

EMERGE

For alumni and friends of the **Community College of Baltimore County**
FALL 2024



A LEGACY OF COMPASSION

The Lloyd
Family's
Enduring
Educational
Impact
pg. 7

EMERGE

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Dear CCBC Alumni and Friends,

Three words have been on my mind lately: hope, generosity and education. When these powerful forces unite, extraordinary things happen. Especially here at CCBC.

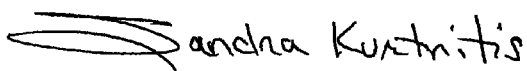
In this issue of Emerge, we highlight the steadfast generosity of the Alvin D. Lloyd Sr. family. CCBC has proudly showed its appreciation for decades of the Lloyd family support by dedicating The Alvin and Mary Lloyd College Center at CCBC Dundalk. In so doing, we honor the family's legacy of promoting hope, generosity and education right here at CCBC.

You will also read about how our college provides transformative education that directly and positively impacts our community. You will meet an inspiring entrepreneur who started a balloon business, and students who are continuing their educational dreams at four-year colleges through CCBC's Degrees to Succeed program. Additionally, we showcase the many ways donations, both big and small, have enabled our students to access high-quality education, equipping them with the skills needed to excel in 21st century jobs.

Key to our mission is also the work of the President's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Advisory Council. Created in the fall of 2020 to ensure that every student feels seen, heard and valued, the Council's work aligns closely with the college's core values. We believe that "Every One of Us Counts" and we are committed to taking "Actions That Matter"! At CCBC, all students have access to an affordable, high-quality education.

Through the combination of hope, generosity and education, we are building a future full of promise for CCBC students. Thank you for being a continued part of it.

With gratitude,



Sandra L. Kurtinitis, Ph.D.
CCBC President





Redefining Success

Vidhi Patel, 2024 President's Distinguished Graduate

After high school, Vidhi Patel faced a choice: pursue a predictable route or buck tradition and follow her heart. Patel chose the latter and redefined her life and career journey in ways she never imagined.

"Growing up, I always thought I would major in computer science and follow a safe, traditional path," Patel recalls. But as she approached her senior year, she felt a growing discontent. "I realized that dream was not meant for me. I didn't want to stick to comfort for the sake of security."

Patel broke away from expectations, announcing to her high school counselor and parents that she wasn't applying to any colleges. However, after some discussion with her parents, she enrolled at CCBC—a turning point.

"Before my time at CCBC, I was not actively involved in my community, nor was I interested in any leadership roles," she said. "I enrolled as a CCBC student,

(then in) the Honors College and started on my path to becoming the person I am today."

At CCBC, Patel quickly garnered a reputation among faculty and peers for being intelligent, motivated and authentic. She consistently earned a 4.0 GPA while immersing herself in campus activities. She served as a First Year Experience senior mentor, CCBC Essex Phi Theta Kappa chapter president, and the Honors College's vice president of Service. She additionally founded and served as president of the Fashion Club at CCBC Essex.

Patel also lent her passion and leadership skills to her community. She volunteered at PRISIT, a student-led initiative providing free design services for those in need and participated in the college's partnership with the National Alliance for Mental Illness.

Two years of hard work, leadership and dedication paid off; she was named the

2024 President's Distinguished Graduate and spoke before her graduating class.

"I was so nervous and shy when I first joined Student Engagement," she reflected from the graduation stage. "But look at me now. I'm speaking before thousands as the commencement speaker."

While majoring in general studies at CCBC, Patel discovered her passion for fashion design. Through CCBC's Mellon Scholars Program, she secured a paid internship with Brandon Warren Design, contributing to a collection displayed at the Baltimore Met Gala. Next, she plans to enroll at the Fashion Institute of Technology and eventually launch a formal wear brand.

"CCBC has helped fund my education on top of connecting me to multiple resources that have led me to be here today," said Patel.



From Gym Class to Business Class



Alumna Angela Phillips' Ballooning Success

"They just made me feel so welcome, so accepted and so involved," recalls Angela Phillips of her time at CCBC. Having enrolled as an adult, Phillips had the opportunity to take a class with her son—and it happened to be a gym class.

"I was the oldest student and the only female on the court," she laughed. "But the coach never made me feel out of place. He kept encouraging the younger boys to pass the ball to me!"

Now Phillips, a retired Air Force master sergeant, continues to support the college. She serves on the CCBC

Alumni Board, which helps alumni to succeed personally, professionally, and academically, and she promotes fundraising initiatives and community engagement for the college.

Phillips had always wanted to earn her college degree, but as she says, "Life got in the way."

After high school, she worked for a local Department of Defense contractor and spent 34 years in the military, earning several promotions and raising a family. However, after her retirement, it was finally time to go back to school. She was surprised by how much CCBC had to offer.

"I didn't know how many industries and career paths you could pursue!" she said. "There are so many programs that I didn't realize existed."

Serving on the alumni board has opened her eyes even more.

"The value of the college is amazing," she said. "The free tuition program opens so many doors to people in the community. Even if you are not able to get free tuition, the scholarships and affordable tuition make CCBC such a great option."

While at CCBC, Phillips earned her degree in general studies and took classes that prepared her to launch her own small business.

She began her entrepreneurial journey with the course "How to Start and

Manage Your Own Small Business." This course and others helped her gain skills and insights into company management, government resources and business legalities.

In 2017, Phillips participated and emerged victorious in CCBC's Center for Business Innovation's 4th Annual Business Plan Competition.

Charm City Balloons & Events, which Phillips founded in 2018, provides custom balloon designs, decor, and event management for local events, businesses, and community groups. She has worked with numerous local businesses including McDonald's Corporation, Chick-fil-A, Huber Memorial Church, and The H.O.P.E. Academy, as well as the National Association for Black Veterans, American Legion, Maryland Military Department, Maryland Air National Guard – and of course, CCBC.

"Balloons are just fun," she said. "They make everyone feel good."

When Phillips considers the "why" behind her involvement with CCBC, she offers a lot of praise for President Sandra Kurtinitis.

"She is so passionate and genuinely authentic in her commitment to the college and the community," said Phillips. "She has created a community where people can better themselves through education, and she really cares. The vast number of programs and wonderful staff are proof of that."



Dual Advantages

Brittany Brown pursues success with CCBC's dual enrollment programs

When it came time for Brittany Brown to choose a college, CCBC was an easy choice. Brown had already gotten a smart start at CCBC through the Early College Access Program. ECAP enables high school students in Baltimore County to take tuition-free classes at CCBC and earn credits. Once her college career was underway, the forward-looking student discovered yet another opportunity to advance her education.

"Degrees to Succeed wasn't on my radar at first," said Brown. "Once I learned about it from an advisor, I knew I had to sign up."

Degrees to Succeed helps students earn their associate degrees and transfer seamlessly to partnering four-year universities. The program dually admits students and offers dedicated advising, assistance with selecting coursework, and guidance on applications, ensuring that no credits are lost during the transfer process. This approach saves time and money, keeping students on track toward earning advanced degrees.

"You need at least a bachelor's – maybe a master's – to work in HR," she explained. "Degrees to Succeed put me on that path." She earned an A.A. in general studies from CCBC and will pursue a B.A. in human resources at Morgan State University in the fall.

While Brown is excited about what lies ahead, she credits CCBC with preparing her. The smaller class sizes and student support gave her a strong foundation from which to emerge. She also fondly recalls the vibrant community at CCBC's Catonsville campus and student life activities, including BBQs and themed events.

"Everything is so streamlined," she shared. She encourages others interested in pursuing an associate and bachelor's degree to try Degrees to Succeed.

CCBC currently partners with eight universities as part of its Degrees to Succeed program. The program has more than 600 enrolled students and 95 graduates.

ccbcmd.edu/degreetosucceed

Engineering Dreams into Reality

How CCBC Fueled Kelvin Dagadu's Ambitions

Kelvin Dagadu's interest in engineering began with curiosity, but the opportunities in the field confirmed his path.

Dagadu, who will graduate in December 2024, is already gaining experience in the field by working part time as a virtual design and construction assistant at Harkins Builders. His responsibilities include flying drones to document construction progress, performing quality checks and assisting with building information modeling coordination.

"My goal is to get my bachelor's degree in civil engineering and become a licensed civil engineer," Dagadu said. "I plan to continue working with Harkins Builders for the near future, building my career in construction and move on up to higher heights from there."

The support and resources provided by CCBC have played a crucial role in Dagadu's journey. He has become involved in clubs, organizations and research experiences. He credits the Honors College, Student Engagement office and Male Student Success Initiative program with helping him find his way and develop a strong network.

"Forming friend groups who have helped me through my educational and personal journey, through different organizations and activities on campus, was not something I expected," he said. "The MSSI program has been vital to my professional and personal development.

Participation in essay writing workshops, internship preparation workshops, socializing and building community at CCBC have made my experience a hundred times better."

Scholarships have also been instrumental in Dagadu's academic success. "I have received a scholarship for at least every semester here at CCBC, which has helped me focus on my classes and not worry about my tuition," he stated.

Without these scholarships, Dagadu acknowledges that his college experience would have been significantly different. "I would have had to work full time and attend school part time. I don't think I would have been as engaged at CCBC or able to take advantage of the resources and opportunities available."

Affordability was an important consideration in his college choice, said Dagadu, whose father earned his associate degree in computer science from CCBC in 2019. "I first was planning to attend a four-year college, but due to COVID-19 and financial challenges, my family and I decided that CCBC was the better option for saving money while getting my associate degree."

After graduation, Dagadu plans to transfer to a local university to pursue his bachelor's degree in civil engineering, and he is confident that starting at CCBC was the right choice.

"There are a ton of resources available to you if you are willing to work hard," he said. "CCBC can be the best choice to start your career or certification when you make use of the resources available to you."



Adventures in Learning

Professor Cristina Cardona Brings Classroom Concepts to Life

In early June 2024, a group of environmental science students gathered at the Horn Point Laboratory on the Eastern Shore of Maryland to learn about the Oyster Recovery Program.

"Students visited an oyster farm and saw the entire process of oyster restoration," explained Cristina Cardona, CCBC associate professor of environmental science. "It was incredible to see their enthusiasm as they engaged with the scientists and learned about the impact of oysters on the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem."



The experience was part of a two-week Honors College program focused on the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Activities included visits to Horn Point Laboratory, Blackwater Wildlife Refuge, Assateague National Seashore and Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. Students participated in service-learning activities, obtained sustainable farming education and visited the Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology in Baltimore.

Hands-on learning brings classroom concepts to life for students, and Cardona is eager to expose more students to these opportunities.

"Experiential learning allows students to participate and learn by doing rather than just listening," Cardona explains. "These experiences are imprinted in their lives forever, shaping their career goals and broadening their understanding of environmental issues."

Exploring possible programming for students, Cardona recently participated in a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Student Experiences Aboard Ships faculty voyage. Funded by the National Science Foundation, participants in the STEM SEAS program embark on voyages aboard research vessels where they engage in various scientific activities and projects.

"We spent 11 days on the RV Thompson, the research vessel, from Seattle to Honolulu," said Cardona. "We pretended to be students, so we would know what it would be like for our students."

Cardona brings that firsthand experience back to her classroom, enriching her teaching and inspiring her students.

"After STEM SEAS, I added a bunch of new slides to my PowerPoints showing the real-life equipment and data collection methods we used on the research vessel. I even created YouTube videos so students could see how things were done in a real research setting," she said.

Because STEM SEAS is funded by the NSF, it is more accessible to students who might not otherwise be able to afford such experiences.

"Once a student gets accepted, everything is funded by the NSF, so it opens up opportunities for equity and diversity. Students who normally couldn't afford trips are getting to go and experience this free of cost," explained Cardona. She added that these programs are particularly important for community college students.



"Experiential learning provides real-world applications of what students learn in the classroom, giving them a leg up compared to others. It's especially valuable for community college students, many of whom are first-generation college students or come from economically challenged backgrounds."

The impact of these experiential programs extends beyond the immediate learning outcomes.

"Several students from our recent Chesapeake Bay trip were already making connections for future internships. It's about getting their foot in the door and adding valuable experiences to their resumes," Cardona said.

However, ensuring that all students have the ability to participate in one of these programs requires funding. Grants and scholarships are crucial resources.

"The Honors College has its own resources, and with the Global Education Advisory Board program, we try to get grant funding to lower the cost of trips," said Cardona. "This makes it possible for students who might not afford these experiences to participate and benefit from them."

As CCBC continues to expand its experiential learning programs, Cardona hopes more educators and students can benefit from these transformative experiences.

"I've had multiple students tell me that these trips have opened them up to opportunities in environmental science or biology that they hadn't considered before. It's not just about learning; it's about experiencing and retaining that knowledge."



A Legacy of Compassion

The Lloyd Family's Enduring Educational Impact

In 1976, Al and Mary Lloyd lost their daughter, Marie, in a hit-and-run accident. The family faced a choice: succumb to sorrow or honor her memory in the most meaningful way possible.

"I said, 'I'm going to help someone else go to college since she won't be able to go,'" recalled Al Lloyd. Using her life insurance money, the family established the Marie Lloyd/Ed Lamon Scholarship.



Since then, through their personal contributions and special events, the Lloyds have contributed over \$1 million to CCBC, funding scholarships, program expansions and community engagement initiatives. Their contributions have helped hundreds of students engage in educational and career opportunities that might otherwise have been out of reach.

However, finding opportunities to help students in more immediate and personalized ways is the most memorable for Lloyd.

"I once ran into a student in the bookstore who had purchased a \$400 textbook," Lloyd said. "He ended up not needing the book, but if the seal was broken, you could not receive a refund. I was not happy about that. How can students afford this and then not be able to get money back? So, I made sure he received a refund."

His daughter, Cindy Pizanis, said the family would ask students to submit an essay with their scholarship application. One year, an applicant happened to be a family friend.



"I said, 'Dad, I know her. I promise you, you are making a change in her future. She is so deserving and in need of the money; she would not be able to attend college,'" Pizanis said. It was a special moment when they were able to deliver the scholarship and see firsthand the difference it made. "Dad said to me, 'We make changes in a lot of these families' lives, even without knowing them.'"

Many of the students make it a point to get to know Lloyd and say thank you.

"Some of the students stop by and see me at North Point Flea Market," said Lloyd, who sells Ravens, Orioles and seasonal items at the market, along with calendars that help raise money for the scholarships. "They let me know about their continued success and what's going on in their lives. It makes me feel good that they take time out of their day to come see me."

"As a family, we always knew Dad was big on education. 'Everyone deserves one,' he would say," stated Pizanis. "Now, as adults, we understand more and help in his involvement. It makes you feel good just helping someone who needs it. We find fulfillment in seeing his happiness in doing for others and try to do the same in many ways."

Later, inspired by the compassionate care Mary Lloyd received at Johns Hopkins before her passing, Al Lloyd established the Mary E. Lloyd Nursing Scholarship.

"Every nurse I talked to had a school loan that they had to pay off. Two of them broke down and cried," he recalled. "One was really bad. I reached into my pocket and pulled out some money. I told her to put this on her loan: 'It doesn't help much, but every little bit helps, and you'll realize that someday.'"

CCBC President Sandra Kurtinitis aptly summarized Lloyd's impact, stating, "Al's generosity and passion for CCBC, the Dundalk community and our students has no limits. His gifts and donations have changed thousands of students' lives by facilitating career and professional opportunities."

Recently, the college dedicated The Alvin and Mary Lloyd College Center at CCBC Dundalk in honor of the family's long-term commitment to education and the Dundalk community.

As a member of the CCBC Foundation Dundalk Committee and the college's Legacy Society, Lloyd's planned gifts ensure that his legacy of generosity will continue to benefit future generations. These planned gifts will support additional scholarships, program enhancements and community outreach efforts, further cementing Lloyd's impact on CCBC and the Dundalk community.

"Remember who or what helped you to achieve your goals and return the favor by giving back to your community," said Lloyd. "Help someone along the way each and every day, even if it is just to make them smile!"





CCBC's 2024
Rising Together Gala:

A DEIB CELEBRATION

A vibrant tapestry of cultures, identities and ideas unfolded at CCBC's 2024 Rising Together: Championing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Gala. Over 650 people attended the event, which raised a remarkable \$280,000 to support initiatives fostering a more inclusive campus and community.

President Sandra Kurtinitis underscored the college's unwavering commitment to DEIB, emphasizing that this year's gala celebrated not only progress but also the power of every individual. Her message resonated with attendees, setting the tone for an evening of inspiration and connection.

Beyond the festive atmosphere, the gala showcased the tangible impact of CCBC's DEIB programs. Damion Hocker, a CCBC Male Student Success Initiative student, shared a moving personal story of overcoming challenges and achieving success through the college's support. The spoken word performances by CCBC's Performing Arts students further enriched the evening, providing a powerful artistic expression of diversity.

A highlight of the event was the Diversity Showcase, offering attendees an opportunity to explore a range of DEIB-related programs. From American Sign Language to Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning, the showcase highlighted CCBC's comprehensive approach to creating an inclusive environment.

By fostering cultural competencies, elevating the student experience and promoting innovation, the Rising Together Gala reaffirmed CCBC's dedication to nurturing a community where everyone belongs.

To support DEIB initiatives at CCBC, please contact Institutional Advancement at 443-840-3118.



ASL Interpreter Program Aims to Bridge Community Gaps

An anonymous donor and Maryland grant are providing a boost

Every year, CCBC's Interpreter Preparation program provides over 1,000 hours of pro bono sign language interpreting services to local members of the Deaf community.

"We get roughly 20 to 30 requests a month for pro bono interpreting services for things that aren't covered through the ADA," said Rebecca Minor, chair of the Communication Arts department at CCBC.



While the Americans with Disabilities Act requires large employers, hospitals, and schools to provide accommodations such as American Sign Language interpreters, the law does not extend to social events, after-school programs and more. For that reason, many organizations and individuals call upon CCBC to assist with interpretation.

Minor is often stretched to cover all the requests. However, a recent donation of \$10,000 is helping to alleviate some of that strain. The anonymous donor, a member of the Deaf community, provided the funds to allow the college to pay stipends to interpreters, interpreter mentors and student interns providing this service.

"As an immigrant, I'm grateful for everything that this beautiful country has provided for me: two college degrees, a federal

government career, a family full of joy and love, and plenty of friends," said the anonymous donor. "It's both a privilege and a pleasure for me to give back by making contributions to the CCBC interpreting program so that Deaf folks can participate in community activities and events, which are not covered by the ADA, with skilled ASL interpreters who can be adequately compensated."

The ASL Interpreter Preparation program received another boost this summer, funded by the State of Maryland's Employment Advancement Right Now Maryland Grant program, administered by the Maryland Department of Labor. The program supports workforce and economic development initiatives. The college will use the funds to help Maryland ASL interpreters gain certification, which will soon be required under a new law taking effect in 2025.

"Certification guarantees a standard of quality and professionalism, which is especially important in situations where miscommunication can have serious consequences, such as medical appointments or legal settings," Minor stated.

The EARN grant provides funding for interpreters to enroll in test preparation courses and covers the cost of the certification exam fees. But it does not solve the larger problem, which is that there are not enough interpreters to serve the community's needs. Minor explained that the complexity of the language and cultural nuances make it challenging to achieve fluency. She also pointed out that interpreters bear witness to some of the most difficult and emotional moments in people's lives.

"You might be in a hospital where someone has lost a baby or in a job setting where a Deaf person faces discrimination," explained Minor. "I always tell my students, 'It's not a job choice; it's a life choice'. You have to be part of the community to keep up with the way the language changes over time. It's not just a job you can show up to and go home."

The job market is clamoring for more interpreters, who can make high salaries and work in a variety of industries. With the additional funding, Minor hopes to increase the availability and quality of interpretation services for local residents.

ccbcmd.edu/asl

Where Community and Commerce Connect

"The Collective is not just a marketplace, but a space where community connections thrive," said Delise White, project director for the Center for Business Innovation at CCBC.

The Collective, housed at CCBC Owings Mills, is a pioneering initiative that offers a storefront for local entrepreneurs to sell their products. Many of the sellers are CCBC alumni who took business or entrepreneurial classes. The only requirement is that vendors must be registered businesses in Maryland.

"By bridging the gap between education and practical business support, we're empowering makers and transforming our community," said White.

Launched in early 2023, The Collective is backed by a grant from the Philip E. & Carole R. Ratcliffe Foundation. It operates with a unique business model that significantly benefits its makers, many of whom are women, minorities or veterans.

At The Collective, CCBC-affiliated entrepreneurs keep 90% of their sales. Local, non-affiliated makers keep 80%, with no rent charges. This structure ensures makers keep most of their profits while gaining invaluable exposure and sales opportunities.

The impact of The Collective goes beyond just sales. "We hold bi-monthly mixers for our makers where they can mingle, network, share experiences and learn from one another. And, of course, they are able to participate in our Center for Business Innovation programs," said White.

Located in a highly trafficked area outside the local branch of the Baltimore County Public Library, The Collective attracts a lot of attention and has a small following of regular customers. However, they also utilize various marketing



channels to build awareness and reach, including Google ads, social media campaigns and outreach to CCBC alumni and supporters.

One of the most notable endorsements came from County Executive Johnny Olszewski Jr., who visited The Collective during his District Days initiative.

"To be recognized by the County Executive was incredible. It really underscores the importance of what we're doing here. We're not just selling products; we're fostering economic growth and community spirit," White said.

As the holiday season approaches, The Collective is gearing up for its first major retail period. This time of year presents both significant opportunities and challenges.

"The holiday season is a critical time for sales, and we want to ensure our makers maximize their potential," White

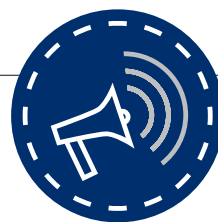
said. "We're planning special holiday pop-ups and promotions to attract more shoppers. However, balancing inventory, meeting customer demands and maintaining a smooth operation during this busy period will be challenging. We're excited about the potential but also preparing diligently to manage the increased activity."

Looking to the future, White envisions The Collective growing into an even more integral part of the community. "I want The Collective to be a place where makers proudly say they're part of it. We aim to build a strong, supportive network that continues to grow and thrive."

GATHER · SHOP · INSPIRE



Visit The Collective today!



Foundation News



New Scholarship Sprouts Interest in Sustainable Horticulture

Brad Thompson has deep roots in horticulture. His grandparents were among the first to cultivate highbush blueberries as a domestic crop, and his family continues to own and run an active blueberry farm today.

"My family got into the blueberry business, and that is how they eventually made the money that paid for my education," he said.

Now, as director of the Sustainable Horticulture program at CCBC, Thompson is educating a new generation of horticulturalists and giving them a boost with the creation of a scholarship fund celebrating his family's farming legacy.

"It seemed like a no-brainer that we would start this scholarship fund in honor of my family," said Thompson.

Horticulture is a promising and lucrative career, explained Thompson, especially as communities and governments are challenged to mitigate the impacts of climate change. But despite the strong career outlook, Thompson knows that

horticulture is unfamiliar to many students. He hopes the scholarship money will encourage more students to explore the field.

"We've done what we can to make that jump into the program as easy as possible," he said.

Thompson explained that green infrastructure projects, such as approaches to water management that protect, restore or mimic nature with the use of native plants, are driving demand for sustainable horticulture experts.

"Often, there are people working to create or maintain these projects who have no experience, and they're pulling out the native plants thinking they're weeds," said Thompson. "Climate resiliency, stormwater management and cooling the earth seems to be pushing the need for more professional, environmental horticulturalists."

In addition to jobs focused on the environment and sustainability, Thompson also points to other careers in horticulture, such as turf and field maintenance for sports and recreation facilities or golf courses.

"Highly skilled horticulturalists that know their plants, know maintenance and can run the crews are making decent money," he shared, adding that

some CCBC graduates have been hired to manage the grounds at stadiums, government facilities and other venues. Other students have entered the nursery business, landscape design, urban greening or professional gardening.

Partnerships within the industry ensure that the program stays abreast of current market trends, and a program advisory board guides programming and curriculum.

"We have a program called the American Landscape Institute," Thompson said. "That is a relationship we have with business owners in the region that have design-build and nursery businesses. They take students on as employees who work four days a week, and take classes on Fridays during the fall, spring and summer semesters."

While Thompson acknowledges that most Baltimore County residents probably don't have the agricultural background that informed his path, he reports that the horticulture program has grown steadily since its inception. There are currently over 125 students in the program, and interest is increasing as more environmentally focused jobs are created.

With the support of the scholarship, even more students will be able to launch a career in this growing field.



Donors and Scholars Connect at Annual Luncheon

The CCBC Foundation celebrated its generous donors and inspiring scholarship recipients at the annual Scholarship Donor Appreciation Luncheon on May 9, 2024. Over 110 attendees gathered to share stories of the transformative impact of scholarships.

In FY 2023, the foundation raised over \$3.5 million, awarding \$703,671 to 780 students. CCBC President Sandra Kurtinitis emphasized the importance of these investments in both students and the community.

“All of this support enables us to offer tuition-free opportunities to so many of our students through full or partial scholarships,” said Kurtinitis. “Every time we invest in our students, we are at the same time investing in our communities.”

Scholarship recipient Sarah Lucas, who recently earned a degree in histotechnology, shared her inspiring journey. Despite challenges, including motherhood, Lucas excelled in her program with the support of faculty, classmates and the Lindsay Ruland Black-eyed Susan Histotechnology Scholarship. She has accepted a position at The Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Scholarship donor Carol Diggs, who established the scholarship in memory of her daughter, expressed her joy in meeting recipients and witnessing their success.

“Histotechnology is a fabulous field, and it is very stable and growing,” said Diggs. “It’s great to meet our scholars and hear their stories and get to know them. I’m really excited for what’s in store for them in the future.”



CCBC Alumni Celebrate Gradfest

The CCBC Alumni Association hosted a memorable GradFest on Saturday, May 18, to honor the Class of 2024. The event, held at the CCBC Essex Wellness and Athletic Center, brought together over 300 graduates, family and friends for a day of celebration.

Alumni Association President Tonya Green and CCBC President Sandra Kurtinitis extended warm congratulations to the graduates, highlighting the exceptional achievements of Vidhi Patel, the 2024 President’s Distinguished Graduate. Patel’s academic excellence and leadership served as an inspiration to all attendees.

The festive atmosphere was filled with laughter and excitement as guests enjoyed a variety of activities. Graduates enjoyed a delicious picnic buffet, browsed the unique offerings of local vendors and cherished the opportunity to take professional photos in their commencement regalia. Children were entertained with face painting, balloon art and wildlife encounters, adding to the joyous ambiance. The lively beats of DJ Foqus transformed the event into a dance party, creating unforgettable memories for all.

GradFest was a resounding success, showcasing the CCBC community’s pride in its graduates and fostering a strong sense of belonging among alumni.



Grants Roundup

Supporting CDL Training

Two recent grants are increasing CCBC's ability to educate commercial drivers and close the employment gap for these skilled labor jobs.

The U.S. Department of Labor awarded CCBC \$721,130 to expand its Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training program. The funding will support scholarships for 50 eligible students, hire additional faculty trainers, purchase essential equipment – including a tractor and trailer – and expand existing facilities. This initiative provides immediate relief for an industry in urgent need of workers while ensuring sustainable long-term growth in CCBC's capacity to train commercial drivers.

Additionally, CCBC continues its partnership with the All Within My Hands Foundation's Metallica Scholars program and the Carhartt Foundation's For the Love of Labor initiative. The initiative aims to help the transportation industry reduce the gap between supply and demand by increasing opportunities for interested truck drivers to obtain their commercial driver's licenses.

The partnership with CCBC will bring more well-trained commercial licensed drivers into the field, strengthening the region's supply chains for years to come. Increasing diversity in the field is also a shared goal, with an important focus on attracting veterans and women.



The National Science Foundation Helps Enhance STEM Education

NSF awarded CCBC a four-year grant totaling \$1,258,941 to enhance STEM education by establishing multiple faculty-led research labs and projects.

This project will immerse students in introductory to intermediate science research practices via a four-course series, promoting interdisciplinary work in biology, chemistry and environmental science. The initiative aims to close the achievement gap for students from diverse demographic and socioeconomic backgrounds through a comprehensive support system that includes rigorous student support, diversity and inclusion efforts and faculty-led research programming.

Additionally, the initiative aims to establish at least four faculty-led research projects, support a minimum of 15 students annually for three years with research internships, and facilitate the participation of at least four students annually for three years in science conferences to present their findings. This comprehensive approach is expected to significantly enhance STEM education at CCBC, particularly for underrepresented groups.

Addressing Food Insecurity Among Students

The Maryland Higher Education Commission has awarded CCBC a \$17,280 grant to address food insecurity among students on Maryland campuses.

This initiative is critical, as federal studies indicate that over 30% of college students experience food insecurity, significantly impacting their academic performance and overall well-being. A comprehensive study by the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice found that three in five students lack adequate food or safe housing, with a higher prevalence among students of color.

CCBC's College and Community Outreach Director Heather Griner is leading the initiative.

"Obtaining the Hunger Free Campus grant has afforded many students to benefit not only physically from food in the campus pantries but educationally



through events held in the outdoor garden kitchen on the Essex campus," said Griner.

CCBC's three campus-based food pantries recorded over 6,000 visits last year, providing 4,000 pounds of food. Efforts to scale up the student pantry include expanding partnerships with the campus community gardens and

organizations like Hungry Harvest, which rescues fresh food from retailers and farms and distributes it to community partners like CCBC.

The grant will support these initiatives, ensuring that CCBC can continue to meet the essential needs of its students and their families, so they are better able to focus on their education.



Advancing Skilled Trades at CCBC

CCBC received a \$601,000 Lowe's Foundation Gable Grant. CCBC will use the grant funding to modernize its skilled trades laboratories with state-of-the-art equipment and to expand course offerings, ensuring students are equipped with the skills they need to succeed in today's job market.

"With enrollments rising at vocationally focused schools, these community colleges are blossoming arenas for entrepreneurship and economic mobility," said Janice Dupré, Lowe's executive vice president of human resources and chair of the Lowe's Foundation. "Each college has a clear, inspired vision for closing the trades gap in its community, and we're pleased to welcome them to our larger movement."

"CCBC is proud to partner with the Lowe's Foundation in their mission to strengthen America's skilled trades workforce," said CCBC President Sandra Kurtinitis. "These critical professions are the backbone of our communities, ensuring our infrastructure thrives and our economies flourish. The Lowe's Foundation Gable Grant empowers CCBC to significantly enhance its HVAC and building maintenance programs, equipping our students with the cutting-edge skills they need to launch successful careers and directly contribute to our region's growth."

Class Notes



1990s

Michael Roberts '94 [fire maintenance technician] is a dedicated professional in Baltimore County with a unique focus on maintaining and servicing fire apparatus and ambulances. He is passionate about his work and especially loves working alongside first responders.



Golfam Javanoskooei '14 [adjunct professor] recently celebrated 10 years at CCBC as an adjunct faculty member in the Polysomnography Technology program. She is a World Sleep Academy faculty member, serves on the Maryland Board of Physicians and is completing her doctoral program.



Donna Rowlette '95, '96 [retired] is a minister at Set the Captives Free Outreach Center and founder of Welcoming Heart Group Home. She retired from the Howard County Police Department and the Maryland Army National Guard and is currently completing her research for a Doctor of Ministry.

Angela S. Phillips '14 [veteran and business owner] is a 34-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force and owns Charm City Balloons & Events. Angela actively supports H.O.P.E Academy, volunteers at the American Legion and Downtown Baltimore Business Network International and serves on the CCBC Alumni Board.

Ebadullah Sharifi '14 [IT] has an associate degree in information technology with a minor in Cisco. He received a two-year certificate in System Security and is pursuing his bachelor's at University of Maryland Global Campus in information system security with a minor in cybersecurity.

2000s

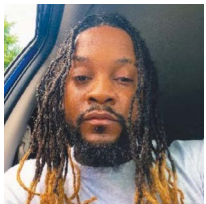


Reginia Hawkins '09 [program administrator] works at the Johns Hopkins Carey Business School Summer Business Academy. She is committed to promoting diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, and finds it incredibly rewarding to witness scholars, many minorities and first-generation college students gain valuable knowledge and leadership skills.

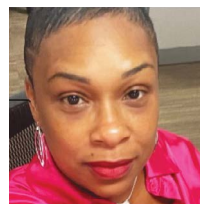


Matthew Healy-Lisiecki '17 [engineering] graduated from Arizona State University in December 2024 with a B.S. in electrical engineering. He plans to use his degree to advance his career. Matthew and his wife recently vacationed in Ireland with their one-year-old son, Elliott.

2010s



Antonio Hill '10 [youth outreach specialist] has worked in the human services field for 12 years. He currently works for Roca, using a cognitive behavioral intervention model to create change in young men who are at a high risk of being incarcerated or re-incarcerated.



Inshallah Owens El-Brown '18 [cybersecurity management and policy] works with the Social Security Administration as a claims specialist. She was recently selected to serve as an equal employment opportunity specialist for the Department of Defense Commander Navy Installation Command.



Wanda Gillie '18 [home care] recently celebrated 22 years of service under the Johns Hopkins Medicine umbrella in the Home Care department. Despite the challenges of being a student in her late 50s at CCBC, she recalls how her colleagues and professors encouraged her to finish her education. She pays it forward by inspiring others to pursue their dreams no matter their age.



Jordan 'Jay' Allen '23 [social media manager] is a student at Morgan State University and a member of Creators of MSU, an organization that promotes the work of content creators and artists. He recently received a leadership position as Mr. Creator of MSU.



Sharon Pinkney '19 [entrepreneur] graduated from the University of Baltimore in 2020, cum laude with Helen P. Denit honors, earning her bachelor's in human services administration. She is starting a nonprofit organization, Mattie's Pearls, whose mission is to support and help young women transition into adulthood.



Clarica J. Douglas-Ajayi '23 [hemodialysis technician] has been educating patients with end-stage kidney disease since 1989. In 2024, she was elected president of the National Association of Technicians and Technologists. She is pursuing her bachelor's degree in healthcare administration at University of Maryland Global Campus and is proud to have made the dean's list in 2023 and 2024.

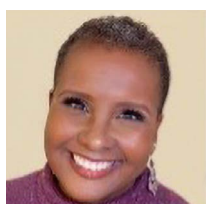
2020s



Simmone Richardson '20 [pharmacy technician] received her Maryland Board of Pharmacy Technician license in 2020 and enjoys the responsibilities of her work. She loves serving those with medical concerns or urgencies that need a gentler approach.



Damisi Busayo Kayode '23 [premed] is a student at Towson University pursuing a career in anesthesiology. She interned with the 2024 4DN Summer Undergraduate Program for Excellence in Research, utilizing the National Institutes of Health laboratory at the University of Massachusetts to better understand the human genome.



Rosia L. Frazier '21, '24 [entrepreneur] teaches Black history to children and adults and aspires to a professorship. She represented Maryland at the 2024 Ultimate International Elite Ms. This fall, she will pursue a Holistic Health certificate from CCBC.



Casandra Park '23 [alcohol and drug trainee counselor] will graduate in 2024 and plans to apply for the Certified Supervised Counselor—Alcohol and Drug certification. Her commitment to this field stems from a deep desire to support recovery and contribute to the well-being of the communities she serves.



Reynold Hoover '21 [retired, U.S. Army Lt. Gen.], a West Point graduate, served in the White House as chief of staff for the Federal Emergency Management Agency and later as deputy commander for the U.S. Northern Command at Peterson Air Force Base. Currently he works as a strategic advisor and is an adjunct faculty in CCBC's Aviation department. He was recently named CEO of the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

College News



Leading with Inclusivity and Action

CCBC President Sandra Kurtinitis recalls the tumultuous summer of 2020, marked by the COVID-19 pandemic and the tragic murder of George Floyd.

"As we approached the fall semester that year, I knew we needed to take decisive action," she said. "I had to step forward and outline a strategy to ensure that, despite the isolated nature of much of our community, everyone at CCBC would feel seen, heard and valued."

The creation of the President's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Advisory Council was a cornerstone of that strategy. Four years later, the council remains strong and has successfully implemented several core initiatives to drive change. The council's creation aligns with other college priorities, such as the Male Student Success Initiative, which focuses on closing the achievement gap for male students of color, and the College Promise free tuition program, which serves 85% of students.

Central to the council's success is its commitment to continuous feedback and data-informed actions.

"Our work is driven by data from diversity climate surveys," explained Ingrid Sabio-McLaughlin, program coordinator for Women and Gender Studies and co-chair of the DEIB Council. "This approach allows us to create targeted actions that address specific needs and gaps identified by our students and staff. It's about listening, learning and constantly improving our efforts."

The council operates through specialized roundtables, each focusing on specific DEIB issues, which allows for targeted discussion and action on key areas of concern. Yvette Bunn Jones, assistant vice president of Human Resources and

co-chair of the council, is particularly proud of some of the tangible results the council has achieved.

"The Diversity in Faculty and Staff Hiring and Retention Roundtable created a fellowship program to enhance diversity in faculty hiring, and the Accessibility Roundtable spearheaded the creation of a dashboard to alert the college community about elevators, door openers and chairlifts that are out of service," said Bunn Jones. She added that the council is also working to improve the bias incidents reporting system, with help from the Student Roundtable.

Bunn Jones attributes the DEIB Council's lasting impact to strong leadership support and broad representation from all areas of the college community, including students.

"We have unwavering support from our senior leadership, led by Dr. Kurtinitis and our board of trustees," she said. "This top-down commitment provides the resources and backing we need to drive meaningful change across the college."

Since its inception, the DEIB Council has embraced two mantras, "Taking Actions That Matter" and "Everyone Counts," which guide its work. For Dr. Kurtinitis, it was vital that the council look beyond superficial issues and work to create and sustain equity for the students and community it serves.

"The very nature of community colleges, the students we serve, our open door policy – we have every dimension of diversity represented on our campuses," said Dr. Kurtinitis. "We are looking at the students who are sitting in our classrooms today and asking ourselves, 'What do they need?' Our institutional commitment to leading with equity translates into extraordinary opportunities for students."





CCBC Steps Up After Key Bridge Collapse Disrupts Baltimore

The sudden collapse of the Key Bridge brought Baltimore to a standstill. Lives were lost, commutes became a nightmare and the economic impact rippled throughout the city. Recognizing the gravity of the situation, and with CCBC's Dundalk campus being just five miles from the bridge, the college sought to take immediate action.

"When confronted by adversity, CCBC stood ready to do what we always do, face it head on," said CCBC President Sandra Kurtinitis. "In this case, it meant helping our college community and our external community navigate this unexpected crisis."

While the Dundalk campus was likely to be hardest hit, the entire college felt the effects – from longer commutes to emotional strain. CCBC responded with a multifaceted approach.

CCBC considered adjustments in class schedules to accommodate commutes, arrival times became more flexible, and resources like financial aid and mental health services were readily available to students and staff. Increasing shuttle routes between campuses to ease traffic, allowing negatively impacted students to withdraw without penalty and encouraging advisors to help students find online classes or take advantage of the college's tuition-free options were all part of a larger discussion to offer relief. Additionally, CCBC opened its doors to house a Small Business Administration Business Recovery Center, providing vital low-interest loans to businesses struggling after the bridge closure and hosted job fairs, including one for the Baltimore Port Alliance.

"The impact went far beyond our Dundalk community," said President Kurtinitis. "With CCBC offering 300 different academic programs for both degrees and certificates, we will be an important partner in the economic and social redevelopment of our region as we recover from the bridge collapse. We will do whatever we can to support our community as it maneuvers through the challenges ahead. This is a moment to embody the 'community' in our name – Community College of Baltimore County. We have the resources, the commitment and the will to help wherever needed."



CCBC Hosts White House National Cybersecurity Event

In early January 2024, CCBC President Sandra Kurtinitis and Baltimore County Executive John Olszewski Jr. welcomed National Cyber Director Harry Coker Jr. in his first public appearance since taking office.

Coker met with CCBC's Cybersecurity program students and presented to an audience of more than 500, including students, educators, state and Baltimore County officials, business leaders, and National Security Agency partners. He highlighted successful efforts in Baltimore that have strengthened the local cyber workforce.

CCBC has a highly acclaimed Cybersecurity Institute, which includes an Educational Partnership Agreement with NSA. CCBC is approved to offer cyber/IT apprenticeships through the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council.

Governor Wes Moore Visits CCBC's HVAC Lab

Maryland Gov. Wes Moore visited the CCBC Catonsville HVAC lab to learn about the college's partnership with Johnson Controls. The governor engaged with students in the HVAC program, where Johnson Controls provides scholarships, training, mentoring, internships and jobs for students. It is a wonderful example of CCBC and businesses working together to provide opportunities for students and to fill a workforce need.

"This partnership has changed students' lives," said CCBC President Sandra Kurtinitis. "The collaboration between Johnson Controls and CCBC's HVAC program improves access to affordable in-demand job training, benefiting both the community and the economy."





CCBC Essex Wellness and Athletics Center Gets \$16.8 Million Renovation

After 50 years of serving the CCBC Essex community, the Wellness and Athletics Center has been renovated with state-of-the-art facilities for dance, educational, recreational and competitive athletics programs.

Renovations include a new fitness center and two large dance studios. The main level was also reconfigured to better support the needs of the Athletics programs. The project was funded by the state of Maryland and Baltimore County government and completed in 2023.

The dance facility includes two new studios named after CCBC Dance Company founder Carole Drake Cascio, changing space, faculty offices and a new restroom.



CCBC Dance Company Celebrates 50 Years of Movement

The CCBC Dance Company, founded by Carole Drake Cascio, celebrated its 50th anniversary in May with a dance concert at the Center for the Arts Theatre at CCBC Catonsville. The event featured works by guest artist Alvin Mayes and alum Peter Pucci, and a restaging of "A Slip of the Tongue" by Leslie Tinios, former artistic director of Dimensional Dance Media.

In addition to founding the dance company, Cascio founded the Dance program at CCBC. Officially recognized and accredited by the National Association of Schools of Dance in 2018, it is one of only three community college programs in the country to receive this distinction.



Degrees to Succeed Program Adds Two New Transfer Partners

Morgan State University and Stevenson University have joined CCBC as partners in Degrees to Succeed. The program enables students to enroll at CCBC and a four-year institution simultaneously, first earning their associate degree and then seamlessly transferring as a junior.

Degrees to Succeed students can save money and fast track their educational and career goals. They receive guaranteed admission and access to four-year partner campus resources and student experiences, including co-advising, financial incentives, scholarship opportunities and more.

CCBC currently partners with eight universities as part of Degrees to Succeed. The program has more than 600 enrolled students and 95 graduates.

CCBC Athletes' Winning Streak

It was a good year for CCBC Athletics. Fielding 18 teams, the 2023-24 academic year was highlighted with many athletic and academic achievements across the three athletic programs. CCBC appeared in six NJCAA national tournaments with one national runner-up (CCBC Essex men's lacrosse) and two national semifinalists (CCBC Essex men's soccer and women's basketball).

CCBC captured five Region 20 titles and two Region 20 runner-up honors, along with three Maryland Junior College Athletic Conference titles. Shining on and off the field, CCBC's student-athletes garnered 122 athletic excellence awards and 77 academic awards, with 10 NJCAA All-Americans.



CCBC Inducts New Members into Athletics Hall of Fame



The CCBC Athletics Hall of Fame formally inducted the 2000 CCBC Dundalk men's basketball national championship team. The team enjoyed a family luncheon before the game and received their induction plaques from President Sandra Kurtinitis during halftime of the CCBC Dundalk versus CCBC Catonsville men's basketball game. Greate White, a team member and current assistant director of Athletics at CCBC Dundalk, was inducted with his teammates, making it an especially special full-circle moment.

CCBC Athletes Give Back



CCBC student-athletes are showing commitment on and off the field, sharing their time and talents by participating in several community service projects.

The CCBC Dundalk and CCBC Essex programs volunteered weekly at Colgate Elementary School, reading to and mentoring students. The CCBC Catonsville Athletics program partnered with League of Dreams, holding two on-campus athletic clinics that included adaptive baseball, basketball and soccer. Students in the Baltimore County Post Secondary Functional Academic Learning Support program, together with CCBC's Student Accessibility Services and Single Step programs, practiced and competed alongside Cardinal athletes. The experience forged confidence, new friendships and many smiles.

Support CCBC with gifts that don't impact your lifestyle. Designate CCBC to receive estate assets in the future or make immediate gifts of assets that are "out of sight and out of mind."

WILL OR TRUST

You can plan a gift that will take effect only after your obligations are fulfilled.

RETIREMENT PLAN

Give CCBC assets subject to double taxation and leave more to your family.

DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

Make a gift from your donor-advised fund or name CCBC as the ultimate beneficiary.

STOCK AND APPRECIATED ASSETS

Take advantage of appreciated securities without incurring capital gains tax.

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Make a significant gift, even without a large estate, and leverage your dollars.

REAL ESTATE

Donate a valuable asset in exchange for tax benefits, and possibly an income stream.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Donate personal property that enhances our mission and provides tax benefits to you.



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CONTACT US

Planning your estate and legacy for future generations, including your charitable interests, takes careful evaluation. Consult with appropriate professionals for assistance.

Kenneth Westary, vice president, Institutional Advancement
kwestary@ccbcmmd.edu • 443-840-3213



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Fall Classic Raffle

Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024
12–4 p.m.

SHRINERS BOUMI TEMPLE

5050 King Avenue
Essex, Md. 21236

Contact: **Woodrow Powell**
wpowell@ccbcmd.edu
410-952-5874

Retiree Luncheon

Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024
11 a.m.–2 p.m.

SPARROW'S POINT COUNTRY CLUB

919 Wise Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21222

Contact: **Gail Rossmark**
grossmark@ccbcmd.edu
443-840-1017

Alumni Annual Meeting

Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024
5–7 p.m.

CCBC DUNDALK

Alvin and Mary Lloyd
College Center
First Floor Lobby
7200 Sollers Point Rd.
Baltimore, Md.

Contact: **Alexus Booker**
abooker@ccbcmd.edu
443-840-3544

CCBC Foundation Annual Gala

Saturday, April 5, 2025
7–11 p.m.

MARTIN'S WEST

6817 Dogwood Rd.
Baltimore, Md.

Contact: **Woodrow Powell**
wpowell@ccbcmd.edu
410-952-5874

CCBC Foundation Scholarship Awards Banquet

Thursday, May 8, 2025
11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

CCBC DUNDALK

Alvin and Mary Lloyd
College Center
First Floor Lobby
7200 Sollers Point Rd.
Baltimore, Md.

Contact: **Angella Kevas**
akevas@ccbcmd.edu
443-840-1817

Grad Fest

Saturday, May 17, 2025
11 a.m.–3 p.m.

CCBC ESSEX

Wellness Center
7201 Rossville Blvd.
Baltimore, Md.

Contact: **Claudia McDonough**
cmcdonough@ccbcmd.edu
443-840-3544