

# Focus on our 20/20 Vision for the Future



## 2020 Annual Report of Union County College

JULY 2019-JUNE 2020

*Transforming Our Community...  
One Student at a Time*







**Dr. Margaret M. McMenamin**  
President, Union County College

*With the impact of COVID-19, we were unable to hold our Spring Commencement Ceremony. In lieu of our traditional ceremony, we found alternative, creative ways in which to celebrate our newly minted graduates. This included a congratulatory video with clips sent in from faculty and staff and a welcome from President McMenamin. This looks a bit different than being on stage surrounded by our graduates and their families, but it doesn't take away from the incredible accomplishment of our dedicated graduates.*

# Our Vision for 2020 and beyond

The 2019-2020 academic year was filled with exciting highs but also included the shadow of a global pandemic, unlike anything any of us have seen in our lifetime. While this unexpected development has challenged our community, I am confident that our resiliency and ability to adapt will prove to be critical to our response and recovery.

One of our proudest moments this year was that for the first time Union County College was named a Top 150 Community College by the Aspen Institute, which made us eligible to apply for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. Our years of commitment to improving our student outcomes in the areas of learning, completion rates, employment rates and earnings, and equity were acknowledged with this prestigious recognition.

I am proud of the College's response to COVID-19. We learned after Hurricane Sandy the importance of our online learning platform. I am happy to report that during the College's spring break, all courses were moved online seamlessly with no interruption to instructional time. Thanks to ongoing investments in technology, our ability to move all College operations to remote format went as smoothly as possible.

Our students are especially grateful for continued support of individual and corporate donors to the Union County College Foundation. The scholarships and campaigns they support are transformational for our students. Recently, the Foundation has been working tirelessly to secure donors to the newly created COVID-19 Student Emergency Relief Fund to support our most vulnerable students.

The College community is thankful for the support of the members of the Union County College Boards of Trustees and Governors. Their dedication to our students and commitment to providing the required tools for teaching and learning has led to our continued student success.

Now more than ever, we are grateful for the steadfast support of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Our partnership is a critical component to the success at Union. Without their support, we would not be able to do the work we do to serve the residents of Union County.

Our mission, "transforming our community, one student at a time," is the focus of all we do at Union. We are proud to provide a high-quality, affordable, and accessible education to the residents of Union County. We hope you enjoy a look back at all we achieved during the 2019-2020 academic year.

Sincerely,

*Margaret M. McMenamin*

Dr. Margaret M. McMenamin  
President, Union County College





# Our vision of the future NEVER included COVID-19.



In early 2020, a virus spreading in China began to make news. Due to the impact of Hurricane Sandy in 2012, the College understood the importance of having the ability to move instruction online in an emergency. Thanks to investments in and improvements to technology, the College had the framework in place to accommodate the transition to online learning, should it be needed. As the worldwide progression of the virus increased, the College rigorously prepared for the local impact of COVID-19. A COVID-19 Taskforce was convened and met daily making the necessary plans and recommendations regarding operational changes.



*Union County opened the first county-run drive-through COVID-19 Testing Center in the state at Kean University on March 23 providing free testing to county residents as well as first responders and healthcare workers.*



*When the call went out for volunteers at the Kean University Testing site, (top) Associate Professor of Practical Nursing Michele Ciso immediately heeded the call to action, as did (center) nursing student Winta Habta, and student (bottom) Andre Cardoso.*



*You may not recognize these Owl Heroes in their PPE; however, their Owl spirit shines through. The College takes immense pride in honoring the dedication and community commitment of our alumni, students, faculty, and staff.*







*And then we emptied the closets. With no students in the labs for the remainder of the semester, there was no demand for gloves, gowns, masks and hand sanitizer. However, there was unprecedented demand in our area hospitals where healthcare professionals were on the front lines fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. The College proudly delivered PPE, ventilators, BiPAP machines, and more to Union County's front line healthcare facilities.*

The College was on spring break from March 9-15. During that week, the College made the decision to move all instruction online on Monday, March 16 through our online learning system, Canvas. In compliance with Governor Murphy's Executive Order to stay at home, campus buildings closed on Wednesday, March 18 until further notice.

Since then, the College operations were remote; however, the College was not closed. Although we were not physically on campus, the College was still very much open. Students were engaged in learning, faculty were instructing, and staff were working to support students, employees, and the functions of the College. Every employee of the College was laser focused on helping students complete the semester.

Our College community is resilient, and our students, faculty, and staff adapted. By acting responsibly we did our part to help our community flatten the curve. We will get through this, and we will be stronger when this crisis is over.

#### Highlights of services provided to Union students and actions taken in light of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Our Board of Trustees authorized the emergency purchase of 1500 laptops for a student loaner laptop program. This was launched to provide the necessary technology to students who do not have computers at home.
- A hotline was established, in both English and Spanish, for students with questions. Additionally, the College's main number was being answered live during work hours to direct those who have questions or concerns.
- The College's on-staff social worker helped students with basic needs, like food and internet access.
- The Academic Learning Center provided its free peer-to-peer tutoring virtually through Canvas.
- The College took inventory of all PPE, ventilators, and BiPAP machines in our nursing labs and donated them to the County of Union, Trinitas Regional Medical Center, and other health-care organizations.
- A language bank, a list of employees who speak different languages, was developed and distributed so our staff can communicate with all students who need assistance.
- Professor Laurie Sheldon led Union's Student Reserve Corps and Licensed Employee Reserve Corps coordinating hundreds of volunteer hours at the drive-through testing site at Kean University.
- A sewing brigade, staff members who have sewing machines, made cloth masks.
- Spring Commencement was postponed for a date to be determined once we return to normal operations.
- Grade policies for students were modified to include a pass/no pass option and to extend withdrawal and incomplete dates.
- Summer I and Summer II were moved online and all on campus events were canceled through August 16.
- The College announced a freeze on tuition for the 2020/2021 academic year and full-time students this fall will receive a brand new laptop included in their tuition and fees.





# Looking for ways to teach and learn from afar.



**Staying connected was key: connected to our students, our community, and to each other.**

With the help of social media, the "Owls at a Distance" Facebook group kept faculty and staff in touch in real time while working remotely to support and encourage each other during this unprecedented time.



*One of our #PandemicPedagogy Heroes Dr. Vikul Rajpara in an empty Chemistry Lab managing remote instruction.*



*As we adapted to our new normal, it was important that we stay connected and engaged. We may not have been on campus, but we were all going through this together.*

## Thank You for Your Service and Your Vision

**After more than 20 years of serving the residents of Union County, Freeholder Vice Chairman Angel G. Estrada is in his final term.**

Freeholder Vice Chairman Estrada has been a dedicated advocate for the College, helping us to continue to provide high-quality and affordable education to the residents of Union County, ultimately improving their lives and our community. He strongly endorses our mission of transforming our community, one student at a time. Thank you for your service and your support of the College.

*Freeholder Vice Chairman Angel G. Estrada serving the community on the front lines of the crisis.*



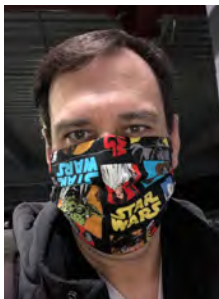


There are Owl Heroes all around us. The College community has always stepped up when the call comes to serve. We are proud of our students, alumni, and employees, who are doing what they can to help. They represent Union County College with honor, and we are honored to name some of them here.



*Kareemah Lucas, '18, working as a social worker and RN coordinating volunteer/emergency response within her community.*

*Diana Woody, '10, volunteering at the Passaic County drive-thru testing site.*



*Alumnus Lucio Barreto, '12, is the Emergency Department Nurse Manager at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. Lucio is a former SGA President at Union.*

*Sandi Nguyent, '14 shows off her protective gear as an emergency department nurse.*



*Ryan Greco, '97, Chief of the Cranford Police Department, ensuring Cranford has uninterrupted police services during the crisis.*



# OWL HEROES

**UNION COUNTY COLLEGE ALUMNI ... TRANSFORMING OUR COMMUNITY**



## Emily Mahli

graduated from the Physical Therapist Assistant program in 1996. She continued her education and is now working in California as a nurse practitioner at Cedars Sinai. At the start of the pandemic, Emily contracted the virus; however, she is now fully recovered and back on the frontlines helping others in their time of need. She credits her Union County College experience for giving her the skills and foundation for each step of her professional career.

#OwlHeroes  
#NJCCHeroes



*We have Owl Heroes from coast to coast! Emily Mahli, class of '96, is a nurse practitioner in California helping others during the pandemic.*

*ALC Director José Paez sports his EOF swag while distributing loaner laptops on the Cranford campus.*

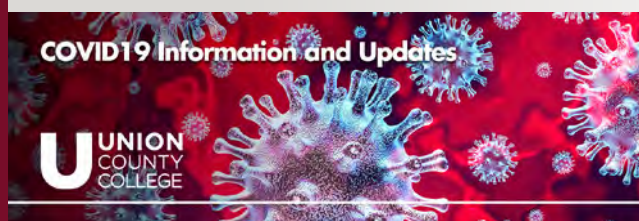


*Facilities staff deep cleaning the Plainfield campus.*

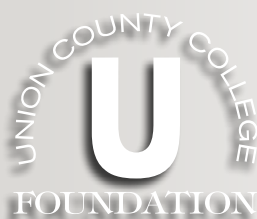
Owl Heroes are all around us quietly doing what needs to be done. They are cleaning our campuses, distributing hundreds of laptops to students in need, and volunteering their time to help. From making student outreach phone calls to setting up online training, our everyday heroes are dedicated people that make Union County College the strong, resilient institution we have been for more than 85 years.



# Seeing them through in a time of unexpected crisis.



The Union County College Foundation, in partnership with the College, created a COVID-19 Student Emergency Relief Fund to support the immediate student financial needs brought on by the pandemic. Due to the socioeconomic realities of the majority of our student body, this crisis quickly had a devastating economic impact on our students and their families. This new fund is helping our students in their time of need and enabling them to continue their education without additional roadblocks from the pandemic.



The Foundation received generous donations for this Fund from the following corporations:



THE WESTFIELD FOUNDATION

## BOSTON ADVISORS

And from our generous donors:

<i>Dr. Mandana Ahsani</i>	<i>Carol Greco</i>	<i>Denise Petrosky</i>
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<i>Todd Daley</i>	<i>Anna Mark</i>	<i>Mark Swingle &amp; Mary McCourt</i>
<i>Frank Della Sala</i>	<i>Patricia Martinelli</i>	<i>Charles Tedesco</i>
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<i>Larry Goldman</i>	<i>Maria Palmeri-Martinez</i>	<i>Mary Zago</i>
<i>Carolyn Jeanette Goodson</i>	<i>James Perry</i>	<i>Alan &amp; Mary Zimmermann</i>
<i>Marie Gray</i>		



**ASPEN  
PRIZE**

FOR COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE EXCELLENCE

THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

**TOP 150**

**2021**

**Union County College**  
is proud to be named an

**Aspen Prize Top 150  
U.S. Community  
College**



Transforming Our Community...  
One Student at a Time



*Union County College is proud to be recognized as a part of this elite list. We worked hard to more than quadruple our graduation rate over the past ten years, implemented innovations that positively impact student success, and opened Student Services Centers on all three campuses enabling students to receive the support they need in one convenient location.*

I spy with  
my little  
eye...



excellence.



Union joins the ranks of the  
top 150 community colleges  
in the nation.

In the fall, the College was notified by the Aspen Institute that we were named a Top 150 U.S. Community College and eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. The Prize honors institutions that achieve exceptional outcomes in four areas: student learning, certificate and degree completion, employment and earnings, and high levels of access and success for minority and low-income students. Only fifteen percent of community colleges nationwide are deemed eligible to apply for the Aspen Prize.

# Keeping their eyes on the prize.

## Celebrating Our Graduates.



January and May are momentous months on the academic calendar – it's when we host our Commencement Ceremonies and celebrate our graduates.

As they cross the stage to receive their associate degree or certificate, we acknowledge our students' achievements before families, friends, faculty, and staff.

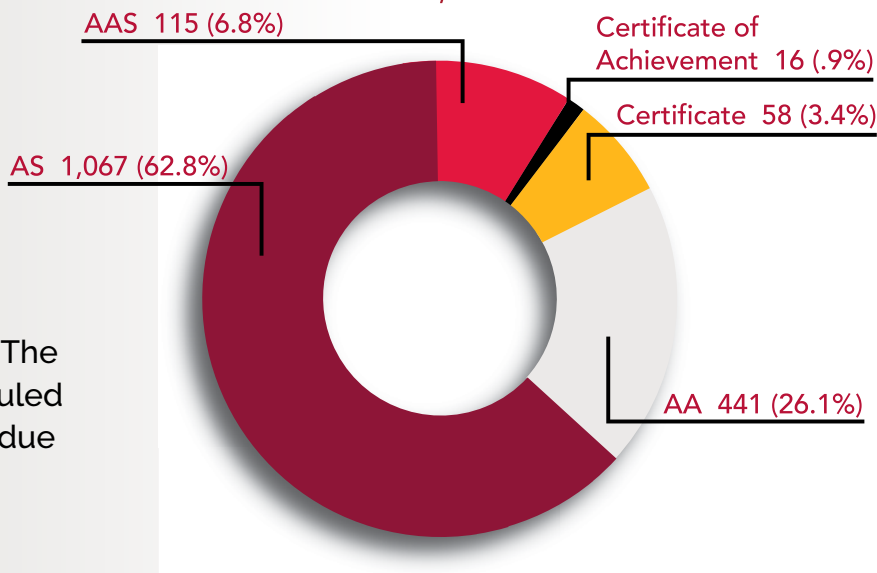
Our Winter Commencement was held at the historic Union County Performing Arts Center in Rahway. The Spring Ceremony, originally scheduled for late May, had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This spring, we celebrated our graduates creatively and from a distance given the limitations as a result of the pandemic. We are always proud of our graduates for persevering but especially this semester given the circumstances!



## Degrees Conferred by Type

Total 1,697







# CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES



TRANSFORMING OUR COMMUNITY  
ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

[www.ucc.edu](http://www.ucc.edu)

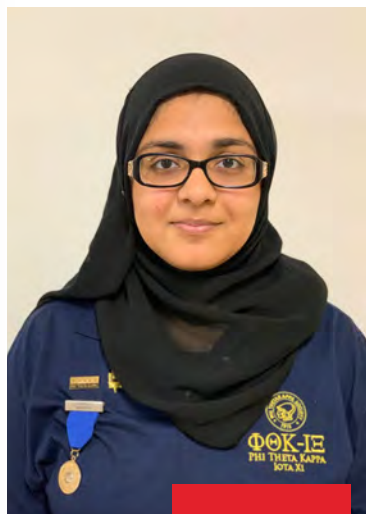
*The creative talents of Graphic Design student Ebron Wyatt gave us bold new art, originally designed for commencement banners to congratulate all our graduates. His artwork was re-imagined as lawn signs for graduates as the commencement ceremony was postponed. Mr. Wyatt's design was chosen from dozens of submissions by second year Graphic Design majors.*



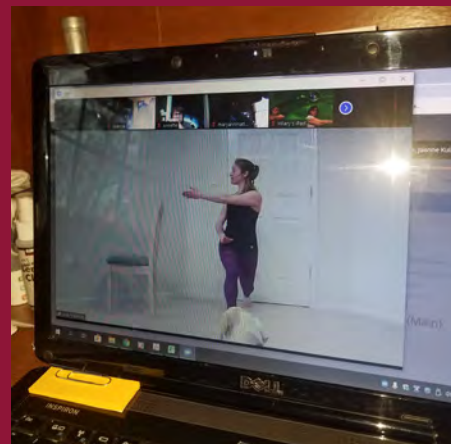
**Congratulations to Union student Kamilla Kocsis, of Rahway, who was chosen as a 2020 Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholar.** This prestigious award includes up to \$40,000 per year in financial support to attend a four-year college or university. Kamilla was one of 50 recipients out of almost 1,500 applicants.



This scholarship is available to the nation's top community college students who are selected based on exceptional academic achievement and ability, demonstrated financial need, service to others, and leadership. Kamilla is the third Union student to be chosen for this award since its inception in 2000. After Union, she plans to pursue her bachelor's degree in international relations.



Congratulation to Union students and Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) members, Jeffery Drajin, of Clark, and Sameeha Rao, of Iselin, who were named by the New Jersey Council of County Colleges to the 2020 New Jersey All-State Academic Team. They were among 38 students chosen from throughout the state's 18 community colleges for their spirit of optimism, resolve, and commitment. Sameeha Rao was one of nine New Jersey community college students who was honored by PTK and the Coca-Cola Foundation with scholarships as part of the USA All-State Academic Team Competition. Sameeha received a \$1,000 scholarship for being named a Coca-Cola Bronze Scholar.



Thanks to a grant from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Department of Continuing Education offers many lifelong learning programs to Union County seniors. Classes moved to an online format when the campuses closed due to COVID-19. The seniors have adapted well and are enjoying the online class format.

## Non-Credit Programs Focus on What Matters

- More than 2,253 enrollments under the Center for Economic and Workforce Development (CEWD) in grant funded programs including Adult Basic Literacy and Education WIOA Title II; NJ Youth Corps; and Displaced Homemaker. Sixteen students earned their High School Equivalency.
- Occupational Training programs offered to 92 students in CEWD including Welding Technician, Administrative Assistant, Medical Billing Specialist; Accounting Technician; and Essentials of Supply Chain Management. More than 105 industry-recognized credentials were earned.
- 245 students registered for 693 openings in ESL Levels 1 and 2 in CEWD.
- The Industry-Business Institute implemented 94 training programs for more than 1,063 incumbent workers at 81 employers.
- The Workforce Innovation Business Center (WIBC) implemented 10 soft skills training programs, for 143 individuals.
- Continuing Education implemented 98 adult classes for 869 enrollments, 41 Youth classes for 441 enrollments and 44 Senior Scholar classes with 713 enrollments.



At the end of each semester, the Institute for Intensive English, located in the Lessner Building on the College's Elizabeth Campus, hosts a "graduation" for students who completed the ESL program. Once a student completes all the levels of study, they can enroll in the College's degree programs. Pictured are just a few of our proud fall 2019 graduates.



Union student Beianka Tomlinson was accepted to Princeton University as one of only 13 transfer students admitted for fall 2020. Beianka has a 4.0 GPA and graduated from Union in the spring with her Associate Degree in chemistry. In addition to maintaining a perfect GPA, Beianka was an American Honors student, served as president of the Student Government Association, and was a member of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the international honor society for two year colleges. She also served as a tutor in the College's Academic Learning Center. At Princeton, Beianka plans to major in chemistry. She hopes to pursue a career in medicine as a cardiovascular surgeon.



Working with Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage (front row, center) and United Airlines, our Director of the Union County Workforce Innovation Business Center, Isaias Rivera and Student Services Specialist, Leanne Applin arranged internships for 15 Union students for summer 2019. The United Airlines Summer Associate Interns spent the summer working at Newark Liberty International Airport rotating through various areas of the aviation industry and airport operations.

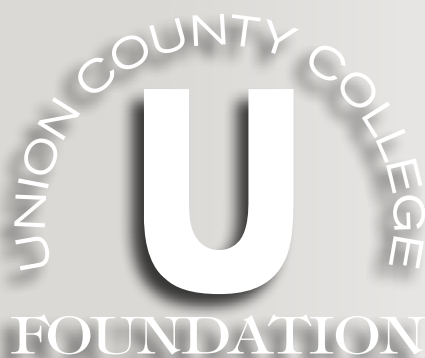


# Scholarships help our students see their path to success.



For more than 40 years, the Union County College Foundation has been raising funds to offset the cost of college for our students.

The monies raised assist with getting our students to graduation, improving their lives and contributing to the economic improvement of businesses in Union County. The Foundation has more than 200 scholarship opportunities currently available to Union students.



## NEW ANNUAL AND ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

These are the new scholarship opportunities that were established this year.

### Joana Costa's Scholarship for Dreamers in STEM

Awarded to a full- or part-time student who is a naturalized U.S. citizen, permanent legal resident, DACA or undocumented immigrant pursuing higher education at UCC, with preference given to DACA or undocumented students. Must have a minimum 3.5 GPA and be majoring in one of the STEM disciplines. Preference given to those students who demonstrate financial need.

### Joseph Dzuback Memorial Scholarship

Awarded to a full- or part-time student majoring in computer science. Recipient must have a 2.5 GPA at the time of application. Preference will be given to a student who demonstrates financial need.

### Follett New Student Scholarship

Awarded to first-time, full-time new students with a minimum high school GPA of 2.5.

### Joseph & Rev. Jeanette Goodson Scholarship

Awarded to a full- or part-time African American student in one of the education majors. Recipient must have a 3.0 GPA at the time of application. Preference will be given to a student who demonstrates financial need.

### Heidary Education Scholarship

Awarded to a full- or part-time student majoring in education. Recipient must have min. 3.0 GPA at time of application.

### Thelma Hines Scholarship

Awarded to a full or part-time student who is enrolled in the Practical Nursing Program at Union County College.

### Jeantus: Lift & Climb Scholarship

Awarded to one full-time minority student who has completed 24 credits, has a minimum 2.75 overall GPA, and demonstrates financial need. Recipient is required to complete a minimum of 75 hours of volunteer work in the community during the semester (which must be completed during the semester for which scholarship is awarded). Recipient must complete an essay that shares their personal story and describes something they have done in the community that has made an impact.

### Lakeland Bank Scholarship

Awarded to full-time students who reside in Union County and are majoring in accounting, business management or business marketing. Students must have a minimum 3.0 GPA and must demonstrate financial need. Recipients cannot be employed, or have a family member employed, by Lakeland Bank.

### Joseph Margiotta Award for Academic Excellence in History and Social Sciences

Awarded to a full-time student who is enrolled in one of the history, psychology or sociology degree programs. Student must have a minimum 3.5 GPA. Preference will be given to a student who demonstrates financial need.

### Stephen M. McMenamin Scholarship for Women in Computer Science

Awarded to a full- or part-time female student majoring in any of the computer science/IT or IS programs of study. Preference will be given to those students who demonstrate financial need.

### Michael Anthony Norelli Memorial Scholarship

Awarded to a current student to offset expenses for Summer Session I or II, with no restriction for minimum number of credits enrolled (visiting students not eligible). Preference given to those students who demonstrate financial need.

### Ann E. and James T. Quinn Memorial Scholarship

Awarded to a first-year, first-generation female nursing student who has at least one immigrant parent or who is herself an immigrant. The scholarship will be awarded on the basis of financial need. Must submit FAFSA and be eligible for financial aid.

### Arlene Rogoff Scholarship for Women in Mathematics

Awarded to a female student majoring in mathematics. Student must have a minimum 3.0 GPA, have completed between 45 and 60 credits, and intend to go on to a four-year institution. Preference will be given to those students who demonstrate financial need.

### Santander 1st Generation Honors Scholarship

Awarded to first generation Hispanic heritage students enrolled in one of the honor societies at Union County College. Students must be majoring in a business, management or marketing program. Recipients must demonstrate financial need.

### Carol Saunders-Corbin Memorial PN Scholarship

Awarded to a full-time student in the Practical Nursing Certificate Program at Union County College. Recipient must be a PNU211 student. Preference will be given to those students who are involved in community service/volunteerism.



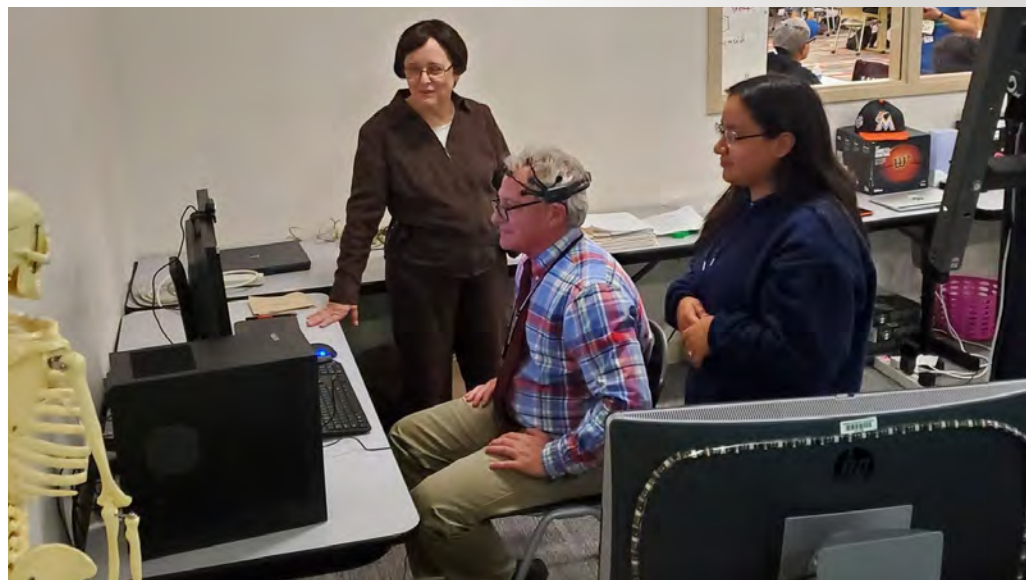
The Provident Bank Foundation presented a "Big Check" for a \$3500 Community Grant to Union students, Union County College Foundation Executive Director Doug Rouse, and President McMennamin. The generous donation will support the College's Academic Learning Center tutoring services and online instructional course offerings. To present the check were Provident's Vice President/Market Manager Oylum Seker (holding check, center) and AVP/Banking Center Manager New Providence Branch Donna Purdon (holding check, right). Also present were Union's Director of Instructional Design Dr. Jeffrey Gutkin (left), Foundation Executive Director Doug Rouse (holding check, left), and President McMennamin (right).



Christie McMullen, President and COO of Elizabethtown Gas (holding check, right) and Lauren Hurtt, Public Affairs, South Jersey Industries (holding check, second from left), visited the Cranford campus and presented a check for \$10,000 to President McMennamin (holding check, center) and Doug Rouse, Executive Director of the Union County College Foundation (holding check, left). The funds support Union's Fueling the Future Scholarship benefiting full-time students enrolled in a STEM discipline and who reside in Union County.



Generous Foundation donors made the College's Innovation Center possible on the Cranford campus. The Center provides students an opportunity to immerse themselves in the latest technology. The most recent addition to the Innovation Center is the Emotiv Epoc+. The device is worn like a helmet and maps brain waves to better understand how the brain works. This technology will help biology students comprehend the complexities of the brain. Dr. Jeffrey Gutkin, Director of Institutional Design (center), wears the Emotiv Epoc+ and is guided by Union student, Candi Alva (right). Professor of Sociology, Toby Marx (left) looks on.



# Seeing the big picture, our donors come through.



*Union County College President Dr. Margaret M. McMenamin with Gordon and Nancy Vickers at one of our annual scholarship fundraising events.*



Throughout the year, the Union County College Foundation is very fortunate to receive funding from a robust donor family which includes individuals, corporate and civic leaders, faculty and staff, alumni, and friends. We are beyond grateful for their support and dedication to our mission to accelerate the pace of student success. Donors are the backbone of the Foundation and without their help, we would not have the capacity to support our students at such a high level. Our donors attend our annual events: Close the Gap Cocktail Reception, Golf Outing, and Scholarship Gala. They help us create new scholarships, contribute to our Shaping Our Future annual campaign, and support our student success initiatives such as STEM Revolution, Operation Graduation, Inspire the Future, and our Food Insecurity fund.

Donors, **THANK YOU** for all you do – you are making a positive impact not only on the students of Union County College but on our community as a whole.

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Union County College alumna Lois Bass, Community Relations Coordinator for Infineum USA L.P., with Union County College Foundation Executive Director Doug Rouse at the annual scholarship reception when the new Infineum Science and Technology Scholarship was recognized.

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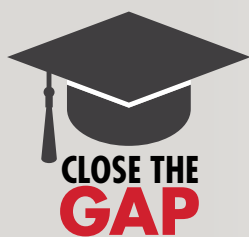
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# Seeing is believing – and we believe.

The Close the Gap Campaign is dramatically increasing the graduation rates for Union's African American students.



Our Close the Gap campaign is unique – there is no other program in the community college system that is

having a greater impact on student success. Established by three key Foundation Board members in 2015 to provide financial assistance and programming, this campaign supports African American student success. Thanks to the generosity of our community, the College's African American male graduation rate has more than quadrupled since the inception of the Close the Gap campaign. This success is a direct result of community-minded individuals taking an active role in ensuring success in partnership with the College's commitment to increasing the graduation rate.



Honoree Frank A. Bolden, Esq. being congratulated by Union County College Board of Trustees Chair Victor M. Richel.



This year was an exciting one for the Union County College Foundation. They raised more than \$75,000 for Union students at the 4th Annual Close the Gap celebration. The Foundation honored Mr. Bolden, former Vice Chair of the Union County College Board of Trustees, for his generous support of the campaign, which supports the College's strategic initiative to accelerate the pace of African American student graduation rates. Union County College Executive Director, Doug Rouse, was joined by Union County Freeholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella, Freeholder Andrea Staten, President McMenamin, Mr. Bolden, Assemblyman Jamel Holley, and Freeholder Angela R. Garretson.



*Union County College faculty and staff members are committed to helping our students achieve their best personal success. Pictured here are some of the many College employees who support the Close the Gap campaign to help shrink the achievement gap.*



*Foundation donors and board members Susan Hairston, at the podium, along with Sandra Rice and Deborah Enix-Ross, brought the Close the Gap campaign to fruition. Their continued support over the past five years has led to the increase of more than four times the number of African American males who cross the stage at graduation.*



*Shown in between Union's VP for Student Development Dr. Demond T. Hargrove (l) and Assemblyman Jamel Holley (r), are Union students who have received financial support from the campaign with Foundation Board member, George Cook.*



*Donors and supporters of the Close the Gap campaign include members of the College's Boards of Trustees and Governors. Pictured are Union County College Board of Trustees Chair Victor M. Richel and Union County College Board of Governors members Harvey R. Hirschfeld and Jeffrey H. Katz, Esq.*







## PTK Honor Society Grows by Hundreds

Union's Iota Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the international honor society for two-year colleges, is committed to excellence and serving others. For a student to be invited to join PTK, their grade point average has to be 3.6 or higher and they must have completed a minimum of 12 credits. This year, 218 students were inducted into Iota Xi. Each year they complete an "Honors in Action" campaign and chose the theme of "Be Kind" for this year. Their ultimate goal: to practice inclusion and equity for all.

## The College's prestigious academic societies honor the best of our students

The COVID-19 crisis closed our campuses before the academic honor societies held their annual induction ceremonies. We congratulate their prospective members and acknowledge their achievements.



### Chi Alpha Epsilon

The Psi Chapter of the Chi Alpha Epsilon Academic Honor Society is a national honor society for students in the Educational Opportunity Fund Program.



### Engineering and Architecture and Tau Alpha Pi

The Engineering and Architecture Honor Society is for students in an Associate in Science Engineering or Architecture program.

The Beta Chapter of the Tau Alpha Pi National Honor Society is a national honor society for students matriculated in an Associate in Applied Science Engineering Technology program.



### Lambda Epsilon Chi

The Lambda Epsilon Chi National Honor Society is the academic honor society for paralegal students and is sponsored by the American Association for Paralegal Education (AAfPE).



### Psi Beta

Psi Beta is the national honor society in psychology for two-year colleges and is associated with the American Psychological Association.



### Mu Alpha Theta

Mu Alpha Theta is the national honor society for mathematics majors at two-year colleges.







The College Iota Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa had an exciting year. In addition to expanding their membership, the chapter won multiple awards at the PTK Regional Conference that was held virtually this year. Iota Xi maintained its Five Star Chapter recognition, was named a Middle States Gold Chapter, received the Honors in Action Award of 15 in our region, and were one in three to receive the Honors in Action Theme Award: Powers of Connection.

## Union Expands Student Leadership Opportunities

As part of the College's goal to build leaders to send out into the community upon graduation, the Office of College Life established a chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS) for Union students. NSLS is the nation's largest leadership honor society. Sixty-four Union students were inducted this year.



Twenty students participated in the EOF leadership institute. This year, the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) introduced a program of leadership skills comprised of workshops on student development, communication, conflict resolution, and leadership skills. The training included a teamwork exercise to beat a timed escape room challenge.







## Peers Working Together to Reach Graduation

The Academic Learning Centers (ALC) at Union are one of the key contributors to student success. Peer to peer tutoring allows students to connect with each other and help students succeed in their classes. The positive impact of the ALC can be seen across the College, including the increased graduation rate and the movement toward developmental optional math. ALCs are located at the Cranford, Elizabeth, and Plainfield campuses and are usually one of the busiest areas of campus at Union.

**33%**  
**Graduation Rate**  
 Up from 5.9% in 2009



*Our tutors are proud members of the College community and wear their ALC t-shirts with honor. Pictured above are tutors after spring semester orientation, where they learned new tutoring techniques to assist their peers.*



## And the Winners Are... Union Students!

In October, at the largest and most glamorous event of the year, more than \$225,000 was raised at the Union County College Foundation's Annual Scholarship Gala. At the "Masquerade" themed event, honorees for the evening included First Lady of New Jersey, Tammy Murphy who received the 2019 Fiat Lux Award for her commitment to Union's students and improving lives through education. Union County College Board of Governors and Foundation Board member Harvey Hirschfeld, Chairman and CEO of Westbury Management Group, was honored as the 2019 Man of the Year. He was recognized for his service to the College and generosity in support of the Foundation.

*With our students are honorees Harvey Hirschfeld and First Lady Tammy Murphy (center). Also pictured are Union County College Board of Trustees Chair Victor M. Richel (left) and President McMenamin (second from left).*



*Longtime donors and alumni association members, Suzanne Covine, '58, and Linda Kurdilla, '89, look forward to this annual fundraising event.*



*Students in the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society volunteer at the gala each year. Their presence serves two purposes: an opportunity for the students to meet and thank donors for their generous support and for the donors to meet our students.*



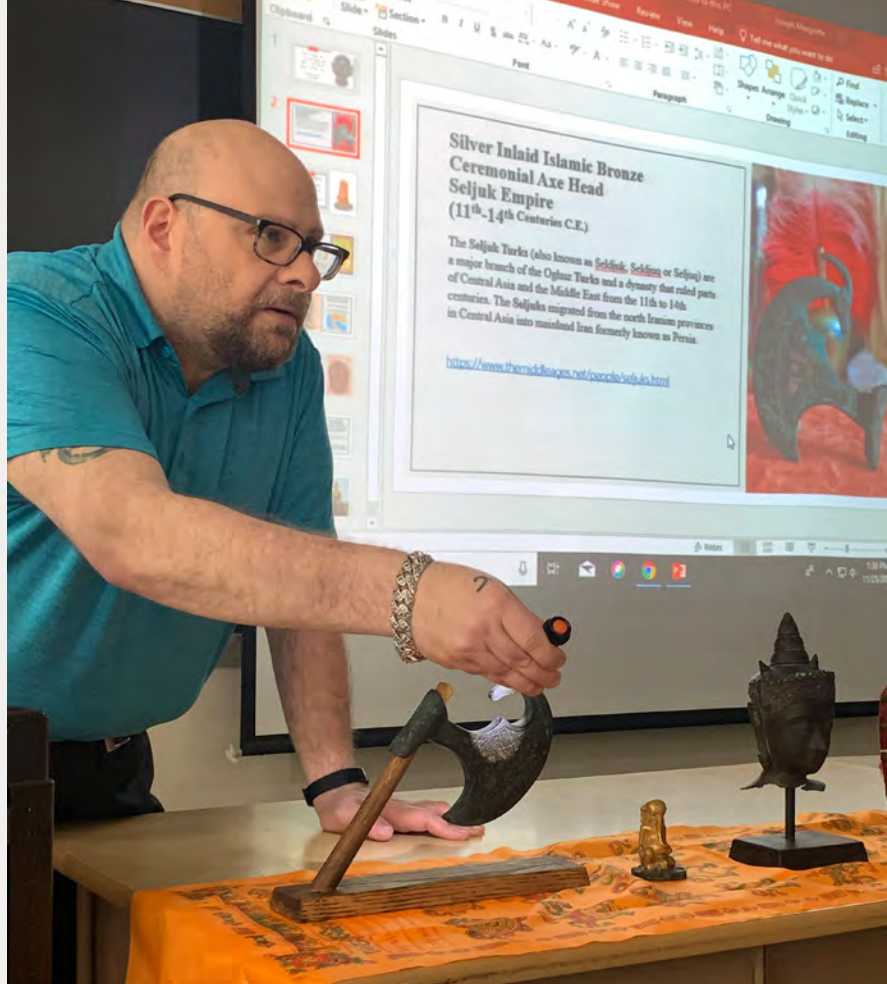


# Looking ever higher in pursuit of excellence.



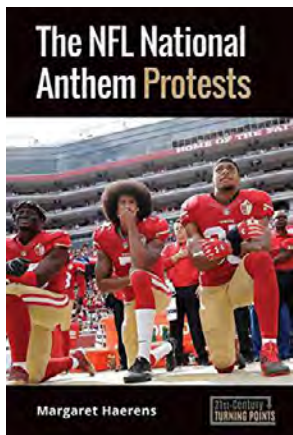
The faculty and staff of Union County College have always aimed high: in their performance in front of the classroom, in expectation and hope for Union County College students, and in scholarly and cultural efforts in their professions. This year, that tradition of excellence continued and was recognized within the College and beyond our campuses.

Throughout the year, the College's faculty participated in professional development activities to hone their teaching skills and shared their individual and collective expertise with others through publishing and the visual arts. Many were honored for their participation in academic and cultural efforts.



Academic Specialist in History, Joseph Margiotta (top), offered his American Honors students in Western Civilization I a treat by declaring "Museum Day." He brought to class several pieces from his personal collection of Islamic, South, and Southeast Asian Art. The students were able to handle and examine the museum quality pieces while learning proper handling techniques and wearing white cotton gloves to protect the historic artifacts. Mr. Margiotta's level of commitment to our students enriches their learning by bringing the world into the classroom.





Associate Librarian Karen Venturella co-authored an article with Moddie Breland, Head Librarian at Mercy College Library titled, "Supporting the Best Professional Development in Academic Libraries." The article was published in the

*Journal of New Librarianship*. Ms. Venturella also published a review of the book, "The NFL National Anthem Protests," in "Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries," 56(10), 2019, 1231.



Dean of Student Success Rebecca Royal was named an Outstanding First-Year Student Advocate at the 39th Annual Conference on The First-Year Experience in Washington, DC, for her exceptional work in the areas of student learning, development, and success.

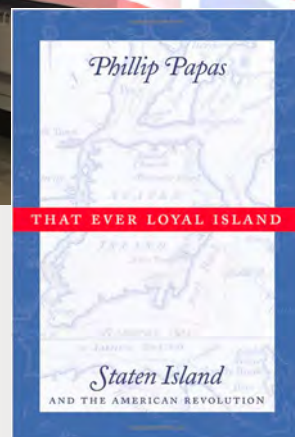


Artwork by Ms. Afshani: 155 Erie Street.

Academic Specialist in Graphic Arts, Hadieh Afshani was named a standout artist of Jersey City in "Hyperallergic," a prominent art magazine published in New York City.



Dr. Papas is a movie star! He shared the documentary film "Loyalty and Rebellion" with Union students, which was inspired by his book, "The Ever-Loyal Island: Staten Island and the American Revolution." Earlier in the year, the film was also shown to a group at the Morristown National Historic Park Museum.



At Convocation, Union's faculty and staff were inspired by Dr. Martha J. Kanter, Executive Director of the College Promise Campaign and former U.S. Under Secretary of Education from 2009-2013 under President Obama. Her keynote address, "Making and Keeping the College Promise: One Community at a Time" resonated with our faculty and staff because the campaign is a national initiative to increase college access, affordability, quality, and completion in higher education. This ties directly to our mission: Transforming Our Community... One Student at a Time. Dr. Kanter's favorite part of the visit was spending time with our students.

## INSTRUCTIONAL FACULTY

	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL
Total number of instructional faculty	102	492	594
Total number who are members of minority groups*	33	223	256
Total number who are men	40	254	294
Total number who are women	62	238	300

\*excludes unknown/not reported

SOURCE: IPEDS 2019-20 Survey







To improve student success with techniques in the classroom, faculty members trained this year in a partnership with the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE). ACUE prepares, credentials, and supports faculty to teach with the practices that improve student achievement. The initiative was led by Assistant VP for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Scotch Plains Campus, Dr. Bernard Polnariev.



(top) Assistant Dean of STEM Dr. Nicole Cippoletti and Executive Director of Institutional Research Dr. Elizabeth Cooner presented "Leadership Strategies that Facilitate Change and Overcome Resistance" at the National Leadership Conference for the American Association for Women in Community Colleges. They shared the leadership approaches used at Union that transformed the developmental education culture and facilitated the increased graduation rate. President McMenamin attended the conference and gave the keynote address at the general session.



(center) In collaboration with Union County's Office on Women, the College hosted an exciting "Women in STEM" panel discussion for Union students. Six panelists shared how they navigated their way to successful STEM careers in male dominated fields. Pictured from left to right are Union's Director of Student Research and Science Laboratories Dr. Kessler McCoy-Simandle, Professor of Biology and Molecular Biology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine Dr. Dianne Cox, Vice President at LTK Engineering Services Dr. Pallavi Lal, PE., Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Lehman College Dr. Prabodhika Mallikaratchy, Professor of Chemistry at The Hebrew University Dr. Lina Freage, former Dean of STEM Dr. Liesl Jones, and Jennifer Erdos from the Union County Office on Women.



(bottom) College employees' dedication and commitment to our students takes many forms. Union's Technical Standards Auditor Mary Zago endowed a \$25,000 scholarship to the Foundation in memory of her brother, James P. Ortuso. Mr. Ortuso was a retired firefighter and EMT with the Roselle Fire Department. The James P. Ortuso Memorial Scholarship will benefit Union students in the automotive technology, fire science, and paramedic emergency health science programs. This generous donation to the Foundation will go a long way in assisting Union students in meeting their educational goals. In the photo, Union employee Mary Zago is standing behind the "Big Check," along with President McMenamin, Executive Director of the Union County College Foundation Doug Rouse, and students.







*Students Danylo Mirin, Jennifer Huilotl, and Stephen Lopez are experimenting with the College's new Clarus 590 gas chromatograph, purchased through the generosity of Infineum USA L.P. Infineum's historic support is transforming lives, one student at a time. Infineum USA L.P. made a \$10,000 donation to our STEM Revolution fund. Thanks to their corporate leadership, our students now have access to state-of-the art equipment that they otherwise would not experience.*



# Innovative thinking keeps us looking far beyond tomorrow.



**At Union, we are committed to providing our students with access to innovative technology.**

The Innovation Center, located on the Cranford campus, is open daily to all students. It is a state-of-the-art facility where our students can gain experience in virtual reality and artificial intelligence, build items with 3D printers, and code. The large variety of technical equipment and software has been made possible through generous donations. By prioritizing the availability of the most current technologies in the Innovation Center, we have given our students a competitive edge when they transfer to their four-year college or university.



Beyond what is available in the Innovation Center, Union County College is innovative in many ways. This year, we saved students money with a subscription service for their textbooks and course materials. President McMenamin also signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Kitami Institute of Japan to expand education opportunities between the two institutions.

Implemented this academic year to assist our students with the high cost of textbooks and course materials, Union signed on with Cengage Unlimited to provide our students with an annual subscription service that saves them hundreds of dollars annually. For a

low cost, students have access to 22,000 course materials in their library. Cengage is the largest U.S.-based education and technology company serving the higher education markets. Pictured are Assistant VP for Academic Affairs and Dean of Scotch Plains Campus, Dr. Bernard Polnariev and representatives from Cengage.



In the fall, President McMenamin and Dr. Soichiro Suzuki, President of the Kitami Institute of Technology of Japan, signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) at the College's Elizabeth Campus. The two institutions can now participate in an exchange of students and faculty, collaborate on research initiatives, exchange academic materials, and participate in continuing education opportunities. The signing of this agreement coincided with the 50th Anniversary of the Sister City Partnership between Elizabeth and Kitami. In the photo, Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage (left) and Kitami Mayor Tsuji Naotaka (right), witnessed the signing of the MOA by President McMenamin and President Suzuki.



Four Union students presented their research at the Bridges to the Baccalaureate (B2B) program. They attended the 11th Garden State-Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, Northern New Jersey Bridges to the Baccalaureate STEM Research Conference held at Rutgers University-New Brunswick. Nineteen B2B classmates also participated in the workshops and transfer activities. Pictured from front to back: Edens Toussaint, Marlon Rodriguez, Jordan Darby, and Josephine Babatunde. Ms. Babatunde won an award for one of the best posters presented on her research done at UPENN during summer 2019.



Union students worked in the Innovation Center to design and create the buzzers that were used for a "Jeopardy" showdown held between the honors students and the honors faculty of the American Honors program and Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year students. The buzzers were built using 3D printers and circuits.

Pictured from left to right are Union students Kharlon Harry, Drew Colon, Casey Foster, and Nicholas Alabre. Drew is holding the button, and Casey is holding the Arduino Circuit Express with LEDs turned on.



## Enrollment by Gender

**Female**  
5,835 (62%)

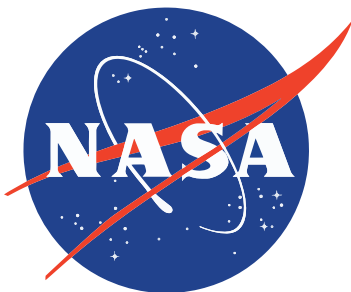
**Male**  
3,577 (38%)

## Student Enrollment Status

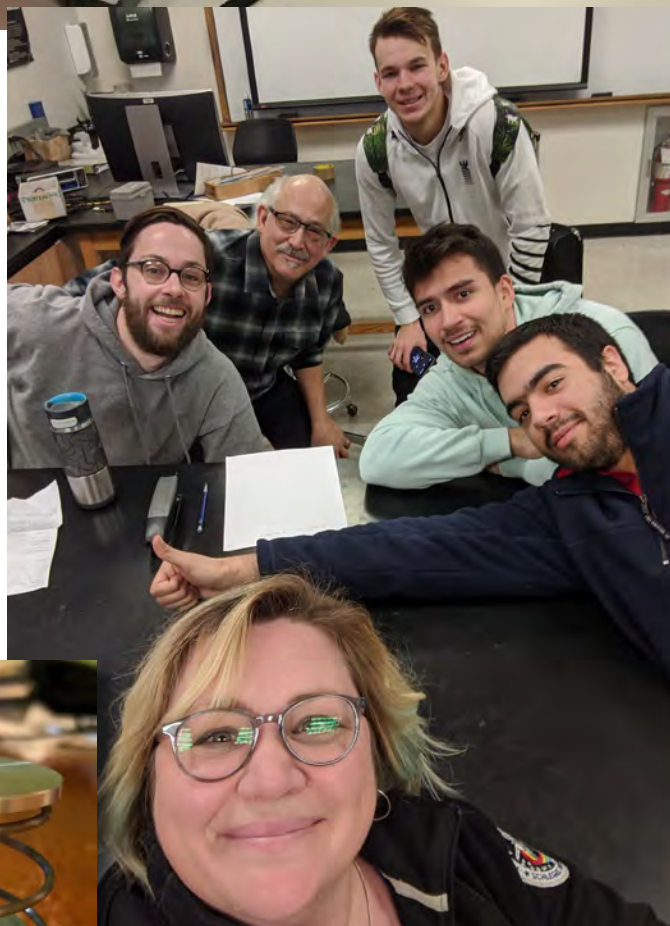
**Part Time**  
4,223 (44.9%)

**Full Time**  
5,189 (55.1%)

Union engineering students, Antonio Mena of Cranford, Bruce Aranda of Elizabeth, Dmytro Govdan of Summit, and Michael Kirkland of Westfield, won the opportunity to compete in NASA's Micro-G Next Challenge Artemis Program. Of the twenty teams in the Lunar Sample Coring Drill category, they were one of only two community college teams chosen to test their drill at NASA's Neutral Buoyancy Lab (NBL) at the Sonny Carter Training Facility near the Johnson Space Center in Houston.



Clockwise from top are Union student Dmytro Govdan, student Antonio Mena, student Bruce Aranda, Associate Professor Jennifer Ebert, student Michael Kirkland, and Associate Professor Nicholas Gilbert.



These students will work with a NASA Engineer on the Artemis program that plans to send astronauts and robots to the moon by 2024. Their goal is to create a device for use on the proposed moon mission to take lunar core samples.

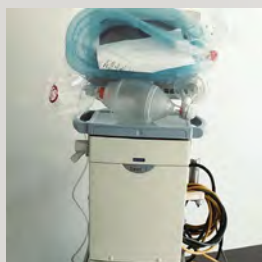




# Foresight sets up our students and community for success.



Who could have known when we built a state-of-the-art Respiratory Therapy Learning Lab how important it would be to our community in 2020? The College proudly welcomed our inaugural class of Respiratory Care students in fall 2019. We could not have known how important this Allied Health Science program and its equipment would become in 2020.



Union proudly sent critical equipment from the newly furnished lab to Trinitas Regional Medical Center and other local healthcare organizations for community support during the COVID-19 crisis.



*Union's first cohort of Respiratory Care students took a moment from their learning in the Respiratory Therapy Lab to pose for a photo with Respiratory Therapy Academic Specialist Gerald Schlette. This dedicated team of students are supportive of each other, passionate about their program, and have a 100% enrollment persistence rate.*





*In the center, preparing to cut the ribbon to mark the completion of renovations at the Plainfield Health Sciences Building, are Dean of Plainfield Campus and Allied Sciences Dr. Victoria Ukachukwu and President McMenamin. To their right are Union County College Board of Trustees member, Union County College Board of Governors Vice Chair, and Union County College Foundation Chair Lawrence D. Bashe, and Union County Freeholder Vice Chairman Angel G. Estrada.*

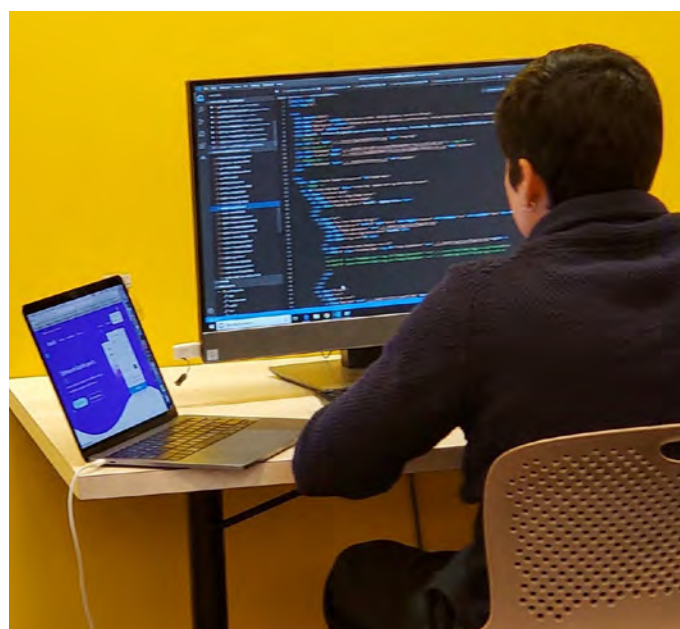
## Providing Top-Notch Facilities for a High-Quality Education

The College has worked to improve and modernize our physical footprint at all three campuses. This year we celebrated the completion of renovations at the Health Sciences Building on the Plainfield campus, home to multiple in-demand health training programs. State-of-the-art facilities are integral to providing our students with the high-quality education and training needed in today's job market. The expansion of the Health Sciences Building included new labs for the College's paramedic emergency health science, physical therapist assistant, and respiratory care programs.

## Everyone Can Learn to Code

*The demand to understand and be able to code has grown across the nation.*

*President McMenamin wants everyone at the College, students, along with faculty and staff, to have the opportunity to learn how to code. To meet this demand, a new Coding Center has opened in the MacKay Library at the Cranford campus. Let's learn to code!*





# Keeping an eye on the ball.

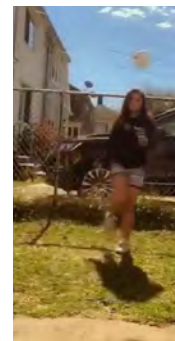
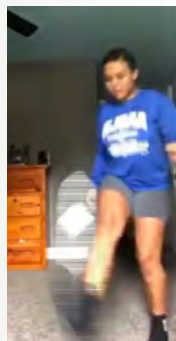
Athletics is an integral part of Owl Nation. Our student-athletes work hard throughout the year building their athletic stamina, form, and talent.



*After the win against Lackawanna College.*

Student-athletes must also maintain a strong grade point average to be eligible to play throughout their respective seasons. Since 2009, the number of teams at Union has grown from six to fifteen. This expansion has afforded more students the opportunity to pursue athletics and be more engaged during their time at Union.

For a third consecutive year, the women's basketball team was named the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region XIX Champions. In a game against Lackawanna College they won in overtime by a score of 78-76. Freshman Guard Saja Alston, of Springfield, was named the Tournament MVP. Lady Owls Coach Marbely Montas, Union '04, was named NJCAA Region XIX Coach of the Year. The Lady Owls were to travel to Illinois to participate in the NJCAA National Championship, but COVID-19 cut the season short for men's and women's basketball. To keep everyone safe, the NJCAA canceled all spring sport events. Unfortunately, Union's student-athletes on the baseball, golf, and track and field teams had their seasons canceled.







### Union's NJCAA Teams:

- Men's Baseball
- Men's Basketball
- Women's Basketball
- Women's Bowling
- Men's Cross Country
- Women's Cross Country
- eSports
- Golf
- Men's Lacrosse
- Men's Soccer
- Women's Soccer
- Men's Track and Field
- Women's Track and Field
- Women's Volleyball
- Men's Wrestling

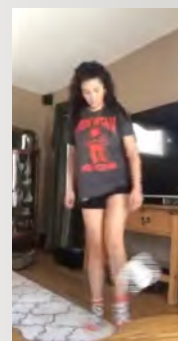
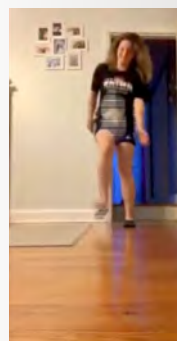
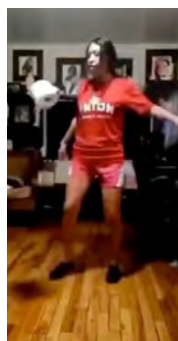
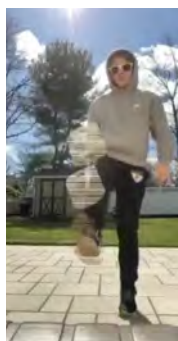
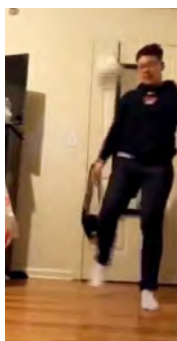
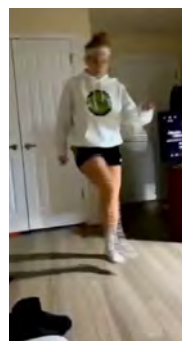


Congratulations to men's basketball players sophomore Mychael Tripp, of Irvington, (left) and freshman Terrence Durham, of Hillside (right), who were named to the third and second All-Region XIX teams respectively. Mychael Tripp, who is also on the lacrosse team, averaged 17.3 points per game for the season. His biggest asset for the men's team was his rebounding ability, in which he averaged 8.1 per game. Terrance Durham scored an average of 18 points per game and 4.8 assists per game. He too is on the lacrosse team and looks forward to playing next year.

### Women's Soccer Team Participates in Twitter's Toilet Paper Challenge – with more than 1.3K views!

Members of the women's soccer team kicked around a roll of toilet paper, each in their own home, due to our stay at home order. Our skilled Lady Owls did an excellence job creating the video, which was shared quickly among Twitter followers of the team.

**No toilet paper was destroyed in the filming of the video!**







Student-athletes of the men's and women's soccer teams had the exciting opportunity to meet with members of the Costa Rican Deportivo Saprissa professional soccer team when they visited the Elizabeth campus in the fall. The Costa Rican players spoke about their college experiences and shared how they balanced work and maintained their grades while being student-athletes.



Five student-athletes from the women's soccer team were named to a NJCAA Region XIX team for their outstanding performance on the field. Clockwise from top right: Goalie Destine Alacron, of Plainfield, First Team; #3 Victoria Fernandez, of Rahway, Second Team; #5 Kiana Veloso-Lima, of Rahway, Third Team; #13 Lindsay Wielgus, of Cranford, First Team; and #10 Sara English, of Clark, First Team.



Sophomore women's basketball player Brianna Mills was named the NJCAA Garden State Athletic Conference Division II Player of the Week in December. During one week, over the course of two games, she scored a total of 38 points, had 11 assists, six steals, and four rebounds. Congrats Brianna!





This year we launched a wrestling team! Union hasn't had a wrestling team since the mid-1970s. During this inaugural season, Union wrestlers Frank Silva, of Kenilworth, and Ikenna Unachukwu, of Roselle, competed in the NJCAA Wrestling National Tournament that was held in Iowa in early March. Frank qualified at 125 pounds and represented Region XIX as the District Runner Up. Ikenna qualified at 174 pounds and represented Region XIX as the District at Large.



Lindsay Wielgus, of Cranford, a midfielder for the women's soccer team, received the "Woman of the Year" Award at the annual National Girl and Women in Sports Day held at Seton Hall University. She received this honor for being named to the All-Region First Team having scored 6 goals and had 10 assists and led the team in assists during the season.



With the cancellation of the spring season by the NJCAA due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they launched a Region XIX Mascot/Logo Challenge on Twitter. We were the #10 seed and were ultimately named the Champions after 3 tough rounds! In round 1, we defeated #2 seeded Rowan College Roadrunners. In round 2, we defeated #14 Rowan College at Burlington College Barons, advancing us to the final round. For the title, we defeated #5 seeded Harcum College.



# These bright-eyed OWLs have the look of leadership

Being an athletic scholar takes full dedication.



Union student-athletes show off their certificates naming them to an NJCAA Region XIX All-Academic Team.



Union is committed to ensuring that all our athletes have the support, academic and beyond, that they need. As an athlete, students are required to complete hours in the Academic Learning Center, attend bootcamps, and Athletic/Academic Training Camp. Union fully values the individual student's future over today's game score.

Union's Annual Breakfast of Champions celebrated student-athletes named to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) All-Academic Teams for excellent academic performance during the fall 2019 semester. Our student-athletes are as committed to their academic performance as they are to their athletic achievements. We are proud of each of these bright, talented men and women.

## Fall 2019 Region XIX All-Academic Team (3.25-4.00 GPA)

### Baseball

Eriberto Reyes  
Patrick Connolly  
Rey Maisonet

### Esports

Michael Baez  
Matthew Mastropasqua

### Golf

Karon Rainey  
Anthony Tirella

### Men's Basketball

Noel Karamerous  
Marvellous Akingballa

### Men's Cross Country

Ethan Hart  
Jose Alvarez  
Wilfried Dake

### Women's Cross Country

Sophia Alora De Andrade

### Men's Track

Brandon Agwu

### Women's Track

Sofia Aguiar

### Men's Lacrosse

Dylan Bohm  
Mychael Tripp  
Joseph Stulec  
Anthony Lazu-Lugo

### Men's Soccer

Peterson Joseph  
Marvin Uzoebo  
Erick Gonzalez  
Malique Jarvis  
Lauron Marcellin  
Ronn Gatson  
Shaquille Thomas

### Volleyball

Samantha Mateo  
Gabriela Azevedo  
Gilbelis Morla  
Ana Salinas

### Women's Basketball

Saja Alston  
Samira Sargent  
Brianna Mills

### Women's Bowling

Geraldine Castano  
Michelle Posada

### Women's Soccer

Sarah English  
Susan Zambrano  
Lindsay Wielgus  
Cyanna Gonzales

### Wrestling

Jefferson Garcia  
Frank Silva  
Ikenna Unachukwu



## Fall 2019 Region XIX All-Academic Team (3.00-3.24 GPA)

### Baseball

Quincy Bryant  
Carlos Marte  
Ronald Wallraff  
Melfry Bastista Pichardo  
Alex Sanchez

### Men's Soccer

Joan Castro  
Kristyan Cordeiro  
Bryan Campos  
Ian Flores

### Esports

Manuel Velasco  
Jeremy Lambert

### Men's Basketball

Terrance Durham

### Men's Lacrosse

Joshua Scheiber

### Women's Bowling

Talure Watson

### Women's Basketball

Mya Grimes  
Tatiana Bruno

### Women's Soccer

Alexandra Carmona  
Michelle Taras  
Paige Junior

### Wrestling

Rebecca Pizoto  
Jose Torres

## 2019-2020 All-Region Teams First Team All-Region

### Men's Soccer

Dominique Denilson

### Women's Basketball

Brianna Mills

### Women's Soccer

Destine Alarcon  
Sarah English  
Lindsay Wielgus

## Second Team All-Region

### Women's Volleyball:

Murielle Mason

### Women's Basketball:

Samira Sargent

### Men's Soccer:

Jacques Fuentes

### Men's Basketball:

Terrance Durham

### Women's Soccer:

Victoria Fernandez

## Third Team All-Region

### Women's Soccer:

Kiana Velosa-Lima

### Men's Basketball:

Mychael Tripp

## 2019-2020 All-GSAC Teams Second Team All-Conference

### Women's Volleyball:

Toni Frino and Murielle Mason

## GSAC Accolades GSAC Coach of the Year:

### Men's Basketball

Coach Jerry Henderson

## Region XIX Accolades Region XIX/District B Champions:

Women's Basketball Team

## Region XIX/Coach of the Year:

### Women's Basketball Coach

Marbely Montas (Union '07)



The men's basketball team finished their regular season named the Garden State Athletic Conference Champions with a final record of 18-4. The Owls were led by Tyheem Burno who was averaging 30.7 points per game and 9.5 assists per game.

This achievement advanced the Owls to Region XIX tournament as the conference champions.



The student-athletes on our men's lacrosse team look forward to the annual equipment day distribution which was missed this year because of the cancellation of all spring sports due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This photo is from the day last year when the players get pumped up for the season in their official College gear.



# Student Government Association



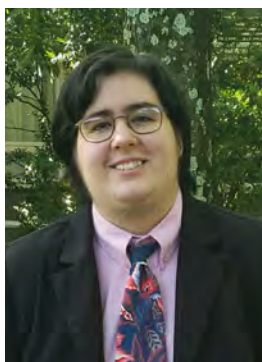
The Student Government Association (SGA) is a group of student leaders who are chosen by their peers to represent them, the student body. SGA officers oversee the activities and funding for the College's 30 clubs and organizations. They provide leadership and assistance to their peers when they are planning an event. The following events were possible thanks to the sponsorship and support of the SGA.



Beianka Tomlinson –  
President



Linda Lozanguiez –  
Treasurer



Vasiliki Vlastaras –  
Secretary



Kamilla Kocsis –  
Cranford Senator



Edens Toussaint –  
Elizabeth Senator

*Eighteen Union students in the Drama Club produced "ANON," about the plight of immigrants as refugees, which was performed at the College's Rahway location. More than 150 guests came out to support our budding actors and actresses. The play was made possible from a HEART Grant provided by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Pictured are Union students Christian Oquendo as Anon, Ty'zhe Boyd as Belen, and Edgar Lopez as Strygal.*

## ACADEMIC CLUBS:

American Sign Language  
Criminal Justice Club  
History Club  
Research Club

## DIVERSITY/ MULTI-CULTURAL CLUBS:

Black Student Union  
Gay Straight Alliance  
Model United Nations

## ATHLETIC CLUBS:

3D Fitness Club  
Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) Club

## STUDENT PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA:

The Sheaf Magazine  
The Foreign Student Voice  
UCCR Owl Radio

## SPECIAL INTEREST CLUBS:

Architecture Club  
Art Club  
Catholic Student Organization  
Chess Club  
Christian Fellowship  
Climate Action Club  
Coding Club  
Dance Club  
Drama Club  
Eternal Peak  
Fashion Club  
Film Club  
Graphic Design Club  
Humane Society  
Meraki Club  
Music Appreciation Club  
Shutter Speed Photography Club  
Weight Management Club  
Western Animation Club





## Opening their Eyes with Exciting Learning Opportunities

Twenty History Club members visited historical Philadelphia for a guided tour of Independence Hall, followed by a visit to the Liberty Bell and the Benjamin Franklin Museum. For some of our students it was their first time visiting Philly so they had an opportunity to indulge in their first "official" cheesesteak.



Forty-eight Union students were motivated for an early bird road trip during Spring Break to Baltimore's Inner Harbor. Students toured the four historical ships in the harbor, the USS Constellation, the USCGC Taney, the USS Tork, and the Chesapeake. After the tours, they each had time to get lunch and finish exploring the area. They all enjoyed the trip sponsored by the Office of College Life.



The History Club is always on the move! They visited the Museum of the Moving Image in Astoria, New York where they took a guided tour of the Jim Henson exhibit which explored the groundbreaking work he did for film and television. Our students had the chance to see 47 of his puppets and more than 300 objects from his career.



Twenty-five EOF students were excited to visit Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. For many students, this was their first time to these locations and they were excited and overwhelmed by the experience as the children or grandchildren of immigrants.



Members of the Fashion Club enjoyed a day at The Museum of FIT in New York City. They spent the day learning about different fashion designers and style trends.





# Their generous community service isn't an optical illusion.



Owls take care of each other and the world around them. These Union Owls enjoy positively impacting the lives of others!

Union students, along with members of the faculty and staff, are a giving group of individuals who generously take time out of their daily lives to help others. Throughout the academic year, our students find the time in between classes, jobs, and other obligations to give back.

*(top) Our Academic Learning Center tutors took time out of their busy schedules to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to distribute to homeless shelters throughout the County. Our students, while juggling many responsibilities, still take the time to give back to the local community*



On a crisp morning in October, Union students gathered in the City of Elizabeth to help clean up North Broad Street during the Student Government Association's "Lend a Hand" event. The City of Elizabeth gave the SGA the cleaning supplies needed to clean up the streets. The group of students who participated in the event felt good about cleaning up the community located just blocks from our Elizabeth Campus.



*In November, in the spirit of Thanksgiving, the Office of College Life planned a series of events for "Give Back." – an opportunity for students to volunteer in their surrounding communities. Union students swept the sidewalk and helped organize merchandise at Josephine's Place to help them prepare for their largest fundraiser of the year. Josephine's Place is a storefront, drop-in space dedicated to women's empowerment conveniently located in the heart Elizabeth.*



*Another "Give Back" event was held at the Community FoodBank of NJ in Hillside. Union students were inspired in the spirit of Thanksgiving to help sort hundreds of pounds of donated food and non-perishable items to be distributed to those in need - just in time for the holiday season. Community FoodBank of NJ is the state's largest anti-hunger and anti-poverty organization.*



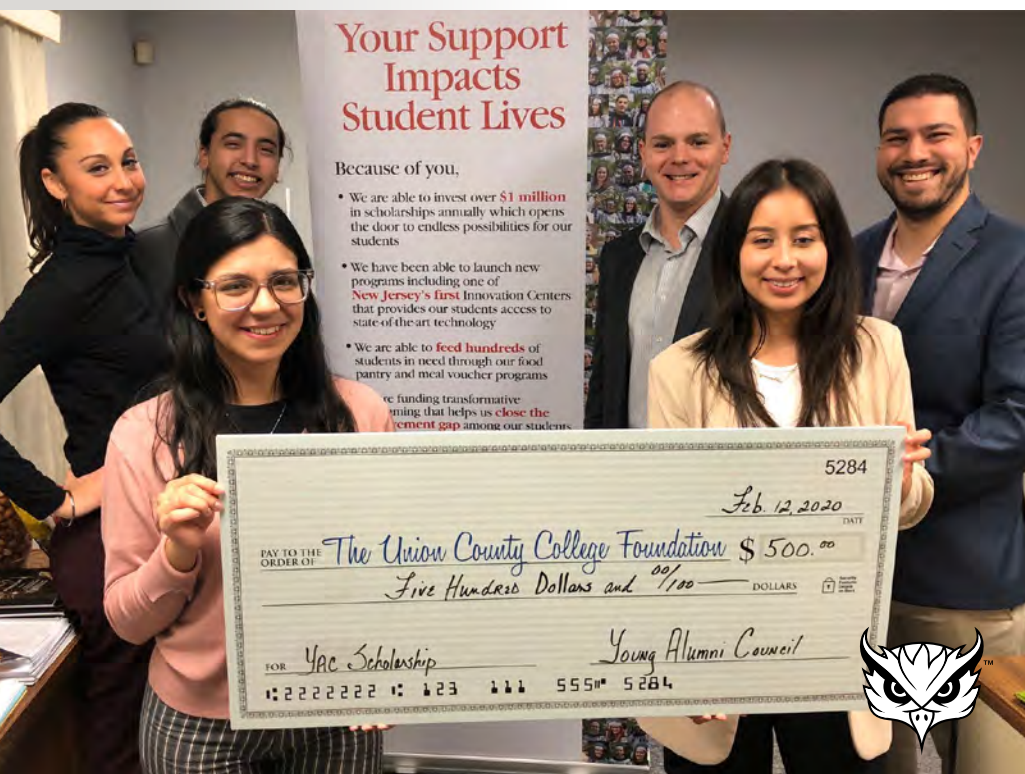
*Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) students in the Women's Leadership Group, Males to Men group, and Chi Alpha Epsilon honor society participated in a "Day of Giving" event. They gave back to the community through the public service movement #HashtagLunchbag. The EOF students made more than 20 lunches and care packages with gloves, hand warmers, and lip balms that were given to Family Promise Union County in Elizabeth - they provide housing to those in need. Union students wrote an inspirational message on the front of each lunch bag for the recipients.*







During December, UCC101 students and English adjunct instructor Mary Stanley were introduced to Blankets of Hope, a non-profit organization that distributes blankets to the homeless with inspirational messages. The students added their notes of hope to the blankets that were then distributed at a shelter in Plainfield.



In recent years, a group of young Union County College alumni have returned for various Foundation events to show their support of the institution that supported them on their path to graduation. This group has organized events to reconnect with fellow alumni while raising funds in support of the Foundation's mission. The young alumni group raised a substantial amount and established a scholarship for the current academic year. This dedicated group, Hazem Mohamed, Kathy Leon, Drin Llallosi, Zachery Trinidad, and Gissella Gamboa, were very excited to present their "Big Check" to the Union County College Foundation's Senior Development Manager Brittney Mack.

### Looking Beyond Union County

While our primary focus and goal is providing the residents of Union County with access to an affordable and excellent education, our impact goes beyond our County. Our high demand programs, including EMT, Nursing, and our newly added Respiratory Care program, attract students from all over New Jersey. Our students are #1 - both near and far!

County	Number of Students	% of Total
Union	7899	83.9%
Essex	516	5.5%
Middlesex	337	3.6%
Hudson	124	1.3%
Somerset	88	0.9%
Monmouth	39	0.4%
Morris	37	0.4%
Passaic	28	0.3%
Bergen	20	0.2%
Ocean	15	0.2%
Hunterdon	10	0.1%
Mercer	8	0.1%
Warren	6	0.1%
Burlington	4	0.0%
Sussex	4	0.0%
Gloucester	2	0.0%
Camden	1	0.0%
Atlantic	0	0.0%
Cape May	0	0.0%
Cumberland	0	0.0%
Salem	0	0.0%
Outside NJ	274	2.9%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>9412</b>	<b>100%</b>





## Addressing the Issue of Hate Speech & Division

Assemblyman Jon Bramnick moderated the panel discussion, "The Serious Issue of Hate Speech & Division in America" about the increase of hate speech and bias crime incidents. The esteemed panel included three NJ Attorney Generals: current NJ Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal as well as former NJ Attorneys General Jeffrey Chiesa who also served as a U.S. Senator, and Christopher S. Porrino; Executive Director, State & Local Government Program, Georgetown Law School, Meryl J. Chertoff; and former Political Director, NJ NAACP Walter Fields. Topics included hate being a learned behavior and the importance of teaching young children to choose love over hate, the proliferation of hate speech on the Internet, and protecting speech under the First Amendment.



(top) Pictured from left to right NJ Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal, former Political Director, NJ NAACP Walter Fields, and former NJ Attorney General Christopher S. Porrino.

(center) Congressman Tom Malinowski (at podium) hosted an information session on the importance of the 2020 Census at the Cranford campus. He was joined by Jeff T. Behler, New York Regional Director, U.S. Census Bureau (seated). They explained the importance of an accurate count of all citizens as being critical to ensuring proper representation and funding. The Congressman reiterated that the Census is safe and easy to complete.

(bottom) Union students enjoyed having the Cranford Police Department on campus to chat and to build camaraderie between students and police. Students asked the officers about careers in law enforcement during the well attended "Coffee with a Cop" event.





The new Freeholder Board appointments take effect after the County's Reorganization meeting in early January. At this year's first Union County Employers Legislative Committee (ELC) Breakfast, the guest speaker was Union County Freeholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella who presented his 2020 Union County Initiatives of Inclusion, Safety, and Outreach. Pictured are: Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski, Freeholder Vice Chairman Angel G. Estrada, Chair of ELC Joe Starkey, Union's Executive Director of Continuing Education and Workforce Development Dr. Lisa Hiscano, Freeholder Chairman Mirabella, Executive Director of College Relations and Secretary of the Boards Dr. Jaime Segal, and Foundation Executive Director Doug Rouse.



In support of City of Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, a delegation of Union employees attended his annual "State of the City" address hosted by the Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Bollwage reviewed his accomplishments in 2019 and some plans for 2020. Pictured are Union's VP of Student Development Dr. Demond T. Hargrove, Mayor Bollwage, and Foundation Executive Director Doug Rouse.



Assemblyman Jon Bramnick took time to mingle with Union students before announcing the renewal of the \$5,000 Bramnick Law Firm Scholarship for a second year. The scholarship will provide financial assistance to five Union students. In the photo, holding the check, are President McMenamain, Board of Trustees Chair Victor M. Richel, Union student and Bramnick Law Firm Scholarship recipient Kaelynn Murphy, and Assemblyman Bramnick. They are joined by Union students, faculty and staff who thanked Assemblyman Bramnick for his generosity.



When visiting Washington DC for the annual Association of Community College Trustees 2020 National Legislative Summit, Union County College Board of Trustees Student Representative Kaitlyn Veliz met with U.S. Senator Bob Menendez (pictured far right) to express her thanks for his constant support of and advocacy for community colleges. In the photo, Kaitlyn is standing in the front row to the left of Senator Menendez. While in D.C., Kaitlyn also had the opportunity to meet with Congressman Tom Malinowski.





## Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders

The Freeholders are critical partners in the success of the College. Union provides a high quality and affordable education to County residents thanks to their continued financial support.

Throughout the year, different County divisions bring workshops and presentations to the College for the benefit of our students and the community at large. We are grateful for their commitment to our students, our College, and our mission.



Alexander Mirabella, Chairman



Angel G. Estrada,  
Vice Chairman



Angela R. Garretson



Sergio Granados



Christopher Hudak



Bette Jane Kowalski



Kimberly Palmieri-Moued



Andrea Staten



Rebecca Williams



# Many have sight, these leaders share their vision.



### Our College Advocates

The College is indebted to our advocates in the County, in Trenton, and in Washington for their steadfast support of our community and their commitment to education.

#### United States Senate

Senator Cory Booker  
Senator Robert Menendez

#### United States House of Representatives

Representative Tom Malinowski (NJ-07)  
Representative Donald M. Payne, Jr. (NJ-10)  
Representative Albio Sires (NJ-08)  
Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ-12)

#### New Jersey Governor

Governor Phil Murphy

#### New Jersey Legislature, District 20

Senator Joseph P. Cryan  
Assemblyman Jamel C. Holley  
Assemblywoman Annette Quijano

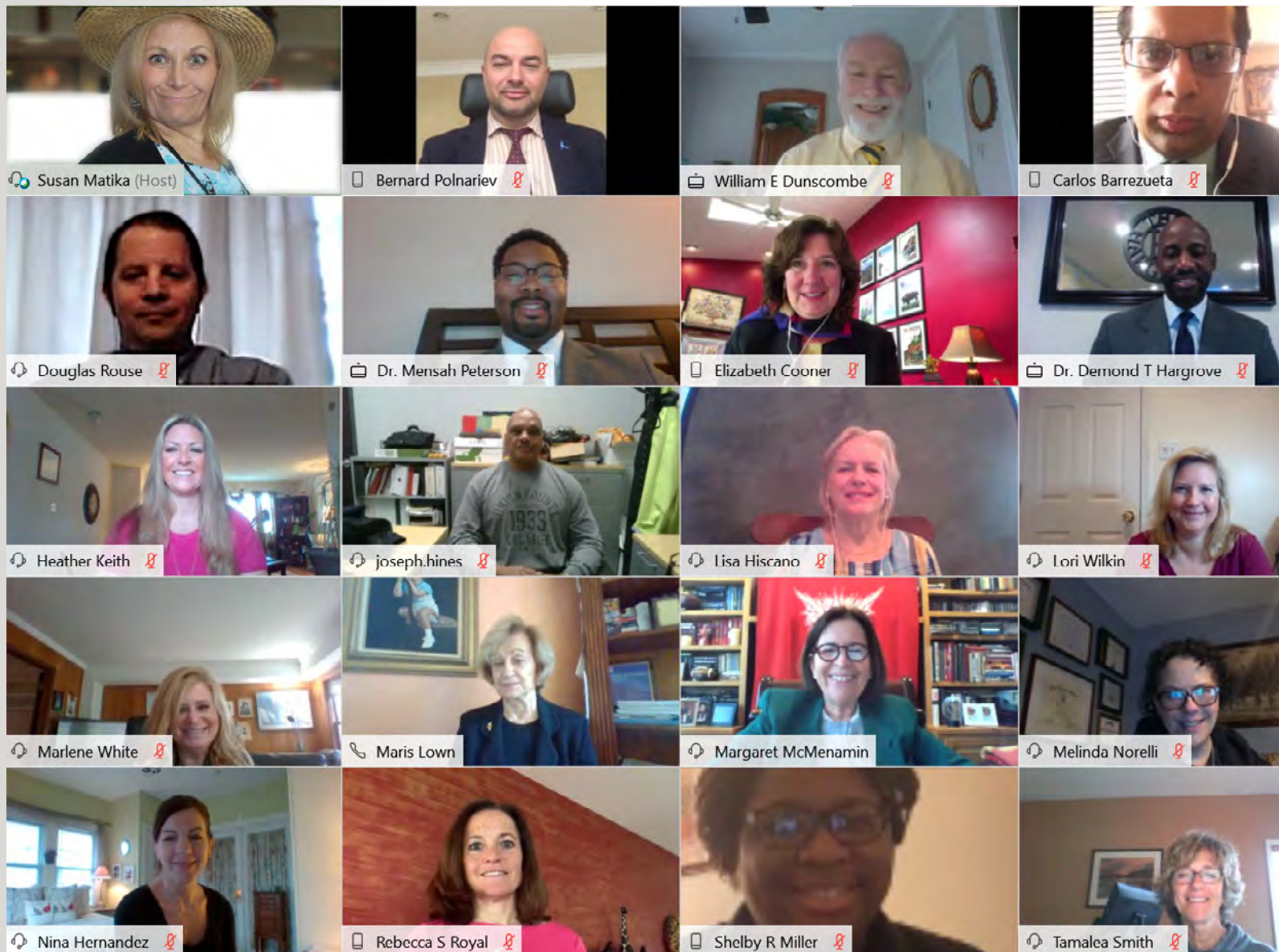
#### New Jersey Legislature, District 21

Senator Thomas H. Kean, Jr.  
Assemblyman Jon M. Bramnick  
Assemblywoman Nancy F. Muñoz

#### New Jersey Legislature, District 22

Senator Nicholas P. Scutari  
Assemblywoman Linda S. Carter  
Assemblyman James J. Kennedy





*The President's Leadership Council (PLC) meets monthly for the College's leaders to share the current initiatives in their respective departments. They discuss institutional priorities and the College' strategic issues.*

## Bet you saw this photo coming!

**COVID-19 meant coming up with creative meeting and problem solving strategies.** During this unprecedented time, COVID-19 has impacted every aspect of our community. The closing of our campuses presented unique challenges that forced our students, faculty, and staff to quickly adapt. Utilizing our online learning platform, Canvas, was already standard for students and instructors but remote meetings 100% of the time were not the norm. We rose to the occasion! With creative thinking and the latest technology, we continued to conduct the business of instructing and supporting our students while maintaining a fully operational organization.





## The President's Leadership Council

**Dr. Margaret M. McMenamin**

**Dr. Carlos E. Barrezueta**, Dean of Social Sciences/  
Business/History

**Dr. Marlene A. Berman-White**, Associate General Counsel

**Dayne Chance**, Director of Financial Aid

**Dr. Elizabeth A. Cooner**, Executive Director of  
Institutional Research

**William Dunscombe**, Interim Dean of STEM

**Dr. Demond T. Hargrove**, Vice President of Student  
Development

**Nina Hernandez**, Registrar

**Joseph Hines**, Director of Public Safety

**Dr. Lisa R. Hiscano**, Executive Director of Continuing  
Education & Workforce Development

**Robert E. Hogan**, Director of Facilities

**Heather M. Keith**, Director of Advising, Career, and  
Transfer Services

**Vincent J. Lotano**, Associate Vice President  
for Administration

**Dr. Maris Lown**, Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Susan M. Matika**, Executive Assistant to the President

**Shelby Miller**, Chair of the Governance and  
Leadership Council

**Dr. Melinda Norelli**, Interim Dean of Elizabeth Campus  
& Institute for Intensive English

**Dr. Mensah Peterson**, Dean of Students

**Dr. Bernard A. Polnariiev**, Assistant Vice President  
for Academic Affairs & Dean of Scotch  
Plains Campus

**Douglas E. Rouse**, Executive Director of the Union  
County College Foundation

**Rebecca S. Royal**, Dean of Student Success

**Dr. Melissa R. Sande**, Dean of Humanities

**Christopher Sapara-Grant**, Associate Director,  
Maintenance and Facilities

**Dr. Jaime M. Segal**, Executive Director of College  
Relations & Secretary of the Boards

**Tamalea A. Smith**, Dean of College Life

**Dr. Victoria C. Ukachukwu**, Dean of Plainfield Campus  
& Allied Sciences

**Lynne A. Welch**, Vice President of Financial  
Affairs & Treasurer

**Lori Wilkin**, Associate Vice President of Finance

**Dr. Eric D. Winch**, Chief Information Officer

## A New Doctor at Union

At Union, employees are encouraged to continue their education and pursue professional development.

In 2019-2020, one Union employee completed his journey towards his doctoral degree. Congratulations Dr. Mensah Peterson!

Union's Dean of Students Dr. Mensah Peterson earned his Ed.D. in Educational

Leadership from Rowan University. His dissertation topic was, "Organizational Factors that Contribute to the Persistence of Two-Year Transfer Athletes at Division I Four-Year Institutions: A Multiple Case Study." He also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and a Master of Arts degree in counseling from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

*Dr. Mensah Peterson*







(top) To kick off Union's annual Hispanic Heritage Month celebration, guest speakers Josephine Hernandez, board member of the Immigration & American Citizenship Organization (IACO), and Ambassador

Dr. Carlos Enrique Garcia of El Salvador, addressed the attendees about immigration and the U.S. naturalization process. Pictured are: Union's former Dean of Elizabeth Campus Dr. Lester Sandres Rápalo, Ambassador Carlos Garcia of El Salvador, Josephine Hernandez, President McMenamin, Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski, Freeholder Vice Chairman Angel G. Estrada, and Dean of Students Dr. Mensah Peterson.

(bottom) As part of the opening ceremony, Union County College student Isis Oriana Gutierrez sang an inspirational song to share a special part of her culture with audience members.

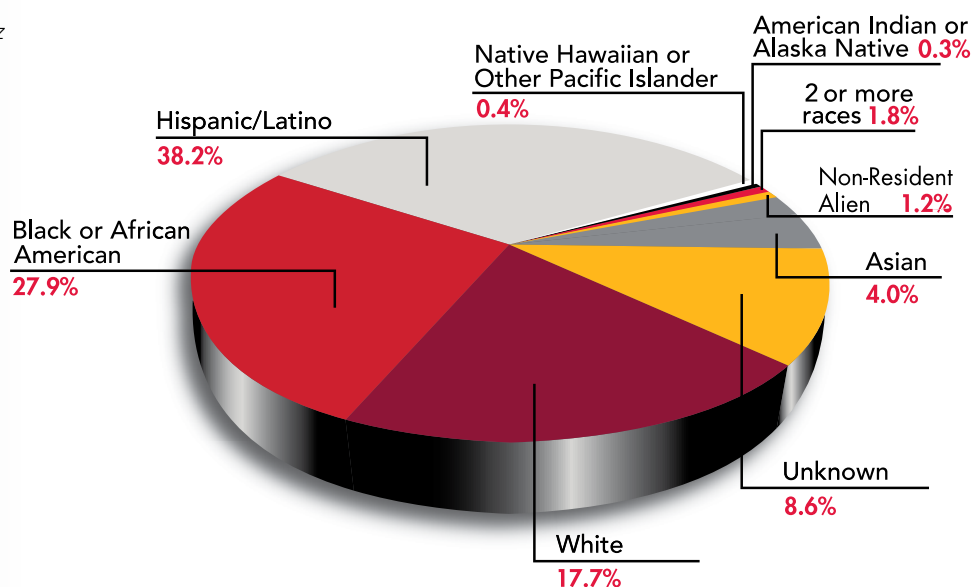


# Focus on our Diverse Communities

## Celebrating Our Hispanic and Latino Community Members

Union proudly celebrates its Hispanic student population during Hispanic Heritage Month and Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) Week. Union is designated as an HSI because our Hispanic student population exceeds 25%. The events held during the month honor and acknowledge the cultures of Union's Hispanic and Latino American students, faculty, and staff.

## Ethnic Breakdown of Students:





## Promoting Inclusion at Union



During October, events were held across all of the campuses in celebration of

LGBTQ+ History Month. An integral part of the celebrations is the annual Pride Flag raising at each campus. A "Sex and Religion" featured four panelists, all clergy from different denominations, who are fierce advocates of the LGBTQ+ Community and their allies.

(top) To better understand the reverends' views, Union students had the opportunity to ask them candid questions during the "Sex and Religion" workshop. At the table are Rev. Kathy Irwin, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Nutley; Rev. Susanna Cate, All Saints' Episcopal Church, Scotch Plains; Rev. Dr. LL DuBreull, United Church of Christ; and Rev. Carmine Pernini, Zion Lutheran Church, Rahway.

(center) The Elizabeth campus Pride Flag raising was a wonderful show of support for Union's LGBTQ+ community and its allies. Pictured (l-r) are Union student worker Jerwin Mertilus, Freeholder Sergio Granados, Assemblywoman Annette Quijano, former Dean of Elizabeth Campus Dr. Lester Sandres Rápalo, Associate Director of Advising, Career, and Transfer Services Duane Reid, VP of Student Development Dr. Demond T. Hargrove, and Communications Center Director Phyllis Mirabella.

(bottom) During LGBTQ+ History Month, Communication Center Director Phyllis Mirabella, represented the College on National Gay Men's HIV Awareness Day at an event hosted by PROCEED, Inc. The event included awareness programming, information and testing. Program participants included Rutgers NJMS Clinical Research Center, Crossroads Pharmacy, and Trinitas Regional Medical Center. Ms. Mirabella was joined by Frank Montenegro, HIV and PrEP Coordinator of PROCEED, Inc., who visits our campuses monthly to offer free HIV/AIDS testing.







The opening and closing of our kickoff event featured a performance by Zawadi African Dance & Drum, Inc. of Newark, New Jersey.

# Black History Month Focused on Leadership and Looking Ahead

For 2020, the theme for our month-long series of events was, "Empowering Our Future by Embracing Our Past." At this year's opening ceremony, the keynote address was given by the inspirational speaker Leon M. Smith, II, Senior Research Scientist for Bristol Myers Squibb, Entrepreneur, and Life Skills Facilitator with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Omicron Chi Chapter for Project Achievement workshops for Union black male students.



VP of Student Development Dr. Demond T. Hargrove, Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski, Executive Assistant to the VP for Student Development Zulema Cheek, HRIS Specialist Tina Spears, President McMenemy, guest speaker Leon M. Smith, II, Union Student Beianka Tomlinson, former VP for Administrative Services Dr. Athos Brewer, EOF Student Services Specialist Daniel Langford,



## Building Support and Sharing Knowledge Among the Women of Union

Union established a chapter of the American Association of Women in Community Colleges (AAWCC) led by Assistant Dean of STEM Dr. Nicole Cippoletti and Executive Director of Institutional Research Dr. Elizabeth Cooner.

More than 75 women from the faculty and staff joined the chapter to focus on leadership, professional development, networking, and performing community service.





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*Rafael J. Betancourt, Esq.,  
Vice Chair*



*Lawrence D. Bashe*



*George A. Castro, II*



*Brig. Gen.  
Edward J. Chrystal, Jr.*



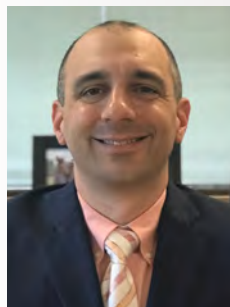
*Daniel J. Connolly, CPA*



*Nick Fixmer*



*Miguel A. Merino*



*Daryl Palmieri*



*Kamran Tasharofi, M.D.*



*Mary M. Zimmermann,  
Vice Chair (Union '01)*



*Kaitlyn Veliz (Union '19),  
Student Representative*



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



Their  
foresight  
and 20/20  
vision  
keep us  
focused.



The Union County College Board of Trustees and Board of Governors are comprised of community volunteers who give generously of their time to the College. Our dedicated Board members advocate for and support the College's mission of providing a high quality, affordable, and accessible education to all Union County residents.

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Daryl Palmieri

Kamran Tasharofi, M.D.

Mary M. Zimmermann (Union '01)

Kaitlyn Veliz (Union '19), Student Representative

Michael M. Horn, Esq., Legal Counsel



## Members of the Union County College Board of Governors



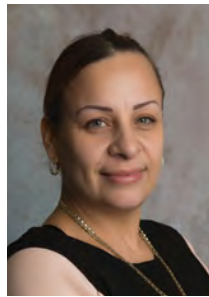
Mary M. Zimmermann,  
Chair (Union '01)



Lawrence D. Bashe,  
Vice Chair



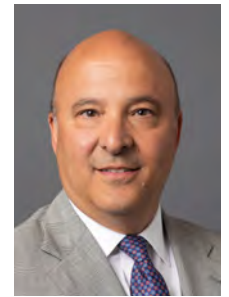
Dr. Margaret M.  
McMenamin, President



Melinda Ayala (Union '11)



Nancy J. Benz (Union '73)



Rafael J. Betancourt, Esq.



Tamecka M. Dixon



Ryan J. Greco (Union '97)



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



Donna M. Herran  
(Union '85)



Harvey R. Hirschfeld



Edward J. Hobbie, Esq.



Gary S. Horan



Jeffrey H. Katz, Esq.



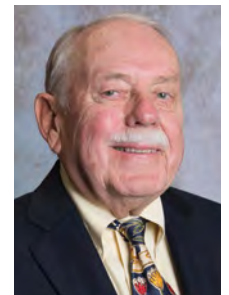
Richard J. Malcolm



J. Anthony Manger, Esq.



Carl J. Napor



Francis Raudelunas



Victor M. Richel



Gordon L. Vickers



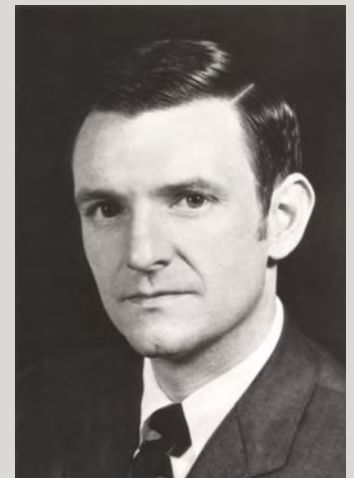
Allan L. Weisberg



Hugh C. Welsh

### IN MEMORY OF FORMER BOARD MEMBER FRANK H. BLATZ, JR.

Frank H. Blatz, Jr., Esq. passed away on Feb. 1, 2020. He joined the Board of Trustees of Union College in 1973. Upon the merger of Union College and UCTI and the formation of Union County College in 1982, Mr. Blatz was a charter member of both the College's newly created Board of Trustees and Board of Governors. He went on to serve as Chair of the College's Board of Trustees from 1989-1993. He was a member of the Union County College Boards until January 2008. His decades of service reflect his dedication to providing an affordable and quality education to the residents of Union County.



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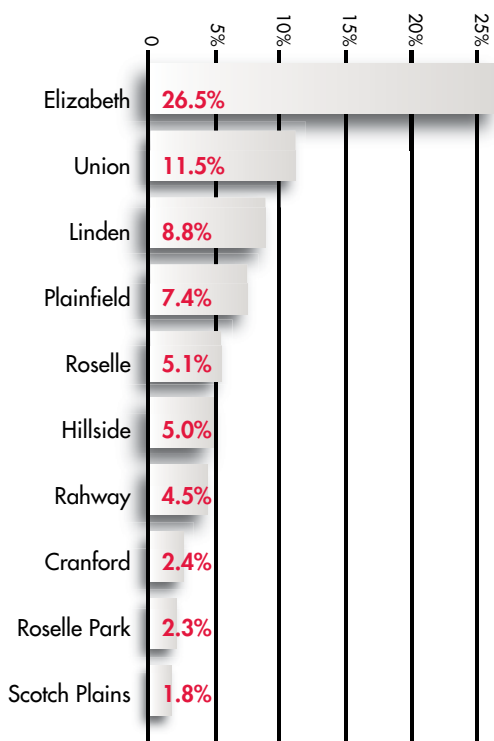
Victor M. Richel

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## 10 Union County Towns Account for 75.3% of Union County College Enrollment



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Kaitlyn Veliz – Student Representative

Victor M. Richel\*

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Victor M. Richel\*  
Rafael J. Betancourt, Esq.\*  
Mary M. Zimmermann\*

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







Union County College Board of Governors member and Union Alumnus Stephen F. Hehl, Esq. received the "Public Leadership Award" at the Community Access Unlimited Gala for his twenty-five years of service with assisting the agency in the acquisition and development of properties for housing and mixed-use occupancy. Mr. Hehl has unselfishly given many years of service to the College and is deeply committed to improving the lives of Union students. We are thankful for Mr. Hehl's dedication and support. Pictured with Mr. Hehl (center) are Union's Senior Professor of Psychology and Sociology Dr. Mandana Ahsani (left) and former Dean of Elizabeth Campus Dr. Lester Sandres Rápalo (right).



Board of Governors member and WNBA legend Tamecka M. Dixon was celebrated by her alma mater, Linden High School, in a ceremony where her jersey #33, was retired. Ms. Dixon played for Linden High School from 1990-1993 and hit 2000 points scored on March 11, 1993. After graduating from Linden, she went on to play for the University of Kansas and was chosen in the first round of the 1997 WNBA draft by the Los Angeles Sparks, retiring from the WNBA in 2009. In addition to volunteering her time to the College as a board member, Ms. Dixon visited with the women's basketball team. She provided them with tips as they entered the final stretch of their season.



Union County College Board of Trustees Vice Chair Mary M. Zimmermann, Student Trustee Kaitlyn Veliz, and Union's Executive Director of College Relations and Secretary of the Boards Dr. Jaime Segal, joined President McMenamin at the Association of Community College Trustees 2020 National Legislative Summit in Washington, DC. During their visit, they met with our elected officials or staff members for Congressmen Albio Sires, Tom Malinowski, Donald Payne, Jr., Tom Malinowski, Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, and Senators Bob Menendez and Cory Booker. Kaitlyn had an opportunity to tell our representatives how attending Union has positively impacted her life.





Union student Vasiliki "Vas" Vlastaras, of Union, joined President McMenamin for a luncheon event with Assemblyman Jamel C. Holley. Vas is a public administration major and plans to study political science when she transfers. She was very excited to meet both Assemblyman Holley and his guest Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Pictured are: Assemblyman Holley, Dr. McMenamin, Mr. Kennedy, Union's Director of Student Success Initiatives Tinny Cheung, Vas, and the Director of Academic Learning Center Jose Paez-Figueroa.



Union County College Board of Trustees Member Brigadier General Edward J. Chrystal, Jr. was recognized by the Greater Westfield Chapter of UNICO National with the Americanism Award at the 2020 UNICO District X Awards Dinner. UNICO Chapter President Richard Esposito presented General Chrystal with this award for his patriotic service to our country, in war and peace. Pictured are UNICO New Jersey District X Governor Anthony Bengivenga, UNICO Chapter President Richard Esposito, Brigadier General Chrystal, and UNICO Foundation Trustee Robert Tarte.



Union County College Board of Governors member Gary S. Horan (pictured), along with Union County Freeholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella, were honored at the Annual Groundworks Elizabeth Winter-Green Gala. Mr. Horan, FACHE President/CEO, Trinitas Health & Regional Medical Center received the 2020 Champion of Health Award. Freeholder Chairman Mirabella was honored with the 2020 Union County Spirit of Community Award. The College is thankful for their dedication to the Union community as well as their commitment to improving the lives of all Union County residents.





## Union County College Foundation Board Members

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Susan Hairston  
Shahrazad Heidary\*  
Harvey R. Hirschfeld\*  
Jeffrey H. Katz, Esq.  
Morris Lenczicki  
Richard Lessner\*  
Miguel Merino  
Derek Michalski  
Steven S. Mullen  
Sandra D. Rice  
John Richel  
Thomas J. Sharkey, Jr.  
Michael E. Smith  
Mary M. Zimmermann\*

### Advisory Members

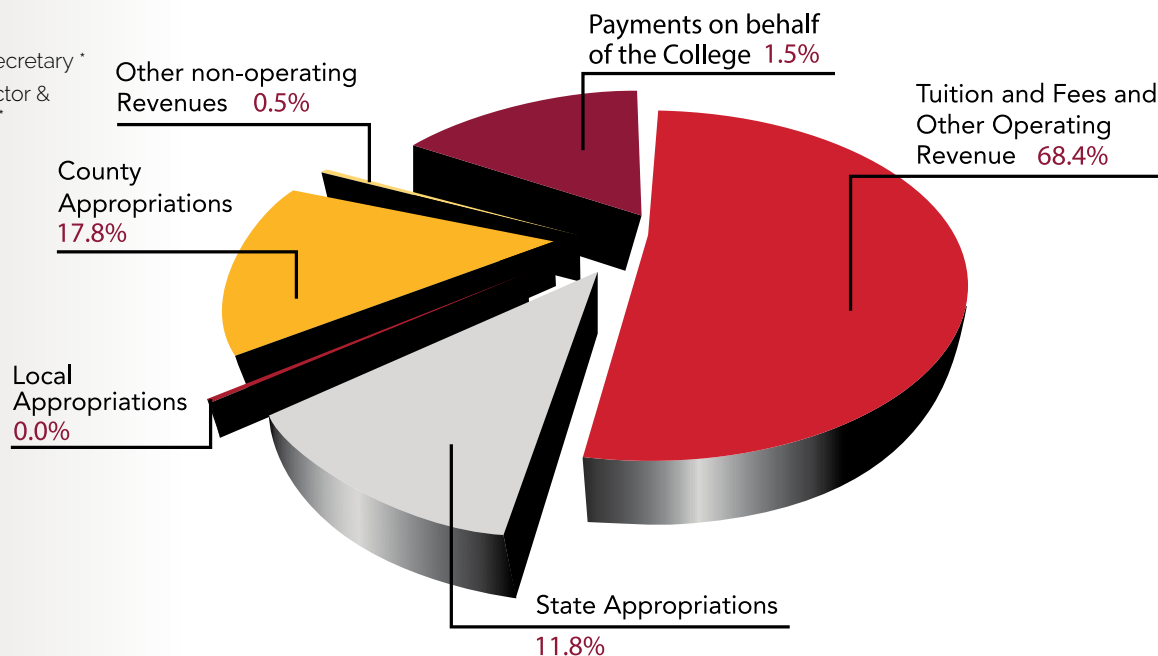
Norman Lichtman  
Margaret Neafsey  
Patrick J. Scanlon

### Emeriti

Phyllis Buchsbaum  
Barbara Bunting  
Williams E. Collins\*  
Carol A. Hertling\*  
John D. Jacobson\*  
Marylyn Luster Masia\*

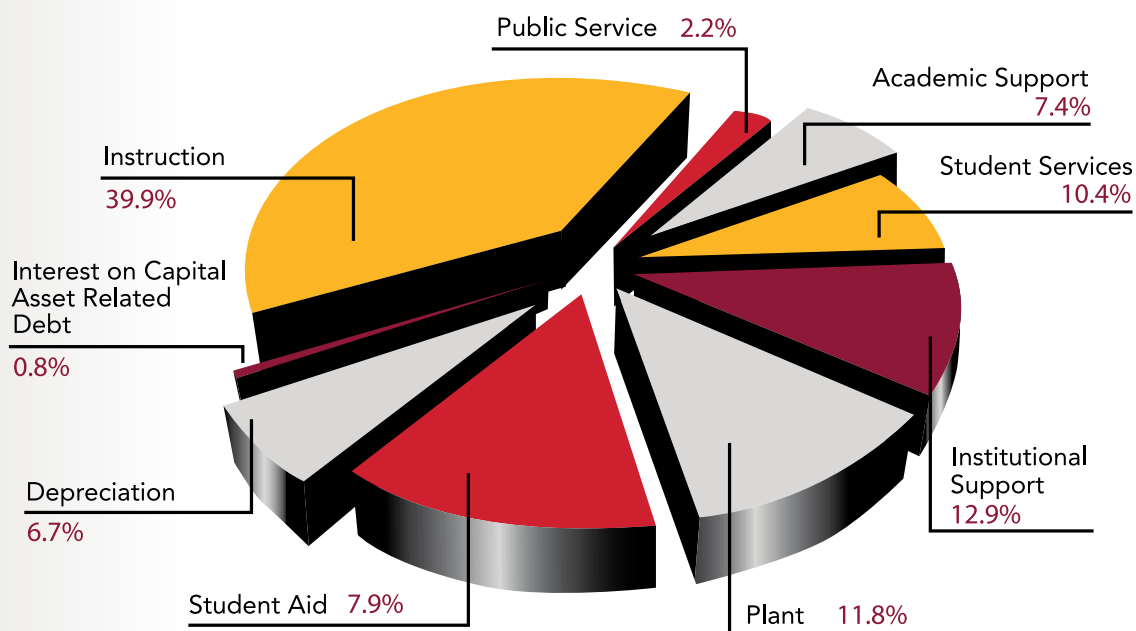
## Revenue by Source

For Year Ended June 30, 2019



## Operating Expenses

For Year Ended June 30, 2019



\*Scholarship Donor

# Summary and Outlook



**The College relies on three major revenue sources: State Appropriations, County Appropriations, and student tuition.**

During economic times when increases for State and County Aid are limited, greater pressure falls upon students to bear the additional cost in the form of increased tuition. The College remains focused with its efforts to contain costs to curtail and manage student revenue increases.

As such, in February 2020, the College's Board of Trustees approved a zero increase to tuition for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Looking forward begins with student enrollment which is dependent on an array of factors including population growth rate within the State, unemployment rate, and the number of high school graduates in Union County and the surrounding areas. During FY 2019 total student academic credit hours decreased 0.4% from FY 2018 and the Fall 2019 decreased 1.2% compared to the preceding Fall semester. It is expected that this trend will continue.

As mentioned above, management places a great emphasis on cost containment to mitigate rising costs and to minimize tuition increases which for FY 2020 was 2.75% for our full-time and part-time. To address the burden of the cost of textbooks, the College began a digital textbook initiative which saves our students hundreds of dollars annually.

While the academic environment has changed due to the recent pandemic, the goal of advancing student success has not changed. Instruction was moved online for the Spring semester and Summer terms. For Spring of 2020, the College provided loaner laptops for students to facilitate remote learning. Student outreach is strong and access to advising, counseling and tutoring is available to the students remotely. In addition, the College is looking to implement an electronic signature program to enable students complete their FAFSA.

The College continues to maintain most of its liquid assets in cash. The next significant influx of tuition, financial aid and grant monies is expected in August and September. Interest rates have declined due to current market conditions; however, the College will continue to take advantage of money market and certificate of deposit rates.

With ongoing cost considerations paramount and support from the State and County of Union, the College expects that it will be able to continue to provide an affordable, high quality education to its students. The College will assure that the quality and extent of services provided to students will meet their needs and expectations. This is evident by the 2019 graduation rate of 33.0% as compared to 29.7% for 2018.

## UNION COUNTY COLLEGE NET ASSETS (\$000)

	2019	2018	2017	2019 vs. 2018 Increase (Decrease)	%Change
Current Assets	46,428	38,760	40,445	7,668	19.8%
Non Current Assets	112,760	111,966	108,117	794	0.7%
Deferred Outflows of Resources	6,290	9,167	12,828	(2,877)	-31.4%
<b>Total Assets &amp; Deferred Outflow of Resources</b>	<b>165,478</b>	<b>159,893</b>	<b>148,562</b>	<b>8,462</b>	<b>3.5%</b>
Current Liabilities	13,416	12,042	14,136	1,374	11.4%
Non-Current Liabilities	40,013	46,053	55,516	(6,040)	-13.1%
Deferred Inflows of Resources	10,252	7,453	1,024	2,799	37.6%
Total Liabilities and Deferred Inflows of Resources	63,681	65,548	70,676	(1,867)	-2.8%
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>101,797</b>	<b>94,345</b>	<b>77,886</b>	<b>10,329</b>	<b>7.9%</b>

## UNION COUNTY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

	2019	2018	2017	2019 vs. 2018 Increase (Decrease)	%Change
Investments	18,064,410	18,260,681	16,914,796	(196,271)	-1.1%
Other Assets	841,535	891,122	1,148,668	(49,587)	-5.6%
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>18,905,945</b>	<b>19,151,803</b>	<b>18,063,464</b>	<b>(245,858)</b>	<b>-1.3%</b>
Current Liabilities	92,371	547,055	104,152	(454,684)	-83.1%
Total Liabilities	92,371	547,055	104,152	(454,684)	-83.1%
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>18,813,574</b>	<b>18,604,748</b>	<b>17,959,312</b>	<b>208,826</b>	<b>1.1%</b>



# UNION COUNTY COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION  
YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2019 AND 2018

	<b>2019</b>		<b>2018</b>	
	<b>College</b>	<b>Component Unit UCC Foundation</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Component Unit UCC Foundation</b>
				<small>AS RESTATED</small>
				<b>REVENUES</b>
				<b>Operating Revenues</b>
Student Tuition and Fees	\$ 43,361,032	\$ –	\$ 41,277,609	\$ –
Less Scholarship Allowances	(15,887,314)	–	(14,572,811)	–
<b>Net Student Tuition and Fees</b>	<b>27,473,718</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>26,704,798</b>	<b>–</b>
Federal Grants	22,342,049	–	22,727,897	–
State Grants	6,818,151	–	4,949,884	–
Local Grants	152,182	–	51,406	–
Gifts and Contributions	259,655	940,077	357,488	883,492
Other	1,015,322	–	1,298,569	–
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>58,061,077</b>	<b>940,077</b>	<b>56,090,042</b>	<b>883,492</b>
				<b>EXPENSES</b>
				<b>Operating Expenses</b>
				<b>Educational and General</b>
Instructional	35,368,310	–	37,850,060	–
Public Service	1,986,041	–	2,158,838	–
Academic Support	6,587,664	–	7,647,240	–
Student Services	9,228,679	–	9,112,316	–
Institutional Support	11,466,989	–	11,409,016	–
Plant Operations and Maintenance	10,414,841	–	10,385,112	–
Student Aid	6,909,646	1,184,249	7,859,196	1,213,422
Depreciation	5,913,171	3,956	5,187,176	3,956
Other Expenses	–	537,134	–	557,511
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>87,875,341</b>	<b>1,725,339</b>	<b>91,608,954</b>	<b>1,774,889</b>
<b>OPERATING LOSS</b>	<b>(29,814,264)</b>	<b>(785,262)</b>	<b>(35,518,912)</b>	<b>(891,397)</b>
				<b>NON-OPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)</b>
State Appropriations	9,994,995	–	9,964,291	–
County Appropriations	15,127,395	–	14,830,811	–
Investment Income (Loss)	424,249	672,924	229,739	1,369,029
Interest on Capital Asset Related Debt	(705,207)	–	(666,229)	–
Additions to Permanent Endowments	–	321,164	–	167,804
On-Behalf Payments:				
Alternate Benefit Plan	1,287,426	–	1,309,193	–
Other Postemployment Benefits	4,444,569	–	6,339,731	–
<b>Net Nonoperating Revenues</b>	<b>30,573,427</b>	<b>994,088</b>	<b>32,007,536</b>	<b>1,536,833</b>
INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE OTHER REVENUES	759,163	208,826	(3,511,376)	645,436
CAPITAL GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	6,692,732	–	7,143,247	–
<b>INCREASE IN NET POSITION</b>	<b>7,451,895</b>	<b>208,826</b>	<b>3,631,871</b>	<b>645,436</b>
<b>Net Position – Beginning of Year</b>	<b>94,345,381</b>	<b>18,604,748</b>	<b>90,713,510</b>	<b>17,959,312</b>
<b>NET POSITION – END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$101,797,276</b>	<b>\$18,813,574</b>	<b>\$94,345,381</b>	<b>\$18,604,748</b>

As restated. Refer to the 2018 Report of Audit for the complete Financial Statements and Notes thereto.



Looking  
back  
honors the  
past as we  
build for  
the future.



**The College's educational programs have been improving the lives of Union County residents for more than 85 years, transforming our community, one student at a time.**



*From Union's earliest days as an emergency junior college through the post war '50s, complicated '70s, and up to the current day, Union County College is proud of our 20/20 Vision, always thinking of the future of our students, our college, and our entire community.*

## Union's History

- 1933:** Union County Junior College opens on October 16 as an "emergency junior college" with evening only 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 Union. The '39/'40 girls' 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.

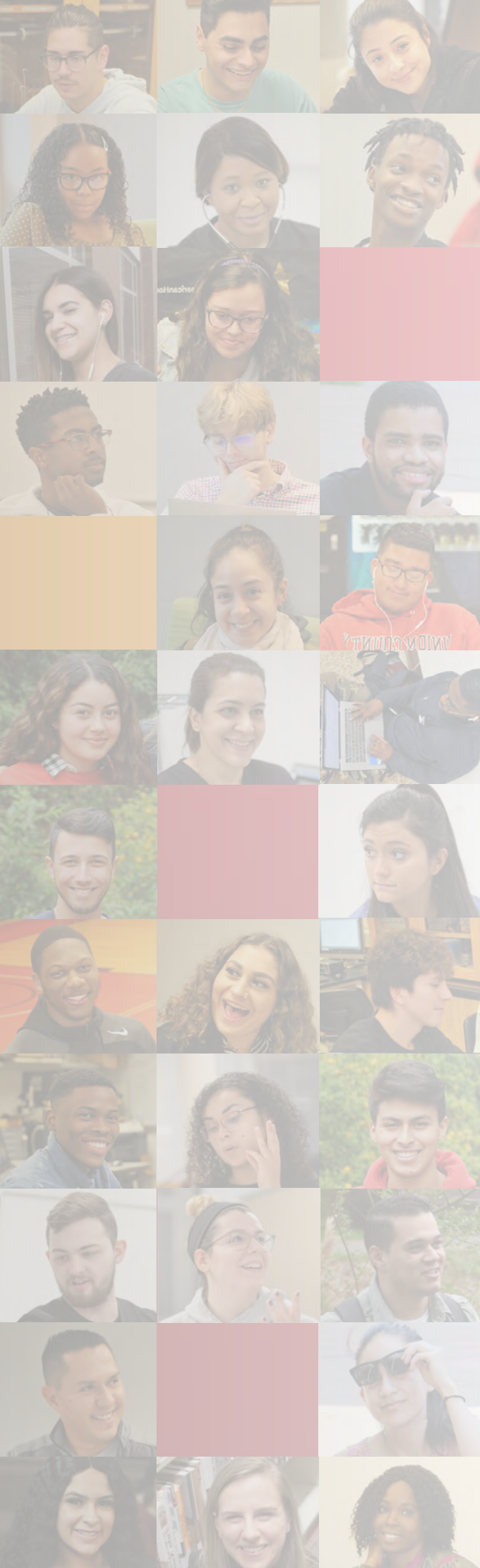


- 1944:** Dr. Kenneth Campbell MacKay, a dean of the day school, succeeds Dr. Cole as president.
- 1948:** For less than \$56,000, the Board of Trustees authorizes the purchase of 56 acres from the Dreyer Family in Cranford. A decade later it becomes the home of the Cranford campus.
- 1949:** Elizabeth General Hospital begins its affiliation with the College in the training of nurses. Later, Muhlenberg Hospital also 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.
- 1958:** A Development Fund Campaign is initiated on Oct. 1 to raise \$1 million to build a Cranford campus.
- 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.
- 1977:** The women's basketball team is named the Region XIX Champions.
- 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.
- 1989:** The College acquires the Elizabethtown Gas Company building on West Jersey Street in Elizabeth.
- 1990:** Dr. Thomas H. Brown becomes president.
- 1991:** The Campus Center, 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.
- 1994:** Renovations in the lower level of the MacKay Library in Cranford are completed in June and a state-of-the-art Visual Arts and Communications Center opens. The College partners with Rutgers (then the University of Medicine and Dentistry) and opens a Health Technologies Building in Scotch Plains to offer joint health professions programs.
- 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.
- 2006:** The third floor of the MacKay Library in Cranford is completed and adds additional instructional space.
- 2007:** The Union County College Foundation finishes a capital campaign that raises \$8 million for capital construction and student scholarships.
- 2007:** The Middle States Commission on Higher Education conducts a peer review and the College's accreditation is again reconfirmed.
- 2009:** Thanks to the support of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the College opened the \$48 million Elizabeth I. Kellogg Building at 40 West Jersey Street in Elizabeth on Sept. 29.
- 2009:** The men's soccer team is the first team to win the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division III National Championship.
- 2010:** Dr. Margaret M. McMenamin, the College's eighth, and first woman president, begins her tenure on July 1.
- 2011:** The paralegal studies program is granted approval by the American Bar Association.
- 2011:** U.S. Senator Robert Menendez makes his inaugural visit to the Cranford campus to help students celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.
- 2012:** The Middle States Commission on Higher Education approves the College's Periodic Review Report by reaffirming the College's accreditation and commending the institution for the quality of the report and the process of the review.
- 2013:** The men's lacrosse and the men's and women's track teams are established.
- 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.
- 2013:** The College acquires the Thul Auto Parts Building across the street from the Plainfield campus.
- 2014:** The first Winter Commencement Ceremony is held on Jan. 14 for August and December graduates.
- 2014:** A groundbreaking ceremony is held for the new Student Services Building at the Cranford campus thanks to the support of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Union County Improvement Authority.
- 2015:** The College expands into the community by acquiring space in Rahway, next to the Union County Performing Arts Center. This location hosts continuing education and humanities courses.
- 2015:** Two new biology laboratories are added to the seventh floor of the Lessner Building at the Elizabeth Campus.
- 2015:** The new Health Sciences Building opens at the Plainfield campus on Oct. 20.
- 2016:** The Helen E. Chaney Student Services Center opens in the new two-story Student Development Building at the Cranford campus.
- 2016:** The Annex at the Plainfield campus reopens after a fire caused damage in 2012 and includes a new information commons, cafeteria, bookstore, and faculty offices.
- 2017:** In March, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education Site Visit Team comes to the College for the official accreditation review and the College receives notification that the accreditation is reaffirmed in June.
- 2017:** A Veterans Center is dedicated in the Helen E. Chaney Student Services Center at the Cranford campus.
- 2018:** Major renovation of the lower level and first floor of the Lessner Building at the Elizabeth campus is completed.
- 2018:** The Plainfield campus celebrates its 25th Anniversary.
- 2018:** The College celebrates its 85th Anniversary on Oct. 16.
- 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:** Union is the first community college in New Jersey to receive a \$1.5 Million Grant from the National Science Foundation under the new Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program.
- 2018:** The women's soccer team qualifies for NJCAA Nationals and ends the season ranked third in the nation.
- 2018:** The College publishes its first Undergraduate Research Journal and builds a Student Research Lab to provide dedicated space for ongoing research projects.
- 2019:** Union establishes respiratory care program at the Plainfield campus.
- 2019:** The women's basketball team qualifies for NJCAA nationals and ends the season ranked second in the nation.
- 2019:** Union launches men's wrestling and women's bowling programs.
- 2019:** Union County College is named a Top 150 U.S. Community College by The Aspen Institute and is eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.
- 2019:** Major renovations to the Health Sciences Building in Plainfield are completed.
- 2020:** The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) hits the U.S. and forces the College, and all educational institutions in New Jersey, to provide instruction online and staff works remotely. The NJCAA cancels the spring sports season and tournament championships for winter sports, preventing the women's basketball team from competing in nationals. The College's May Commencement ceremony is postponed. Under the leadership of Governor Murphy, the residents of New Jersey are told to stay at home to flatten the curve of infections.









## UNION COUNTY COLLEGE

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[www.ucc.edu](http://www.ucc.edu)

2020 Annual Report of Union County College