

# EMERGE

For alumni and friends of the **Community College of Baltimore County**  
FALL 2023

**BRIDGE TO SUCCESS**  
CREATING BRIGHTER FUTURES  

---

THE CAMPAIGN FOR CCBC



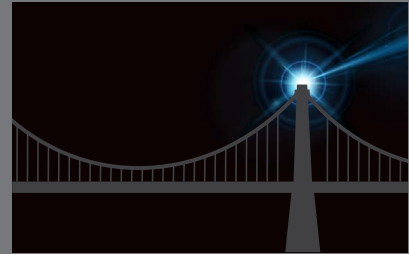
# EMERGE



**2 Spotlights**  
People making a difference at CCBC and in the world



**6 Impact**  
Funding innovation to better serve students



**8 Bridge to Success**  
A fundraising campaign focusing on the many dimensions that contribute to student learning, experience and success

**16 Foundation and Grants News**  
Grants and programs helping CCBC grow

**20 Alumni Updates**  
Class notes from graduates

**22 College News**  
CCBC news, events and updates

## Board of Trustees

J.D. Urbach, Chair  
Mary Margaret O'Hare, Vice Chair

Kimberly Carl  
Ernest Eley, Jr.  
Margaret A. Forte  
Paulette Hammond  
L. Michelle Jackson  
Irina Koyfman, DNP, NP-C, RN  
Cristina Lopez  
Dana M. Moore, II  
Douglas B. Riley, Esq.  
Kim Ross  
Richard A. Scheper, Ph.D.  
Daryl J. Sidle, Esq.  
Jay M. Weinstein, AEP

Secretary-Treasurer  
Sandra L. Kurtinitis, Ph.D.  
*CCBC President*

## President

Dr. Sandra L. Kurtinitis

## Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Kenneth Westary

## Editors

Katie Turner, Hope Davis

## Art Director

Jodi Neal

## Graphic Designer

Jae Eun Lee

## Contributors

Artemas Photography,  
Julie Brown, Tori Burns,  
Hope Davis, Jerry Luken,  
Claudia McDonough,

Thomas McTear,  
Melissa Miller, Sandy Myers,  
Rachel Rock Palermo,  
Nancy Smith, Regina A. Smith,  
Mark Talbert,  
Ann-Marie Thornton,  
Clark Vandergrift

## CCBC Alumni Association Inc.

7200 Sollers Point Road  
Dundalk, MD 21222

## CCBC Alumni Association

### Directors

Kabish Shah '12, President  
Tonya Green '18, Vice President  
Travis Ward '13, Treasurer  
Joi Bannister '06  
Bridgett Barefoot-Welch '12

Keith Ewancio '92  
Vera Grinage '98  
Mellanie Lee '16  
Deborah Miller '85  
Rebecca Odelius '08  
Angela Phillips '14

## Past Presidents

Penny Sorrick '83  
Janell Coffman '93  
Lewis Kubiet '88  
Rhonda Malkowski '88  
Roy Moreland '63  
Danna A. Williams '87  
Brian Peller '91

## CCBC Alumni Relations Office

Ann-Marie Thornton, CFRE  
Claudia McDonough

## Dear CCBC Alumni and Friends,

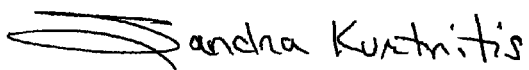
CCBC bridges the gap between students and success. Our 300 degree and certificate programs fuel hopes, dreams and aspirations for a brighter future. Whether that success takes the form of a college degree or workplace certification, CCBC equips students with the skills they need to achieve their goals.

With the dark days of COVID well behind us, CCBC is focused on meeting the needs of the students sitting in our classrooms today, largely first-generation college students with dreams of a better future. To reinforce our belief that these students should be unfettered by financial burdens, thanks to state and county legislators, CCBC has launched its tuition-free program so that most full or part-time students can now attend CCBC at no cost.

CCBC has a long tradition of standing as a solid “bridge to success” for the hundreds of thousands of students we have served since our humble beginnings in local high schools. Now we have launched the Bridge to Success Campaign to raise \$51 million to create pathways for even more students while also celebrating the remarkable work of CCBC faculty and staff.

As we count CCBC alums among our biggest advocates, I hope you enjoy reading this edition of EMERGE. The stories we share about faculty and staff are your stories too. They highlight the many ways in which CCBC positively impacts our region’s businesses, industries and communities.

Sincerely,



Sandra L. Kurtinitis, Ph.D.  
CCBC President



# From Weekend Student to Health Care Executive

Nicole Beeson's path began with CCBC's Weekend Nursing program; now she is helping future nurses achieve their goals



If you were looking at Nicole Beeson's resume, you could easily see she is well-educated with an accomplished career. Beeson, MBA, MSN, RN, senior vice president of Patient Care Services at University of Maryland Saint Joseph's Medical Center (UMMS SJMS), holds many letters behind her name. However, she is quick to share that her academic journey and path to becoming a health care executive began at CCBC.

While searching for a career that allowed her to help people, Beeson stumbled upon CCBC's Weekend Nursing program. She thought it was the perfect fit for her current circumstance.

"I was unexpectedly faced with caring for my three small children on my own," said Beeson. "CCBC's Weekend Nursing program gave me the flexibility to care for my children and take classes on the weekend. It was exactly what I needed during that time in my life."

Describing her CCBC experience as "phenomenal," Beeson felt at home surrounded by like-minded students, many like herself who needed the weekend program due to family and work obligations.

"I was surrounded by a wide breadth of people who were committed and knew why they were there," said Beeson. "Many of them had full-time jobs and if it wasn't for CCBC's weekend program, they wouldn't have been able to pursue a career in nursing."

After completing CCBC's program, Beeson's career continued at a steady pace. She entered the University of

Maryland Medical System as an RN and never looked back. She went so far as to earn a dual master's in nursing and an MBA. Each step of the way, UMMS provided financial support which eased her path.

"I just kept moving forward," said Beeson, "I didn't really know my destination, I just kept putting one foot in front of the other. I absolutely adored my time at the bedside. I didn't make an initial decision to move from bedside into leadership. Things just fell into place."

While today Beeson sits in an executive office, she never forgets her humble beginnings. She's been actively involved in a partnership involving UMMS SJMS, CCBC and Baltimore County government where students from under-resourced communities can earn their CNA at CCBC at no cost with a guaranteed position at SJMS after successful completion of the program. The students can continue on and earn their LPN, also at no cost, with the support of SJMS.

"Our hope is to create a sense of community around this group of students and watch them rise together," said Beeson. "That's what happened to me at CCBC."

Beeson is a testament of how this opportunity could change the trajectory of the students' lives. Her life path is a true reflection of the CCBC "See what you can be" mantra.



# Switching On as an Entrepreneur

Michael Guarraia is turning a hobby into a profitable business with help from CCBC's Center for Business Innovation



A few years ago, Michael Guarraia was looking for a creative way to teach his middle school science class about electricity. Digging through an old closet in the lab, he found a shelf full of obsolete microscopes.

The light bulb switched on, literally and figuratively, for Guarraia, who thought "I can turn these into lamps."

With that, a business was born.

Once the class project wrapped up, Guarraia started experimenting with other found objects, turning them into unique lamps which he sold at craft shows. While he considered this a "hobby business" at the time, he felt like he would benefit from some additional help in figuring out how to make it work.

Guarraia enrolled in CCBC's Small Business Ownership Course, a 10-class series offered through the Center for Business Innovation, which teaches the basics of business ownership to budding entrepreneurs.

"It was really cool," he said. "There was such a diversity of folks in that class, from people who are just out of high school, to people with advanced degrees who are starting up third or fourth or fifth careers. I felt really privileged to be

amongst that group of people, thinking about really clever business ideas."

Guarraia spent years as an engineering teacher and now works as a curriculum designer. Through this work, he worked with universities and community colleges to broaden participation in STEM programs. So, when he started to look for business classes, he immediately thought of his local community college—CCBC.

When he started the program, he had no intention of expanding his lamp business to be more than a fun side project that may bring some additional "pocket change," as he described it. But, as he started to hash out ideas with professors and mentors in the program, Guarraia realized the business could grow through partnerships with local designers, retailers and online custom orders.

Each semester, the Center for Business Innovation holds a pitch competition for students, with the opportunity to win up to \$20,000 to invest in business growth. Guarraia ended up winning the competition, and now, he is excited for what the future holds for MG Lighting.

He plans to invest in building a dedicated workshop, purchasing new tools, as well as covering basic business expenses like

insurance. He also says that the money will be used to purchase objects he can use to create lamps, which he typically finds at yard sales, Craigslist, Facebook Marketplace, or donations.

In addition to winning the competition, Guarraia says his biggest success is seeing people's faces light up when they see the lamps on display at his craft booth, which tend to draw a crowd.

"I had an old Black and Decker hand drill at a craft show in Towson, which is where they used to make them. Someone came by and said 'I can't tell you how many of those drills I assembled when I was working for Black and Decker.' So he bought one, which was really cool, to have that kind of personal connection to something."

Guarraia says that his experience at CCBC, and winning the entrepreneurial award, is driving him to make the most of his business.

"When I won the competition, I thought these judges, who in my opinion are esteemed entrepreneurs, they obviously believe my business could be something big. So, I need to honor their commitment and the commitment of the sponsors and really give this my all."



## Expanding Honors and Enrichment Experiences to All Students

### Adrienne Washington is growing CCBC's Honors College with the needs of community college students at the forefront

As the dean of Special Academic Programs, Adrienne Washington oversees the Honors programs on all three of CCBC's campuses. But, working in community college was not always her career plan.

"I have my master's degree in social work," said Washington. "I knew that I wanted to work within the community, but I didn't want to focus solely on clinical work."

Washington spent the first part of her career helping Fortune 500 companies with community engagement. She became the head of the Honors program at CCBC Dundalk in 2017, which brought her back to her roots in community social work.

"I feel like CCBC is a community, and I operate from a clinical mindset with my students, thinking about them holistically

and working to provide them with resources to be successful," she said. "I love it."

Now, she is focused on developing more enriching Honors experiences for students across all of CCBC's campuses. This means understanding what Honors students at four-year schools are doing in their first two years, and creating those opportunities at CCBC.

"For example, if a student transfers as a junior, and someone is talking about studying abroad, I want my student to be able to contribute to those types of conversations. We really thought about how to provide students with deeper and broader experiences."

To do this, Washington is working on creating an Honors College at CCBC, which would house and facilitate deeper learning experiences.

"The Honors College is a way for us to engage students either inside or outside of the classroom with more high-impact practices, and greater depth of experience and interaction with faculty. It is a way to provide all of CCBC with innovative strategies that Honors educators use, and using those same strategies to make all students successful."

Washington believes the power of community college is centered within the diversity of the student population.

"Because of the dynamics of the classroom and all the different demographics, the students contribute so much to the material and the lecture because they have lived experiences that make it more like a conversation rather than a lecture."

In building the Honors College, Washington is focused on the unique needs of non-traditional students. She pointed out that students with work and family obligations do not have the flexibility of typical college students, so it is the responsibility of the school to adapt programming around those needs.

"I had a group of students participate in an undergraduate research experience focused on the Green Book, which is an artifact from the period of segregation that served as a travel guide for minorities. I was able to take them to see actual national historic sites that are found within the Green Book, but I tailored it to meet their needs and their schedule.

"I think we've learned how to create experiences in a way that makes them more accessible to a non-traditional student, and that's our population."

Opening students to new perspectives is at the heart of Washington's approach, and it is rooted in her own love of travel.

"Every time I travel, I have a better understanding of how people live, and I try to find a way to translate that in my lessons with students."

It is fulfilling work, and Washington said she is glad that "community college found me."



## Following the **Signs** to a Fulfilling Career

Bernard M'kumbuzi is taking advantage of all CCBC has to offer to expand his horizons

Bernard M'kumbuzi, or "Buzi" as he is known among friends, never gave college too much thought when he was younger. After graduating from high school, he joined the Army, knowing that he could return to school once he had a better idea of what he wanted to do for a career.

"I have always had a passion for working with children, but I really didn't know what I wanted to do," said M'kumbuzi. "I thought maybe I would become a pediatrician."

Once he found CCBC, his path came into focus. M'kumbuzi joined the Male Student Success Initiative (MSSI), a program created to support and promote academic excellence for male students of color, where he received dedicated advising and mentorship. From there, he was accepted into Honors and the selective Mellon Scholars program.

"Having conversations about where I see myself in the next couple years and what I am interested in really helped me a lot," he recalled. "I started out pursuing ASL [American Sign Language] because of my brother. However, last summer, I did an internship with a school here in

Baltimore and decided to pursue special education."

M'kumbuzi's brother lost his hearing in childhood due to meningitis. Since then, ASL has been a big part of his family's life, and M'kumbuzi is happy that he can now turn those skills and passion into a career.

"I currently work with adults who are on the [autism] spectrum. I want to intertwine that experience and working with kids, and also utilize my ASL skills. So, pursuing special education is really a culmination of all of the things that I was very interested in doing."

In addition to his academics, M'kumbuzi was incredibly active on campus. He traveled to New Orleans for an immersive program examining the impact of Hurricane Katrina, volunteered for several organizations around Baltimore, and remained active in the Army Reserves. He was also a member of the PTK National Honors Society, the African Student Union, served as a social media ambassador for the college, and was a speaker at college events and tour guide for prospective students.

"I've also utilized the opportunity of coming back to school to join the ROTC program at Loyola University. That way I could commission and become an

officer after graduation," he said. "Loyola is the main campus for the battalion, however, they have sister schools where students can come from that school and participate in ROTC."

It was a busy schedule, but M'kumbuzi remains incredibly grateful for the doors opened through his involvement with MSSI. He said that MSSI has not only helped him with mentoring, but also provided funds that helped him pay for tuition and books, and created opportunities for social connections through organized events, trips, and cultural experiences. MSSI also introduced him to the Honors programs, and the Mellon Scholars programs, a selective enrichment experience for humanities students, in partnership with Johns Hopkins University

"Being introduced to Honors was sort of a gateway for me to really get involved in the school," he said. "It was a very integral part of my journey at CCBC. And, I've had multiple mentors within MSSI and the Honors program that I could just reach out to if I needed anything. It was really impactful to be a student at CCBC."

M'kumbuzi graduated from CCBC in spring 2023 and is attending Towson University where he plans to complete a bachelor's degree in elementary education and special education.



# Funding Agile and Responsive Leadership

The Honorable Francis X. Kelly Jr. supports creative ideas with an endowment to the CCBC's President's Innovation Fund



Committed to serving the community, the Honorable Francis X. Kelly Jr. has been a driving force for positive change in Maryland throughout his long career in the Maryland Senate, and as the founder and Chairman of Kelly & Associates Insurance Group, now a part of the expanding Kelly Benefits enterprise.

With a strong belief in the power of education, Senator Kelly has been a long-time champion of the Community College of Baltimore County.

"Community colleges are the best educational value in America," he says. "They are also among the most agile, able to adapt programs and services quickly based on economic and workforce needs, helping people adjust and get jobs."

In 1996, Senator Kelly was tapped by then Baltimore County Executive Dutch

Ruppersberger to serve as Chair to the Board of Trustees for the college, leading the consolidation of three campuses in Catonsville, Dundalk, and Essex into one college that is CCBC today. With the support of the community, and bipartisan support from the State government, he was able to capitalize on the unique strengths of each college while folding them into a unified system. Over his eight-year term as Board Chair, he also hired Dr. Sandra Kurtinitis to lead the newly consolidated Community College of Baltimore County in the role of chancellor, which was later renamed to president during the reorganization of the colleges, a role she still fills today.

"Dr. Kurtinitis has done a phenomenal job," he says. "She came to CCBC right as the consolidation was done, and she was the perfect person to take the college to where it is today."

Now, Senator Kelly wants to ensure that the college president has the resources and flexibility to continue to be creative and responsive to the needs of students and the college. That is why he has created the Senator Francis X. Kelly, Jr. Challenge with a \$250,000 pledge to the Sandra Kurtinitis President's Innovation Fund, matching gifts of \$500 or more to establish a \$500,000 endowed fund. This fund is unique in that it provides the college's president with the flexibility and discretion to support creative ideas, high-impact practices, and initiatives that accelerate student opportunities to succeed.

"Flexibility is key. As a leader, you are constantly getting new information and you need to be in a position where you can quickly adjust. Being able to take advantage of opportunities when they arise is a dream for any president—and I have complete trust in Dr. Kurtinitis to make decisions in the best interest of CCBC students."

Reflecting on his experience in higher education and business, Senator Kelly sees challenges faced by educators today.

"Technology is advancing at a rapid pace, and there is so much bias in what we see and read in the media. It can be hard to figure out where to go to get good, solid, information."

However, he believes that community colleges are in the best position to adapt and respond to those challenges.

"Community colleges teach people how to ask questions, and to challenge what they are being told. Information literacy is vital, and that is a key role of educators."

And for students, he also shares some wisdom.

"First, remember that your life is about your relationships, so build strong friendships with the right people. Also, have a sense of urgency about getting things done, and be reliable. Nothing is more important than your integrity, so do what you say you are going to do and be true to yourself."







# Nurturing Creativity and Innovation

The Sandra L. Kurtinitis President's Innovation Fund will support the ideas that keep CCBC strong.

President Sandra Kurtinitis' 18-year leadership of CCBC began with a challenge for even the most creative of leaders. Taking the helm of the college during the continued transition from merging three independent campuses—Dundalk, Essex and Catonsville—into one, Dr. Kurtinitis was given the opportunity to shape a new future for community college education in Baltimore County.

"All of the talent and possibilities that existed within those three colleges, and then you put them together ... that was our growth point," she says.

Then, in 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic again tested her leadership, Dr. Kurtinitis pulled her team together with a unified focus on the college's mission and the students.

"We were one of the only community colleges whose campuses stayed open during the pandemic to serve students in person and remotely," she recalls, explaining that CCBC enrolls some of the most vulnerable students in the county. "To me, that is what you do when you believe in your mission."

Post-COVID, the college is facing new challenges, and Dr. Kurtinitis continues to innovate as she builds CCBC into what it needs to be for today's students.

"Community colleges across the nation have been struggling with declining enrollment," said Dr. Kurtinitis. "While CCBC has managed to keep its enrollment on track, we know that federal funding provided to community colleges during the pandemic will cease, impacting money available to support students. The needs of students are still great. We must be more creative in finding funding streams for student aid."

Moving the college forward requires innovation, as well as creative and intuitive leadership—qualities that have carried Dr. Kurtinitis throughout her term.

"We have a very fertile culture of innovation and creativity at CCBC. I believe in setting clear expectations and then trusting our people to bring a spirit of ingenuity and determination to successfully meet any task."

But, cultivating those creative ideas to fruition requires investment, which is why CCBC has launched the Sandra L. Kurtinitis President's Innovation Fund. This dedicated fund will provide money to support projects that are making an immediate impact on CCBC students.

One example of this is the recent creation of the Male Student Success Initiative, which grew out of ideas tested by faculty and advisors working with Black male

students. With funding, the program is now implementing strategies to close the achievement gap and increase graduation rates among males of color.

"This is an institution that has a culture of innovation, and I am always supporting the next big idea," says Dr. Kurtinitis. "Nurturing strong and positive ideas that will better our ability to teach, guide, and mentor—all of those things that our people are very willing to try to do."

The President's Innovation Fund will provide even more flexibility to continue that work. Through the Bridge to Success Capital Campaign, CCBC is seeking to raise over \$500,000 to endow the fund, and as of July 2023 less than \$92,000 remain to meet this goal. The Honorable Francis X. Kelly Jr. has made a \$250,000 pledge to CCBC with a challenge to match gifts of \$500 or more. The President's Innovation Fund will be the only endowment designed to give the president flexibility to support creative ideas to further CCBC's mission of making college affordable and accessible through innovative high-impact initiatives that improve student learning and success.

To support the President's Innovation Fund, contact the CCBC Institutional Advancement Office, Ann-Marie Thornton at [athornton2@ccbcmd.edu](mailto:athornton2@ccbcmd.edu) or [443-840-3118](tel:443-840-3118).

BRIDGE TO SUCCESS

Brighter  
**Futures**  
Start Here



89% TOWARD GOAL

**\$45** MILLION RAISED  
(AS OF JULY 2023)

**\$51**  
MILLION

## CCBC's fundraising campaign includes sweeping support of student learning, graduation and success.

In 2020, CCBC quietly kicked off its second comprehensive fundraising campaign. Seeking to raise an ambitious \$51 million to support students on every aspect of their academic journey, the Bridge to Success Campaign: Creating Brighter Futures is focused on strengthening critical areas for student success, academics, innovation, infrastructure and faculty and staff.





## Building Bridges to the Future

Ultimately, the goal of getting an education is to get a job. In the traditional model, a student graduates from high school, goes to college, earns a degree and enters the workforce.

But for many students, the path to a career is not as linear. College costs have increased. Many students, especially those from minority, immigrant or lower-income backgrounds, are the first in their family to attend college. Students are delaying or stretching college for a variety of personal and professional reasons. And many are juggling work and personal responsibilities with their own career aspirations and goals.

Combine that with a rapidly evolving workforce that demands entry-level workers with a high caliber of technical and information literacy. Add in the impact of automation, artificial intelligence and technology on traditional skilled trades, and the challenges facing today's colleges and universities start to become clear.

Helping students along the path to a career, and helping the workforce close employment gaps, requires a lot more than academics. That is why CCBC's Bridge to Success Campaign is focused on multiple dimensions of student success, from career training to degree programs, college infrastructure, faculty and staff, as well as myriad student support services and scholarships.





## A Bridge to Career Entry

For Stacy Igo, the most inspiring part of her role as the coordinator for the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) program is seeing students transform their lives in just a few short weeks. She explains that many students start the CDL training program looking for a road to a well-paying and stable career, which is exactly what they find.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median income for big-rig truck drivers is around \$50,000 annually, and the demand for drivers is growing at about 4% per year. To fill that gap, CCBC has recently expanded its CDL training facilities with the opening of its new Transportation Training Center at Tradeport Atlantic in eastern Baltimore County. The center offers classroom and range training for future commercial truck drivers, and students can earn a CDL class-A license in as few as eight weeks.

Thanks to a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation for \$720,000, even more students are able to jump-start their careers. Veterans

and military families are eligible for scholarships through the grant program, which fully cover the cost of the program.

Regina Ross is a veteran who chose CCBC because of the scholarship. She says trucking "runs in the family."

"I promised my uncle before he passed that I would get my CDL to honor him and my grandfather," said Ross.

Igo says that the funding has led to an increase in students enrolled in the program, and because of that, they are able to continue enhancing the services, support and equipment available to students. With more than 90% of enrolled students completing the training, and 82% passing the Maryland CDL-A exam, this is not only helping to close the workforce gap, but it is also helping dozens of families achieve a more financially secure and stable future.





Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning  
**HVAC@CCBC**  
Graduate



## A Bridge to Advanced Skills

The heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) industry is just one example of a workforce that is being transformed with the advance of technology. Beyond air temperature and quality, advanced HVAC professionals are now working on building automation and control systems for security and fire protection. These higher paying, higher skilled jobs require more technical skills and specialized training, and the workforce is struggling to keep up with the demand for these roles.

Increasingly, large employers are turning to community colleges for help and partnership to develop the right programs and education to produce the graduates with the skills to fill these jobs. These partnerships can take a variety of shapes, with a popular approach being the traditional trade-based apprenticeship model applied to new areas, such as information technology and healthcare.

Another approach is for large employers to make a direct investment to develop training programs, purchasing equipment and supplies, and providing scholarships to students at local colleges. Recently, CCBC was awarded a \$63,860 grant from Johnson Controls to expand associate degree and certificate programs in HVAC, fire and security and digital building automation systems.

The partnership with Johnson Controls is aimed at increasing the number and diversity of students in the program, as well as ensuring the college has the tools and technology to educate students on the advanced systems used in building automation today. While many students may eventually seek employment with Johnson Controls, and the company is actively engaged with students to build those relationships, the primary goal is to build an overall talent pipeline that benefits the entire industry.

“The refrain that we hear from industry is ‘we’ve got to create a talent pipeline,’ so ultimately we’re trying to produce individuals that are going to go to work for Johnson Controls,” said Jaime Alvarez, chair of the Engineering department at CCBC. “But, I think what makes them such a great partner is that they are perfectly willing to have competitors and other types of people from the industry be part of what we’re doing. Everyone reaps the benefit that folks are being educated and trained in what is needed.”

Students in both credit and noncredit HVAC programs are engaged. Alvarez explains that within the HVAC program, credit and noncredit students are in the same classroom even if they are at different stages or on different paths in their careers.



“Some students just want to get the skills to get a job, while others may be looking to move into a leadership role, start their own business or have been working for several years and are ready to move up,” he said.

The degree program is for those looking to advance, while the noncredit classes offer a chance for more immediate career entry. Students are able to move from one path to the other as they progress in their careers and interests.

## A Bridge to a Better Life



For Sabrina Pereira, pursuing her education in the United States represented a fresh start, away from the abuse she experienced as a child in India. Living on her own, she worked as a barista while working towards her Legal Studies degree. A June 2023 graduate, she will be continuing on to earn a bachelor's degree.

However, she almost didn't make it to the finish line.

In order to graduate, she had to complete an internship course, which as an international student cost \$900. Living alone and responsible for rent, groceries and other bills, Pereira did not have the money to cover the cost of the course.

It is a scenario that Heather Griner, director of College and Community Outreach Services at CCBC, sees far too often.

"The analogy that I use is a snowflake. One little snowflake is nothing, but as more snow keeps coming down, that snow starts piling up and becomes huge snowballs," she said.

"To our students, one little thing—that may not impact somebody with greater means—just snowballs into one more thing, and one more thing and one more thing."

Along with her team of success navigators, Griner tries to stop those snowballs from forming.

"We are essentially like a social worker for the college student population. We try to secure basic needs: food, housing, shelter, clothing, legal issues, counseling issues, we provide money in crisis situations," Griner explained. "A flat tire may lead a student to miss work, which causes them to lose their job, which means they can't pay for their rent, which means then they get evicted. When they could have just come to me, and I could have helped them get their car fixed."

Pereira received \$500 towards her internship course, and she was able to cover the rest.

"This relieved me from the worst stress I have experienced in life," she said. The success navigators also helped her cover the cost of a required textbook and application fees for a Johns Hopkins Summer Research Program.

"I cannot imagine what would have happened if I did not receive these funds," said Pereira "I think without their help, I would have had to cut down on my monthly grocery expenses to pay for my classes."

Griner does not want any student to face a choice between food and learning, and fortunately the Bridge to Success Campaign has already raised over \$220,000 to support emergency needs for students. She explains that while these types of barriers tend to be less visible, they can completely derail a student from completing their college education.

## A Bridge for Increased Access

Similarly, limited access to technology and an unreliable internet connection can also be a barrier to student success. This became especially apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic, when classes moved online and students had to access learning materials and tools remotely. Without access to libraries and campus buildings with Wi-Fi, many students were left with no way to connect.

Dr. Craig Klimczak, chief information officer at CCBC, says that expanding Wi-Fi access across campus, including outdoor spaces, had been a priority for the college for several years. But once the pandemic hit, the need became more urgent.

“Expanding the Wi-Fi access was a way of providing safety from the pandemic, using outdoor spaces as a way for isolation and separation,” he said. “We also have a large number of students who don’t have access to the internet [at home], and because of that, they don’t have equity with other students in accomplishing their educational learning and goals.”

A grant from the Middendorf Foundation, along with other funding, allowed for connectivity to be added in major parking lots and rolled out across campus quad spaces.



“We even have picnic tables with wireless charging ports,” added Dr. Klimczak. “You can sit outside. You can access the internet, charge your phone, hold a meeting, study or just take advantage of our lovely, beautiful campus environment and still be able to participate with your educational activities.”

# Making an Impact

Through July 2023, the Bridge to Success Campaign had raised \$45 million towards its \$51 million goal and is already advancing and elevating the remarkable work that happens at CCBC every day to change student lives. Over 3,000 donors have contributed, and over half of those are first time contributors to the college. Alumni have donated \$800,000.

To support Bridge to Success, contact the CCBC Institutional Advancement Office, Ann-Marie Thornton at [athornton2@ccbcmd.edu](mailto:athornton2@ccbcmd.edu) or **443-840-3118**.

Watch our **CAMPAIGN VIDEO** and see the impact bridge to success is already making.





# Foundation News

## DONORS AND SCHOLARS CONNECT AT ANNUAL LUNCHEON

More than 120 donors, student scholarship recipients, Board of Trustee members and Foundation Board members gathered for the Foundation’s annual Scholarship Donor Appreciation Luncheon at CCBC Essex.



President Sandra Kurtinitis welcomed guests, congratulated students and thanked donors for their continued support of student scholarships through the CCBC Foundation, which awards approximately \$1 million in scholarships annually. She also highlighted the expanded Baltimore County College Promise program, enabling Baltimore County families making less than \$150,000 annually to attend CCBC tuition free.

“This is my 18th year as a college president, and never have I felt as joyful about the future of a community college—our community college—as I do right now,” said Dr. Kurtinitis.

Carol Diggs, who started the Lindsay Ruland Black-eyed Susan Histotechnology Scholarship in honor of her daughter, who was a histotechnician, and lost her life to metastatic breast cancer in 2019, spoke on behalf of CCBC scholarship donors.

Diggs spoke about the shortage of histotechnicians and her hope that this scholarship opportunity can inspire others to join the field.

Bryan Castro-Velez, who graduated with his associate degree in June 2023, spoke to the luncheon attendees about how grateful he was to have received the Frank and Burnette Guido Scholarship, a \$500 per semester CCBC Foundation endowed scholarship for students in the Honors program and enrolled in Honors classes.

Thanks to scholarship opportunities at CCBC, Castro-Velez plans to transfer to University of Maryland, Baltimore County—nearly debt-free—to major in Environmental Science and Geography. He hopes to eventually obtain a GIScience Certificate and work to integrate environmental science with interdisciplinary studies, primarily the humanities.

In his conclusion, Castro-Velez addressed the donors directly: “If there is ever a moment of doubt if your efforts have an impact, this event is proof of your impact and how far your generosity goes.”

## ANNUAL GALA RAISES \$513,000

CCBC celebrated the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala, Bright Futures: Lighting the Way Forward at Martin’s West. It was a magnificent evening filled with great food, music, casino games, a silent auction and a spectacular display of lights.



This year’s event served as the kick-off of CCBC’s second comprehensive campaign, Bridge to Success: Creating Brighter Futures. With the goal of raising \$51 million, proceeds from the gala, as well as contributions to this major campaign, go toward STEM education, innovative teaching and learning initiatives, diversity, student scholarships, emergency assistance, faculty and staff development and much more.

The evening was highlighted by music of several varieties. The “Jazz Plus Ensemble,” (CCBC’s Music Program) performed during the cocktail reception, followed by “Signature Live,” who had the 566 attendees dancing all night, and the “Craig Alston Syndicate,” played smooth jazz in the Maryland room. In addition, a 360 photo booth was an exciting stop for all the guests to capture a memory of the night’s fun.

With support from major donors including The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company, Cigna Healthcare, Comcast, Kaiser Permanente, Kollman & Saucier, P.A., M&T Bank and others, the Foundation was able to raise over \$513,000 to invest in transformational academics and innovative programs at CCBC.

## CCBC ALUMNI CELEBRATE GRADFEST 2023

CCBC’s Class of 2023 and their family and friends, along with alumni, enjoyed a fun-filled day on Saturday, May 13 at CCBC Essex for GradFest hosted by the CCBC Alumni Association.

It was a rainy day, but inside the Robert and Eleanor Romadka College Center, the event was in full swing. Alumni Association President Kabish Shah introduced President Sandra Kurtinitis who welcomed attendees and congratulated graduates, including

this year's President's Distinguished Graduate Ixtle Montuffar.

DJ Martine played for the crowd and participants young and old enjoyed karaoke and a special TikTok dance led by Melinda Blomquist, professor and artistic director of CCBC's Dance Company, and her students.



More than 300 guests enjoyed a picnic-style buffet, vendors, a wildlife exhibit, face painting, caricature artists, balloons, and our newest alums enjoyed getting photos taken in graduation regalia.

Pictures from GradFest can be found on Flickr [flickr.com/photos/ccbcfoundation](https://www.flickr.com/photos/ccbcfoundation).

## CASCIO BENEFIT ESTABLISHES ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP



Friends of Carole Drake Cascio, founding dance program director and department chairperson of CCBC, hosted a dance scholarship benefit at Dejon Vineyard to celebrate Carole and honor her legacy in May 2023. The scholarship will support CCBC students and the newly renovated dance studios in the CCBC Essex Wellness and Athletic Center which will be named in Cascio's honor.

With more than 50 former colleagues, friends, students, and alumni of the dance program in attendance, the event featured a silent auction showcasing original paintings and ceramic pieces by Cascio, jewelry, gift baskets, signature wines from the vineyard and a variety of other items. Guests dined on a cornucopia of great foods and enjoyed performances by CCBC Dance Company choreographed by renowned choreographer and alumnus Peter Pucci, Melinda Blomquist, artistic director of CCBC's Dance program and Dance Company and Adrienne Kraus Latanishen, CCBC dance faculty.

Through the good work of the Carole Drake Cascio Dance Scholarship Benefit committee, over \$24,000 was raised to fund the educational needs of students and to train students in the art of movement.

"Carole would have been so pleased," said Peter Pucci, co-chair of the event and executive director of the Carole Cascio Fund for Mind Movement Dance Connections and Guest Artist in Residence at CCBC Essex. "I am grateful for the opportunity to join forces with my colleagues, the college and friends to host this event to celebrate Carole and establish a scholarship in her honor."

In the fall of 2024, CCBC will award two dance scholarships as a result of the event and hundreds more over the years through the Carole Drake Cascio Endowed Dance Scholarship.

## MICHAEL CARPER NAMED 2023 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

CCBC proudly announced Michael Carper as the 2023 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year.

Carper is a 1986 graduate of CCBC, where he earned his degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting. He began his career with the Whiting-Turner Contracting Company in 1987 as an entry-level assistant project

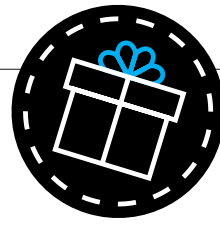
engineer and worked his way up to vice president in 2013. In 2021, Carper was promoted to division vice president, where he manages a group of more than 130 construction professionals.



Since 2014, he has volunteered his time to CCBC and the CCBC Foundation, working to support the Male Student Success Initiative (MSSI), the college's Pathways in Technology Early College High School (PTECH) program, the annual fundraising gala, alumni crab feast, Global Education program, President's Innovation Fund and many other events and programs. For the past eight years, Carper has served on the CCBC Foundation Board of Directors, including three years as Board president.

Over the years, with the support and guidance of Carper, the Whiting-Turner Contracting Company has interned, hired and trained many CCBC students and alums for various positions within the organization.

"Mr. Carper's commitment, leadership and philanthropic support to the college makes him one of the most influential and central figures in the CCBC Foundation's history," said Ken Westary, CCBC's vice president of Institutional Advancement. "He is the epitome of what it means to be a CCBC alumnus."



# Grants Roundup

## FIRST FINANCIAL SUPPORTS WOMEN IN EDUCATION



CCBC recently received a \$10,000 grant from First Financial Federal Credit Union to support the college’s Women in Education initiative. Funding will go toward developing a formal mentorship structure that targets female students, particularly women of color. Monica Walker, dean of the School of Writing, Literacy and Language and Adrienne Washington, dean of Special Academic Programs, are leading this initiative.

“It is wonderful to have a community partner like First Financial Federal Credit Union who is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion and realizes the value in our Women in Education initiative,” said Walker.

Through the Women in Education initiative, students will be paired with a faculty member and a workforce professional during their time at CCBC. Faculty advisors will be the main point of contact and assist by identifying student needs and connecting them to campus-based resources. Professional development and leadership programming will also be offered to connect students with their career interests.

“Being able to be a part of the Women in Education initiative with our historic partner, CCBC, is truly an honor for First Financial Federal Credit Union,” stated John Clingerman, relationship marketing manager at First Financial Federal Credit Union. “We look forward

to watching the students who participate in the educational program grow into great leaders and prosper in their future career endeavors.”

## MSSI STUDENTS “LEVEL UP” WITH SUPPORT FROM TRUIST

With a \$10,000 grant from Truist, MSSI held its inaugural Internship Exploration Event, titled “Level Up” on Saturday, March 25, 2023, at CCBC Dundalk. This event was open to current MSSI students and currently enrolled students who identify as men of color.



Current and prospective internship provider companies were able to network with male students of color at CCBC. The event highlighted the value of internships through panel discussions with former MSSI student interns and their employers. During breakout sessions, students met with individual employers to learn about opportunities, ask questions and share their resumes for future internship consideration.

Over 120 male students of color and more than 20 employers attended this inaugural event.

## COMCAST PARTNERS WITH CCBC TO CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Comcast and CCBC will work together to drive awareness about the Affordable Connectivity Program which aims to narrow the digital divide by helping low-income families secure fast and reliable broadband internet access.

The program provides discounted internet services for families who qualify. Nearly 30% of CCBC students receive Pell Grants which makes them eligible for the benefit.



Comcast is providing \$150,000 to CCBC to support an awareness campaign that will include direct personal appeals, outreach tables in student gathering spaces and on-campus events reaching an estimated 12,000 attendees.

## CCBC AND KAHLERT FOUNDATION ESTABLISH ENDOWED CHAIR SERVICE AWARD



CCBC and the Kahlert Foundation have established the Endowed Chair Service Award. The award is a year-long appointment of a faculty member within particular disciplines in the School of Health Professions who has demonstrated a deep commitment to the teaching profession and to student success. The faculty member will develop and engage in a project designed to improve student success and will disseminate the outcomes of that project to the rest of the college in a public forum.



Dr. Stephanie Kratzen, associate professor of nursing at CCBC Essex is the first award recipient. Dr. Kratzen's project, "What Matters," is a holistic student support program to foster non-academic success strategies such as an extended orientation session, study strategies, supplemental instruction and exam style practice questions.

## CCBC RECEIVES \$450,000 FOR VETERAN STUDENT SUCCESS



The U.S. Department of Education awarded CCBC nearly \$450,000 to establish a Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success (CEVSS). The goal of the funding is to increase enrollment, persistence, graduation, and employment or transfer for veterans. The project will also establish a Veterans Student Success Team (VSST) comprised of representatives of veteran services agencies, government agencies and CCBC faculty and staff.

The primary goal of the CEVSS is to increase the number of student veterans receiving benefits to attend classes and support them as they progress toward professional certification, degrees, transfer and career exploration. Award funding will enable the VSST to increase behavioral health screening, support for student mentoring, tutoring, personal and academic counseling, financial aid, job readiness, job placement and educational and cultural events. Funding will provide for the hiring of two full-time and two part-time staff, enabling team members to help more veterans understand the benefits they are entitled to and navigate the array of veteran organizations available to help.

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, only 15% of student veterans are the traditional age of college students. Many are between the ages of 24 and 40, nearly half are married with children, and over 60% are first generation college students. To serve this unique population, CCBC is focused on increasing programming and services to help veterans transition from military service to the classroom.

CCBC enrolls approximately 600 veterans per semester. These veterans often perform better than their non-veteran peers in GPA and graduation rates but discontinue their education in higher numbers because of obstacles to their campus and life transitions. This project will help alleviate the issue.

## GRANT ENABLES CCBC TO EXPAND NURSING PROGRAMS

CCBC was recently awarded a Nurse Support Program II grant funded by the Health Services Cost Review Commission and administered by Maryland Higher Education Commission. The \$900,000 grant will enable CCBC to expand its Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) to Registered Nursing (RN) Bridge Program by creating a blended model of courses (both online and face-to-face), hiring three new nursing faculty and training 30 additional nursing students each year.



One of the most severe nursing shortages occurred in 2020 through 2022, when the COVID-19 pandemic caused new strains on healthcare systems. Hospitals were unable to recruit a large number of nurses on short notice and many nurses retired rather than risk contracting the illness.

Declining enrollment in RN programs has exacerbated the problem.

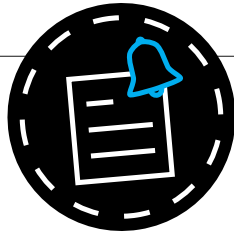
However, at CCBC the demand from current LPNs who wish to continue to the RN degree has increased, presenting an opportunity to fuel future growth in the nursing workforce. Currently the Bridge Program runs two programs a year, enrolling 30 students each in fall and spring. Creating an online program and hiring more staff will enable CCBC to run programs simultaneously and offer more nursing courses.

## PARTNERSHIP CREATES PATHWAY FROM CNA TO LPN



A partnership between CCBC, Baltimore County government and University of Maryland St. Joseph Medical Center has created a Public Health Pathways Program funded with \$885,000 in support. The Public Health Pathways Program is an innovative workforce development partnership that aims to connect residents in historically underserved communities with high-demand nursing positions through customized educational programming and community wraparound support. The pilot program will provide full scholarships for 30 people who will train to become certified nursing assistants and later enroll within the practical nursing program. Participants will receive \$1,000 a month as a stipend. To qualify, applicants must be eligible for SNAP, Emergency Rental Assistance, TANF, Temporary Cash Assistance, Temporary Disabilities Assistance Program, Emergency Assistance for Families and Children, Medical Assistance, or Baltimore County Supportive Housing Programs.

# Class Notes



## 1970s

**Charles Thomas Dubin, Jr. '74** (Consultant) received his BS from Towson University and BS from Johns Hopkins University. Seventy years young, Charles works at a field house for the local government, where he recently received an 'A' in a Computer Software Engineering course. He and his partner, Rita Turpen '78, also do legal research.

**Elizabeth A. Gill '76** (Laboratory Scientist) retired in 2015 after 40 years in laboratory science, 35 in food science at McCormick & Co., Inc. She started her own business as a pet sitter and dog walker. She remembers her time at CCBC fondly!

## 1980s

**Anthony Brown '84** (Entrepreneur) returned to CCBC in 2022 to receive certificates in Essential Skills for Entrepreneurs and Small Business Ownership. He started a non-profit, Out of School Time Youth Program, for low-income male youth ages 8-18 in Baltimore City to promote learning, stress the importance of social and emotional literacy and offer alternatives to crime, drugs and violence.

## 1990s



**Jeffrey Royahn '92** (Retired, Baltimore County Police) retired after 28 years of service with the Baltimore County Police Department. He currently teaches in the Harford County School System as a substitute teacher and at a local martial arts school. Jeffrey, a black belt in Taekwondo and Tang Soo Do World, has recently been hired as a CCBC adjunct instructor teaching self-defense classes to youths and adults.

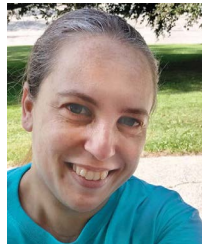


**Wendy Sears '98** (Librarian) started working at the CCBC Essex library shortly after receiving her General Studies degree at CCBC. Wendy planned on continuing her education but found her calling in the library. For 25 years, Wendy has managed intercampus requests and inter-library loans for anything not owned by CCBC. She loves helping students, staff, and faculty. In her spare time, Wendy loves to read and has a passion for cruises.



**Edith D. Wynn '99** (Funeral Director) owns and operates Edith D. Wynn Funeral Service, P.A., providing comprehensive funeral services and consultations. Edith also manages EW Mortuary Transport Service, LLC, specializing in transporting decedents. Edith credits her 16 years of success to her education at CCBC Catonsville, which laid the foundation for two successful businesses.

## 2000s



**Jessica L. Murray, Esq. '03** (Professor) has completed her 11th year as a CCBC adjunct professor and 8th year owning and operating her own boutique law office in Carroll County, Md. She is a mother; best interest attorney for children; litigator; court-appointed mediator; settlement officer; member of the board of directors for the Community Foundation for Carroll County; and the founder of the Carroll County Foundation for Change.



**Charlene Tombs '04** (Makeup Artist) is a successful makeover and makeup artist. Charlene currently works with makeup corporations that sponsor her services to promote beauty products for women. Charlene is pursuing her dream of starting a makeup studio.



**Natasha Brown-Wainwright '05** (Entrepreneur) is the owner of Natasha's Just Brittle/B'More Made with Pride, the only Black-owned, female-owned processing plant/commercial kitchen with a café in Maryland. A culinary hub for diverse food businesses, Natasha's facility currently houses 27 businesses. B'More Made with Pride will soon complete a processing plant that will accommodate 10 manufacturers and seven types of manufacturing in two distinct manufacturing areas.

## 2010s



**Maria Sylvia Gilbert-McRae '16** (Entrepreneur) has a bachelor's in Psychology and is the founder of Matrix Home & Hospital Care. Maria is also the successful creator of Dr. Lillette Bedtime Story on YouTube, has written four children's books, and designs blankets and backpacks featuring characters from her books.



**Mikea Hugley '16** (Graphic Design) received her BFA in Graphic Design from MICA. Mikea teaches branding at the Defense Information School for the Department of Defense and has a design studio (Cre8t1v3) and footwear venture (Makers for Humankind). The Baltimore Banner recently selected Mikea as one of the Creatives in Residence.



**Irene Justice '16** (Administrative Support Assistant III) Six years from the day she started her career with CCBC, Irene started her new role as an administrative support assistant III to the Dundalk Campus Director Eric Washington. Irene is excited to see what the future holds in the Campus Director's Office and at CCBC!



**Jace Peterkin '17** (Law) is pursuing his law degree at The University of Pittsburgh School of Law. Jace aspires to use his knowledge and experience to drive positive change and reform policies disproportionately affecting low-income individuals and families, particularly in healthcare, education and urban development.

**Angel Bell '19** (Chemical Dependency Counselor) started working as a substance abuse counselor when she graduated from CCBC and went on to receive her BS in Human Services with an addiction track from Stevenson University. Angel still works at the same treatment center and looks forward to what the future holds.



**Anderson M. Jaggernaut '19** (Information Technologist) is enrolled at Howard Community College in an Information Technology Apprenticeship program. He wants to work as a contractor for the federal government and obtain a bachelor's degree in Computer Science or Information Technology, so he can start his own business providing IT services to the DMV area. Anderson and his wife recently purchased their first home and are busy renovating.

## 2020s



**Regina LaVerne Ross '20** (Truck Driver) started working in medical billing and coding after graduating but returned to CCBC to pursue her true passion of becoming a truck driver. She recently received her CDL Class A and plans to have her own truck and transportation company. Regina lives in White Marsh, Md.

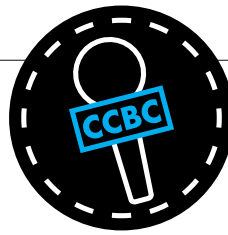


**Paige Passantino '20** (Poet) recently received a BA in literature with an emphasis on creative writing and a concentration in poetry from Smith College. Paige has been awarded the Academy of American Poets' annual Anne Bradstreet Prize and will have her winning piece published on Poets.org. She is currently a fellow at a residency in Sithonia, Greece, where she is completing her first collection, set to debut in London in July 2023.

**Charday Johnson '21** (Human Services Counselor) is attending Walden University to obtain her bachelor's degree and will start working with children with developmental disabilities this summer.



# College News



## CCBC wins national Equity Award

CCBC was proud to be the national winner of the 2022 Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Charles Kennedy Equity Award. The award was announced during the Oct. 28, 2022 ACCT Leadership Conference Awards program in New York City, NY.

The Charles Kennedy Equity Award recognizes exemplary commitment by an ACCT member institution's governing board or governing board and president to achieve equity in the college's education programs and services and in the administration and delivery of those programs and services. The award honors the late Charles Kennedy, a founder of the ACCT Minority Affairs Assembly which became the ACCT Diversity Committee.

To bolster CCBC's DEI initiatives, President Sandra Kurtinitis established the President's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Council, a volunteer council representing all areas of the college, including students, who discuss, review and make



recommendations for strengthening college policies, systems and actions relating to its equity agenda. The council has conducted a DEI survey of both employees and students, reviewed and discussed survey results to identify successes and challenges, created a college resource calendar of cultural celebrations and developed workgroups to draft recommendations for academic and institutional improvements.

Also along the DEI continuum, significant dollars were committed to the CCBC Male Student Success Initiative, a program geared toward lessening the achievement gap for male students of color. Additionally, 80% of enrolled students were provided scholarships for full or partial tuition within the last couple of years to increase access and opportunity.

## "Good School" podcast hits the airwaves



Nearly two years in the making, the Good School podcast, a new CCBC student-produced podcast series, launched on Feb. 15, 2023. The podcast explores the concept of what it means to be a "good school."

The project was the brainchild of CCBC Associate Professor of Media Studies Beth Baunoch, who wanted to give her students a broader platform to create new media and learn new skills in the process. The result was 25 students producing an audio documentary exploring the complexities of higher education, tackling such topics as college rankings and the stigma surrounding community college. The podcast even caught the attention of national media outlet Inside Higher Ed, which featured two articles on the podcast and its creators.

The Good School podcast can be heard on all major podcast platforms, including Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify, iHeart Radio and Stitcher. Show your support and subscribe today.

# CCBC featured on “The College Tour” series

CCBC made its debut to a national audience on season eight of “The College Tour” TV series hosted by Alex Boylan, former “Amazing Race” winner and onscreen personality. The episode is currently available on Amazon Prime.



The  
College  
Tour ▶

[www.thecollegetour.com](http://www.thecollegetour.com)

The College Tour series allows students to virtually travel across America for an inside look at colleges and universities. Each episode of The College Tour highlights a college or university through the eyes of its students, faculty and alumni, providing prospective students with an intimate look at life on campus beyond brochures or websites. CCBC’s episode features 10 current and former students who share how CCBC’s affordability, flexibility, quality academics and unique job training opportunities helped them thrive and succeed.

## CCBC STUDENTS AND ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTED IN THE COLLEGE TOUR EPISODE INCLUDE:



**Anderson Jaggernauth**  
(Essex, Md.)  
alumni, General Studies



**Asia Lee**  
(Nottingham, Md.)  
student, Elementary  
Education



**Bernard Mkumbuzi**  
(Owings Mills, Md.)  
student, American  
Sign Language/  
Interpreter Prep



**Francessca Prado**  
(Essex, Md.)  
student, Psychology



**Iyona Anderson**  
(Baltimore, Md.)  
non-credit student,  
Pharmacy Tech



**Kalla Lavender**  
(Owings Mills, Md.)  
student, Cybersecurity



**Leah Howard**  
(Pikesville, Md.)  
alumni, Fine Arts



**Nichelle Roane**  
(Baltimore, Md.)  
alumni, Center for  
Business Innovation



**Philemon Phalwas**  
(Belcamp, Md.)  
student, Dental Hygiene



**Ryan Washington**  
(Mt. Airy, Md.)  
alumni/faculty,  
Automotive Tech



## CCBC Center for Business Innovation's 10th Annual Business Plan Competition awards \$62,500 in prize money to aspiring entrepreneurs

CCBC's Center for Business Innovation (CBI) hosted its 10th Annual Business Plan Competition Virtual Awards Banquet on Monday, Feb. 6, 2023.

The event featured the top 10 pitches from aspiring entrepreneurs, all of whom are CCBC students or alumni. The winners shared a total of \$62,500 in seed money to be used as start-up capital for their new or growing businesses.

Prize money was made possible by the generous support of the Philip E. and Carole R. Ratcliffe Foundation, which has awarded more than \$1 million in grant funding to expand the Center for Business Innovation. In addition to the start-up capital to support entrepreneurs, the grant provides instructional support to develop new courses and workshops to strengthen the business acumen for those interested in starting a new business.



This year's first-place prize of \$20,000 was awarded to Michael Guarraia of MG Custom Lighting, LLC, a company that makes handmade industrial-style lamps using reclaimed industrial parts and machinery.

Since 2013, CCBC's Annual Business Plan Competition has helped launch 47 new businesses and distributed \$329,980 in seed money. Over the last 10 years, more than 4,200 people have engaged with CBI's business programs and 2,772 people have earned college and Continuing Education credits in a variety of entrepreneurial courses and workshops.

For more information, visit [cCBCmd.edu/innovation](http://cCBCmd.edu/innovation).



## CCBC Essex women's basketball team wins first national title in program history

On March 25, 2023, the CCBC Essex women's basketball team defeated Richard Bland College to obtain their first NJCAA Division II national championship in program history. The Knights won 95-85 in overtime.

The Knights had a 36-1 overall record during this historic season, and the team held number-one status for the first time ever. According to the NJCAA, CCBC Essex was one of the highest-scoring programs this season, averaging 92.2 points per game, allowing opponents only 54.6 points per game. The Knights also led the nation in total rebounds per contest.

To add to this list of accomplishments, Essex women's basketball third-year head coach Mike Seney was named the 2022-23 NJCAA Division II Women's Basketball Coach of the Year.



You can support the Community College of Baltimore County with gifts that don't impact the way you live by either designating CCBC to receive estate assets in the future or by making 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 us assets subject to double taxation and leave more to your family.

### DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

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

### STOCK AND APPRECIATED ASSETS

Take advantage of appreciated securities without incurring capital gains tax.

### LIFE INSURANCE

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.



# CCBCMD.PLANNEDGIVING.ORG



### CONTACT US

Planning your estate and legacy for future generations, including your charitable interests, takes careful evaluation. Consulting with the appropriate professionals can assist you.

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



**CCBC**

Community College of Baltimore County  
7200 Sollers Point Road  
Baltimore, Maryland 21222

[ccbcmd.edu/alumni](http://ccbcmd.edu/alumni)



**Parents:** If you are receiving mail for your child, please update his/her address with the CCBC Alumni office. If you would like to continue receiving this magazine in your name, just let us know.

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
CCBC



[ccbcmd.edu/connect](http://ccbcmd.edu/connect)

### Fall Classic Raffle

12–4 p.m.  
Sunday,  
October 8, 2023

#### **BOUMI TEMPLE**

5050 King Ave,  
Rosedale, Md.

Contact **Woodrow Powell**,  
[wpowell@ccbcmd.edu](mailto:wpowell@ccbcmd.edu)  
or 410-952-5874

### Retiree Luncheon

11 a.m.–2 p.m.  
Wednesday,  
October 18, 2023

#### **MARTIN'S WEST**

6817 Dogwood Rd,  
Baltimore, Md.

Contact **Gail Rossmark**,  
[grossmark@ccbcmd.edu](mailto:grossmark@ccbcmd.edu)  
or 443-840-1017

### Alumni Annual Meeting

5–7 p.m.  
Thursday,  
December 7, 2023

#### **CCBC DUNDALK**

7200 Sollers Point Rd,  
Baltimore, Md.

*Music, refreshments  
and recognition*

Contact **Claudia McDonough**,  
[cmcdonough@ccbcmd.edu](mailto:cmcdonough@ccbcmd.edu)  
or 443-840-3544

### CCBC Foundation Annual Gala

7–11 p.m.  
Saturday,  
April 6, 2024

#### **MARTIN'S WEST**

6817 Dogwood Rd,  
Baltimore, Md.

Contact **Woodrow Powell**,  
[wpowell@ccbcmd.edu](mailto:wpowell@ccbcmd.edu)  
or 443-840-3548

### CCBC Foundation Scholarship Awards Banquet

11:30 a.m.  
Thursday,  
May 9, 2024

#### **CCBC ESSEX**

7201 Rossville Blvd,  
Baltimore, Md.

Contact **Sandy Meyers**,  
[smyers@ccbcmd.edu](mailto:smyers@ccbcmd.edu)  
or 443-840-3335

### Grad Fest

11 a.m.–3 p.m.  
Saturday,  
May 18, 2024

#### **CCBC ESSEX**

7201 Rossville Blvd,  
Baltimore, Md.

Contact **Claudia McDonough**,  
[cmcdonough@ccbcmd.edu](mailto:cmcdonough@ccbcmd.edu)  
or 443-840-3544