

Spring Into Student Success!



MERCER
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Cedar Gardens Banquet • Hamilton, New Jersey • April 20, 2018
Mercer County Community College's Twenty-Ninth Annual Benefit for Student Scholarships



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**Mercer County Community College Foundation's
2018 Spring Into Student Success
Annual Scholarship Celebration**

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including our good friend

Dr. George A. Pruitt

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Spring Into Student Success! Mercer County Community College Annual Scholarship Celebration

PROGRAM

Welcome.....	Lori Danko Chair, MCCC Foundation Board of Directors The Hon. Pasquale A. Colavita, Jr. Mercer County Freeholder Event Co-chair Nina D. Melker Berkshire Bank Event Co-chair
Greetings & Introductions	Dr. Jianping Wang President, Mercer County Community College
Reflections on Scholarship Support	Jeremy Muscente Student Speaker
Silent Auction Introduction	Ed Gwazda, Executive Director MCCC Foundation
Waltz.....	Dr. Jianping Wang and Mr. Ilya Abdullin
Foundation Awards Presentation and..... Foundation Director Emeritus	The Hon. Pasquale A. Colavita, Jr. Nina D. Melker and Lori Danko
Resolutions.....	The Hon. Reed Gusciora
Rumba	Dr. Jianping Wang and Mr. Ilya Abdullin
Benefit Announcements.....	The Hon. Pasquale A. Colavita, Jr.
Entertainment	The Renaissance Orchestra

RECENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Twenty-Eighth Benefit for Student Scholarships

2017 "Spring into Student Success"

Mercer County Executive Brian M. Hughes,

Richard J. Hughes, Board of Chosen Freeholders, Presidential Awards
Area VII Physicians Review Organization, Inc., Distinguished Corporate Partner Award

The Hon. Douglas H. Palmer, Distinguished Benefactor Award

Genesis Biotechnology Group, CEO Dr. Eli Mordechai, Spirit of Education Award

Twenty-Seventh Benefit for Student Scholarships

2016 "Spring into Student Success" 50th Anniversary Gala

Bristol-Myers Squibb, Distinguished Corporate Partner Award

Albert B. Kahn Foundation and Edward S. Kahn, Distinguished Benefactor Award

Jim and Fannie Floyd, Spirit of Education Award

Twenty-Sixth Benefit for Student Scholarships

2015 "Spring into Student Success"

PNC Bank, Distinguished Corporate Partner Award

Jim and Lynne Faridy, Distinguished Benefactor Award

Allen and Judy Silk, Distinguished Benefactor Award

Twenty-Fifth Benefit for Student Scholarships

2014 "Spring Into Student Success"

Robert and Leslie Doll, Distinguished Benefactor Award

New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Company, Distinguished Corporate Partner Award

New Jersey Business & Industry Association, Spirit of Education Award

Twenty-Fourth Benefit for Student Scholarships

2013 "Spring Into Student Success"

Friends of Trenton Mercer Airport's Sky's The Limit TTN Scholarship Fund,
Distinguished Benefactor Award

Michele N. Siekerka, Esq., Spirit of Education Award

Twenty-Third Benefit for Student Scholarships

2012 "Spring Into Student Success"

Dr. Risa Lavizzo-Mourey and

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Distinguished Benefactor Award

Joseph R. Ridolfi & Associates, LLC, Distinguished Corporate Partner Award

Robert A. Bonazzi & J. Scott Needham, Spirit of Education Awards

Twenty-Second Benefit for Student Scholarships

2011 "La Bella Notte"

Dr. Albert and Mrs. Carol Rosenthal, Distinguished Benefactor Award

Verizon, Distinguished Corporate Partner Award

Eleanor V. Horne and Robert E. Humes, Spirit of Education Awards





HONOREES

Dr. George A. Pruitt

2018 Spirit of Education Award

Domain Computer Services and Rashaad Bajwa, President/CEO

2018 Spirit of Education Award

Jeri Bogan Zielinski

2018 Distinguished Benefactor Award

Fulton Bank of New Jersey

2018 Distinguished Corporate Partner Award

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Aamir Rehman and Hina Ghory

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Rashaad and Michelle Bajwa

J. Lynne Cannon

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Michael Decker

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Ed & Debbie Gwazda

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Rose Nini

Dr. James B. Shaw

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Dr. Cynthia Vona

Dr. Jianping Wang and Michael Schneider

Paula Taylor





Flowers, Flowers Everywhere

Fresh off their award-winning display at the Philadelphia Flower show, MCCC's Ornamental Horticulture Program has once again provided the beautiful floral centerpieces that adorn the tables at tonight's gala. Under the leadership of Horticulture Program Coordinator Amy Ricco, this is the third consecutive year that the program has put the "spring" into our "Spring Into Student Success" event.

This year, 18 students pursuing their certificates in Floral Design with instructor Debbie Moyer have stepped up to create the arrangements. Thanks go to: Julie Aberger, Chris Casatelli, Donna Colletti, Priscilla Cordero, Claire George, Joy Greene-Wehner, Michelle Herbster, Antonia James, Barbara Kittel, Mardi Mazzeo, Torriah McClinton, Margaret Montplaisir, Nuchada Ortiz, Jane Tallon, Teresa Taylor, Noriko Tsuji and Karen Wallace.

Boasting a Mardi Gras theme of purples, greens and yellows, each arrangement features unique decorations and a colorful array of flowers including Roses, Tulips, Hydrangea, Carnations, Freesia, Hypericum Berries, Sunflowers, Spider Mums, Stock and Lisanthus, along with lemon leaf and other greens.

Centerpieces are available for purchase through the silent auction, buy now for \$40. All proceeds will go towards student scholarships.



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Dear Friends and Supporters,

As individuals who share our passion for opening and expanding the minds of the next generation of leaders and business professionals through the power of education, I would like to welcome you to “Spring Into Student Success,” our annual event dedicated to providing the scholarship support necessary to help our students achieve their dreams.

We appreciate the relationships we have enjoyed over the years with all of you. The result has been tremendous progress in our mission to serve the needs of all residents and businesses of Mercer County, and beyond.

With your partnership and support, the college has attained many milestones over the past year. Most notably, we celebrated the opening of a new Advanced Manufacturing Technology lab on the West Windsor Campus, and we completed a major expansion at our Trenton campus, with the opening of the Trenton Hall Annex. Both of these facilities will train our students for the careers of the future. With the addition of several experiential learning programs – made possible through partnerships with members of the business community, including one of tonight’s honorees, Domain Computer Services – Mercer students can now “earn while they learn” through paid internships, putting them in line for high-paying jobs upon graduation.

We continue to strive to offer the educational experience that mirrors the demands of the workplace in an information and technology-driven era. But we know that we face substantial challenges ahead. This includes the need to respond to the demands of the community, the business sector, and most importantly, our students. Your support is invaluable as we respond to those demands.

I would like to thank our Board of Trustees for their tireless dedication and leadership, our Foundation Board members for their outstanding service and contribution to the college, and our “Spring Into Student Success” committee for their tireless work in making this evening possible.

But most of all, I want to thank you, our friends of the Mercer family, for making higher education a reality for so many of our needy students. Your commitment and contribution make their dreams come true. Thank you so very much!

Sincerely,



Dr. Jianping Wang
President
Mercer County Community College



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Dear Friends and Supporters,



On behalf of the Mercer County Community College Board of Trustees, I extend a warm welcome to all the attendees of the 29th Annual “Spring Into Student Success” scholarship fundraiser, as well as congratulations to this evening’s award recipients.

Throughout this program book you will read the stories of students at Mercer – students with unique goals and different paths that led them to our campus. These students will tell you that without the affordable tuition and flexibility offered at MCCC, higher education would not have been attainable. And others will attest that the scholarships they received – funded from previous “Spring Into Student Success” events – turned their dream of achieving a college education into reality.

Many of the students who received these scholarships have moved on to successful careers and leadership roles, and made contributions to their community, their families, and their profession. Many have become business owners, public servants, or have chosen to become educators, giving back to the community that contributed to their success. We see over and over that a single student scholarship can have a positive impact for generations.

Quality and affordability in higher education has become the mission of community colleges nationwide, and your support helps to make that mission a reality for hundreds of students each year. Your participation sends a strong message that the community supports our students, recognizes their accomplishments, and applauds their hard work.

Enjoy the evening, and celebrate our community’s support in helping MCCC students achieve their personal, academic, and career goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol L. Golden". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Carol Golden
Chair

Mercer County Community College Board of Trustees

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DIRECTORS EMERITI

James A. Floyd
Timothy J. Losch (Deceased)



Dear Friends and Supporters,

As chair of the MCCC Foundation Board of Directors, I am delighted to welcome you to “Spring Into Student Success,” the Foundation’s major scholarship fundraising event of the year. By being part of this celebration, you represent a community where higher education is valued, and diligence and determination are rewarded.

As a friend of MCCC, you are keenly aware of the importance of our fundraising activities. In many cases, scholarship dollars are life-changing, easing our students’ financial burden and allowing them to focus on completing their degrees quicker and moving on to productive careers. Their determination to succeed, often in the face of significant challenges, should inspire us all.

Thanks to generous donors like you, the Foundation continues to achieve its goals. This year, we provided more than \$500,000 in direct support to students. Scholarship recipients are from practically every discipline of study at the college and range from freshmen in their first semester to students who are preparing to graduate and will use the funds at their transfer schools.

Five decades in, MCCC continues to fulfill its mission by opening its doors to all who seek higher education. We are grateful to you for joining in the Foundation’s efforts to bolster this mission. You are investing in students who are willing to work hard and make the most of their opportunities.

Higher education costs continue to grow and many students are taking on college debt that will last decades. Community colleges remain the best option for high quality, affordable education. On behalf of the Foundation, I express my sincere appreciation for your support. With your help, we are enriching the lives of many individuals and the economic vitality of our region.

Sincerely,



Lori Danko

Chair

MCCC Foundation Board of Directors



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Stefanie Williams
Heather Wood
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Dr. Jianping Wang, President



Dear Friends and Supporters,

It is an honor for us to again serve as co-chairs of Mercer County Community College's "Spring Into Student Success" celebration. We welcome all of you to the Foundation's signature benefit fundraiser.

Now in its 29th year, proceeds from this gala have resulted in scholarship awards to thousands of MCCC students. Your participation is a testimony to the community in which we have chosen to live, work and raise our families. It's a community where people are willing to step up in support of higher education, especially for those with significant financial need.

Whether through sponsorships, ticket purchases, ads in the program book, and/or silent auction donations, you remind our students that we believe in them and are eager to invest in their futures.

Please take a few moments to look through this book. You will read about tonight's honorees, who have partnered with the college in unique ways to provide educational opportunities that enhance our students' lives. You will read about some of the students who have benefitted from scholarship support. Each one has a unique path and a specific set of goals, but all are committed to doing the work that will lead to productive futures. In addition, you can view the ads by sponsors who support our mission.

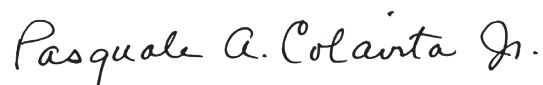
We wish to express special appreciation to all who served on our gala committees – both corporate friends and private citizens who have chosen to give back to their community by assisting in the planning of this very special night.

We are delighted you could join us and hope you have a great time!

Sincerely,



Nina D. Melker
Committee Co-Chair
Senior Vice President, Berkshire Bank



Hon. Pasquale A. Colavita, Jr.
Committee Co-Chair
Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders





THE MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

would like to congratulate this year's Honorees and Spring Into Student Success Committee Members.

Dr. George A. Pruitt

2018 Spirit of Education Award

Domain Computer Services and Rashaad Bajwa, President/CEO

2018 Spirit of Education Award

Jeri Bogan Zielinski

2018 Distinguished Benefactor Award

Fulton Bank of New Jersey

2018 Distinguished Corporate Partner Award

In Memoriam:

Timothy J. Losch, Foundation Director Emeritus

The Foundation Board is an independent nonprofit that supports the mission of the college and the community it serves. We are a volunteer board who are ambassadors for the college who seek to develop the community to understand and support the college, its programs and services.

We thank you for your support and are grateful to our honorees and volunteers for all they have done for the college.



IN MEMORIAM: TIMOTHY J. LOSCH



Foundation Director Emeritus

Timothy J. Losch had a distinguished 44-year career in banking. Mr. Losch's most recent position was at Fulton Bank of New Jersey, where he worked for nine years, first as regional president of the Central Region, and then as chairman of the Central Region Advisory Board. Earlier in his career, he spent 25 years as senior vice president at New Jersey National Bank/CoreStates, followed by ten years as executive vice president of Yardville National Bank.

In addition to his successful banking career, Mr. Losch was actively involved in numerous worthy organizations throughout the region. Mercer was fortunate to have him serve on the MCCC Foundation Board of Directors for 14 years. Upon joining the Board in 1992, he quickly took on a leadership role, serving as Foundation Board Chair from 1993 to 1996. He continued to serve as a valued board member until 2015.

During his Board tenure, Tim was an enthusiastic member of the Golf Classic Committee, and never missed an opportunity to participate in the event, most often bringing a foursome(s) that was fielded through generous sponsorships from the banks he led.

As in his banking career, Tim's leadership at the Foundation was marked by the example he set. He was among the steadfast participants for each year's Annual Appeal and encouraged 100 percent participation among his fellow Foundation Board members. Tim was also a loyal patron of this "Spring into Student Success" event.

Tim passed away suddenly on April 21, 2017 at the age of 66. Named as Foundation Director Emeritus by the Foundation Board that spring, today we celebrate his appointment as MCCC Foundation Director Emeritus, as well as his many contributions to MCCC Foundation, the College, and the success of Mercer students over decades of service.

SPIRIT OF EDUCATION AWARD



**Dr. George A. Pruitt, President Emeritus and Board Distinguished Fellow
Center for Leadership and Governance
Thomas Edison State University**

As the two pillars of higher education in the city of Trenton, there are no stakeholders more closely aligned than Mercer County Community College (MCCC) and Thomas Edison State University (TESU). Dr. George A. Pruitt, president emeritus, served at the helm of TESU for the past 35 years. He will continue to serve in the Center for Leadership and Governance, a component of the University's John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies.

Throughout his tenure, Dr. Pruitt has maintained an unwavering commitment to top-tier higher education opportunities for a diverse population of adult learners from local Trenton and county residents, to military personnel serving overseas, career changers, and even retirees seeking long-delayed degrees.

Using technology supported learning, prior learning assessment and individualized learning strategies, over 50 thousand achievement-driven adults have earned bachelor's and master's degrees through TESU. Recently, the University launched its first doctoral program, Doctor of Nursing Practice. The University counts many MCCC graduates among its alumni.

The two schools have also been connected through bricks and mortar. After MCCC moved out of the Kelsey Building in the early 1970s and opened its West Windsor Campus, TESU renovated the space and moved in. The TESU campus is composed of nine buildings, including the Kelsey Townhouse Complex, the Center for Learning and Technology, and the restored Kuser Mansion. MCCC's James Kerney Campus (JKC) is just a few blocks from the TESU hub, providing a gateway to higher education that prepares students for careers and for transfer to TESU.

In recent years, the two institutions continue to expand their Trenton footprint – MCCC through the construction of Trenton Hall and the acquisition of several other buildings, and TESU through the opening of George A. Pruitt Hall on the former site of Glen Cairn Arms, which houses the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing. Last year, Mercer and TESU signed an agreement that provides seamless transfer for MCCC Nursing graduates into Thomas Edison's BSN program.

Dr. Pamela Pruitt, Dr. Pruitt's wife, has also been a contributing member of the MCCC family. An adult learner herself, who earned her bachelor's degree in 2010, her master's in 2012, and her doctorate in 2016, she has taught communications courses at Mercer. She was also the keynote speaker at the JKC Celebration of Academic Achievement in 2014.



SPIRIT OF EDUCATION AWARD



**Rashaad Bajwa, President/CEO
Domain Computer Services**

With the opening of Domain Tech Academy at Mercer this past year, a new paradigm for cooperative education has begun between MCCC and the business community. Leading the way is Rashaad Bajwa, President/CEO of Domain Computer Services (DCS), based in Cranbury, NJ. A graduate of West Windsor High School and Rutgers University, Mr. Bajwa is a local entrepreneur whose company delivers proactive IT solutions to a long list of clients. He is a strong proponent of giving back to his community, while also helping his company's bottom line.

Mr. Bajwa is fulfilling both missions at Domain Tech Academy (recently renamed internIT). This on-campus center provides paid internships to a group of talented students who have been identified and referred by enthusiastic MCCC professors. Under the guidance of DCS' IT staff, these students learn real world skills and deliver them to clients at a discount.

According to Mr. Bajwa, one of the biggest obstacles to growth in the IT services field has been finding qualified employees. In what he describes as "enlightened self-interest," his company is now shaping students' skill set to fulfill DCS growth goals, while giving them vital hands-on training and furthering their pathways to good jobs. And, paid internships mean that students don't have to choose between a career-building position and one that simply pays the bills. Three Domain Tech interns have been hired by DCS. Five additional students began as IT interns at the end of the fall semester, along with three who are interning in digital marketing, a surprising growth area for the Academy that points to another major industry need.

Mr. Bajwa considers himself fortunate in many ways, but notes that luck starts with a prepared mind. By spearheading this specialized talent development system, Domain Computer Services has committed to creating opportunities for just that kind of preparation, bolstering the career trajectory of MCCC students and the local economy.

DISTINGUISHED BENEFACTOR AWARD



Jeri Bogan Zielinski

A proud member of MCCC's Class of 1969, Jeri Bogan Zielinski is a shining star in Mercer's long list of alumni success stories. She dedicated most of her professional life to Educational Testing Service, from which she retired last year as Senior Director, Workplace Management, after almost four decades of service.

At the time Jeri was studying Fine Arts at Mercer, her classes were held all over Trenton as the newly established community college sought spaces and places to grow. She recalls her professors as stellar. That educational quality, coupled with affordable tuition, created an ideal academic environment for Bogan Zielinski. After graduating from Mercer, she went on to earn her bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Peirce College, a Mini-MBA Certification from Rutgers University, and, most recently, a Master's in Higher Education from Drexel University.

When approached by a current Foundation Board member, Bogan Zielinski happily returned to Mercer in 2013 to serve on the Foundation Board. Already an active community volunteer for several organizations, she was pursuing her master's degree at that time and her capstone project focused on community colleges. The stars aligned with her decision to return to her MCCC roots as an accomplished professional.

In typical fashion, Bogan Zielinski did not just sit on the board, she served with enthusiasm. It wasn't long before she was at the helm as Foundation Board chair from 2014-2016, the only alumna ever to serve in that role. Under her leadership, the Foundation reviewed its by-laws and updated its procedures to create a more efficient, effective organization.

While encouraging others to give generously on behalf of MCCC students, Bogan Zielinski has led by example. In addition to her leadership, expertise and time, she has been a major supporter of the Foundation's annual fundraisers, including Spring Into Student Success! and the Golf Classic.

Bogan Zielinski says she gives generously because she understands on a very personal level the difference that community colleges make – for individuals and communities. Indeed, these unique institutions of learning do nothing short of launching lives.



DISTINGUISHED CORPORATE PARTNER AWARD



Sean Murray, Senior Vice President/Commercial Market Executive
Savita Lachman, Vice President/Group Manager
Fulton Bank of New Jersey

Staff members at Fulton Bank of New Jersey are truly honored by their selection for the Distinguished Corporate Partner Award. While the recognition is welcome, it is somewhat bittersweet. The bank's commitment to Mercer grew under Timothy Losch, a senior executive at Fulton Bank of New Jersey who was a long-serving member and former chair of the MCCC Foundation Board. Mr. Losch passed away last year, shortly after being named as Foundation Director Emeritus.

Senior Vice President Sean Murray and Vice President Savita Lachman say that Fulton Bank of New Jersey is gratified to carry on the tradition that Tim established. The bank continues to be a dedicated corporate partner, giving annually to the college's scholarship events and continuing its representation on the MCCC Foundation Board.

According to both executives, education is a core value at Fulton Bank of New Jersey, which offers a tuition reimbursement program and other career advancement opportunities for its employees. This emphasis creates a meaningful alignment with MCCC and its mission to provide academic pathways to students at many ages and stages of their lives. Fulton Bank of New Jersey regularly hires Mercer students and graduates, and is keenly aware of the college's role in providing a foundation that can lead to advanced degrees and highly successful careers.

Since 2013, Fulton Bank of New Jersey has also been MCCC's partner in a special community event. The two institutions have joined together to co-host an annual blood drive with the American Red Cross. Fulton Bank of New Jersey staff, Mercer employees, and community members participate – as do MCCC students, many of whom are giving blood for the very first time.

Fulton Bank of New Jersey recognizes the many ways that Mercer serves as a vital activity hub in our region – for companies hosting conferences and corporate training at the MCCC Conference Center, for newcomers seeking a local connection through continuing education, for theatergoers who attend performances at Kelsey Theatre, for lovers of classical music who listen to WWFM, and for parents seeking camp options for their children.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Victoria Fredrick and Rachel Fredrick

Nursing



Victoria – “The scholarships have made me even more determined. There is someone out there saying, ‘I think you’re worth it too.’”

Rachel – “I see a need to help. I want to make a difference, even if it is just a small one.”

It’s not often that mothers and daughters attend the same college, at the same time, in the same program, with similar end goals. But that is, in fact, the case for mother and daughter Victoria and Rachel Fredrick, both of whom are proud, motivated and high-achieving scholarship recipients. Another Fredrick daughter is studying Education at Mercer.

When they complete their associate degrees in May 2019, the Fredricks plan to join the ranks of nurses who assist with labor and delivery (Rachel), and the post-partum care of moms and their babies (Victoria).

Victoria was a recipient of the Charlotte Newcombe Foundation Scholarship in 2016 and an Area VII Physicians Group Scholarship in 2017. Rachel received the Jim and Fannie Floyd Scholarship. Both women say that the scholarships have been a huge help in reducing the financial burden of having three family members in school concurrently.

The funding has also made them even more determined to excel. “There is someone out there saying, ‘I think you’re worth it too,’” Victoria said. Rachel adds, “Knowing there is this kind of support behind me is really motivating.”

The Fredricks share a work ethic that clearly leads to success: persistence, resolve, gratitude, and a clear set of goals. Victoria and Rachel have excelled academically, enjoying classroom challenges and campus life. They are both members of the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society, which requires a minimum GPA of 3.5.

Victoria’s decision to return to college mid-life is based on her collective personal experiences, working and volunteering in health care settings, coupled with her desire to give back to her community. Rachel spent two years during high school as a volunteer at a local hospital and saw the many people who needed her help. “I want to be the person a patient can count on. I want to make a difference, even if it’s just a small one,” she said, adding that she is also studying Spanish to expand her communication skills with patients. She plans to continue for her B.S.N. at Rutgers University at Mercer.



STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Trevor Jones

Liberal Arts/Education

While Trevor Jones has long dreamed of being a professional athlete, he clearly knows he needs a backup plan. In fact, Jones has all the attributes that are likely to make him an excellent teacher – a passion for education and a love for working with young people, which he has done for several years as an athletic coach for his younger brother's teams. He believes that as a teacher and a coach, he will “be doing something that means something.”

A 2013 graduate of Hamilton High School West, Jones received a scholarship to attend Albright College, but was distracted by the freedom of his first semester of college away from home. He returned home to regroup and decided to take a few later-starting classes at Mercer in Spring 2014. He liked the experience and decided to stay for his degree.

The recipient of the Bonazzi Foundation Science Education Scholarship, Jones is now focused on getting his associate degree and moving on to get his bachelor's degree and become a science teacher and an athletic coach at either the middle school or high school level. Jones, who is concentrating in both education and science, will continue at William Paterson University (WPU) through the NOYCE Scholarship program after graduating from MCCC in May.

Jones knows the difference that a supportive family can make. He is also grateful to have found experienced and caring professors at Mercer. He observes, “Each semester, I have had at least one professor who has made a real impact on me.” Taking a full load of courses, including online classes, his GPA has continued to improve. He says professors are understanding, available and accommodating.

He gives special credit to his advisor, Professor of Education Theresa Capra, who encouraged him to seek out the generous NOYCE Scholarship at WPU.

Admitting to being wiser at 22 than when he first went away to college at 18, he has learned about what's important. He wants other students who pressure themselves to adhere to a strict timeline in college and in life to proceed at their own pace. “Life is what you make of it. You should be learning along the way. You should want what's best, not what's easiest,” he says.



“Each semester at Mercer, I have had at least one professor who has made a real impact. As a teacher, I will be doing something that means something.”

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Jennifer Macario

Exercise Science



“Enrolling at Mercer was the best decision I ever made. I saved money, figured out what I wanted to study, and got a chance to play soccer. I love Mercer.”

When Jennifer Macario graduated from Nottingham High School in 2016, she was not sure what her college major would be, but she knew where she wanted to go to school. Following in her older sister's footsteps, Macario was heading to Mercer to play soccer for the MCCC Vikings and to study Exercise Science.

For Macario, who played soccer at Nottingham, MCCC came with an added bonus. Her soccer coach at Nottingham, Elyse Diamond, was herself making the move to Mercer as the Vikings' new head coach. The two would start their MCCC soccer careers together in the fall of 2016.

Macario went on to have a solid two-year career for the Vikings as a center midfielder, serving as a co-captain for the 2017 squad. She especially enjoyed her sophomore leadership role this year. “We tried to guide the freshmen about what they needed to do on the field and in the classroom. We were there for each other as a team,” she said.

Given Macario's passion for soccer, which runs deep in her family, she is fascinated by the workings of the human body, making Exercise Science a great foundation for her future career, which is likely to be in healthcare. She says her classes have been challenging, especially the science classes required for her major, but she has found faculty and staff who are committed to student success.

“Enrolling at Mercer was the best decision I ever made,” Macario said. “I saved money, figured out what I wanted to study, and got a chance to play soccer. I love Mercer.”

With Macario's older sister now studying Occupational Therapy at Stockton University, the family has two sets of tuition bills. Jennifer is very grateful to be the recipient of the generous Art Forman Memorial Scholarship. “When I found out I got the scholarship, I was honored and excited. Because I spend so much time on the soccer field, I can only work part-time, mostly in the summer. The scholarship has helped tremendously with tuition and books,” she said.

Macario adds that she is also grateful to her parents, who have been there for her every step of the way. “They have worked so hard to provide opportunities for my sister and me,” she said.



STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Jeremy Muscente*

Business Administration

For Business Administration student Jeremy Muscente, family comes first. That means being there for his mother and for his younger brother, who is a cancer survivor.

Originally setting his sights on attending The College of New Jersey (TCNJ), where he planned to study business, Muscente knew that enrolling at MCCC made much better sense financially. Thanks to the Student Transfer Agreement Program, Muscente will be able to transfer seamlessly to TCNJ after completing his associate degree in May and get to the same end goal – a bachelor's degree in Business/Marketing.

Muscente gets some of his inspiration and drive from his Italian ancestry. "I come from a family of entrepreneurs," he says, including his grandparents, who owned their own deli and market. "I plan to have my own business one day. I am self-motivated and I believe that trait will play a big role in guiding me as I move forward."

Muscente is clearly on the right path. He is taking advantage of all the opportunities that Mercer has offered him, including a generous scholarship from PNC Bank. "It is humbling and gratifying to be rewarded for the hard work I have done," he said.

In addition to generous donors, Muscente credits plenty of staff members at Mercer who are ensuring that his educational experience is a good one, especially in his business courses. "My professors have gone above and beyond to prepare me for the next step. They have encouraged me to establish realistic goals and have advised me on the ways to accomplish those goals," he said.

In addition to attending Mercer full-time, Muscente works three days a week in an insurance agency, where he is getting a taste of real-world business. Between his flexible class schedule at Mercer and the agency's willingness to give him time off when he needs to study, he is accomplishing a lot as a college sophomore.

With his family continuing to be his number one priority, Muscente is extremely appreciative that he has been able to get his education while fulfilling his family responsibilities. "I have the mindset to get the grades I need to move on to the next phase. I am doing my part and Mercer is helping me make it happen," he said.

* *Scholarship Student Speaker*



"I am getting to the same end goal – my bachelor's degree from The College of New Jersey – and I am saving a lot of money that I will need in the future."

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MCCC Professors Emeriti Association

The Mercer County Community College Professors Emeriti Association annually provides several scholarships designated for continuing Mercer County Community College students. The following emeriti have contributed financially to the scholarship program for 2017-2018.

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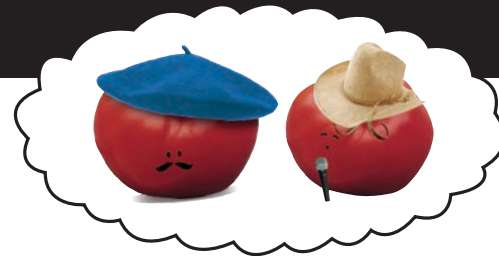
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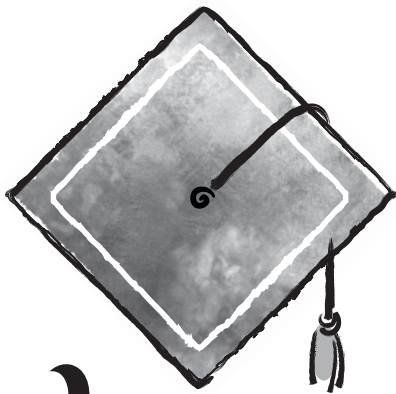
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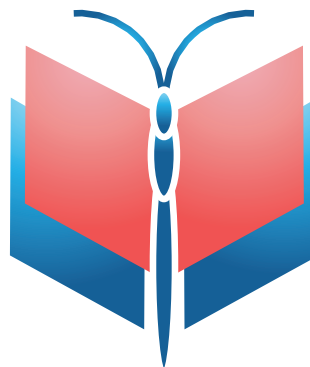
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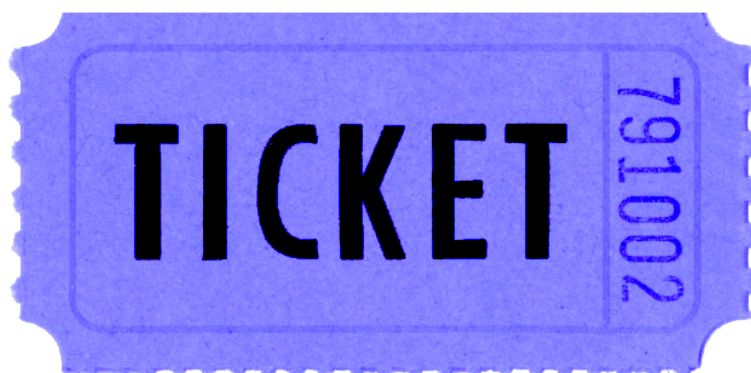
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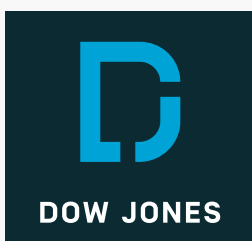


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