

# A Transformative Decade

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF UNION COUNTY COLLEGE







# Caring, courage, community



Victor M. Richel

The College's Annual Report typically begins with a letter from Dr. McMenamin. However, this year's Report serves dual purposes. While it's a look back at the 2020-2021 academic year, a most unusual year given the impact of COVID-19, it also commemorates a noteworthy anniversary: Dr. McMenamin's first ten years at Union! In providing the welcome to this year's Annual Report, I want to take this opportunity to highlight some of the contributions Dr. McMenamin has made and the growth the College has experienced over her decade of leadership.

Dr. McMenamin is a visionary leader with student success at the forefront of all that she does. She is passionate about the transformative impact of education, not just on the student but on the entire community. She understands that when a student graduates with a college degree, it causes a ripple effect. Our students are largely first generation and low income so the impact of a college degree can mean employment in higher paying jobs or pursuit of further educational opportunities which benefit themselves, their families, and the regional economy.

Dr. McMenamin does not seek accolades or the limelight for herself. Yet it finds her, deservedly so. I was exceedingly proud when this past year the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) named her as the Marie Y. Martin Chief Executive Officer of 2020. Talk about recognition on a national stage! To be named the national CEO of the year by an esteemed organization such as ACCT, during a time when quality leadership is more essential than ever, is a reflection of Dr. McMenamin's credentials and reputation.

Perhaps most notably, it was also under Dr. McMenamin's leadership that the College was recognized by the Aspen Institute as a Top 150 Community College for the very first time! This acknowledgment was the culmination of years

of focus on improving student outcomes by our faculty and staff. Along with this accolade, I would be remiss if I did not note the incredible increase to our College's graduation rate during Dr. McMenamin's tenure: it has more than quintupled!

I hope you enjoy the look back at some of the highlights from the past year but also at this retrospective of Dr. McMenamin's first ten years at the College. Since

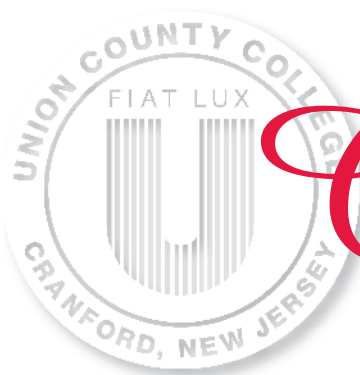
assuming the presidency, she has shifted the College's focus and culture to that of a student-centered, outcomes driven institution. We are fortunate to have a strong leader at the helm, particularly during these difficult times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Victor M. Richel".

Victor M. Richel

Chair, Union County College Board of Trustees



## Caring *Courage* Community

# Dr. Margaret M. McMenamin is Invested as Union County College's 8th President



On a sunny day in April 2011, Union County College celebrated the Presidential Investiture of Dr. Margaret M. McMenamin. Serving as the College's eighth president, and the first female president in the College's history, Dr. McMenamin was joined at the historic celebration by members of her family, delegates from other colleges and universities, elected officials and community leaders, the College's Boards of Trustees and Governors as well as faculty, staff, and students.



The theme of Dr. McMenamin's Investiture was "Caring, Courage, Community." In her remarks centering around this theme, she noted that an institution will only be successful if all members of the College's faculty and staff care about one another, their careers, and their mission – to serve Union County College students.

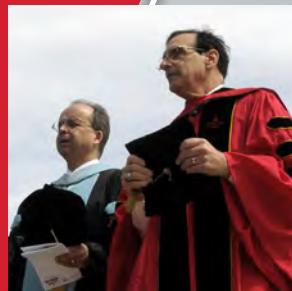
She opined that members of our College community must have the courage to innovate. The role of the College is to help prepare students to enter the local and global community as educated, conscientious citizens. Dr. McMenamin emphasized that the College should be a place of support, personal growth, and encouragement where students and employees excel together.

With this Investiture, so began a decade of innovation, change, and growth at Union County College under the new leadership of a passionate and dynamic president, Dr. Margaret M. McMenamin.





Dr. McMenemy is  
congratulated by  
Assemblywoman  
Nancy Munoz and  
Senator Tom Kean



Stephen McMenemy, brother of  
Dr. McMenemy, as the President prepares  
to take the oath of office





# The Changes a new President Brings

With the arrival of Dr. McMenamin, changes were felt on campus almost immediately. She adopted an open door policy. Students frequently visited the Executive Office area.



As the College's new president, Dr. McMenamin made a point of regularly walking the campus. Through her walks, Dr. McMenamin met and interacted with students, got to know employees, and became familiar with our facilities – every nook and cranny! Her presence on campus and as a part of campus quickly became the norm.

Dr. McMenamin also arrived with bigger goals for the College as a whole. She had her eye on revising and streamlining academic programs, prioritizing student success, and pursuing innovations to provide students with state of the art facilities and technology.

With the tenacity that we have come to expect from Dr. McMenamin, she hit the ground running and began to execute her vision.



Lights, camera, action!  
Dr. McMenamin made a cameo in a student film project *Looking for Amanda Kill* as "Betty Jennings."







**Batter up! Dr. McMenamin throwing out the first pitch for the Somerset Patriots at the game that celebrated all attendees who were from Union County College.**



In the pursuit of engaging students so they feel welcomed and valued on campus, the College celebrates the first week of classes in the fall and spring. This has included food trucks, music, giveaways, and the hallways bustling with faculty and staff helping students to find their classes and acclimate to campus.







Dr. McMenemy hosts a TV show, *Inside the College*, featuring guests from our campus and community. The show shares news about the College and also informs our College constituency with important information from around the county and state. Guests have included the Chair of the Union County Board of County Commissioners, faculty, student leaders and athletes, and more!



The first All College Day was held on the Cranford campus in 2012. The day was an opportunity for new students, potential students and alumni to come to the campus and learn about Union County College.



The Halloween 5K Race/Walk in Nomahegan Park was a fun way to celebrate Halloween and raise money for uniforms and equipment.





# Students are #1

Dr. McMenamin's arrival at Union also brought about a renewed focus on students and student success. She emphasized that every employee is here to help students reach their goals. To drive this concept home, a new campaign was introduced: Students Are #1.

With an accompanying logo, the mantra that at Union, our students are the priority, permeated everything: events, initiatives, advertising, and more.



Grab a slice with your favorite topping and enjoy lunch and conversation during "Pizza with the President."

Dr. McMenamin began hosting "Pizza with the President" meetings each semester with students. By having conversations with students over pizza, she heard the concerns, suggestions, and positive feedback directly from the source. She always seeks to improve the College for our students, so who better to engage in the conversation? These pizza lunches also reemphasized that

Dr. McMenamin is here for the students and that she appreciates their honesty and candor in sharing their experiences at the College.



Beyond "Pizza with the President," there were a number of other changes, in

particular on the Cranford campus: student art shows, the filming of a movie by students, in which Dr. McMenamin had a cameo, and more!



Many of our students are talented artists. Each spring semester they have an opportunity to participate in an art exhibition and have their work on display to share with the College community.





The College spans active campuses in Cranford, Elizabeth, Plainfield, and Scotch Plains, and a fifth location in Rahway. An important mission has been to provide equitable services across all campus locations. No matter the campus you attend or visit, you will have access to the same excellent service, resources, events, and opportunities.



Each fall and spring semester, the Academic Learning Center hosts a "Slam your Exam" event, a day-long tutoring session where instructors meet with students, helping them prepare for exams. This event contributes greatly to our increase in student success.



Did you sign the banner and pledge to graduate? During C4 week, the statewide initiative, "Community College Completion Challenge," is led by the College's award-winning Iota Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. Union students pledge to "commit to graduate" and complete their associate degree as they sign the banner.



Support from your deans — with a cherry on top! Students are sure to pick up a sundae at the Deans' Scoop during the first week of classes!



# Student Support is Key to Student Success



**With Dr. McMennamin's emphasis on student success, the initiatives and services that directly and positively impact student performance are prioritized.**

The Academic Learning Center (ALC) is one of the jewels at Union County College. The ALC provides free peer-to-peer tutoring on all campuses. This affords high-performing students the opportunity to serve as student workers in a position that highlights their skills while helping their fellow students. It also provides students who may need extra help with a place to receive that assistance. Students may be embarrassed or intimidated to ask for extra help in their classes. That's



where the ALC comes in. For 35 years, the ALC has been helping students learn critical concepts and improve their grades!

Another key ingredient to helping students succeed is ensuring they know who to go to for help: their deans! At the beginning of the semester, the deans have been known to put on their aprons and line up for the Deans' Scoop! Held at all campuses, the deans celebrate the beginning of the new semester by making ice cream sundaes, with all the fixings, for students! This interactive and yummy event connects students to their deans so they recognize them on campus and know who to go to if they need help.

Finally, involving students in the College community helps keep them engaged and connected. The Student Government Association (SGA) serves as the student voice on campus.

They lead initiatives, participate in service projects, offer events, and support the student clubs. These active student-leaders serve as role models and representatives to the thousands of students on campus.

Academic support and student engagement are critical components to helping our students reach their goals.



# Making the House a Home



The brand new Student Development Building includes a modern one-stop model location for admissions, registration, advising, financial aid, student accounts, testing, disability, and veteran services.

In 2016, the Student Development Building was completed on the Cranford campus. This \$14 million building was generously funded by the Union County Board of County Commissioners through the Union County Improvement Authority. It houses the Helen E. Chaney Student Services Center, and the second floor includes classrooms as well as faculty and departmental offices. Mrs. Helen Chaney, a 1948 alumna of the College, pledged a generous \$500,000 gift for student scholarships. The College expressed its gratitude by naming the Student Services Center in her honor.

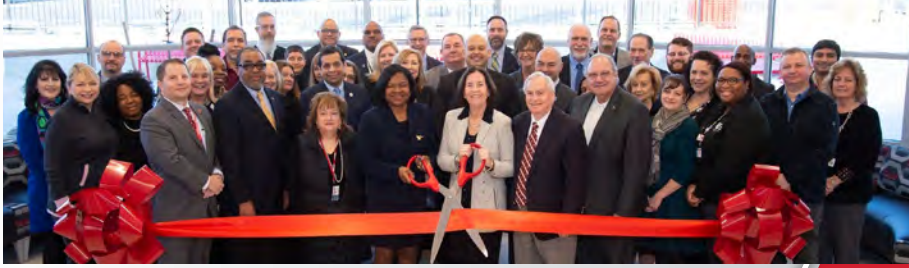


On the Elizabeth campus, extensive renovations to the lower and first level of the Sidney Lessner Building were completed in 2018. The reconfiguration includes a one-stop model Student Services Center on the first level, with the same services as noted above for the

Chaney Center. It also includes an Information Commons with an open-space concept for students with access to computers. The lower level houses the College's Center for Economic and Workforce Development (CEWD) and includes new testing classrooms, and training rooms, as well as new workstations for employees to better serve students.







Renovations to the Health Science Building on the Plainfield campus were completed in 2019. This building is home to multiple in-demand health training programs. Renovations included new labs for the College's paramedic emergency health science, physical therapist assistant, and respiratory care programs. It also includes a new conference room, additional classrooms and computer labs as well as a spacious atrium in the front of the building.



Four years after a fire destroyed the original Annex at the Plainfield campus, a reopening ceremony celebrated the new information commons, cafeteria, bookstore, and faculty offices.



Career Center created in Elizabeth for students and the community.



In 2015, Union expanded our presence in the county into the City of Rahway, in a building next to the Union County Performing Arts Center. Continuing education and humanities classes are held throughout the fall and spring semesters at this location.



# Her Commitment to Technology Keeps us Moving Forward

**Remaining on the cutting-edge with technology requires almost continual upgrades, from updating outdated and end of life computers and devices to modernizing hardware and software.**

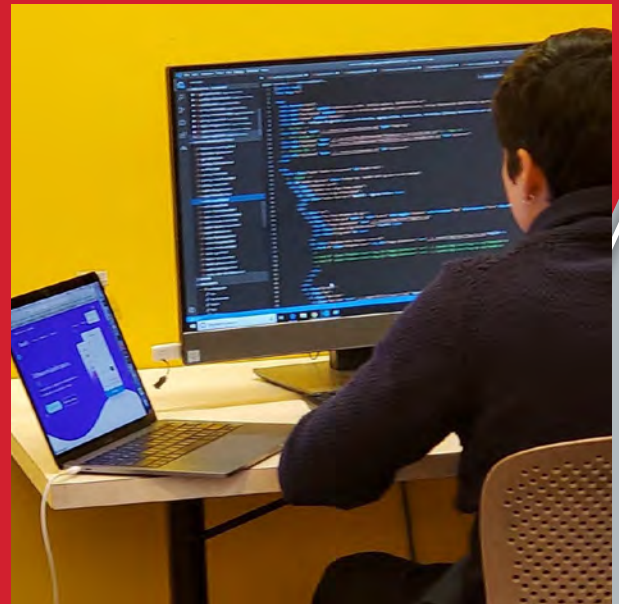
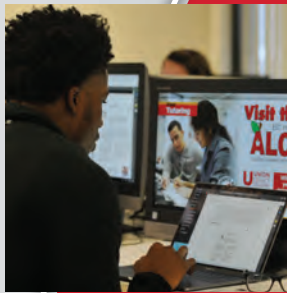


One of the first changes that occurred after Dr. McMenemy's arrival was converting our traditional libraries into twenty-first century Information Commons. On the first level of the MacKay Library on the Cranford campus, space was cleared for computers. Now the entire first level houses pods with computers, the ALC, Innovation Center, and Coding Stations.



- During COVID-19 and the reliance on remote learning, Cisco room kits were installed in 30 classrooms across our campuses. This allows faculty and students to interact with video and audio in real time. The instructor teaches in a classroom with a high definition camera that follows them and zooms in on both the instructor and whiteboard. Students attend class remotely and interact with the instructor as if they were physically in the classroom.
- To allow students to access specialized software that was only available on campus, a Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) environment was implemented. This gave students the ability to access a powerful remote desktop from any device, at any location, to complete their required coursework.
- Significant upgrades have been made to the College's networking infrastructure. Redundancy for core services were built out on other campuses for disaster recovery and business continuity, eliminating all single points of failure.

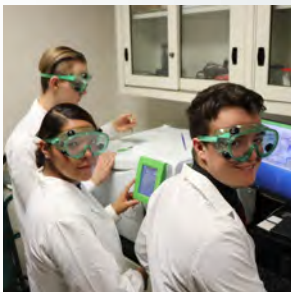




In fall 2019, the College launched Cengage Unlimited as the new subscription service to provide affordable textbooks and course materials to Union students. Not only are the course materials more affordable, but they are more accessible via computer or mobile device. The low annual cost is included as part of the course fees and allows students to save hundreds of dollars annually.



Everyone Can Learn to Code – The demand to understand and be able to code has grown nationally. Everyone at the College has the opportunity to learn to code at the new Coding Center in the MacKay Library at the Cranford campus.



In 2019, the College opened the Innovation Center in the MacKay Library at the Cranford campus.

Giving students hands on access to cutting edge technology makes them more competitive for internships, jobs, and seats at elite four-year colleges. Students learn to use voice technologies, smart wearables, virtual and augmented reality equipment such as Oculus Rift, makerspace creation tools such as 3D printers, and security and navigation tools such as drones. Students can also learn the ever-popular Python, Blender for 3-D modeling, and how to code.







In the aftermath of Hurricane Irene in 2011, teams of Union students ventured out daily to help our neighbors recover from the storm. They carried heavy objects and bags of trash to the street for pickup and worked tirelessly to support as many people as they could.

Union students have participated in park cleanups from Nomahegan Park to Warinanco Park, and even helped with an Invasive Species Removal Project to restore the ecological balance of the Watchung Reservation. And, we are so proud of our Elizabeth campus students who regularly win the City's golden broom award for keeping their city sparkling.



Union students helped beautify downtown Cranford as more than a dozen students volunteered their time to paint the benches downtown.



When COVID-19 hit, there was a shortage of PPE and medical equipment. The College answered the call and collected all available PPE and devices to donate or loan to Trinitas Regional Medical Center. AND, when the call went out for volunteers at the County Testing site, (top right) Associate Professor of Practical Nursing Michele Cislo immediately heeded the call to action, as did (center) nursing student Winta Habta, and student (bottom) Andre Cardoso.



Practical Nursing students at the Plainfield Housing Authority Coat Drive to benefit city residents.



# We do not shy away from an opportunity to support our community!

## Union County College and our students care about our local community.

Instilling a sense of civic responsibility is an important part of who we are at Union County College. Dr. McMenamain frequently refers to community colleges as “democracy’s colleges,” embracing the concept of civic engagement and duty to your community.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Irene in 2011 and Superstorm Sandy in 2012, while addressing our own operational needs, we also provided support to our neighbors. After Hurricane Irene, Union students assisted residents of Cranford with removing items ruined by flooding. The College also opened its doors to offer our neighbors hot showers, hot coffee, rest areas, and charging stations for those without electricity.

In 2017, the Basking Ridge White Oak tree, believed to be one of the oldest trees in North America at an estimated 600 years old, had died. Enter Union County College to the rescue! Back in 2001, Senior Professor of Biology Dr. Thomas Ombrello collected acorns from the Basking Ridge White Oak tree and a resulting sapling was planted in the College’s Historic Tree Grove. The 16 year old tree was moved to the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church to grow near where its predecessor once lived.



**Congressman Tom Malinowski at the podium in the Roy Smith Theater at the Cranford campus addressing the public on the importance of Census 2020.**

was recognized as an invaluable member of the 2020 Census Community Partnership and Engagement Program.

The College was happy to support the 2020 U.S. Census. Among other events and manners of support, Congressman Tom Malinowski hosted a Census information session at the Cranford campus emphasizing that it is safe, easy, and important. For our efforts, the College



**The Basking Ridge White Oak Tree.**



**From the Historic Tree Grove, the young white oak was removed from the college grounds to be relocated to the churchyard of the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church.**



**The young white oak in its new location by the church.**

# We ARE Union County's College

## As Union County College, we are very active within the Union County community.

Thanks to the generous support of the Union County Board of County Commissioners, the College is able to offer residents of the County an affordable and high-quality education right in their own backyard. With campuses in Cranford, Elizabeth, Plainfield, and Scotch Plains, and a location in Rahway, the College's roots are spread throughout the County.

Through the College's Center for Economic and Workforce Development, located in Elizabeth and Plainfield, support is provided for unemployed, underemployed, and homeless individuals. Funded primarily through support from the Union County Board of County Commissioners via the Union County Workforce Development Board and the State Department of Labor and Workforce Development, CEWD manages programs such as Work First New Jersey, ABLE Plus, GED Fast Track, and GED Testing. CEWD also supports the County's "One Stop" Centers for jobless residents. CEWD classes can provide training in basic skills, citizenship preparation, English as a Second Language, high-school equivalency, and occupational skills.



In 2015, Dr. McMenemy served as Grand Marshal of the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade. While the College participates in the parade annually, having Dr. McMenemy as the Grand Marshal increased the excitement that year.

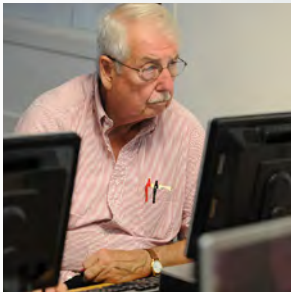


More than 100 students, faculty, and staff join in the fun marching with our College community each year. If you attend the parade, you'll definitely see a number of our green St. Patrick's hoodies from prior years in the crowd!

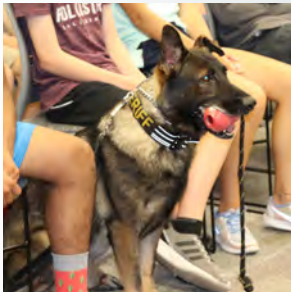




Thanks to the support provided by the Union County Board of County Commissioners, the College provides specialty programs for the County's youth and senior populations. We host the Teen Arts Festival and teen summer programs at the College, and seniors enjoy the "Senior Scholars" courses.



Metal Fabrication/CNC Machinist Training Program provides training for high-tech jobs in advanced manufacturing.



Students in the Union County College for Teens criminal justice program with Officer Ashley Yasinski and her dog, Officer K-9 Sam. Officer Yasinski explained the rigorous training they participate in and showed off their skills with a bomb detection demonstration.



The Workforce Innovation Business Center provides job-readiness training for Union County residents. Above are the graduates from the first class to finish the 40 hour soft-skills training course at the WIBC.



# The Union County Board of County Commissioners



**There is no stronger partner to the College than the Union County Board of County Commissioners.**

Thanks to their generous and steadfast support, the College is able to keep tuition low for our students. Beyond the operational financial support they provide, they also help fund capital projects in order to modernize and update our aging facilities. Low tuition plus modern labs and facilities ensures our students have access to an excellent, cutting-edge education!

With the support of the County Commissioners, the Commissioner Scholars Program provides scholarship support for high-performing students who demonstrate financial need. Additionally, the Senior Scholars Program offers free courses to residents over age 60. Each summer, the County Commissioners also support the College for Teens program for teen students in the County, which serves as an academic summer program in areas such as criminal justice or graphic design. Beyond the financial support, the County Commissioners also support the College by attending events. They are familiar, and always welcome, faces on our campuses!



Alexander Mirabella,  
Chairman



Rebecca L. Williams,  
Vice Chair



Angela R. Garretson



Sergio Granados



Christopher Hudak



Bette Jane Kowalski



Lourdes M. Leon



Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded



Andrea Staten



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

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

#### **United States Senate**

Senator Cory Booker  
Senator Robert Menendez

#### **United States House of Representatives**

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

#### **New Jersey Governor**

Governor Philip D. 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. Munoz

#### **New Jersey Legislature, District 22**

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



U.S. Senator Robert Menendez, President McMenemy, and NJ Senator Nicholas P. Scutari smile for the camera in front of Union County College's crowd of St. Patrick's Day parade goers.



Governor Murphy announced New Jersey's Community College Opportunity Grant to a packed audience in our Student Development Center.



Assemblyman Jon Bramnick announced the renewal of the \$5,000 Bramnick Law Firm Scholarship providing financial assistance to Union students.







At Union we welcome government representatives at all levels to the College. These visits serve as a great learning opportunity for our students. They also help to strengthen the relationship between the College and our elected officials.



Dr. McMenamin had the opportunity to introduce President Clinton when he came to campus to campaign for Hillary Clinton when she was a presidential candidate.



New Jersey's College Affordability Commission held a public hearing at the College's Cranford campus. The event included testimony from New Jersey students attending various colleges and universities about the importance of college affordability.



Former NJ Senator Raymond Lesniak held an Information Session before more than 100 students to support Senate Bill 2479 in the Kellogg Building at the Elizabeth campus. If passed, the bill would allow certain students, including undocumented immigrants who meet certain criteria, to qualify for in-state tuition at public institutions of higher education and for state financial aid.





# Active Partners on a Larger Stage

## While Union may be a community college in New Jersey, we have a national presence.

From recognition of our federal legislators to prestigious national awards, under Dr. McMenamin's leadership, Union County College is making an impact beyond the borders of Union County!

It's not every day a former president visits Union County College! In 2016, President Bill Clinton visited the Cranford campus of Union County College in support of Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign. Dr. McMenamin introduced President Clinton to the hundreds of attendees.

On his first visit to Union County College, U.S. Senator Robert Menendez attended the College's annual kick off celebration for Hispanic Heritage Month. He was welcomed by students lining the halls waving flags representing Hispanic nations and addressed a packed crowd in the College's theater.



In 2020, Dr. McMenamin received the national CEO of the year award from the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT). This award is given to a CEO who demonstrates a commitment to excellence in advancing the community college movement. This award is testament to the cumulative impact Dr. McMenamin has made at Union over the past decade: significant increases to the College's

graduation rates, modernization of Student Services, and revising academic programs.



Union Makes National News in Cover Story of The Washington Post

In March, Union was featured in an article in *The Washington Post* entitled, "Community colleges at a crossroads: Enrollment is plummeting, but political clout is growing." Washington Post reporter Nick Anderson visited all three campuses over two days to learn more about how our most vulnerable students were persisting during the pandemic and how the College was helping these students. In serving as a representative of challenges facing community colleges nationwide, Dr. McMenamin acknowledged that although community college enrollment has declined, community colleges also serve the more economically disadvantaged student. In New Jersey, community colleges are supported through Governor Murphy's recently passed Community College Opportunity Grant and the White House administration has also announced a national free community college program.

The sky is the limit for Union! We will continue to make our mark on Union County and beyond.



# Partners in Education

## At Union, our education partnerships are a critical component of our students' success.

We are always seeking to strengthen relationships with our fellow two-year colleges as well as the four-year schools where our students transfer. These relationships and agreements help ensure that our students have ample opportunities and are able to transfer as seamlessly as possible. A few of these agreements entered into over the past few years:



- Most recently, in 2021, Union and Kean University, the College's top transfer school, renewed their Joint Admissions Agreement further strengthening the ease of transfer for students from Union to Kean.
- In 2019, the College signed an agreement with the New Jersey CannaBusiness Association (NJCBA), that established joint education programs, training, and research opportunities for the College's medicinal plant chemistry program.

- In 2018, the College entered into an agreement with the County's John H. Stamler Police Academy, wherein graduates of the Academy may now receive up to 17 credits towards an associate degree.
- Also in 2018, Union signed an agreement with Warren County Community College for Union students to use the drone technology lab at Warren's campuses for hands-on training. With flight restrictions in Union County, this is a great opportunity for our students!
- In 2016, Union partnered with Berkeley College for an accelerated program for Practical Nursing graduates to earn their Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in less than three years. Practical Nurses with active licenses earn 30 credits for their work in the field toward their BSN degree.

Union County College is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S.

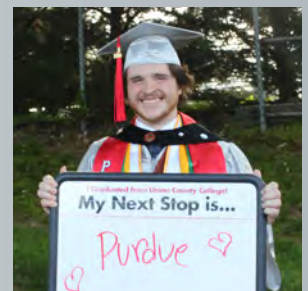
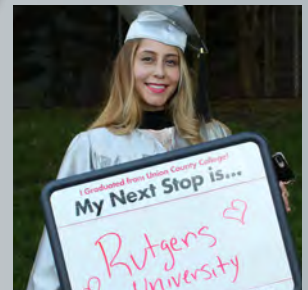


Department of Education performing peer evaluations of over 525 institutions of higher education. In 2019, Dr. McMenamin was elected Chair of Middle States. As Chair, Dr. McMenamin led the 29 member Commission and oversaw accreditation and pre-accreditation activities for higher education institutions in New Jersey, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and other territories.





Of all the transfer opportunities in NJ, Kean University is the first choice for many Union students. In 2017, Dr. McMenamin and former Kean University President Dr. Dawood Farahi signed a joint admission agreement for a seamless transfer to Kean for Union graduates.



With the establishment of a medicinal plant chemistry major at Union, Dr. McMenamin and NJ CannaBusiness Association President Scott Rudder signed an agreement to establish joint education programs, training, and research opportunities for Union students.







Through the nonprofit organization Physical Therapy Beyond Boundaries, Senior Professor Dr. Beth Rothman brought physical therapist assistant and ESL students to the Dominican Republic for a service trip over winter break. The students shared their knowledge, treated patients in the local hospital, and learned to treat patients with minimal resources.



Union is always working to create new opportunities for our students, such as study abroad. Two Union students, Silvia Jaramillo-Regalado and Patience Opaola, joined Dr. McMenamin and our former Dean of Elizabeth Campus, Dr. Lester Sandres Rápalo, on a week-long trip to Costa Rica. They visited the Universidad de Iberoamerica (UNIBE) Costa Rica where Dr. McMenamin signed an agreement with the President of UNIBE Dr. Emma Grace Hernandez to establish an exchange program for students and faculty, to collaborate on research projects, and to exchange academic materials.



The Consul General of Mexico Diego Gomez Pickering visited the Elizabeth campus to discuss shared services offered at Union for members of the Mexican community.



Dr. Rápalo met with the Cónsul and Vice Cónsul of Ecuador at the Ecuadorian Consulate in Newark and discussed hosting cultural and educational events for Union students, and to let Ecuadorians in Union County know that we offer ESL and degree programs.



# Local Impact on the Global Stage

## The College has an incredibly diverse student, staff, and faculty population.

Meaghan Murphy, of Scotch Plains, graduated Union in 2018. She was the first recipient of the John Cabot University scholarship and graduated from John Cabot in May 2020 with a bachelor's degree in English Literature.



This rich tapestry of cultures and backgrounds makes for an incredible melting pot. The College serves students from more than 90 countries. Our Elizabeth campus is home to the Institute for Intensive English, which offers level 3 to 6 courses in ESL. This program also draws a large volume of international students wishing to improve their English through our ESL program and then matriculate to pursue their associate degree.

In 2015, the College signed an articulation agreement with John Cabot University, a private, accredited American liberal arts university in Rome, Italy. The agreement provides a seamless transfer for Union associate degree graduates to the University. John Cabot President Franco Pavoncello visited the Elizabeth campus to sign the agreement. At the signing, Dr. Pavoncello announced the commitment by the University to fully fund a scholarship for a Union graduate every year.



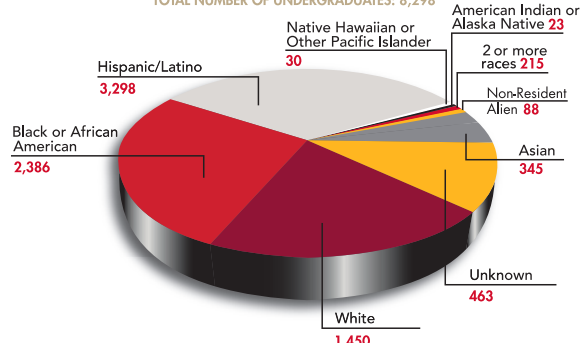
In 2018, the Costa Rican Consulate celebrated Costa Rica's 197 years of independence at the College's Elizabeth Campus. The Vice President of Costa Rica, Epsy Campbell Barr, gave the keynote address. Elected earlier that year, Vice President Campbell Barr has the distinction of being the first woman of African descent to serve as Costa Rica's vice president. She was joined by Consul General Rolando Enrique Madrigal Gutiérrez, who served as emcee.

In 2019, the College signed an agreement with the Kitami Institute of Technology of Japan. Kitami President Dr. Suzuki Soichiro traveled to the Elizabeth campus for the signing. The agreement provided for new academic and study abroad opportunities for students at both institutions.



### Ethnic Breakdown of Students:

TOTAL NUMBER OF UNDERGRADUATES: 8,298

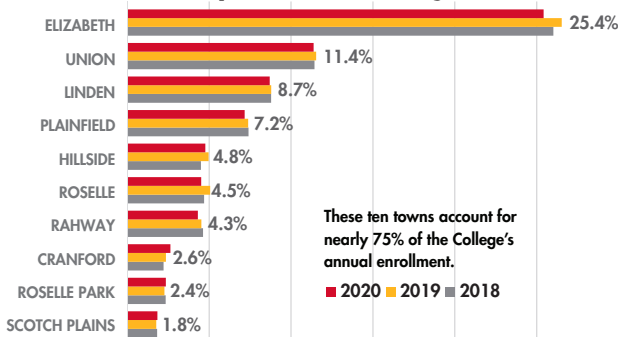


We are proud of our global footprint and welcome all who seek to improve their lives through education.



# It's been a challenging, exciting year

## Union County Towns with Largest Enrollment



### Enrollment by Gender

#### Female

5,261 (63.4%)

#### Male

3,037 (36.6%)

### Student

#### Enrollment Status

#### Part Time

4,593 (55.4%)

#### Full Time

3,705 (44.6%)

## 2020 Nationalities Survey

The top five countries with the highest enrollment are:

Country of Origin	Number of Students 2020	Number of Students 2019
Haiti	60	154
Dominican Republic	48	90
Colombia	44	115
Ecuador	44	97
Peru	17	46

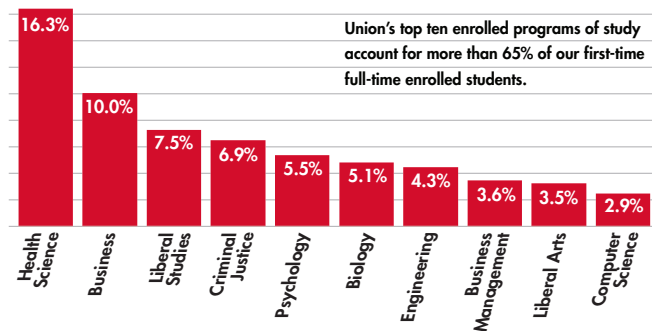
## LOOKING BEYOND UNION COUNTY

County	Number of Students	% of Total
Union	6949	83.7%
Essex	455	5.5%
Middlesex	344	4.1%
Somerset	92	1.1%
Hudson	87	1.0%
Monmouth	39	0.5%
Morris	36	0.4%
Passaic	28	0.3%
Bergen	26	0.3%
Ocean	15	0.2%
Hunterdon	13	0.2%
Warren	8	0.1%
Sussex	4	0.0%
Burlington	2	0.0%
Mercer	2	0.0%
Out of State	198	2.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8298</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

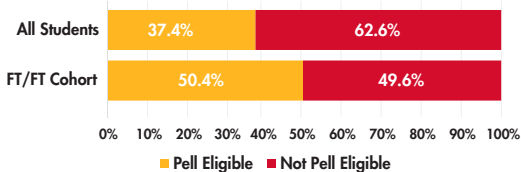
- The Union County College Foundation awarded more than 240 scholarships totaling over \$1.1 million dollars, helping nearly 700 students.
- 48 Practical Nursing Students graduated in fall 2020
- 5202 Financial Aid applications were processed for a total aid disbursement of more than \$27.6 MILLION DOLLARS
- Union County College is home to 83 NJ Stars Students, the best and brightest students in the county!
- 1,502 Union students received Community College Opportunity Grants enabling them to earn their degree TUITION FREE



## Fall 2020 FTFT Cohort, Top Enrolled Majors



## Fall 2020 Pell Eligibility



## INSTITUTIONAL ENROLLMENT

The number of degree- and non-degree seeking students by class status and enrollment as of the institution's official fall reporting date.

Class Status	Full-Time Enrolled		Part-Time Enrolled	
Degree-seeking	Male	Female	Male	Female
First-time freshman	591	654	162	173
Other first year	609	800	519	1,011
All others enrolled in credit courses	436	571	544	1,815
Total degree-seeking	1,636	2,025	1,225	2,999
All other enrolled in credit courses	22	22	154	215
<b>Total undergraduates</b>	<b>1,658</b>	<b>2,047</b>	<b>1,379</b>	<b>3,214</b>

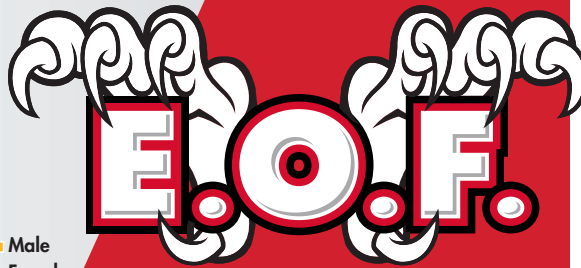
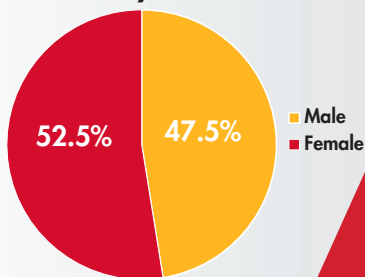
**TOTAL – ALL UNDERGRADUATES: 8,298**





The College participated in the NJ Council for the Humanities Democracy Conversation Project. Union's Dr. Polnariiev moderated, "Who Votes in a Democracy? Considering Historical and Current Restrictions on Voting." The panelists Dr. Carol Berkin, Professor of History Emerita at Baruch College, CUNY, and Dr. Graham Russell Gao Hodges, Professor of History and Africana Studies, Colgate University, discussed the history of voting rights. Union's Dr. Rotunda, Dr. Papas, and Academic Specialist Joe Margiotta organized the event.

Fall 2020 FT/FT Cohort by Gender



295 EOF students enrolled in the Fall 2020 and 241 in Spring 2021

## SOCIAL INJUSTICE

Digital Art

This drawing depicts the BLM movement. The rainbow outline around all the different hands is meant to represent love, and even though there are different color skin tones we can all still love each other. The writing on the hands are quotes from real signs protesters used; and I added a giant BLM logo in the middle.

Taylor Lucarello



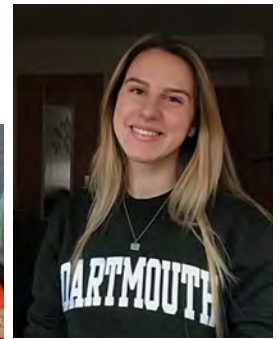
The return of the College Novel brought about discussions on race and equality. Throughout the year, in multiple disciplines, students explored themes of police brutality and social justice by reading the novel, *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas. Other events held throughout the year included a "Read-A-Thon," which included members of the administration, faculty and students. The SGA showed the film as a drive-in movie event, and the College Novel Committee held a social justice themed student art competition.

Kamilla Kocsis



Beianka Tomlinson

## Union Students Transfer to Elite 4-Year Schools



Vasiliki Vlastaras

At Union, we help our students transfer to the College of their choice. The list of transfer schools includes more than 500 institutions nationwide. Thanks to the achievements of these three graduates, Dartmouth College, Princeton University, and Georgetown University are now on the list.

While each had their own journey, all wanted to start college at an affordable school with a high-quality education, close to home. At Union, they sought out leadership opportunities through their involvement with student clubs, as members of the American Honors program and the honor society Phi Theta Kappa, and as officers the Student Government Association (SGA).

Kamilla Kocsis attends Dartmouth College and is majoring in international relations. At Union, she had a 4.0 GPA. In 2020, Kamilla was named a Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholar and receives up to \$40,000 per year in financial support.

Beianka Tomlinson was one of only 13 transfer students admitted to Princeton University. She also graduated with a 4.0 GPA. At Union, Beianka was the SGA President. Beianka is majoring in chemistry and hopes to become a cardiovascular surgeon.

Vas Vlastaras attends Georgetown University and is majoring in government and minoring in modern Greek. Vas earned her degree in public administration. She hopes to become a lobbyist.



# Union is Making an Academic Impact

## Aspen Institute Names Union County College a Top 150 Community College!

This was the first time the College has received the prestigious recognition by the Aspen Institute.



In November 2019, the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program named Union County College as one of 150 community colleges eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges. Based on strong and improving student outcomes—in learning, completion rates, employment rates and earnings, and equity—15 percent of community colleges nationwide have been invited to apply for the Aspen Prize.

The 150 community colleges named as eligible to compete for the 2021 Aspen Prize were selected from a pool of nearly 1,000 public two-year colleges nationwide using publicly available data on student outcomes.

While the College was not ultimately selected as a top ten finalist, this first-time nod energized the College community. Students are #1 at Union, and the recognition by the Aspen Institute is an acknowledgment of the College's commitment to student success!

This year, to provide more opportunities for our students, the College added multiple majors in trending areas. These include blockchain technology, eSports management, health information technology, and web and mobile application development. New certificates include business fundamentals, journalism and public relations, and remote pilot and drone application. Students will succeed when they prepare for a career that they are passionate about and at Union, our mission is to help them determine and achieve their goals and change their community.

Later this year the University Center at the Scotch Plains campus will open. Union students can take classes to continue their education towards a bachelor's degree with specific colleges or universities. So far, Kean University and Saint Peter's University have signed on as four-year partners that will offer select programs at Scotch Plains.



## ... With Honors

**Joining an honor society is a way for our students to be engaged, pursue service projects, and celebrate and foster their academic achievements.**

The Iota Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) is the largest honor society at Union. To become a member of PTK, students must have completed at least 12 credit hours of coursework, maintain a grade point average higher than a 3.5, and participate in volunteer activities throughout the semester. For decades, Iota Xi has maintained its reputation of being a Five Star Chapter amongst all the chapters in the Middle States Region. To induct this year's 282 new members, the ceremony was held in a virtual environment so all students could participate in a socially distanced and safe way. The video of the ceremony was posted on the College's YouTube channel and in three days from posting, it had received 1,862 views!



**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.



**Lambda Epsilon Chi** • Lambda Epsilon Chi is a nationally known academic honor society for paralegal students and is sponsored by the American Association for Paralegal Education (AAfPE).



**Mu Alpha Theta** • Students with an interest and ability in mathematics are recognized through admission to Mu Alpha Theta. Mu Alpha Theta is a national honor society which promotes scholarship in mathematics at two-year colleges.



**Phi Theta Kappa** • Students who achieve outstanding scholastic records and demonstrate qualities of good citizenship receive recognition through admission into Phi Theta Kappa. Phi Theta Kappa is the national honor society which aims to promote scholarship, develop character, and cultivate fellowship among students of two-year colleges. Iota Xi is the chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Union.



**Psi Beta** • Psi Beta is a national honor society in psychology associated with the American Psychological Association. It was founded expressly for community and junior colleges.



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



# Degrees and Achievement

## Dr. McMenamin refers to Commencement as the holiest day of the year on the College's calendar.

This is a day to celebrate our students and their achievements. Under Dr. McMenamin's leadership, the College has seen its graduation rates increase dramatically.



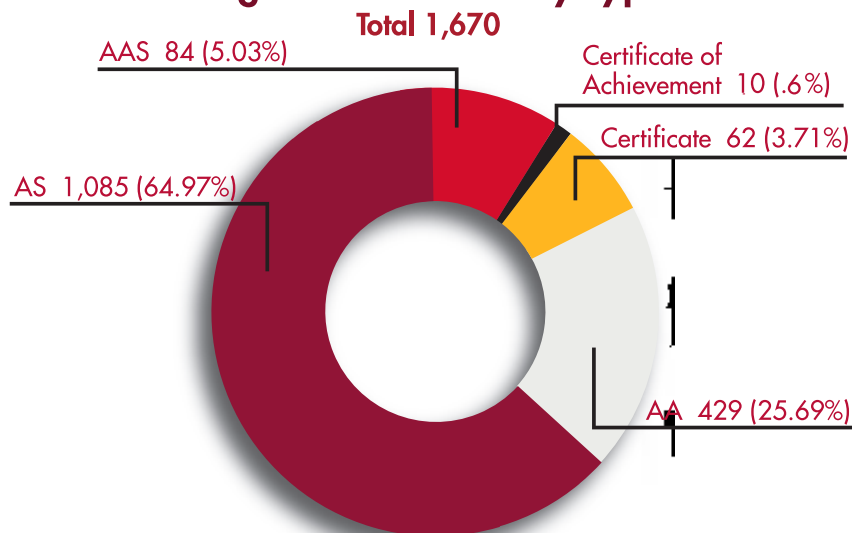
In order to help our students reach the finish line, the "Operation Graduation" and "Project Achievement" initiatives were launched. Over the past decade, the College's graduation rate has more than quintupled. While the overall graduation rates increased, the Black male graduation rate remained unchanged. Through the efforts of Project Achievement, the graduation rate of Black male students has more than quadrupled.

We were excited to celebrate our August and December 2020 graduates with a virtual commencement ceremony. Graduates received their caps and gowns and sent in videos or photos in their regalia for inclusion in the stream. As names were read their video or photo appeared on the screen. Family and friends enjoyed the ceremony due to its global reach.

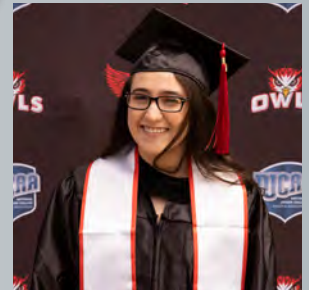
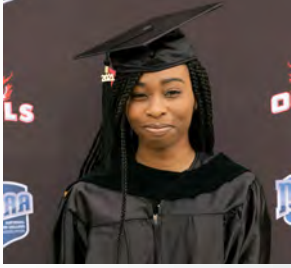
In 2013, Union County College had the lowest on-time graduation rate in the state. Now, seven years later, the College's graduation rate is above the national and state average.

What better marker of student success is there than a college degree? At Union, we are helping produce more educated adults in Union County. Earning a college degree doesn't just change the life of the graduate: it impacts their family and their whole community. A college degree is a key tool to upward economic mobility.

## Degrees Conferred by Type







Virtual Commencement but not without a cap and gown. To be ready for the virtual ceremony in May, hundreds of graduates picked up their regalia at the April graduation fair. CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!!



# Shout Out to Our Athletes



**Over the past decade, athletic offerings at Union have expanded significantly.**

Sports teams are a way to engage students and make them feel connected to the College and their peers. As participants in the National Junior Collegiate Athletic Association (NJCAA), our teams have excelled over the years and earned regional and national titles. In 2013, women's soccer and men's lacrosse were added. Most recently, in 2019, men's wrestling and women's bowling were added. Additional athletic offerings increase the College's ability to engage more students. Student-athletes receive additional support through a dedicated advisor, mandatory tutoring, and other support services.



Our student-athletes are socially conscious, and many spend time volunteering. Members of the men's soccer team volunteered to pack bags of food for a distribution event hosted by the County at Warinanco Park.

## 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



# ION COUNT



## ATHLETIC SCHOLARS

Team	Fall 2020	# of Athletes	
	GPA	3.0 GPA or higher	
Baseball	3.060	10	athletes
Basketball, Men's	2.636	4	athletes
Basketball, Women's	3.153	5	athletes
Cross Country, Men's & Women's Combined	3.693	3	athletes
eSports	3.641	6	athletes
Golf	3.015	4	athletes
Lacrosse	3.176	4	athletes
Soccer, Men's	3.160	12	athletes
Soccer, Women's	3.471	15	athletes
Track and Field, Men's & Women's Combined	3.209	7	athletes
Volleyball	3.233	5	athletes
Wrestling	2.952	3	athletes
<b>Overall Athlete GPA</b>	<b>3.169</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>athletes</b>



At this year's National Girls and Women in Sports Day, Union student-athlete Sophia Alora De Andrade, of the Cross Country and Track and Field team,

received the Garden State Athletic Conference's "Woman of the Year" award. Sophia has a strong 3.93 GPA and is involved on campus. The women honored at this virtual event were from community colleges and four-year colleges and universities.



One of the most exciting events this year was the ribbon cutting event held for the new field at Oak Ridge Park in Clark. A brand-new field for use by the College's track and field teams, soccer teams, and lacrosse team. Dr. McMenamin and Union County College Board of Trustees Chair Victor Richel joined the Union County Board of County Commissioners for the event.

Union's resilient student-athletes faced a difficult year with the cancellation of all fall competition. Although the College is committed to ensuring that our student-athletes have the support – academic and beyond – that they need, the fall semester focused on earning high grades to keep them eligible for competition in the spring semester. The following list shows the number of student-athletes that earned a 3.0 GPA or higher and were named to the Region 19 All-Academic Team. We are proud of the 86 individuals who made the list for the fall 2020 semester.

Since 2011, here are the number of student-athletes named to the Region 19 All-Academic Team. Athletes attend mandatory tutoring hours each week and other intrusive advising has been implemented to help our students maximize their academic potential.

Fall 2011	17	Fall 2016	52
Spring 2012	16	Spring 2017	39
Fall 2012	15	Fall 2017	72
Spring 2013	23	Spring 2018	65
Fall 2013	30	Fall 2018	84
Spring 2014	46	Spring 2019	61
Fall 2014	42	Fall 2019	63
Spring 2015	46	Spring 2020	94
Fall 2015	57	Fall 2020	86
Spring 2016	46		





Champions... every one of them!



Lady Owl Kendra Lawrence, freshman guard/forward, taking a shot on the basket.

**For a fourth consecutive year, the women's basketball team was named the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region 19 Champions.**

For the title, the Lady Owls defeated Lackawanna College by a score of 73-42. Sophomore Brianna Mills was named the Tournament MVP for a second year. Head Coach Marbely Montas, Union '07, was named Region 19 Coach of the Year for a fourth time. The Lady Owls went on to compete in the East A District Championship and won against Potomac State College. They went on to compete in nationals in Hickory, NC, and lost in the first round, knocking them out of the tournament.



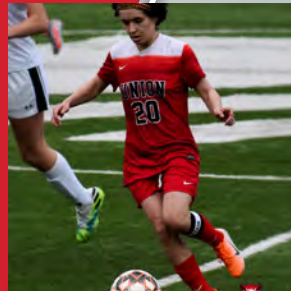


In June 2021, Union is proud to host the NJCAA women's soccer championship tournament! The eight team tournament will end with one team winning the national championship!



Alex Hall (l)  
2nd place at 5,000 meter  
RCSJ Invitational Meet 18:26  
1st place at 5,000 meter  
Brookdale Dual Meet 19:41

Nelly Thebaud (r)  
3rd place at 5,000 meter  
Brookdale Dual Meet 20:12  
3rd place at 5,000 meter  
RCSJ Invitational Meet 19:01



Union County College Golf Team takes second place in the Region 19 Division III Golf Tournament held at Ashbrook Golf Course in Scotch Plains.





## SGA



The essence of student life at Union stems from the activities created and supported by the student officers of the Student Government Association (SGA). Comprised of six Union students, who are

chosen by their peers annually, the SGA officers coordinate various events for their classmates. They also oversee and assist the Union students who serve as officers for the College's clubs and organizations.

With the pandemic this year, the officers thought strategically about how they could still engage with their classmates throughout the year. With the use of technology, they held virtual karaoke and online photo competitions. Some events held outside include a pumpkin painting and carving competition at Halloween, their first drive-in movie event held for Union students with their families and friends, an afternoon cleaning up the City of Elizabeth around the College's campus, beautifying Nomahegan Park, and chalk drawings at the Cranford campus for Earth Day.



Back Row from left: Secretary Antonio Mena, President Jose Alvarez, and Treasurer Justin Durugo. Front row from left: Elizabeth Senator Nataly Turcios, Vice President Maria Alejandra Acosta, and Cranford Senator Ysabelle Ibarrola.



Forty years ago, Senior Professor of Biology Dr. Tom Ombrello planted an oak sapling at the corner of Lot 1A in Cranford. For Earth Day 2021, the tree was rededicated as a reminder of the importance of valuing our earth.





In the fall, the SGA hosted the family friendly film *Coraline* for more than 120 attendees who came in more than 60 cars. Movie goers received free popcorn and soft drinks and a socially distanced event was enjoyed by all.

#### ACADEMIC CLUBS:

History Club  
Hospitality Club

#### DIVERSITY/MULTI-CULTURAL CLUBS:

Model United Nations

#### STUDENT PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA:

The Sheaf Magazine  
The Foreign Student Voice  
UCC Radio

#### SPECIAL INTEREST CLUBS:

Christian Fellowship  
Drama Club  
Graphic Design Club  
Humane Society  
Music Appreciation Club



Chalk was the creative way students shared their art on Earth Day.



A socially distanced Halloween celebration with a pumpkin carving and painting competition hosted by the SGA at the Cranford campus.





**CLOSE THE GAP** Five years ago, the College's Foundation launched the Close the Gap campaign to accelerate the pace of African American student success. Thanks to this initiative, the graduation rate for male African American students has more the quadrupled at Union County College.

Annually, a cocktail party is held in July to support this campaign. Given the gathering limitations due to COVID-19, the Foundation hosted a virtual Close the Gap Cocktail Party, honoring Sandra Rice, former Senior Vice President at the Center for Talent Innovations and currently Senior Vice President of Coqual. The innovative format also featured celebrity bartender, Al B. Sure! and Julliard trained jazz pianist, Isaiah Thompson.

Honoree Sandra Rice is one of three community members who approached the Union County College Foundation in 2014 about the educational outcomes of the College's African American students. From those early discussions, the Close the Gap campaign was born.

This year's event, while different, was no less impactful in its mission to help close the achievement gap raising nearly \$90,000. Over the past five years, more than \$250,000 has been raised to support this initiative.



**Gayle King**  
Co-host, CBS This Morning



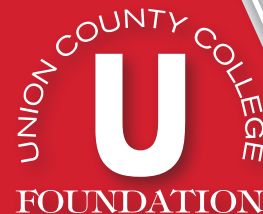
**CCH Pounder**  
TV/ Film Actress, Producer



**Sandra Rice**  
Senior Vice President of Outreach and Strategic Partnerships  
Center for Talent Innovation



Traditionally, the Foundation hosts its annual golf outing in early spring to support student success. Due to the pandemic, the April 2020 event was moved to August. As a result, the Foundation held two golf outings this fiscal year. Thanks to the generosity and support of sponsors and key donors, the Foundation will raise over \$275,000 in support of its mission through these events. A big thank you goes out to White Claw for being the signature event sponsor of our April 2021 outing.



### NEW SCHOLARSHIP HONORING "UNCLE HARRY" FOR STUDENTS WITH FINANCIAL NEED

In October, Robert Fabrikant, on behalf of himself and his late brothers Joel and Marvin, established the Harry B. Freeman Memorial Scholarship in memory of their "Uncle Harry," the patriarch of the family. Uncle Harry gave everything to his three siblings, their spouses, and his seven nieces and nephews. Harry was born and raised in Elizabeth. He graduated from Union Junior College, managed the Fabrikant family's electrical stores in Elizabeth, and was a real estate investor in Elizabeth.

Harry was a great admirer of doing things the old-fashioned way: focusing on family and hard work. The Fabrikant nephews are expressing their eternal thanks to Uncle Harry by creating this scholarship on his behalf offering educational opportunities for financially needy students.



# Union County College Foundation

**Under Dr. McMenemy's leadership, the Union County College Foundation's mission has evolved to meet the growing needs of our students.**



From its inception, the Foundation has provided scholarship support to our students. However, over the past six years, the Foundation has also developed a number of student success initiatives to meet non-scholarship related needs of our students. Thanks to her leadership and commitment to student success, the Foundation has provided over \$1 million annually in direct scholarship or grant support to our students for six years in a row. This support has ensured that Union is always an affordable option for students to pursue a college degree.

Even though Union still is the best financial option for those in our community, Dr. McMenemy understands that an extra few hundred dollars can mean the difference in whether a student is able to attend.

Ensuring that our students have every resource available to excel in the classroom, Dr. McMenemy has made a point to charge the Foundation with raising the vital funds to support our most vulnerable students. Between new scholarships, corporate donors, alumni engagement, special events, and the specific campaigns developed and supported by the Foundation, over the past 10 years, the Foundation has been able to invest over \$10 million in direct student support. During this period yearly Foundation support to our students has increased by 365%.

## Honor Roll of Donors (4.1.20 – 3.31.21)

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**VIRTUAL CASINO NIGHT** In fall 2020, another signature annual event was a success despite COVID-19! The annual Scholarship Gala moved from its typical ballroom to the Owl's Nest Casino for this year's first-ever Virtual Casino Night. This two-night event raised nearly \$150,000 in support of the Foundation's mission to accelerate the pace of student success. Thanks to the generosity and support of key community and business leaders over the last five years, the Foundation has had a generational impact on the Union County community by funding nearly \$6 million in direct scholarship and grant support. This funding has assisted in furthering the core mission of the College, to provide students with a high-quality and affordable education. Infineum USA, LP, was honored as the 2020 Corporate Partner of the Year. Infineum has been a historic and avid supporter of Union students for many years. In addition to funding an endowed scholarship, they provide support for the College's STEM Division and are vital sponsors of all the Foundation's signature fundraising programs.



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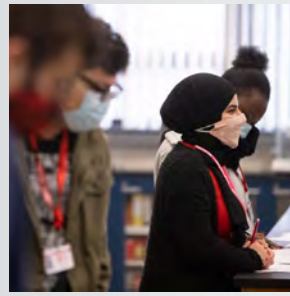
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\*Faculty/Staff of Union County College

**UNION COUNTY COLLEGE ALUMNUS DONATES OVER \$2.7 MILLION TO THE FOUNDATION** In 2021, the College's Foundation received the single largest individual gift in its history. Union County College alumnus, Bruce Weidenburner, left the bulk of his estate, valued at over \$2.7 million, in a planned gift to the Foundation.

Mr. Weidenburner's parents, former U.S. Attorney and NJ Superior Court Judge, Chester Weidenburner, and his wife, Emily were members of the inaugural graduating class of Union County College, formerly known as Union County Junior College. In 1997, Mr. Weidenburner established an endowed scholarship in their name and has directed these new funds to be added to the scholarship. As a lifelong resident of Linden, he developed his family's scholarship to help Linden High School graduates receive a college degree. Thanks to his commitment and support of the College's mission, Mr. Weidenburner's generosity will have a transformative impact on students' lives for generations to come.





## SERF: Student Emergency Relief Fund — a lifeline for so many!

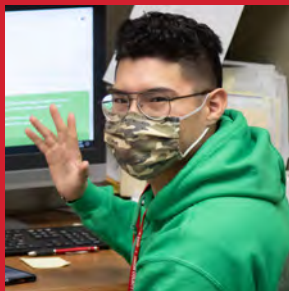
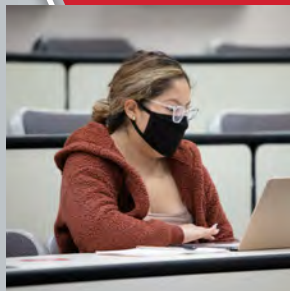
When COVID-19 hit in March 2020, the College, in partnership with the Foundation, established a COVID-19 Student Emergency Relief Fund. Even prior to the pandemic, over half of the students at the College reported facing financial challenges, ranging from food insecurities to housing issues. This number grew as the impact of the pandemic was felt across our community. Due to the socio-economic realities of the student body at Union County College, this crisis has had a devastating economic impact on many students and their families.

The federal CARES Act provides funding to students who are dealing with financial issues, but not all students and situations qualify.

COVID19 Information and Updates

UNION  
COUNTY  
COLLEGE

To ensure that funds are available to assist as many students as possible, the COVID-19 Student Emergency Relief Fund supports immediate student financial needs brought on by the COVID-19 crisis. This fund helps our students continue their education by easing the financial hardship caused by the pandemic. To date, the fund has raised more than \$1,000,000 thanks to the generosity of corporate and individual donors.



## SANTANDER DONATES \$50,000 TO UNION COUNTY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

- Increased their support from \$25,000 to \$50,000
  - Pandemic inspired them to help more
  - Supports scholarships for 1st generation, PTK, or American Honors Students from under-represented backgrounds
  - This generous donation will provide 25 students each with a \$2,000 scholarship, assisting these students on their path to success and allowing them to transfer to a four-year college or university at junior-level status
- AN INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION WILL DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS AND ADVANCEMENTS IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES





# New and Endowed Scholarships



The Union County College Foundation has been in the business of raising funds for scholarships in support of Union students for more than 40 years!

The Foundation's more than 200 scholarship opportunities help our students reach their goal of earning an associate degree or certificate. The financial investment made by corporate sponsors and individual donors tells our students, "we believe in you."

## These are new scholarship opportunities that were established this year:

### **Achieving the Dream Scholarship**

Awarded to a full- or part-time student with a minimum 3.25 GPA at the time of application. Preference will be given to a student who demonstrates financial need.

### **James and Sheila Campbell Scholarship**

Awarded to a full-time student who has completed a minimum of 9 credits and has a minimum 2.5 GPA. Preference will be given to students who demonstrate financial need and to those students who reside in Elizabeth, NJ.

### **Marie Carmelle Crepin Memorial Scholarship**

Awarded to two full- or part-time female African-American students, one in Fall and another student in Spring. Recipients must pursue a degree related to the healthcare field and have a minimum cumulative 3.2 GPA at the time of application. Preference will be given to those students who demonstrate financial need.

### **Criminal Justice Through Diversity Scholarship**

Awarded to full- or part-time African-American or Hispanic students in the criminal justice program. Students must maintain satisfactory academic progress working toward a degree and show commitment to pursuing future employment in law enforcement. Recipients must have a minimum 2.5 GPA and have completed a minimum of 24 credits. Preference will be given to those students who demonstrate financial need.

### **Maurice "Moe" DeGennaro Scholarship**

This post-graduation scholarship will be awarded to a Hispanic, full-time, first-generation Union County College student who has the highest cumulative GPA and who plans to pursue a baccalaureate degree at a four-year institution.

### **Harry B. Freeman Memorial Scholarship (He Gave Everything to His Siblings and Their Children)**

Awarded to students who demonstrate financial need.

### **Goppelsroeder Scholarship Award**

Awarded to a full- or part-time male, African-American student. Recipient must have a 3.0 GPA at the time of application.

### **Harold Krevsky Memorial Scholarship**

Awarded to full-time students who have a minimum B-average at the time of application. Preference will be given to those students who demonstrate financial need.

### **Mr. & Mrs. James Lappino Scholarship**

Awarded to a full-time student in a Liberal Arts major with education option or early childhood/elementary education option, with preference given to someone interested in special education. Recipient must have a minimum 3.0 GPA and completed a minimum of 12 credits at the time of application. Scholarship will be awarded on the basis of academic ability and financial need. (Student must submit financial aid application and be eligible for financial aid.)

### **Rep. John Lewis Memorial Scholarship**

Awarded to full-time African-American students who serve in a leadership role at UCC or in the community. Students who are involved in the struggle for racial justice will be considered for this scholarship and recommendations will be sought from the Student Development team at UCC. Preference will be given to those students who demonstrate financial need.

### **Manger/Brail Family Nursing Scholarship**

Awarded to full- or part-time Nursing students. Preference will be given to those students who demonstrate financial need.

### **Margolies Family Scholarship for First-Generation Students**

Awarded to a full-time student who is first in their family to attend college. Student must have a H.S. GPA of 3.0 at the time of admittance to Union County College. If student maintains a 3.2 GPA for the academic year, they will be awarded the scholarship for the following year(s) (up to a max of 3 years total). If not, scholarship will be awarded to another incoming freshman candidate who meets requirements. Preference will be given to students who demonstrate financial need. (Available starting Fall '21 semester)

### **Power to Heal Scholarship**

Awarded to full-time students who are in the Health-related Sciences. Recipients must have a minimum 3.5 GPA and preference will be given to those students who demonstrate financial need.

### **The Roman Family Memorial Scholarship**

Awarded to a student in the UCC/Trinitas Nursing Program. Recipient must have a minimum 3.0 GPA and be in the second nursing course or above in the nursing program (clinicals). Scholarship will be awarded to a non-traditional student who has returned to school. Preference will be given to a student involved in community service/volunteerism and who demonstrates financial need.

### **TLC Nursing Award**

Awarded to full- or part-time Nursing students. Preference will be given to those students who demonstrate financial need.

### **Tomorrow's Healthcare Hero Scholarship (1)**

This scholarship is available to all current Nursing students, including incoming freshmen. Scholarship will be awarded to students who have a min. 3.0 GPA. Preference will be given to those students who demonstrate financial need.

### **Tomorrow's Healthcare Hero – Level 2 Scholarship**

Awarded to full- or part-time Nursing students who have completed a min. of 24 credits and are committed to completing the nursing program. Students must have a B+ GPA at the time of application. Preference will be given to those students who demonstrate financial need.

### **Mitch Turner Memorial Scholarship**

Awarded to a full-time student who has completed 15 credits and has a 3.5 GPA (President's List). The scholarship will be awarded to a student majoring in History. If no History major qualifies, then the scholarship will be awarded to a student in a Humanities major.





# Leadership is Critical to Success



## The President's Leadership Council

**Dr. Margaret M. McMenamin**

**Dr. Marlene A. Berman-White**, Associate General Counsel/Executive Director of Procurement

**Dayne Chance**, Director of Financial Aid

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

**William Dunscombe**, Interim Dean of STEM

**Jennifer A. Ebert**, Chair of the Governance and Leadership Council

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

**Joseph Hines**, Director of Public Safety

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Beatriz Rodriguez**, Assistant Dean of Students

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

**Rebecca S. Royal**, Assistant Vice President & Dean of Student Success

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

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

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

**Marlene M. Sousa**, Controller

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

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

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

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





## COVID-19 Task Force

The College's COVID-19 Task Force was convened in March 2020 and has met regularly throughout the pandemic, discussing both the current challenges and future issues. The Task Force is made up of specific leadership positions critical to the College's COVID-19 response. The Task Force also includes the College's Governance and Leadership Council (pictured separately) to ensure participation of faculty, staff, and students.

### COVID-19 TASK FORCE:

**Dr. Demond T. Hargrove**, Vice President of Student Development (Co-Chair)

**Dr. Maris Lown**, Vice President for Academic Affairs (Co-Chair)

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

**Joseph Hines**, Director of Public Safety

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

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

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

**Beatriz Rodriguez**, Assistant Dean of Students

**Christopher A. Sapara-Grant**, Associate Director, Maintenance & Facilities

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

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

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



### GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP COUNCIL:

**Jennifer A. Ebert**, Associate Professor, Engineering (Chair)

**Jose Alvarez**, SGA President

**Nora Babos**, Office Manager/Coordinator, Academic Learning Center

**Rachel Dawson**, Academic Specialist, Education

**Nicole Paternoster**, Educational Support Coordinator, Academic Learning Center

**Duane Reid**, Associate Director of Advising, Career & Transfer Services

**Karen Venturella**, Associate Librarian

**Dr. Vincent Wrice**, Senior Professor, Computer Science

## Governance & Leadership Council (GLC)

Governance at Union County College is based upon involving all constituencies, faculty, staff, and students, in policy development and the decision-making process. The

GLC supports the College Governance Committees, manages College Assemblies, receives annual charges from the President, and makes recommendations to the President. This collaborative structure facilitates problem solving, optimizes outcomes, and ultimately fosters student success.



# Members of the Union County College Board of Trustees



## Boards

Union County College is managed by a Board of Trustees and Board of Governors comprised of volunteer community members who give generously of their time and expertise for the benefit of the College. Our board members advocate for our mission of providing a high-quality, affordable, and accessible education to all Union County residents.

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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George A. Castro, II

Brig. Gen. Edward J. Chrystal, Jr.

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Nick Fixmer

Miguel A. Merino

Daryl Palmieri

Kamran Tasharofi, M.D.

Mary M. Zimmermann (Union '01)

Holly Stefanik (Union '20),  
Student Representative

Michael M. Horn, Esq.,  
Legal Counsel



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



*Daniel J. Connolly, CPA*



*Nick Fixmer*



*Miguel A. Merino*



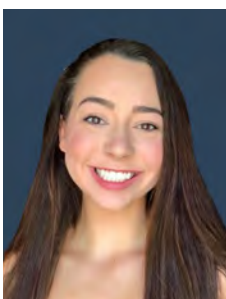
*Daryl Palmieri*



*Kamran Tasharofi, M.D.*



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



*Holly Stefanik (Union '20),  
Student Representative*



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

## Union County College Boards Recognized As Equity Leaders with ACCT Award

The College was recognized with three 2020 Northeast Regional Awards from the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT).



The College's Boards of Trustees and Governors received the 2020 Equity Award, Union's President Dr. Margaret M. McMenamin received the 2020 Chief Executive Officer Award, and the College's Secretary of the Boards Dr. Jaime Segal received the 2020 Professional Board Staff Member Award.

The Regional Equity Award is given to an institution's board that achieves equity in the college's education programs and services and in the administration and delivery of those programs and services. Union's Boards of Trustees and Governors received this award for their support of the College's Project Achievement initiative in which African American males are given dynamic advising and real-world exposure such as college visits and cultural exploration to inspire these students to "achieve." From the start of the program in 2013, the initiative has more than quadrupled the African-American male graduation rate.

Given the College's diverse population, the Boards' commitment to equity and inclusion is critical. This recognition from ACCT is a testament to the work the Boards have done to prioritize these initiatives.



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#### JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Rafael J. Betancourt, Esq.  
Stephen F. Hehl, Esq.

**Mary M. Zimmermann, Vice Chair**  
Edward J. Hobbie, Esq.  
Gary S. Horan  
Jeffrey H. Katz, Esq.

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**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**  
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Carl J. Napor  
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J. Anthony Manger, Esq.  
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Allan L. Weisberg

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Kamran Tasharofi, M.D.  
Gordon L. Vickers  
Allan L. Weisberg  
Holly Stefanik – Student Representative

Victor M. Richel\*

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Mary M. Zimmermann\*

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





# Members of the Union County College Board of Governors



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Vice Chair



Dr. Margaret M.  
McMenamin, President



Melinda Ayala  
(Union '11)



Nancy J. Benz  
(Union '73)



Rafael J. Betancourt, Esq.



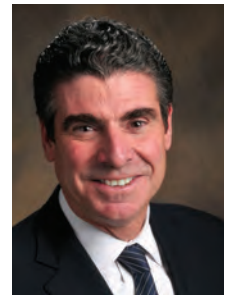
Brian Campbell  
(Union '95)



Tamecka M. Dixon



Ryan J. Greco (Union '97)



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



Donna M. Herran  
(Union '85)



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Richard J. Malcolm



J. Anthony Manger, Esq.



Carl J. Napor



Francis Raudelunas



Victor M. Richel



Gordon L. Vickers



Allan L. Weisberg



Hugh C. Welsh





## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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Melinda Ayala (Union '11)

Nancy J. Benz (Union '73)

Rafael J. Betancourt, Esq.

Brian Campbell (Union '95)

Tamecka M. Dixon

Ryan J. Greco (Union '97)

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

Donna M. Herran (Union '85)

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

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Maksim Sheyn, Treasurer

Dr. Margaret M. McMenemy, Secretary \*

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Marylyn Luster Masia\*

Tamzin MacDonald McMinn

\*Scholarship Donor



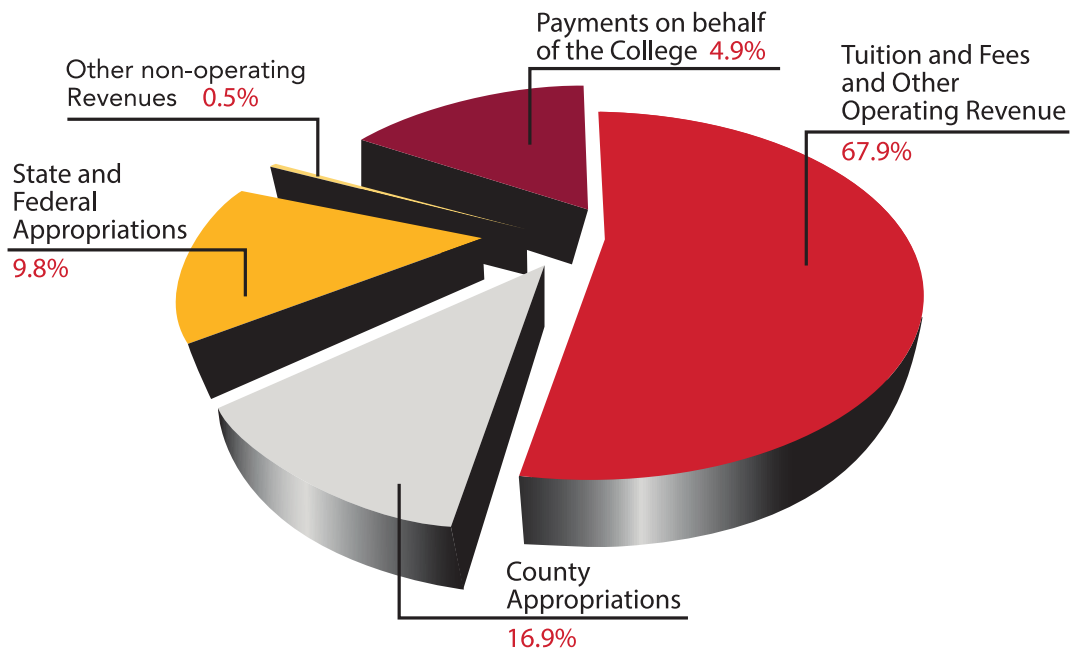


# Summary and Outlook

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

## Revenue by Source

For Year Ended June 30, 2020



The ongoing pandemic presented the College with challenges related to revenue including declines in State Appropriations and enrollment. It also provided opportunities for growth in technology, student learning, and remote services.

Over the past few years, the College experienced declines in enrollment. This year was no exception. The College realized a 10% decrease in academic credit hours from Fall 2019 to Fall 2020. The significant decline is a result of the pandemic. Management understands the importance of controlling costs to minimize tuition increases while still offering programs and services that are vital to the success of its students. As a result, there is no increase to tuition rates and course fees for FY2021.

During the pandemic, the focus was on access. With the assistance of pandemic-related funding, the College implemented virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) which provides students access to their courses and required programs from any device, anywhere. Classrooms were equipped with Cisco room kits to allow faculty and students to interact, with both video and audio, in real time. Student services were expanded to offer virtual tutoring and advising breakout sessions. These services are critical, and the College will continue to offer and expand upon them.

The success of the College relies on its fiscal policies.  
The College maintains most of its liquid assets in cash.  
Interest rates have declined but the College continues 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 continue to utilize pandemic-related funding to assure that the quality and extent of services provided to students will meet their needs and expectations.



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

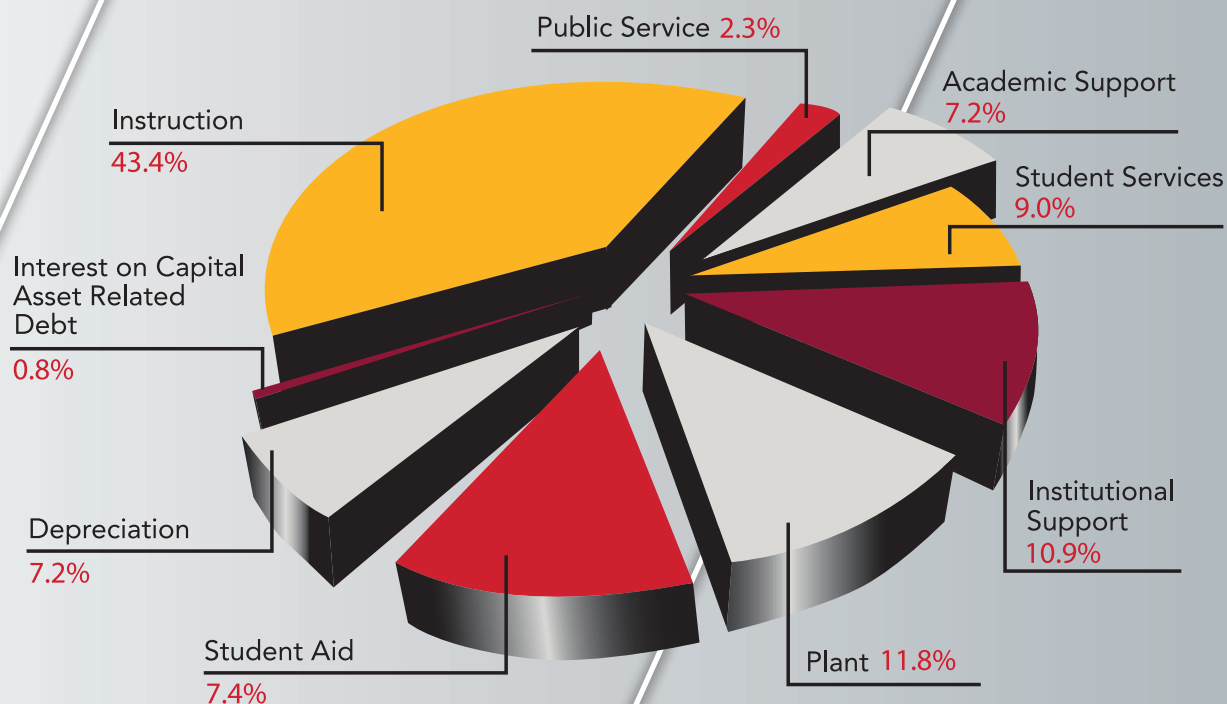
	2020	2019	2018	2020 vs. 2019	
				Increase (Decrease)	%Change
Current Assets	50,503	46,428	38,760	4,075	8.8%
Non Current Assets	118,388	112,760	111,966	5,628	5.0%
Deferred Outflows of Resources	4,083	6,290	9,167	(2,207)	-35.1%
<b>Total Assets &amp; Deferred Outflow of Resources</b>	<b>172,974</b>	<b>165,478</b>	<b>159,893</b>	<b>9,703</b>	<b>4.5%</b>
Current Liabilities	12,631	13,416	12,042	(785)	-5.9%
Non-Current Liabilities	36,563	40,013	46,053	(3,450)	-8.6%
Deferred Inflows of Resources	10,397	10,252	7,453	145	1.4%
Total Liabilities and Deferred Inflows of Resources	59,591	63,681	65,548	(4,090)	-6.4%
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>113,383</b>	<b>101,797</b>	<b>94,345</b>	<b>13,793</b>	<b>11.4%</b>

### UNION COUNTY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

	2020	2019	2018	2020 vs. 2019	
				Increase (Decrease)	%Change
Investments	18,605,276	18,064,410	18,260,681	540,866	3.0%
Other Assets	1,174,038	841,535	891,122	332,503	39.5%
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>19,779,314</b>	<b>18,905,945</b>	<b>19,151,803</b>	<b>873,369</b>	<b>4.6%</b>
Current Liabilities	334,656	92,371	547,055	242,285	262.3%
Total Liabilities	334,656	92,371	547,055	242,285	262.3%
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>19,444,658</b>	<b>18,813,574</b>	<b>18,604,748</b>	<b>631,084</b>	<b>3.4%</b>

## Operating Expenses

For Year Ended June 30, 2020





# Statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position

YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2020 AND 2019

	2020		2019	
	College	Component Unit UCC Foundation	College	Component Unit UCC Foundation
<b>REVENUES</b>				
<b>Operating Revenues</b>				
Student Tuition and Fees	\$ 43,640,277	\$ –	\$ 43,361,032	\$ –
Less Scholarship Allowances	(17,505,198)	–	(15,887,314)	–
<b>Net Student Tuition and Fees</b>	<b>26,135,079</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>27,473,718</b>	<b>–</b>
Federal Grants	23,976,117	–	22,342,049	–
State Grants	9,873,526	–	6,818,151	–
Local Grants	100,720	–	152,182	–
Gifts and Contributions	265,535	1,822,120	259,655	940,077
Other	952,614	–	1,015,322	–
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>61,303,591</b>	<b>1,822,120</b>	<b>58,061,077</b>	<b>940,077</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
Educational and General				
Instructional	38,116,488	–	35,368,310	–
Public Service	2,014,082	–	1,986,041	–
Academic Support	6,336,093	–	6,587,664	–
Student Services	7,932,829	–	9,228,679	–
Institutional Support	9,585,588	–	11,466,989	–
Plant Operations and Maintenance	10,401,426	–	10,414,841	–
Student Aid	6,487,352	1,414,155	6,909,646	1,184,2492
Depreciation	6,291,422	3,956	5,913,171	3,956
Other Expenses	–	461,384	–	537,134
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>87,165,280</b>	<b>1,879,495</b>	<b>87,875,341</b>	<b>1,725,339</b>
<b>OPERATING LOSS</b>	<b>(25,861,689)</b>	<b>(57,375)</b>	<b>(29,814,264)</b>	<b>(785,262)</b>
<b>NON-OPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)</b>				
State Appropriations	8,884,930	–	9,994,995	–
County Appropriations	15,258,377	–	15,127,395	–
Investment Income (Loss)	427,239	510,042	424,249	672,924
Interest on Capital Asset Related Debt	(747,201)	–	(705,207)	–
Additions to Permanent Endowments	–	178,417	–	321,164
On-Behalf Payments:				
Alternate Benefit Plan	1,300,900	–	1,287,426	–
Other Postemployment Benefits	3,134,364	–	4,444,569	–
<b>Net Non-operating Revenues</b>	<b>28,258,609</b>	<b>688,459</b>	<b>30,573,427</b>	<b>994,088</b>
INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE OTHER REVENUES	2,396,920	631,084	759,163	208,826
CAPITAL GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	9,188,961	–	6,692,732	–
<b>INCREASE IN NET POSITION</b>	<b>11,585,881</b>	<b>631,084</b>	<b>7,451,895</b>	<b>208,826</b>
<b>Net Position – Beginning of Year</b>	<b>101,797,276</b>	<b>18,813,574</b>	<b>94,345,381</b>	<b>18,604,748</b>
<b>NET POSITION – END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$113,383,157</b>	<b>\$19,444,658</b>	<b>\$101,797,276</b>	<b>\$18,813,574</b>



## Union through the Decades:

**The College has  
been providing  
affordable**

**educational opportunities for  
Union County residents for  
more than 85 years,  
transforming our  
community, one  
student at a time.**

## 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 girl's basketball squad captures first place in the "Powderpuff League." This is the first championship for a UJC Team.

**1941:** The College begins offering day courses on Sept. 1 and continues to use the laboratories at Abraham Clark High School.

**1942:** UJC is housed at Grant School, called the "Old Lady of Holly Street," and rents the space from the Cranford Board of Education.

**1944:** To better accommodate returning veterans from WWII, the College creates a Veterans Study Center and changes the academic year from two semesters to one divided into four quarters.

**1944:** Dr. Kenneth Campbell MacKay, succeeds Dr. Cole as president.

**1948:** For less than \$56,000, the Board of Trustees authorizes the purchase of 56 acres from the Dreyer family in Cranford. A decade later it becomes the home of the Cranford campus.

**1949:** Elizabeth General Hospital begins its affiliation with the College in the training of nurses. Later, Muhlenberg Hospital joins the partnership. Elizabeth General is now Trinitas School of Nursing and Muhlenberg Hospital Nursing School is now JFK Medical Center Muhlenberg Harold B. and Dorothy A. Snyder Schools. Both still operate cooperative programs with the College.

**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.



**Union County  
College students are  
both the past and the  
future of our community,  
making our county, state,  
and country a better place  
to live, work and raise  
our families.**





**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 was again reconfirmed.

**2009:** Thanks to the support of the Union County Board of County Commissioners, the College opens the \$48 million Elizabeth I. Kellogg Building at 40 West Jersey Street in Elizabeth on Sept. 29.

**2010:** Dr. Margaret M. McMenemy, the College's eighth and first female president, begins her tenure on July 1.

**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.

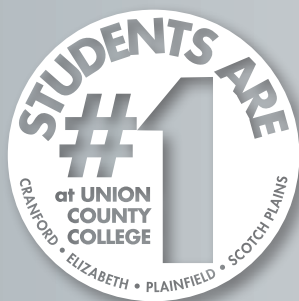
**2014:** The first Winter Commencement Ceremony is held on Jan. 14 for August and December graduates.

**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 County Commissioners 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:** 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 a 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:** The 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.

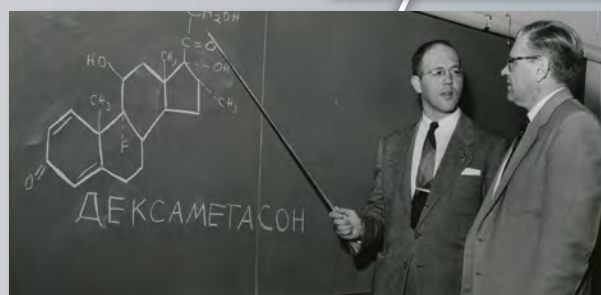
**2019:** Major renovations to the Health Sciences Building in Plainfield are completed.

**2020:** The College establishes its COVID-19 Task Force and makes plans for the impact. COVID-19 hits the U.S. and forces the College, and all educational institutions in New Jersey, to move operations and instruction remote. Under the leadership of Governor Murphy, the residents of New Jersey are told to stay home to flatten the curve of infections.

**2020:** Operations return to campus in July. Fall classes are offered remote live, online, or face to face. Remote live courses are the most common mode of class offered in the fall semester to provide instruction in real time but by virtual means.

**2021:** The spring semester begins with three weeks of remote learning for face to face classes. Remote live courses continue to be the most common mode of class offered in the spring semester. A virtual winter commencement ceremony is held.

**2021:** The College plans for expanded face-to-face class offerings for the fall semester as more and more individuals are vaccinated and restrictions are being lifted.







Dr. Margaret M. McMenamin

*What an unusual and historic year upon which to mark my ten years at Union County College! I didn't know what to expect when I assumed the presidency, but I certainly didn't foresee us living in the shadow of a global health crisis.*

Regardless of the incredible challenges presented by COVID-19, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to serving our students. We adapted to limitations and were flexible to ensure services were uninterrupted. While this has been the most challenging time in the College's history, I believe that we will emerge stronger. We have learned what we are capable of, individually and as an institution.

I continue to be proud of our college-wide response to the pandemic. At its onset, in March 2020, we were able to pivot seamlessly to emergency remote instruction with no interruption to instructional time. Our Foundation jumped into action, foreseeing the incredible economic impact to our most vulnerable students, and to date has raised nearly \$1 million for our COVID-19 Student Emergency Relief Fund. We re-opened our physical buildings on July 27, 2020 and initiated study hall locations for students to complete their schoolwork in a safe, comfortable environment with access to computers and WiFi. None of this would have been possible without the commitment of our employees and the cooperation of our students.

One of the proudest moments of my ten years was when, for the first time, Union

County College was named a Top 150 Community College by the Aspen Institute. This prestigious recognition is a testament to our years of commitment to improving our student outcomes.

I remain thankful for the support of the members of the Union County College Boards of Trustees and Governors. Their dedication to our students has increased our student success outcomes.

As an institution, we would not be able to do what we do for the residents of Union County without the generous and unwavering support of the Union County Board of County Commissioners. Their name may be new, but their commitment is unchanged. We thank them for their support of the College but also for their visionary leadership during this pandemic.

I am as proud to walk our campus today as I was ten years ago. Perhaps more so because we have come so far. Our graduation rates have more than quintupled. We have been recognized by the Aspen Institute. I have the great fortune of being surrounded by fellow employees who are committed to providing a high-quality, affordable, and accessible education to the residents of Union County. Thank you for your faith in me over the past ten years.

Sincerely,

*Margaret M. McMenamin*

Dr. Margaret M. McMenamin  
President, Union County College







## **UNION COUNTY COLLEGE**

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

2021 Annual Report of Union County College