

DR. KANTER SPOKE ABOUT THE COLLEGE PROMISE CAMPAIGN AT CONVOCATION



Union students were in attendance at Convocation. Sitting with the group is Dr. Martha Kanter and standing to the right is President McMenam.

Dr. Martha J. Kanter, Executive Director of the College Promise Campaign and former U.S. Under Secretary of Education from 2009-2013 under President Obama, was the keynote speaker at Convocation held on Sept. 3 at the Cranford campus. She presented, "Making and Keeping the College Promise: One Community at a Time." The Campaign is a national initiative to increase college access, affordability, quality, and completion in higher education, and most specifically in community colleges. Dr. Kanter praised the College community for the work being done in initiatives like Operation Graduation and Project Achievement. The success of these initiatives is most evident through the significant increase in graduation rates from 5.9% in 2009 to 29.7% in 2018.

In addition to her current position, Dr. Kanter is a Senior Fellow at New York University's Steinhardt Institute for Higher Education Policy. In her role as the U.S. Under Secretary of Education, she oversaw all federal postsecondary statutory, regulatory, and administrative policies and programs, including the \$175B annual federal student aid programs, higher education, adult education, career-technical education, international education, and 6 White House Initiatives. From 1993-2009, she was president of De Anza College and then chancellor of Foothill-De Anza Community College District in Silicon Valley, California. Dr. Kanter holds a B.A. in sociology from Brandeis University, an M.Ed. from Harvard University, and an Ed.D. from the University of San Francisco.

CLOSE THE GAP RECEPTION RAISED NEARLY \$75,000 HONORING FORMER TRUSTEE FRANK BOLDEN



Union County College Foundation Executive Director Doug Rouse, Union County Freeholder Vice Chairman Alexander Mirabella, Freeholder Andrea Staten, President McMenam, Mr. Frank Bolden, Assemblyman Jamel Holley, and Freeholder Angela R. Garretson.

The Union County College Foundation raised nearly \$75,000 at their 4th Annual Close the Gap Cocktail Reception on July 17 at the Galloping Hill Golf Course in Kenilworth, NJ. This year's event honored Frank A. Bolden, Esq. for his years of service as the former Vice Chair of the Union County College Board of Trustees and his generous support of the Close the Gap campaign. The campaign supports the College's strategic initiative to accelerate the pace of African American student graduation rates.

Assemblyman Jamel Holley was the honorary chair for the event and noted how the College identified the issue facing African American students and developed a strategic response that has helped quadruple the African American male graduation rates. He was joined by Close the Gap supporter Assemblywoman Linda Carter. Freeholder Vice Chairman Alexander Mirabella was joined by Freeholders Andrea Staten and Angela Garretson and presented Mr. Bolden with a resolution that outlined his many accomplishments in addition to his generous support of Union County College.

NEW SLATE OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OFFICERS SHARE VISION FOR '19-'20



Back Row: Union's Dean of College Life Tammy Smith, Vice President for Administrative Services Dr. Athos Brewer, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Maris Lown, Vice President of Financial Affairs & Treasurer Lynne A. Welch, President McMenamini, Vice President of Student Development Dr. Demond T. Hargrove, and SGA Advisors

Assistant Professor of Psychology Dr. Melinda Norelli and Assistant Director of the Academic Learning Center Jose Paez-Figueroa. Front Row: Edens Toussaint, Elizabeth Senator; Valerie Gutierrez, Secretary; Murielle Mason, President; Beianka Tomlinson, Vice President; Linda Lonzagüez, Treasurer; Vasiliki Vlastaras, Cranford Senator.

Since mid-August, the new slate of Student Government Association (SGA) officers were on campus getting ready for the fall semester. The group of officers were chosen by their peers to represent them throughout the academic year. On Aug. 28, the officers met with President McMenamini to present and discuss their visions and agenda for 2019-2020.

SIX UNION STUDENTS NAMED NJCAA ALL-AMERICANS



For the 2018-2019 academic year, the College had six student-athletes named All-Americans by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). Yamel Abreu of Union, Chisom and Nwaneka Chinedu of Freehold, Josh Fitts of Roselle, Maya Lawlor of Cranford, and Jessica Woods of Linden all had excellent performances in their respective sports to be named to an All-American team, the highest honor awarded to a student-athlete at a community college.

Yamel and Jessica were members of the women's basketball team, sisters Chisom and Nwaneka Chinedu were both members of the women's track and field team, Josh was a member of the men's track and field team, and Maya was a member of the women's soccer team.

UNION KICKED OFF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



Union County College Vice President for Administrative Services Dr. Athos Brewer, Union County College Dean of Elizabeth Campus Dr. Lester Sandres Rápalo, Ambassador Carlos Garcia of El Salvador, Josephine Hernandez, President McMenamini, Freeholder Chair Bette Jane Kowalski, Freeholder Angel G. Estrada, and Union County College Dean of Students Mensah Peterson.

On Sept. 17, the College kicked off Hispanic Heritage Month with an opening ceremony at the Cranford campus. President McMenamini welcomed attendees and noted our pride in being designated a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI). HSI status is only given to higher education institutions who have a Latino student population of more than 25%. Freeholder Chair Bette Jane Kowalski thanked students for coming to the ceremony and expressed her pride in the diversity of the College community and the County.

Attendees then heard from guest speakers Josephine Hernandez, a board member of the Immigration & American Citizenship Organization (IACO), a non-profit organization that empowers communities by providing education about immigration-related matters and the U.S. naturalization process, and Ambassador Dr. Carlos Enrique Garcia of El Salvador. Entertainment was provided by two singers, one of Venezuelan heritage and one of Salvadoran heritage.

DR. RÁPALO BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH ECUADOR AND JAPAN



Ms. Denise Fernandez, Vice Cónsul from Ecuador Edwin Bladimir Quito Erazo, Vice President of Business Operations Chief Financial Officer from Essex County College Mr. Julio W. Izquierdo, Union County College Dean of Elizabeth Campus Dr. Lester Sandres Rápalo, Cónsul from Ecuador Mr. Alfonso Morales Suárez, Director of Academic Partnerships, Rutgers University-Newark, Office of the Chancellor

Ms. Ingrid Renderos, and Assistant Professor of Entrepreneurship Management & Global Business, Arturo E. Osorio, Ph.D., from Rutgers Business School, Newark and New Brunswick.

On July 24, Union County College Dean of Elizabeth Campus Dr. Lester Sandres Rápalo met with the Cónsul and Vice Cónsul of Ecuador at the Ecuadorian Consulate in Newark to discuss hosting cultural and educational events for Union students and to show how Ecuadorians in the area, especially in Union County, could take advantage of ESL and degree programs at Union. Currently, the Cónsul of Ecuador, Mr. Alfonso Morales Suárez is the Interim Chair for Group of Latin American Consulates in New Jersey (GLACO). Dr. Rápalo and Mr. Suárez are planning to host educational forums with the Latin American consulates this academic year.

On Aug. 28, Dr. Rápalo and Union County College Vice President for Administrative Services Dr. Athos Brewer hosted Dr. Hiromi Kubo from the Kitami Institute of Technology at the Elizabeth campus to discuss Union's academic programs and how Japanese students may take advantage of opportunities at the College. They also discussed potential international opportunities for Union students. Also in attendance were representatives from the City of Elizabeth, including Ms. Bridget S. Anderson, Business Administrator, and Ms. Krishna H. Garlic; Director of Department of Health and Human Services.



From left are City of Elizabeth Business Administrator Ms. Bridget S. Anderson, Union County College Dean of Elizabeth Campus Dr. Lester Sandres Rápalo, Dr. Hiromi Kubo from the Kitami Institute of Technology, Union County College Vice President for Administrative Services Dr. Athos Brewer, and City of Elizabeth Director of Department of Health and Human Services Ms. Krishna H. Garlic.

STUDENTS MET THE DEANS AT THE "DEAN'S SCOOP"

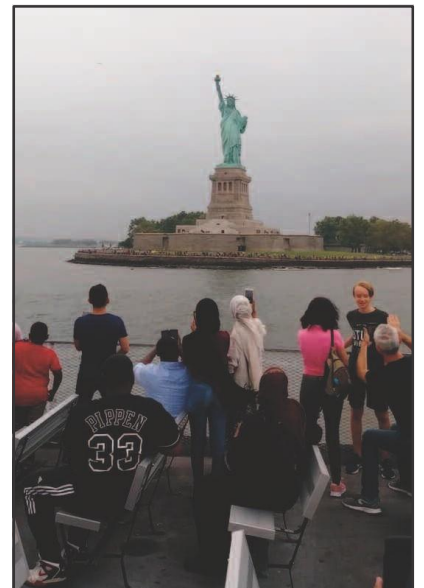


Dean of Student Success Rebecca Royal; Dean of STEM Dr. Liesl Jones; Dean of College Life Tammy Smith; Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Scotch Plains Campus Dr. Bernard Polnariev; Dean of Social Sciences, Business, and History Dr. Carlos Barrezueta; Dean of Humanities Dr. Melissa Sande; Dean of Elizabeth Campus Dr. Lester Sandres Rápalo; and Vice President for Administrative Services Dr. Athos Brewer.

During the first week of classes the Student Government Association (SGA) hosted a series of events to welcome students to campus and engage students in the Union community. The "Dean's Scoop" event was held at each campus so students could meet the Deans. Union Deans rolled up their sleeves, donned their aprons, and scooped ice cream while chatting with students. This fun and inviting event allowed students the opportunity to know their deans face to face and opened doors for future conversations.

EOF STUDENTS VISITED ELLIS ISLAND AND LADY LIBERTY

On Aug. 14, 25 students in the EOF program visited and explored Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. For many, this was their first time visiting both sites. Ellis Island was exciting and very overwhelming for some students because they are the grandchildren or children of immigrants. The EOF team chose this field trip so the students could gain a better understanding of the journey immigrants have faced to become a part of the fabric of America. Many of the students expressed being



EOF students on the ferry heading to the Statue of Liberty.

overcome with emotion from the history that they explored. Students were accompanied on the trip by Union County College Director of EOF Ruben Melendez, and EOF staff members Student Services Specialists Daniel Langford and Terrence Harris, and Student Services Generalist Shelly Threatt.

CENGAGE UNLIMITED LAUNCHES FOR TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY



Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Scotch Plains Campus Dr. Bernard Polnariiev with Cengage representatives at the Cranford campus. Cengage representatives have been present at all campuses during the first few weeks of the fall semester to assist faculty members and students with questions about the new platform.

Cengage Unlimited is the new subscription service being used by the College to provide affordable textbooks and course materials to Union students. The cost is included as part of the course fees and allows students to save hundreds of dollars annually. Cengage is the largest U.S.-based education and technology company serving the higher education markets. They provide course materials to almost half of the 20 million higher education students across the country.

During the summer, members of the College's faculty learned how to use the new technology and adapted their courses to the current materials available through Cengage.

STUDENT-ATHLETE TYHEEM BURNO CHOSEN FOR NJCAA ALL-AMERICAN JUCO SHOWCASE



Union student-athlete Tyheem Burno preparing to take a shot. Photo credit: Simone Solha.

In July, basketball player Tyheem Burno, participated in the 2019 All-American JUCO Showcase that was held in Atlanta, Georgia. This National Junior Collegiate Athletic Association (NJCAA) showcase provides the nation's best junior college players, who are entering their sophomore year, the opportunity to demonstrate their skills.

Tyheem was one of only three basketball guards from Region XIX who were invited to this year's event. The athletes had the opportunity to display their abilities to hundreds of coaches from four-year institutions and NBA Scouts.

This past academic year Tyheem was a First Team All-Region player and named to the Garden State Athletic Association (GSAC) First Team All-GSAC player.

UNION STUDENTS REMEMBER THOSE LOST ON 9/11



Members of the College community held the banner created by Union students.

At 9 a.m. on Sept. 11, members of the Union community gathered near the flag pole in the Plaza on the Cranford campus to commemorate those lost 18 years ago during the 9/11 attack. The Student Government Association (SGA) helped coordinate the event. In addition to the American flag being flown at half staff, smaller flags were placed throughout the Plaza as a remembrance of those who perished.

INAUGURAL EVENT HELD TO ESTABLISH UNION'S CHAPTER OF AAWCC



The women of Union County College who are interested in participating in the AAWCC chapter.

On Aug. 28, an inaugural kickoff event was held to establish a chapter of the American Association of Women in Community Colleges (AAWCC) at Union. This was led by Assistant Dean of STEM Dr. Nicole Cippoletti and Executive Director of Institutional Research Dr. Elizabeth Cooner. More than 75 women from the faculty and staff were in attendance. AAWCC focuses on leadership, professional development, networking, and service to the community and has helped thousands of women across the nation grow in their professional aspirations.

SAD NEWS - THE PASSING OF PROFESSOR JOSEPH DZUBACK

In May, the College community lost a beloved professor when Joseph Dzuback, III, Instructor of Computer Science, and an alumnus, passed away. He had been a faculty member since 1983. His family has established the Joseph Dzuback Memorial Scholarship in recognition of his years of service to Union and his dedication to his students. Members of the faculty and staff have graciously contributed to the scholarship, particularly those in the STEM Division.



To donate to the scholarship, please call the Doug Rouse, Union County College Foundation Executive Director at (908) 709-7050.