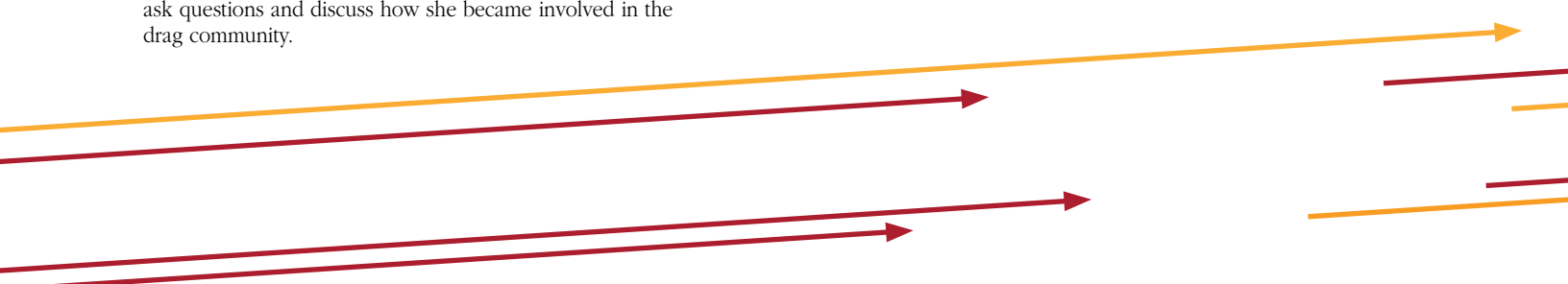
## UCNJ Community Learns about LGBT History Month

October is a celebration of LGBT+ history. Jane Clementi, the Cofounder and CEO of the Tyler Clementi Foundation, visited the College to speak to UCNJ students, faculty, and staff about recognizing bullying and becoming an upstander, as opposed to a bystander. Jane shared the tragic story of her son, Tyler, who committed suicide after being publicly harassed online while he was in college. The Foundation uses the power of Tyler's story to motivate people to make a difference and stand up for others being bullied.

UCNJ's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee also invited longtime performer and drag queen Brenda LaMour to perform for students. Brenda had an open forum for the UCNJ community to ask questions and discuss how she became involved in the drag community.



*Jane Clementi, Cofounder and CEO of the Tyler Clementi Foundation*







# Running the College

## Convocation kicks off 2023-2024 Academic Year.

Convocation, traditionally held the day before fall classes start, marks the beginning of the new academic year at UCNJ. It serves to energize the faculty and staff for the new year. This year's Convocation theme was "Navigating the Future of Learning and Work" with keynote speaker Maria Flynn, President and CEO of Jobs for the Future (JFF). JFF is a national nonprofit that drives transformation in the American workforce and education systems.

Prior to Ms. Flynn's keynote, President McMenamin provided a "State of the College" with remarks from Dr. Sara N. Lacagnino, UCNJ's Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs & Interim Dean of Plainfield Campus, who chairs the College's Futures Task Force.

Following Ms. Flynn's keynote, she facilitated a panel featuring Dr. Aaron Fichtner, President of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges; Sarah S. Keh, Vice President of Inclusive Solutions at Prudential Financial; Susan Benavente (UCNJ '20), a security analyst at a large New Jersey corporation; and Colin Newman, Director of Workforce & Economic Development for Amazon. Convocation focused on how to prepare UCNJ students for the workforce of tomorrow.



*Cranford Campus 1948*

UCNJ UNION COLLEGE OF UNION COUNTY, NJ

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# PLC

The President's Leadership Council (PLC) is comprised of leaders from across the various divisions of the College who share the current initiatives, updates, and plans from their respective departments. They discuss the College's institutional priorities: enrollment, student success, innovation, and diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice.



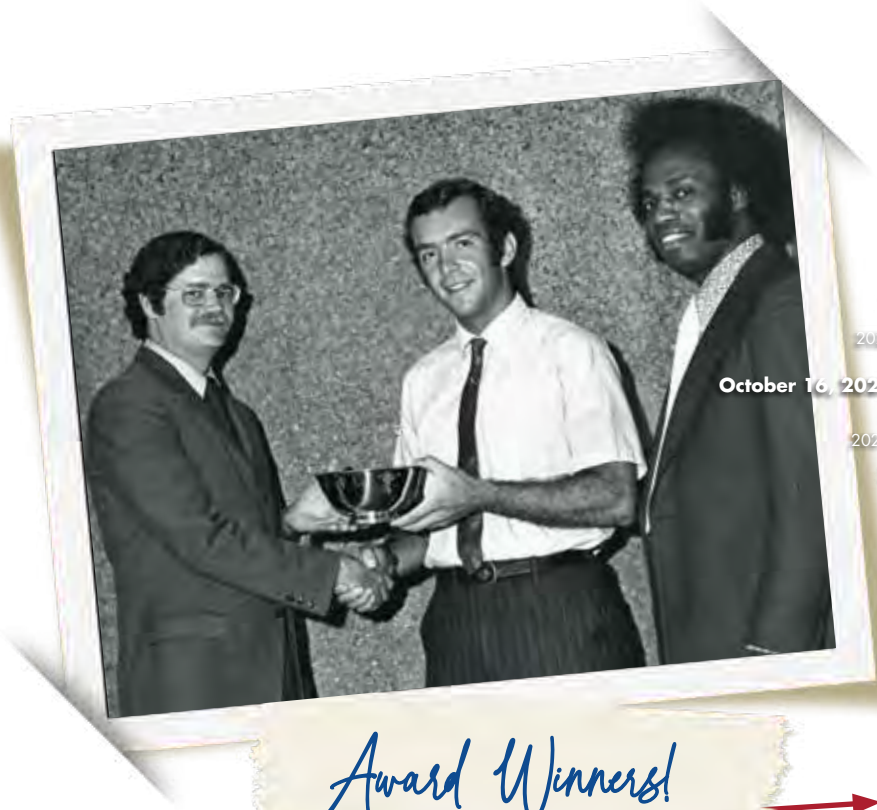
## The President's Leadership Council

- Dr. Margaret M. McMnamin, President
- Mark G. Anderson, Director of Purchasing
- Lester T. Bosea, Registrar
- Dayne Chance, Executive Director of Financial Aid
- Donnell Clement, Chair of the Governance and Leadership Council
- Dr. Nicole D. Cippoletti, Dean of Scotch Plains & Virtual Campus
- William E. Dunscombe, Dean of STEM
- Dr. Demond T. Hargrove, Vice President for Student Development
- Joseph Hines, Executive Director of Public Safety
- Dr. Lisa R. Hiscano, Executive Director of Continuing Education & Workforce Development
- Dr. Charnette Hockaday, Dean of Students
- Dr. Coleen Kumar, Dean of JFK Muhlenberg Harold B. and Dorothy A. Snyder Schools
- Dr. Sara N. Lacagnino, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs and Interim Dean of Plainfield Campus & Allied Sciences
- Vincent J. Lotano, Associate Vice President of Operations
- Dr. Maris Lowm, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Dr. Melinda C. Norelli, Dean of Social Sciences, Business, and History
- Dr. Bernard A. Polnariiev, Vice President for Administrative Services
- Dr. Elizabeth A. Ramos, Dean of Elizabeth Campus & Institute for Intensive English
- Duane Reid, Assistant Dean of Student Success
- Douglas E. Rouse, Executive Director of the Union County College Foundation
- Dr. Melissa R. Sande, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs & Dean of Humanities
- Dr. Roseminda N. Santee, Dean of Trinitas School of Nursing
- Christopher A. Sapara-Grant, Director of Facilities
- Dr. Jaime M. Segal, Executive Director of College Relations & Secretary of the Boards
- Marlene M. Sousa, Assistant Vice President of Finance
- Dr. Lauren Swierc Falkowski, Dean of Curriculum & Assessment
- Dr. Marlene White, Associate General Counsel & Executive Director of Procurement
- Dr. Lori A. Wilkin, Vice President of Finance & Operations
- Dr. Eric D. Winch, Chief Information Officer
- Dr. Andrew S. Ziner, Executive Director of Institutional Research

# UCNJ Scores Multiple NJCCC Awards

**Members of the UCNJ community received four New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC) awards which were distributed at the Awards Program & Dinner as a part of New Jersey's Community College Opportunity Summit held in Atlantic City.**

- Awarded to a senior community college leader in recognition of their leadership efforts, Vice President for Student Development Dr. Demond T. Hargrove received the Dr. Lawrence A. Nespoli Leadership Award.
- Presented to a New Jersey community college faculty member who has had a profound influence on students inside and outside of the classroom, the Distinguished Faculty Award was given to Associate Professor of Chemistry Shahrzad "Sherry" Heidary.
- Awarded to two students in recognition of their academic excellence, character, inspirational success, and service to their communities, the New Jersey Student of the Year was presented to Katherine Mejia (UCNJ '24).
- Presented to a trustee who has made outstanding contributions, Board of Governors Chair Mary M. Zimmermann received the Ronald D. Winthers Trustee Leadership Award.



October 16, 2023

*Award Winners!*

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# The College's Advocates

**The College is indebted to advocates in the County, in Trenton, and in Washington for their unwavering support and their commitment to education.**

State and federal elected officials provide valuable support to the College. From Federal Pell Grants and Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education funding to New Jersey Tuition Assistance Grants, the Community College Opportunity Grant, and NJ STARS, these programs provide critical financial assistance. We thank them for their support!

## UNITED STATES SENATE

Senator Cory Booker

Senator Robert Menendez

## UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Representative Tom Kean, Jr. (NJ-07)

Representative the late Donald M. Payne, Jr. (NJ-10)

Representative Rob Menendez (NJ-08)

Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ-12)

## NEW JERSEY GOVERNOR

Governor Philip D. Murphy

Lieutenant Governor Tahesha Way

## NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE, DISTRICT 20

Senator Joseph P. Cryan

Assemblyman Reginald W. Atkins

Assemblywoman Annette Quijano

## NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE, DISTRICT 21

Senator Jon M. Bramnick

Assemblywoman Michele Matsikoudis

Assemblywoman Nancy F. Munoz

## NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE, DISTRICT 22

Senate President Nicholas P. Scutari

Assemblywoman Linda S. Carter

Assemblyman James J. Kennedy



*UCNJ Assistant Dean of Student Success Duane Reid and Senator Booker*



## Swag for the Senator

In the fall, U.S. Senator Cory Booker visited the Cranford Campus, and the College made sure he left with a college sweatshirt. Senator Booker is well known on his social media platforms for recording messages during his daily runs – keep an eye out for some owl swag in one of his future posts!

## UCNJ Remembers Rep. Donald Payne Jr.

The College community mourned the sudden loss of U.S. Representative Donald Payne Jr. in April. Congressman Payne has always been a friend and supporter of the College, representing many Union County municipalities as a part of NJ-10. He was a champion of his constituents and believed in the value of education. He will be deeply missed.



*Dr. McMenemy, UCNJ Board of Trustees Chair Victor M. Richel, Mrs. Zimmermann, President of Atlantic Cape Community College Dr. Barbara Gaba, and NJCCC President Dr. Aaron Fichtner*

## Board of Governors Chair and Trustee Mary Zimmermann Completes Term as NJCCC Chair

The New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC) acknowledged outgoing NJCCC Chair Mary M. Zimmermann (UCNJ '01) during their last meeting of 2023. They presented her with a resolution from the New Jersey Senate and Assembly as well as a letter from Governor Murphy thanking her for her service as Chair. Mrs. Zimmermann has served as NJCCC Chair since 2021 and has been a member of the NJCCC Executive Committee since 2017.



## Trustee Jeff Katz Named Senior of Distinction

Congratulations to UCNJ Board of Trustees and Governors member Jeffrey H. Katz, Esq. on being named a Senior of Distinction. More than 100 people were nominated and only 22 were selected for this recognition. Rep. Tom Kean Jr. (NJ-07) hosted the event to honor recipients. Recipients were selected based on their long history of giving back to their community and for continuing to lend their expertise, experience, and many talents to helping and supporting others today.



UCNJ students Katherine Mejia and Paula Gonzalez in front of the Capitol in between meetings with legislators on the Hill.



**HACU**  
H I S P A N I C  
A S S O C I A T I O N  
O F C O L L E G E S &  
U N I V E R S I T I E S

## HACU Capitol Forum in DC

UCNJ attended the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) 29th Capitol Forum held in Washington D.C. The event brought together HACU members with elected officials and government leaders to advocate for the legislative priorities of Hispanic-Serving Institutions. Attending this event were President McMenamin, who is also a member of the HACU Governing Board, UCNJ Executive Director of College Relations & Board Secretary Dr. Jaime Segal, and UCNJ students Katherine Mejia and Paula Gonzalez. The opening plenary luncheon included remarks from U.S. Secretary of Education Dr. Miguel Cardona. As a part of the conference, the UCNJ delegation met the offices of Senator Cory Booker and Congressman Donald Payne Jr. (NJ-10).



As a member of the HACU governing board, Dr. M had the opportunity to snap a selfie with U.S. Secretary of Education Dr. Miguel Cardona before he issued his remarks at the opening luncheon.



## ACCT National Legislative Summit

UCNJ Board of Governors Chair and Trustee Mary M. Zimmermann, Student Representative Krystal Villalobos, and UCNJ's Executive Director of College Relations & Board Secretary Dr. Jaime Segal, joined President McMenamin at the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) 2024 National Legislative Summit in Washington, DC. During their visit, they had the opportunity to meet with the offices of elected officials including U.S. Representatives Bonnie Watson Coleman, Thomas H. Kean Jr., Rob Menendez, and Donald M. Payne Jr., and U.S. Senators Cory Booker and Bob Menendez. The meetings were to advocate for current issues facing community colleges. Krystal is a resident of Elizabeth and had the opportunity to speak to her representative, Congressman Menendez.

UCNJ UNION COLLEGE OF UNION COUNTY, NJ



## New Commissioners Visit the Owl's Nest

The two newest commissioners both visited UCNJ getting a tour from Dr. McMenamain. Union County Board of County Commissioners Joseph C. Bodek and Michèle Delisfort met with President McMenamain to tour the Cranford Campus. They visited the Podcasting and Radio Station, Hoot's Market, and discussed the College's recent achievements and future goals.



UCNJ Trustee Anjali Mehrotra, Union County Commissioner Michèle Delisfort, Union County Commissioner Vice Chairwoman Lourdes Leon, Congresswoman Mikie Sherill (NJ-11), President McMenamain, Union County Commissioner Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, Commissioner Rebecca Williams, Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalksi, Deputy County Manager Amy Wagner.

## UCNJ Partners with Union County Commissioners to Support Women Soldiers Overseas

In collaboration with the Union County Board of County Commissioners, Amazon, 102D Cavalry Family Readiness Group, and Girls Helping Girls Period, in recognition of Women's History Month, the College packed essential items, hygiene products, comfort items, and more to send to military members overseas. Congresswoman Mikie Sherill (NJ-11), a former U.S. Navy helicopter pilot, was a special guest and helped UCNJ student volunteers package the boxes.



## Chairwoman Mouded Joins Dr. M

Dr. McMenamain's TV show, Inside the College, features guests from the campus and community. The show shares news about the College and also discusses important information from around the county and state. In early 2024, Dr. M welcomed Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded of the Union County Board of County Commissioners for an episode to discuss her career trajectory and her initiatives as chair.

## Senate President Scutari Supports UCNJ Students

Before he became New Jersey's Senate President, Nicholas P. Scutari served as a member of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders (now the Union County Board of County Commissioners). From Linden, Senate President Scutari was a member of the Freeholder Board from 1996 to 2004 where he helped to create the still thriving Freeholder Scholars program (now the Commissioner Scholars program). This scholarship provides financial support for residents of the county who are full-time students with at least a "B" average and a family income of \$75,000 or less.



Freeholder Scutari



*Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded,  
Chairwoman*



*Lourdes M. Leon,  
Vice Chairwoman*



*James E. Baker, Jr.*



*Joseph C. Bodek*



*Michèle S. Delisfort*



*Sergio Granados*



*Bette Jane Kowalski*



*Alexander Mirabella*



*Rebecca L. Williams*



### **The Union County Board of County Commissioners**

There is no stronger partner to the College than the Union County Board of County Commissioners. Thanks to their generous and steadfast support, the College is able to keep tuition low for students. Beyond the operational financial support they provide, they also help fund capital projects to modernize and update the College's aging facilities. Low tuition plus modern labs and facilities ensures students have access to an excellent, cutting-edge education! Through the support of the County Commissioners, the Commissioner Scholars Program provides scholarship support for high-performing students who demonstrate financial need. Additionally, the Senior Scholars Program offers free courses to residents over age 60. Beyond the financial support, the County Commissioners also support the College by attending events. They are familiar, and always welcome, faces on campus!

UCNJ UNION COLLEGE OF UNION COUNTY, NJ



# Sláinte!

## Students and Staff March in Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade

The UCNJ community came together as students, faculty, and staff marched in the 27th Annual Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade. President McMenamin, who served as Grand Marshal of the Parade in 2015, led the College's delegation, decked out in green sweatshirts, through Union Township. Sláinte!



2015 Grand Marshall





### UCNJ Attends HACU Conference in Chicago

UCNJ students and staff accompanied President McMenamín to the 37th Annual Conference of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) held in Chicago. This Conference serves as a valuable educational and networking opportunity for students. Dr. McMenamín is currently serving a two-year term on the HACU Governing Board. Accompanying the students with President McMenamín were Student Services Specialist Yuri Bisono, AVP of Academic Affairs and Interim Dean of Plainfield Campus Dr. Sara Lacagnino, Dean of Elizabeth Dr. Elizabeth Ramos, and Assistant Dean of Students Bea Rodríguez.



### Thank you, Commissioners!

UCNJ and the Union County Board of County Commissioners held their Board of School Estimate hearing, which allocates funding by the County for the College. In attendance were the delegates: UCNJ Board of Trustees Chair Victor M. Richel and Trustees George A. Castro, II and Rafael J. Betancourt, Esq.; and Union County Commissioner Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Moudeed and Commissioners Alexander Mirabella and Joseph C. Bodek. Also in attendance were a group of almost 30 UCNJ

credit and non-credit students who thanked the Commissioners for their generous funding which allows the College to keep tuition low with no increase for five consecutive years. The hearing confirmed funding for the College of more than \$16 million in operating and more than \$3 million in capital for the renovation of the physical education facility on the Cranford Campus.



UCNJ UNION COLLEGE OF UNION COUNTY, NJ

**UCNJ is managed by a Board of Trustees and Board of Governors comprised of volunteer community members who give generously of their time and expertise for the benefit of the College.**

UCNJ's board members advocate for the mission of providing a high-quality, affordable, and accessible education to all Union County residents.

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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Kamran Tasharofi, M.D.

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Krystal Villalobos (UCNJ '23),  
Student Representative

Michael M. Horn, Esq.,  
Legal Counsel



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*George A. Castro, II*



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*Miguel A. Figueredo*



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*Anjali Mehrotra*



*Miguel A. Merino*



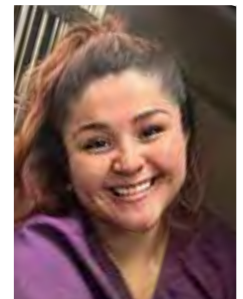
*Daryl Palmieri*



*Kamran Tasharofi, M.D.*



*Mary M. Zimmermann  
(UCNJ '01)*



*Krystal Villalobos  
Student Representative  
(UCNJ '23)*



*Michael M. Horn, Esq.,  
Legal Counsel*





## Trustee Dr. Kamran Tasharofi Honored

Board of Trustees member Dr. Kamran Tasharofi was honored at the 40th annual Center for Hope Hospice Gala this fall. Dr. Tasharofi serves as the Center for Hope's Associate Medical Director. In attendance supporting Dr. Tasharofi at the Gala were Board of Trustees Chair Victor M. Richel, President McMenam, Provost & VP Academic Affairs Dr. Maris Lown, Executive Director of College Relations & Board Secretary Dr. Jaime Segal, as well as Trustee George A. Castro, II and Board of Governors member Stephen F. Hehl, Esq.



## President McMenam Honored by Urban League of Union County

Dr. McMenam was honored by the Urban League of Union County as the recipient of the 2023 Ella S. Teal President Award at their 47th Equal Opportunity Day Dinner & Gala. Dr. McMenam was selected for this recognition based on her transformative leadership at the College and commitment to diversity and inclusion. The Urban League of Union County is a non-profit community service organization founded in 1944. Its mission is to assist African Americans and other underserved people in the achievement of social and economic equality.

From left: Asst. Dean of Students Bea Rodriguez, Asst. Dean of Learning Resources Jose Paez-Figueroa, VP Student Development Dr. Demond T. Hargrove, Executive Director of College Relations & Board Secretary Dr. Jaime Segal, President McMenam, Congressman Rob Menendez (NJ-08), Foundation Executive Director Doug Rouse, Dean of Elizabeth Dr. Elizabeth Ramos.

For more than 40 years, Chairman Richel has celebrated UCNJ graduates



May 2003

UCNJ UNION COLLEGE OF UNION COUNTY, NJ

- 1933
- 1943
- 1953
- 1963
- 1973
- 1983
- 1993
- 2003
- 2013
- 2015
- 2018
- 2019
- 2020
- 2021
- 2022
- October 16, 2023
- 2024
- 2025
- 2026
- 2027
- 2030
- 2033



Mary M. Zimmermann  
(UCNJ '01), Chair



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Dr. Margaret M. McMnamin,  
President



Melinda Ayala  
(UCNJ '11)



Nancy J. Benz  
(UCNJ '73)



Rafael J. Betancourt, Esq.



Brian Campbell  
(UCNJ '95)



F. Jim Della Sala



Deborah Enix-Ross



Ryan J. Greco  
(UCNJ '97)



Stephen F. Hehl, Esq.  
(UCNJ '75)



Donna M. Herran  
(UCNJ '85)



Edward J. Hobbie, Esq.



Gary S. Horan



Jeffrey H. Katz, Esq.



Richard J. Malcolm



J. Anthony Manger, Esq.



Carl J. Napor



Paul T. O'Neill  
(UCNJ '84)



Sandra D. Rice



John Richel



Victor M. Richel



James Roundtree, III



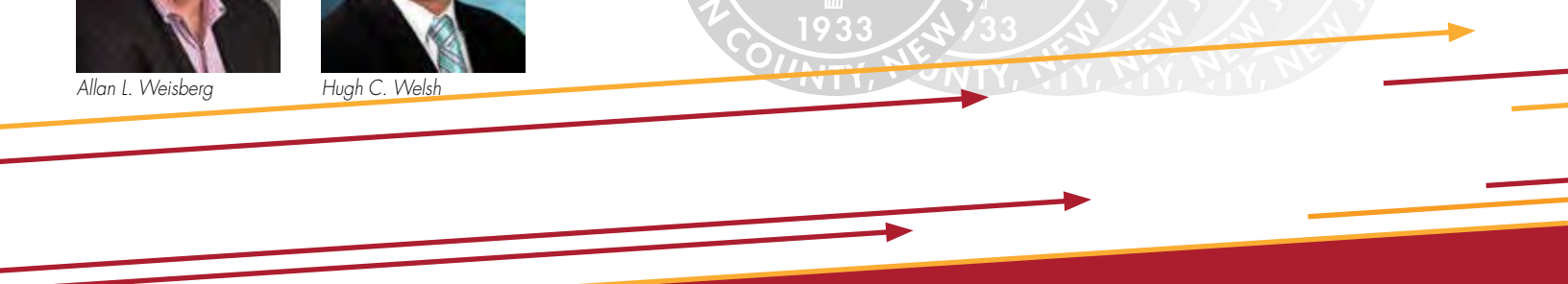
John M. Toriello



Allan L. Weisberg



Hugh C. Welsh



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Anjali Mehrotra  
Paul T. O'Neill  
Daryl Palmieri – County Superintendent  
Sandra Rice  
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John M. Toriello  
Allan L. Weisberg  
Victor M. Richel\*  
Mary M. Zimmermann\*

\* Member of this committee by virtue of status as Board Chair or Vice Chair

UCNJ UNION COLLEGE OF UNION COUNTY, NJ



### Dr. Demond Hargrove Receives 2024 Chester Holmes Humanitarian Award

Vice President of Student Development Dr. Demond T. Hargrove received the 2024 Chester Holmes Humanitarian Award from the Union County Board of County Commissioners. The Commissioner Board established this award in 2012, in honor of the former County Commissioner and Rahway

resident Chester Holmes, who passed away earlier that same year. An accomplished civic leader who loved the Union County community, Mr. Holmes was a former police officer, community volunteer, and member of the Army National Guard. Dr. Hargrove serves as the College's Chief Student Affairs Officer leading the Student Development Division. Under Dr. Hargrove's leadership, the College has seen the addition of student success campaigns, a growing diverse student population, and increased graduation rates.

### Board Member and Alumna Donna Herran Inducted into NJCAA Region XIX Hall of Fame

Board of Governors member Donna Herran (UCNJ '85) was named an inaugural inductee into the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region XIX Hall of Fame. Ms. Herran coached the women's basketball team from 1975 to 1999. Under her leadership, the team accrued 537 wins and had five National Tournament appearances. In 1996 and 1997, she was named both the NJCAA National District Coach of the Year and received the Converse Coach of the Year award. Ms. Herran was inducted into UCNJ's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2001 and received the New Jersey National Girls and Women in Sports Award in 2009.



Ms. Herran with UCNJ Athletic Director Marbely Montas



### Dr. Polnariiev selected for Aspen Fellowship

Vice President for Administrative Services Dr. Bernard Polnariiev has been selected as one of 40 leaders for the 2024-25 Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship. This Aspen Fellowship aims to select and prepare the next generation of presidents who can lead institutions to higher and more equitable levels of student success. Rising Presidents

Fellows aspire to enter a community college presidency within five years of completing the fellowship. As fellows, they join a network of over 350 forward-thinking peers with 175 of whom are sitting college presidents.

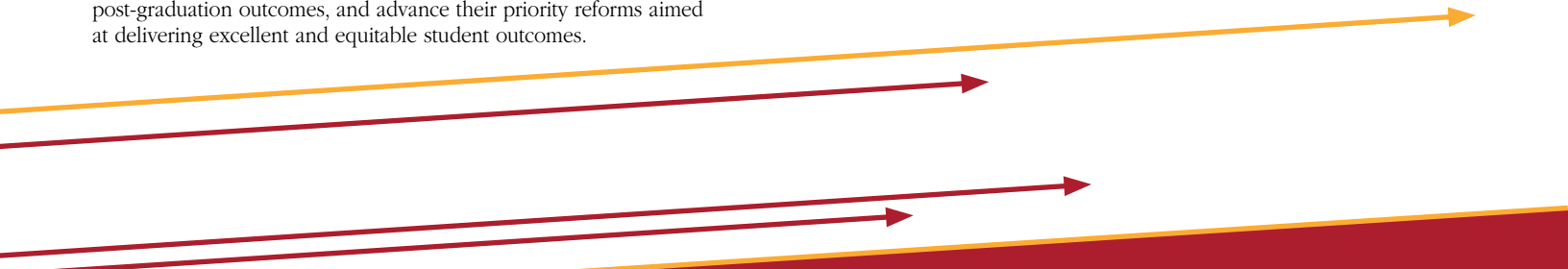
### Dr. M selected for Aspen Presidents Fellowship

Dr. McMenamin has been selected for the inaugural class of the Aspen Presidents Fellowship. This program, made up of a diverse class of fellows, focuses on developing a sustainable and

comprehensive reform agenda that advances excellence and equity in student outcomes at scale. Dr. McMenamin is the only community college president from New Jersey who was selected. Over the next year, they will learn about and compare their practices to those of field-leading colleges, analyze their students' graduation and post-graduation outcomes, and advance their priority reforms aimed at delivering excellent and equitable student outcomes.



Coach Herran & Alumnae





YEAR ANNIVERSARY 1933-2023

## 90 Years of Impact

### Who is the Foundation?

The Union County College Foundation was established in 1977 by alumni and community leaders with the mission of supporting the educational needs of UCNJ students by providing resources not available through public funding. Foundation dollars provide support for scholarships, equipment, facilities, academic programs and special projects. Today, the Foundation is a lifeline to students having provided over \$1.3 million in student support this year to help ensure that a student's economic reality is not a roadblock to their academic success.



UNION COUNTY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

### 31st Annual Gala Honors Bristol Meyers Squibb, Thomas Bracken, and Tony Manger

Hundreds of community members, along with civic and business leaders, joined together to support the mission of accelerating the pace of student success at the 31st Annual Scholarship Gala. The Foundation honored Bristol Meyers Squibb (BMS) for their years of commitment to students with the 2023 Corporate Partner of the Year Award. Along with BMS, New Jersey Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Thomas Bracken was recognized with the 2023 Man of the Year Award. In addition, the Foundation honored UCNJ Board of Governors and Foundation Board member Tony Manger with the prestigious Fiat Lux Award for his support and commitment to the students at UCNJ. Thanks to the generosity of guests and sponsors, more than \$200,000 was raised to help fund the Foundation's efforts to provide students with the financial resources needed to fulfill their dreams of a college degree.

This year's keynote speaker was Foundation scholarship recipient Joseph Tumfor (UCNJ '18) who shared how the Foundation's scholarships and faculty helped him and his sister excel at UCNJ.



Union County College Foundation Chair Maks Sheyn presents Mark Piskadlo, Vice President Cell Therapy Manufacturing Summit NJ Site Leader from Bristol Myers Squibb, with the 2023 Corporate Partner of the Year Award



Executive Director of the Foundation Doug Rouse with 2023 Man of the Year Thomas Bracken and UCNJ Board of Trustees Chair Victor M. Richel



Associate Professor of Chemistry Sherry Heidary with Fiat Lux Award winner Tony Manger



Handsome Energy accepts the first place trophy from Executive Director of the Foundation Doug Rouse



Executive Director of the Foundation Doug Rouse, President McMenamain, UCNJ Board of Trustees Chair Victor M. Richel, and UCNJ Board of Governors member and Golf Chair John Richel with UCNJ students.



UCNJ alumna Kathy Leon, Senior Professor of Psychology Dr. Mandana Ahsani, Assistant Dean of Enrollment Management Greg Benedict, Associate Professor of Chemistry Sherry Heidary, Dean of the Scotch Plains & Virtual Campus Dr. Nicole Cippoletti, Assistant Dean of Student Success Duane Reid, Associate Director of Student Accounts Nicholas Ramjattan



## Foundation's 32nd Annual Golf Outing:

### A beautiful day in support of UCNJ students

With the backdrop of perfect weather, the Union County College Foundation hosted its 32nd Annual Golf Outing at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club. With over 200 golfers, guests, and volunteers in attendance, this year's event was a testament to the unwavering support for the Foundation's mission.

This year's Golf Outing emerged as the most successful in Foundation history, raising over \$200,000 in crucial funds thanks to the dedication of our hardworking committee.

However, the highlight was the inspiring keynote address delivered by Silva Jaramillo, a recent graduate and scholarship donor. Silva's presence added a personal touch to the proceedings as she shared her transformative journey at UCNJ and the profound impact of the scholarships she received from the Foundation.

Silva recounted how the financial assistance provided by the Foundation not only enabled her to pursue her education but also empowered her to excel beyond measure. Her story served as a powerful reminder of the real-world impact the Foundation has and the ripple effect it creates in the lives of UCNJ students.



# The 8th Annual Close the Gap Reception:

## Celebrating African American Student Success

The Foundation hosted its 8th Annual Close the Gap Reception, an evening dedicated to accelerating the pace of African American student success. This year's event honored several individuals and organizations dedicated to fostering academic excellence within the community.



Among the esteemed award recipients was Pastor J. Michael Sanders, who was honored with the inaugural Frank Bolden Honorary Award. This award, named after a leader and supporter of UCNJ's mission, recognizes individuals who exemplify dedication and leadership in advancing educational opportunities for African American students.

Additionally, Fountain Baptist Church was recognized with the Community Service Award for its unwavering commitment to supporting educational initiatives within the community. The Young Alumni Award was presented to McDaniel Jeantus, an alumnus from the Class of 2016 and a shining example of the potential and promise of our African American students.

Close the Gap serves as a platform for fostering connections and raising crucial funds to support UCNJ's strategic initiative of increasing African American graduation rates. Since its inception, the campaign has raised over \$500,000, reflecting the commitment of the community to investing in the future of the College's African American students.



President McMenam and Union County Prosecutor William Daniel with UCNJ Project Achievement students.



Pastor Sanders (seated center) the winner of the Frank Bolden Honorary Award.



Young Alumni Award recipient McDaniel Jeantus with Vice President of Student Development Dr. Demond T. Hargrove



# Welcoming Donors and Students to Annual Scholarship Reception

The Union County College Foundation hosted its annual Scholarship Reception to bring donors and their scholars together. Scholars had the opportunity to meet their donor, get to know each other, and discuss how their scholarship is benefiting them during their time at UCNJ. This year, 18 new scholarships were added to the list of over 100 current scholarships available to students. Thanks to the generosity of donors, the Foundation has provided over one million dollars in scholarships for the tenth year in a row.



*By being a first generation American and college student, your donation will help me continue pursuing my educational goals of becoming a Physical Therapist. My parents immigrated here from Poland with aspirations of achieving the American Dream and in hopes of providing me a better future. In many ways, you are also helping me carve out a better future for myself. You have my deepest thanks, and I will never forget your support and kindness!"*

- Kimberly Krawczyk  
Harold Krevsky Memorial Scholarship



The Women's Club of Cranford supports our Nourish the Future and Women's 100 Project.



UCNJ STEM Academic Specialists launch a new scholarship



*It is truly motivating and heart-warming knowing that there are individuals like you that recognize my passion, enthusiasm, and commitment to becoming a nurse. For some, like me, paying for college can be a hardship, but your generous donation helps to lighten the load, allowing me to focus on excelling in my nursing studies. Thank you for your generosity and for believing in me."*

*-Myaisha Solis  
General Endowment Scholarship"*



UCNJ Women's Empowerment Club donates scholarship funds for fellow students



Union County Police Chiefs Association renew their scholarship with a \$15,000 donation

# HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

**Ensuring that our students have every resource available to excel in the classroom, the Foundation is charged with raising the vital funds to support our most vulnerable students. Between new scholarships, corporate donors, alumni engagement, special events, and the specific campaigns developed and supported by the Foundation, over the past 10 years, the Foundation has been able to invest over \$10 million in direct student support.**

## Honor Roll of Donors (5.9.23 – 5.10.24)

20th Legislative District	George W. Bauer Family Foundation	Alex W Cabe, III	Community Foundation of New Jersey	Darren Fasaro	Simone Hairston
AARP	Phebe W. Bauer	The Calais School	Community Response LLC	Stephanie J. Fein	Susan Hairston
A.M.E. Inc.	Tina M. Begleiter	Paul T. Caldwell	ConnectOne Bank	Manny Fernandez	Yvonne S. Hannan
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Access Wealth	Ernest & Georgia Bell	Jay Canell	Connolly & Co., CPAs	June D. Fialkowski	Dr. Demond T. Hargrove
ACME	Mary Bellas	Captrust	Dianna & Louis Constable	Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC	Harold B. & Dorothy A. Snyder Schools
Acisure, LLC dba Reliance Insurance Group	Colleen Shea Belliot	Marisa Carlucci	Containerization & Intermodal Institute	Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund	Denison Harrield
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Amateur Astronomers, Inc.	BFI	Mario Cesario	Emanuella Crepin	Fountain Baptist Church	Mark B. Heineman
Amazon Smile	Felice Bibbs	CH Kauffman & Associates	Paul Crowley	Shirley Fox	Michelle M. Herbsier
America's Charities	Dr. Patricia S. Biddar	Dayne Chance	Diana Cueva	David Frantz	Lourdes Hernandez
American Wear, Inc	Yuri Bisono	Paul E. Chapin	John D'Angelo	Keith A. Freehauf	Donna M. Herran
Sukurat Amoo	Blaylock Van, LLC	Karen Chaplin	Dr. Todd M. Daley	Daria Friedman	Amy Herrington
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Terrence Armstrong	Gregory Brail	Citizens Philanthropic Foundation, Inc	The DeAlessandro Foundation	Roberto Carlos Garcia	Hobbie & Hobbie Attorney at Law, LLC
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# NEW ANNUAL & ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

## Dr. Wendell E. & Gwendolyn A. Clement Scholarship

Awarded to a full- or part-time student who is part of the Project Achievement or Inspire the Future programs or is an international student. Recipient must have a minimum 2.0 GPA.

## Lown Family Scholarship

Awarded to full- or part-time students in the Nursing program. Recipients must be entering the final year of their degree program with a minimum of 6 credits. Preference will be given to those students who demonstrate financial need.

## Lucky 3 Scholarship

Awarded to a full- or part-time student with a minimum 3.0 GPA and majoring in one of the STEM disciplines.

## Suzanne Macaoay Memorial Scholarship funded by the LSRPA Foundation

Awarded to a full- or part-time student for tuition, fees, or books. Student must have a minimum 3.0 GPA at the time of application and be majoring in a field related to environmental protection such as Engineering, Environment Science/ Sustainability, Biology or Chemistry. Preference will be given to those students who demonstrate financial need.

## Margolies Family Transfer Scholarship

To provide last-dollar financial assistance after non-loan financial aid is incorporated to high-achieving, graduating transfer students to a selective college of their choice and obtain their Bachelor's degree. Awarded to two full-time students with a minimum 3.75 GPA by the beginning of their final semester at UCNJ. Students must complete the Margolies Family Transfer Scholarship Application, and students selected to receive this scholarship will be made by the Margolies Family Transfer Scholarship committee. Students must complete either the FAFSA form or the NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application. Specific requirements must be met in order for the students to receive a continuation of the second-year scholarship award.

## Isha & Shree Mehrotra Women's Scholarship

Awarded to a full- or part-time student for tuition, fees, or books. Preference will be given to female or non-binary students who demonstrate financial need.

## Neafsey Family Part-Time Scholarship

Awarded to part-time students with a minimum 3.0 GPA, who have completed 30 credits. Recipients must currently be working while attending Union College of Union County, NJ (UCNJ).

## Orchard Family Scholarship

Awarded to a full-time student with a minimum 3.0 GPA. Recipient must be a graduate of Abraham Clark High School in Roselle, NJ. Preference will be given to those students who demonstrate financial need.

## Mary D. & Lawrence T. Quirk, Jr. Memorial Scholarships I & II

Awarded to full- or part-time students who have graduated from either Plainfield High School or the Plainfield Academy for the Arts & Advanced Studies (PAAAS). Preference will be given to undocumented students, i.e. students who do not have an official legal status in the United States. Preference will be given to those students who demonstrate financial need.

## Mary D. & Lawrence T. Quirk, Jr. Memorial Scholarships III & IV

Awarded to full- or part-time UCNJ students who are enrolled in the ASL & Deaf Studies degree program to obtain an Associate's degree in Deaf Studies. Recipients must have successfully completed a minimum of one ASL course at UCNJ or any other accredited institution. Preference will be given to undocumented students, i.e. students who do not have an official legal status in the United States. Preference will be given to those students who demonstrate financial need.

## Olga Ritter Endowed Scholarship for Survivors & Heroes

Awarded to a full- or part-time student for tuition, fees, or books. Students must have a minimum 2.5 GPA at the time of application. Student must either be an immigrant to the U.S. who has overcome significant obstacles and challenges, or an individual who has stepped up and provided significant aid to an immigrant in need. Student must complete either the FAFSA form or the NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application.

## RSI Foundation Nursing Scholarship

Awarded to students enrolled in the Nursing program. Preference will be given to Rahway residents; if none, then the scholarship will be offered to Union County residents.



*Every class I attend, every project I undertake, and every challenge I overcome is now imbued with a sense of purpose, knowing that someone believes in my potential and is investing in my future. Your act of giving is not just financial; it's an affirmation that reinforces my commitment to excel academically and to one day pay forward this kindness to another deserving student."*

- Daniel Mihailov Ivanov

## Walter & Louise Sutcliffe Foundation Nursing Scholarship

Awarded to full- or part-time Nursing students who demonstrate financial need.

## Unidos Por ESL Scholarship

Awarded to full- or part-time students who are entering the ESL Level 3 course. Preference will be given to those students who demonstrate financial need.

## Verizon First Responders Scholarship

Awarded to a full- or part-time student. Recipient must be either a first responder (police officer, firefighter, paramedic, EMT) or a member of their immediate family (spouse, child or legal partner). Student must complete either the FAFSA or the NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application.



*Thank you once more for your kindness and confidence in my abilities. I'm determined to take full advantage of this opportunity and hope to someday return the favor to the neighborhood that has helped me achieve my goals."*

- Clive Kwesi Duffour  
General Endowment Scholarship



## 1st Annual Owl Invitational Unites Employees

The inaugural Owl Invitational invited College employees for a golf outing of nine holes at Galloping Hill Golf Course last summer. Organized by the Union County College Foundation, the event not only showcased the College's commitment to fostering a vibrant community spirit but also served as a platform for supporting the Foundation's mission.



## Faculty and Staff Changing Lives Outside the Classroom

Student success is the hallmark of the College's institutional core values. Hundreds of dedicated professionals come together in support of the Foundation and its mission. Their generosity and desire to help not only comes through Foundation events, but through several scholarships and student support initiatives. This is a testament of the UCNJ community's continued commitment to students and the ability to ensure that all students have access to the educational opportunities afforded to them at the College.



*Your immense support will be allowing me to be able to give it my all on my studies and I am sure that I am not the only student that is very grateful for this. Thank you for the difference you make in our lives, and I am honored to go into this fall semester with your scholarship support!"*

– Mary Carrera  
Elizabeth J. Bielefeld Memorial Scholarship

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## Young Professionals Committee

The Union County College Foundation's Young Professionals Committee was developed to offer young professionals and alums the chance to foster meaningful relationships and connections with like-minded individuals, while navigating their careers. The committee strives to make a direct and immediate impact on the educational success of UCNJ students. Each year, the committee hosts socials and networking events where they raise funds in support of their scholarship that was established through the Union County College Foundation.



*"I am determined, resilient and have a strong passion for nursing and being in the helping field. Thank you for giving me the honor to be considered and receiving your scholarship. I am immensely grateful for all the help you are providing not only myself, but others like me that are working hard day in and day out to become the difference this world needs."*

— Diana Loayza  
 Fred & Betty Kopf Scholarship for Part-Time Students



## Foundation Helps to Suit Up for Success

New in 2024, the Union County College Foundation's Suit Up campaign stands as a beacon of empowerment and support for a group of individuals who have not only achieved academic success but have also demonstrated resilience and determination. This campaign, specifically tailored for students who are members of the Project Achievement program for African American students, holds profound significance in fostering a sense of accomplishment and preparing them for the professional world. Thanks to the leadership of UCNJ Executive Director of Public Safety Joseph Hines this campaign provided new suits for each student who graduated in May.







*Your generosity has inspired me to work harder, so that I will be able to help others and give back to the community. Thanks to your generous support, I feel that I am one step closer to achieving my goal to become a Registered Nurse. This scholarship is very meaningful to me, not only financially, but emotionally as well, as it strengthened my belief in myself."*

- Catherine Onya  
Judge Cuddie E. Davidson, Jr.  
Memorial Scholarship



RSI Foundation presents new nursing scholarship

## Foundations Step Up to Support Student Success

Corporate and private foundations are instrumental in bolstering educational institutions like UCNJ, providing crucial support to broaden opportunities for students. The foundations provided nearly \$300,000 in direct student support. Recent contributions from entities such as the RSI Foundation, Bristol Myers Squibb, and the Frog Crossing Foundation exemplify this commitment to fostering academic excellence and accessibility.

The RSI Foundation's generous donation of \$10,000 has paved the way for a new nursing scholarship at UCNJ. This contribution not only eases financial burdens for aspiring nurses, but also addresses the pressing need for skilled healthcare professionals. By investing in nursing education, the RSI Foundation is not only supporting individual students but also contributing to the overall health and well-being of the community.

Similarly, Bristol Myers Squibb's support of a \$25,000 STEM scholarship underscores the importance of cultivating talent in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This contribution not only assists students in pursuing their academic goals but also fuels innovation and progress in critical fields essential for societal advancement.

The Frog Crossing Foundation's \$10,000 donation towards their First-in-the-Family scholarship highlights the transformative impact of education in breaking barriers and creating opportunities. By supporting students who are the first in their families to pursue higher education, the foundation is fostering inclusivity and empowering individuals to achieve their full potential.



Bristol Myers Squibb provides generational scholarships to women in STEM. Union County Manager Ed Oatman, Jessica Cohen of Bristol Myers Squibb, Executive Director of the Foundation Doug Rouse, and President McMenamin with UCNJ students.



Cranford Jaycees continue their support of UCNJ students with their annual scholarship



*Your generosity has not only helped me financially but also motivated me to work harder and strive for excellence in all aspects of my academic journey. It serves as a reminder that there are kind-hearted individuals like you who believe in students like me and are willing to invest in our future. I assure you that I will make the best out of this opportunity and make every effort to one day help others on my own as well."*

– Simone Harris  
Cheyanne "Shay" Bond Memorial Scholarship



*'07 Alumni Assoc. Board*



*'09 Scholarship Awards*



*There were times when my dream of pursuing a higher education seemed impossible, but the financial assistance you have provided me has helped me tremendously and kept me going. Because of what you have done for me, I can follow my dream and graduate on schedule. Upon my graduation from Trinitas School of Nursing, I am hoping to proceed to graduate school as soon as possible and become a healthcare hero!"*

– Joseph Feliciano  
Donald E. Billiar Memorial Scholarship



*Nursing has been my lifelong passion, driven by a deep desire to make a positive impact on the lives of individuals and their families during times of illness and vulnerability. Your financial assistance will allow me to focus more on my studies and clinical experiences, alleviating the financial stress that often accompanies higher education. Once again, thank you from the bottom of my heart for your belief in my potential and for the support you have provided."*

– Janine Rose Cariño  
General Endowment Scholarship



**UNION COUNTY  
COLLEGE  
FOUNDATION**

# 90 Years of Building a Strong Foundation

## SUMMARY & OUTLOOK

In recent years, UCNJ has made significant strides in its commitment to accessible and quality education. With a dedication to affordability, the College proudly announces its fifth consecutive year without an increase in tuition fees. This achievement underscores the College's commitment to ensuring education remains within reach for all students. State and County funding have played a pivotal role in sustaining operations and facilitating UCNJ's mission to provide high-quality education. As the College moves forward, continued support from these entities will be crucial in maintaining the standards of excellence and expanding offerings to meet the evolving needs of the UCNJ community.

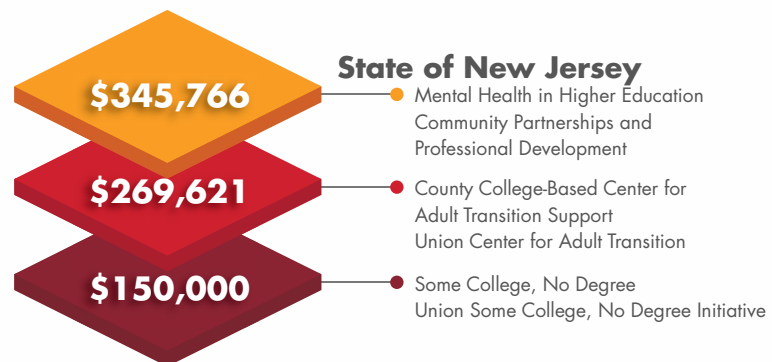
Recognizing the importance of holistic student support, the College is re-establishing career services to assist students in their transition from education to the workforce. Through career counseling, job placement assistance, and internship opportunities, the aim is to equip students with the tools they need to succeed beyond the classroom. Additionally, UCNJ remains committed to addressing the basic needs of students. From food insecurity to mental health, these challenges can hinder academic success. Through initiatives such as food pantries, housing assistance programs, and mental health resources, the College is dedicated to creating a supportive environment where all students can thrive.

Looking to the future, UCNJ remains steadfast in its mission to provide accessible, affordable, and high-quality education to our community. The Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) plan will guide efforts in recruitment, retention, and student success. By leveraging data-driven strategies and fostering partnerships with local schools and community organizations, UCNJ seeks to attract and retain a diverse student body while promoting equitable access to education. By leveraging resources, embracing innovation, and prioritizing student success, the College is poised to make a lasting impact in the lives of UCNJ students and the broader community.

## FOUNDATION GRANTS



## FEDERAL & STATE GRANTS

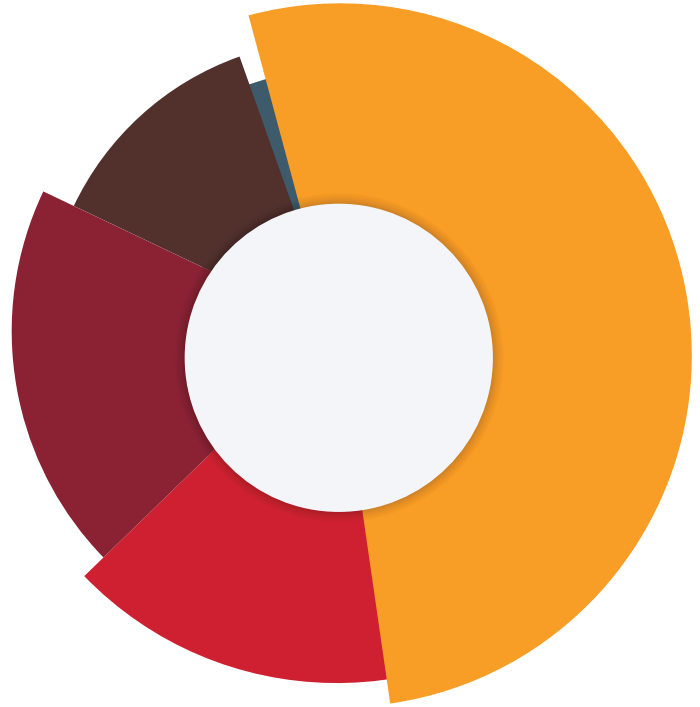


UCNJ UNION COLLEGE OF UNION COUNTY, NJ

# BUDGETED REVENUE BY SOURCE

For Year End June 30, 2024

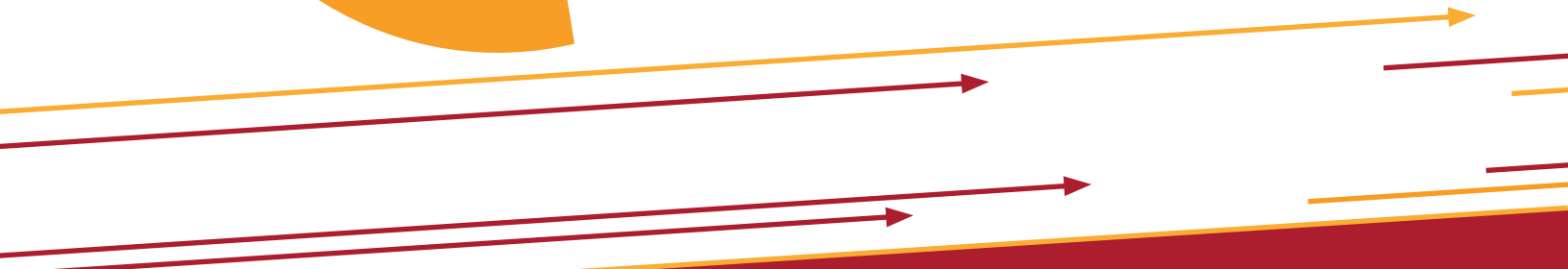
- Tuition & Fees & Other Operating Revenue 49.9%
- State Appropriations 15.3%
- County Appropriations 21.7%
- Transfer from Net Plant 11.5%
- Other Income 1.6%



# BUDGETED OPERATING EXPENSES

For Year End June 30, 2024

- Academic Support 33.3%
- Employee Benefits 14.0%
- Plant 12.5%
- Institutional Support 17.2%
- Depreciation 11.4%
- Student Development 10.7%
- Interest on Capital Asset Related Debt 0.9%



# UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ

## Budget FY 2023-2024

Fundable Credit Hours (1):	178,732
Fundable FTE Students	5,958

### Revenues:

Tuition, net of waivers	\$34,077,646
Course Fees	1,407,476
Other User Fees	1,485,200
<b>Total Academic Revenues</b>	<b>36,970,322</b>

### Expenditures:

Academic Services	24,657,172
Employee Benefits	10,370,514
Facilities Operation & Maint	9,240,895
Administration	4,076,637
Student Development	7,920,567
Information Distribution Ops (IT)	5,861,357
College Relations & Publications	1,406,526
Institutional Support	1,369,127
Depreciation Expense	8,421,731
<b>Total Academic and Administrative Expenditures</b>	<b>73,324,526</b>
<b>Operating (Loss) from Academic Mission:</b>	<b>(36,354,204)</b>

### Appropriations:

State Appropriations	11,314,848
County Appropriations	16,053,314
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>27,368,162</b>

### Other: Net Income (Loss)

Workforce Devel, CEWD (net)	20,548
Non-Credit Education (net):	
Career/Custom Training (net)	87,214
Personal & Youth Enrichment (net)	(6,232)
Other Income:	
Parking Fee Income, net of related expense	170,000
Bookstore Commission	75,000
Kellogg and Lessner Lease Income	409,500
Food Service Commission	30,000
Miscellaneous Other	136,000
Interest Income	260,000
Interest related to Capital Improvements	(701,577)
<b>Total Other Net Income</b>	<b>480,453</b>
<b>Transfer Net Plant to Operations</b>	<b>8,505,589</b>
Contribution to Net Position & Other Non-Current Fund Expenditures	0



### UCNJ Launches Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) Program

This 620-hour program included comprehensive training through 14 modules—12 didactic courses, a clinical internship, and a certification review course. The curriculum, including course syllabi, daily lesson plans, and materials, was developed or refined to meet current industry standards.

All 15 participants of the first cohort completed the program, with three students earning their EKG (CET) and Phlebotomy (CPT) certifications. They all also achieved their Certified Clinical Medical Assistant Certification (CCMA) credential from the National Healthcareer Association (NHA) and Basic Life Support (BLS) certification from the American Heart Association (AHA).

Impressively, all completers from this cohort are currently employed. Employer partners include RWJB Health, Atlantic Health Systems, Hackensack Meridian Health, Saint Peter's Healthcare System, Village MD, and Union County Healthcare Associates/MD Urgent Care Center.



UCNJ UNION COLLEGE OF UNION COUNTY, NJ

# To 90 and Beyond

As we conclude the celebration of UCNJ's 90th anniversary, I want to take a moment to thank you all for supporting our precious students. At UCNJ, our mission is to "Transform our Community, One Student at a Time," and we will continue to live by this mission for another 90 years. With thousands of graduates, countless student success stories, and the involvement of dedicated UCNJ faculty, staff, administration, and our boards, the College is dedicated to continuing to raise the bar.

The Union County College Foundation has launched a Nourish the Future campaign. The goal is to ensure that hunger is not an obstacle to our students' success.

For the first time, UCNJ is a top 10 finalist for the 2025 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.

UCNJ is New Jersey's Community College, and student success is our priority. Our students have received life changing scholarships, interned at Fortune-500 companies, and transferred to several elite institutions including Columbia, Harvard, and Princeton.

This year, with the launch of our Center for Adult Transitions, we are providing more essential support for our accommodated students. This offers them resources and guidance to navigate their education and beyond, ensuring they have the tools needed to succeed.

As we look to UCNJ's future, we remain committed to empowering our students, as they are our future leaders. Thank you for being a part of UCNJ's journey. Together, we will continue to make a lasting impact on our community for generations to come.

*Margaret M. McMenamin*

Dr. Margaret M. McMenamin  
President, UCNJ Union College of  
Union County, NJ



90 YEAR ANNIVERSARY 1933-2023

## Celebrating the First 90 Years



1933  
1943  
1953  
1963  
1973  
1983  
1993  
2003  
2013  
2015  
2018  
2019  
2020  
2021  
2022  
2023  
2024  
2025  
2026  
2027  
2030  
2033

UCNJ UNION COLLEGE OF UNION COUNTY, NJ

*continued from the  
inside front cover*

**2013:** The College revamps its mission statement to “Transforming Our Community... One Student at a Time,” to accurately reflect the nature of the environment at the three campuses.

**2015:** The new Health Sciences Building, the former Thul Auto Parts Building, opens at the Plainfield Campus on Oct. 20.

**2016:** After two years of construction, the Helen E. Chaney Student Services Center opens in the new two-story Student Development Building at the Cranford Campus. This project was made possible thanks to the support of the Union County Board of County Commissioners and the Union County Improvement Authority.

**2016:** The Annex at the Plainfield Campus reopens after damages caused by a 2012 fire and includes a new information commons, cafeteria, bookstore, and faculty offices.

**2017:** The Middle States Commission on Higher Education reaffirms the College’s accreditation.

**2018:** A major renovation of the lower level and first floor of the Lessner Building at the Elizabeth Campus is completed.

**2018:** An Innovation Center is established at the Cranford Campus to provide students with the opportunity to learn current technologies such as coding, virtual reality, and using 3D printers.

**2018:** The College publishes its first Undergraduate Research Journal and builds a Student Research Lab to provide dedicated space for ongoing research projects.

**2019:** UCNJ establishes a respiratory care program at the Plainfield Campus.

**2019:** The College is named a Top 150 U.S. Community College by The Aspen Institute for the first time and is eligible to compete for the 2021 \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.

**2019:** Major renovations to the Health Sciences Building in Plainfield are completed.

**2020:** COVID-19 hits the U.S. and forces the College, and all educational institutions in New Jersey, to move operations and instruction remote during the Spring 2020 semester. Operations return to campus in July. Fall classes are offered remote live, online, and face-to-face.

**2020:** Dr. McMenamin is named the Marie Y. Martin Community College CEO of the Year by the Association of Community College Trustees.

**2021:** A major renovation of the Roy W. Smith Theater is completed.

**2021:** Weidenburner Hall is dedicated in honor of a \$2.7 million donation by alumnus Bruce Weidenburner, which is the largest single donation in Union County College Foundation history.



*Commencement 1994*

**2022:** The College’s Scotch Plains Campus is re-opened as a destination campus and re-imagined as a University Center and home to the College’s virtual campus.

**2022:** The College is named as one of 25 semifinalists for the 2023 \$1 million Aspen Prize. UCNJ is the only college in New Jersey to be named as a semifinalist.

**2023:** For the first time, two UCNJ students are selected for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. UCNJ now has had six graduates who have received this prestigious award.

**2023:** UCNJ is the first community college in New Jersey to film an episode of “The College Tour,” a streaming program on Amazon Prime, Apple TV, and more which features the stories of 10 UCNJ students.

**2023:** The College celebrates its 90th anniversary in October with the dedication of a gazebo and a prohibition-era themed party on the lawn outside of the Victor M. Richel Commons.

**2024:** In June, the College is named as one of 10 finalists for the 2025 \$1 million Aspen Prize. This is the first time the College has been recognized as a finalist. UCNJ is the only college in New Jersey to be named as a finalist.

**2024:** On June 1, the College becomes UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ.



**UCNJ**

**Union College of  
Union County, NJ**

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[WWW.UCC.EDU](http://WWW.UCC.EDU)