As we prepare for the upcoming spring semester, I’d like to take this opportunity to provide an update on a number of groundbreaking initiatives and other areas of great importance to the college. First and foremost, this includes the college's ongoing response to COVID–19, including the status of CCAC’s finances during the pandemic—along with the considerable progress that has been made on the college's capital projects; information technology, enrollment management, and human resources initiatives; and one-college model operations during the past six months. In addition, this report includes information regarding new programs, partnerships and personnel as well as news of recent awards and recognitions presented to members of our college community.

Over the past 21 months, the college’s leadership team and the CCAC Board of Trustees have closely monitored the impact COVID–19 continues to have on the college. CCAC administration, faculty and staff have worked tirelessly to enhance the student experience, delivery of instruction and college operations. As a result of these combined efforts, the college was able to once again expand face-to-face classes and accompanying services this fall semester.

Despite the disruption the pandemic has caused in higher education, and particularly to community colleges, CCAC faculty and staff have successfully navigated these obstacles—transitioning to new demands in instruction and delivery of services, enhancing technology to better serve and make education more accessible and innovative to students, and paying close attention to the interests and many needs of pandemic-weary students.

Given the virulent nature of the Delta and Omicron variants, it is important that we all continue to do everything we can to keep both the college and wider community safe by reducing the risk of anyone contracting COVID–19. With vaccinations and testing sites available across the region, everyone is highly encouraged to get vaccinated. As a reminder, CCAC continues to offer COVID–19 vaccinations through its partnership with Integrated Health 21. A number of new clinic dates have recently been added, so if either you or a family member is interested in getting vaccinated, there are openings available. Please watch for and respond to an Integrated Health 21 (IH21) announcement to register to receive the COVID–19 vaccination.
COVID–19 UPDATES

In recent weeks, COVID–19 cases in Allegheny County have increased. Despite the fatigue that we are all experiencing, it is imperative that we continue adhering to our current health and safety protocols to help reduce the risk of anyone contracting the virus. So until the pandemic subsides, I am once again asking all faculty, staff, and students to follow all mitigation measures as outlined by the CDC and Pennsylvania and Allegheny County health officials, and as set forth in the college’s COVID–19 Health and Safety Plan. We must continue to wear face coverings, wash our hands frequently and thoroughly, and maintain physical distancing while on college grounds—and for enhanced protection when out in the wider community.

Through our partnership with Integrated Health 21 (IH21), the college is now offering the Moderna COVID–19 booster shot for individuals who have received the Moderna, Pfizer or J&J vaccines. The college is also exploring being able to offer the Pfizer and J&J booster shots at a later date.

According to the CDC, you and your family members are eligible to receive the Moderna booster shot if at least one of the following criteria has been met:

- Employees and family members are eligible if they have received the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines at least six months ago and are age 18 or older.
- Employees and family members are eligible if they have received the J&J vaccine at least two months ago and are age 18 or older.

Additionally, if you or your family members have not done so already, we urge you and your family to take advantage of the free COVID–19 vaccinations offered by the college to all CCAC employees, students, and family members. Both the Moderna COVID–19 vaccinations and the Moderna booster shot are available at various campus locations, so please be on the lookout for emails over the next several weeks. Vaccinations will be available until everyone who wants to be vaccinated has been vaccinated.

Effective this past November 1 as a condition of employment, all new CCAC employees must be fully vaccinated against COVID–19 and will be required to provide proof of vaccination or have an approved exemption before beginning work at the college. Prospective employees who are offered a position may request an exemption for religious or documented medical reasons.

Financial State of the College

As the college continues to position itself to overcome current economic challenges caused by the ongoing pandemic, CCAC is committed to ensuring resources are available to facilitate the delivery of high quality instruction, myriad supportive services and efficient and professional college initiatives. Sound fiscal management is integral to CCAC’s role as the preeminent higher education and workforce training partner for the region, and to that end, the college remains a stable and vital part of the community.

Each year, CCAC enters into a contract with an outside public accounting firm for the purpose of conducting an audit of the college’s financials. The financial audit for the year ending June 30, 2021, has now been completed, and as anticipated, CCAC achieved a balanced budget during the 2020–2021 fiscal year.

I am pleased to share this additional information regarding the fiscal health of the college:

- CCAC’s operating budget for Fiscal Year 2022 is $114,396,000. This is $797,077 or 7% less than FY 2021.
- For FY 2022, the commonwealth allocated $36,356,578 for college operations, an amount equal to FY 2021.
- In FY 2021, CCAC received $26,695,977 from Allegheny County. Of this amount, $3,759,000 was allocated for capital and $22,945,977 was allocated for the college’s operating budget. In FY 2022, CCAC will receive $27,229,897. This represents a 2% increase over the prior year. Of this amount, $3,750,000 will be allocated to support capital, with $23,479,897 allocated for the college’s operating budget.
- As of November 1, 2021, CCAC’s operating cash totaled $33,688,000. This represents an increase of $10,747,000 compared to the previous year.
- CCAC anticipates positive operating results by the end of FY 2022.

Additionally, the college’s debt service continues to be paid on time, and Moody’s Investors Service reaffirmed CCAC’s stable A3 rating. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, the college refinanced its existing 2012 revenue bonds. The refunding will save the institution approximately $6 million over the next 15 years, enabling CCAC to invest more in the college’s physical infrastructure.

Federal Stimulus Funds

For FY 2022, CCAC has been allocated more than $31 million from the third round of CARES Act funding (Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III). These awards include $16 million for students and $15 million for the college.

A breakdown of the number of students and total funding awarded is summarized below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FISCAL YEAR</th>
<th>STUDENTS</th>
<th>AWARDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2022 to date</td>
<td>16,492</td>
<td>8,378,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2021</td>
<td>10,398</td>
<td>5,328,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2020</td>
<td>6,858</td>
<td>3,993,740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>33,748</td>
<td>17,700,640</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A summary of all federal stimulus dollars received to date appears below. These federal funds have greatly benefited the college.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CARES or GEERF</th>
<th>GEERF</th>
<th>COUNTY CARES</th>
<th>SIP</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2020</td>
<td>7,987,479</td>
<td>398,263</td>
<td></td>
<td>8,385,742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2021</td>
<td>17,789,944</td>
<td>615,330</td>
<td>3,740,000</td>
<td>22,145,274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2022</td>
<td>31,398,220</td>
<td>2,087,274</td>
<td>744,401</td>
<td>34,229,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>57,175,643</td>
<td>2,702,604</td>
<td>3,740,000</td>
<td>1,142,664</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HEERF = Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund
GEERF = Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund
SIP = Strengthening Institutions Program

Here is the breakdown of how the $64,760,911 will be disbursed:

- $25,384,000 is allocated for CCAC students.
  - $17,701,000 has already been awarded to students.
  - The balance ($7,683,000) will be awarded to students in spring 2022.
- $39,377,000 is allocated for distance and remote learning and working and for safety measures as well as other efforts to help mitigate the spread of COVID–19, including the cost of vaccines and booster shots.
  - Approximately $26,377,000 has been spent or encumbered toward these efforts, with $13,000,000 remaining and available.
  - Of these funds, $2 million was used to alleviate student account balances. The removal of this financial barrier will enable students to continue their studies.
  - $1.5 million was used for budget relief. This includes lost revenue or reimbursement for salaries and benefits of staff whose efforts were tied directly to the pandemic.

Auxiliary Funds
The college’s auxiliary services continue to operate, albeit at less than pre-COVID–19 levels. Annual revenue realized by the college from auxiliary services prior to COVID–19 typically ranged from $650,000 to $700,000. While the campus bookstores continue to operate and provide educational materials to students who are attending classes both on campus and via remote learning, revenues derived from foodservice operations and the Allegheny Campus Starbucks’ café have been significantly impacted by the reduced number of students attending classes on campus. Despite these challenges, as of June 30, 2021, CCAC’s auxiliary services remained in the black, netting a surplus of $54,000.

Enrollment and retention have always been institutional priorities, but since the onset of the pandemic, there has been renewed focus on initiatives designed to attract new students to the college while ensuring current students are retained and stay on track with their academic and career goals to graduate from CCAC.

The college’s fall enrollment numbers mirror national trends. It is important to note that enrollment in many programs has either rebounded or remains high. Enrollment in CCAC’s Nursing program is strong, and interest in health care programs is equally buoyant, particularly programs such as Medical Assistant, Radiologic Technologist, Surgical Technologist, and Diagnostic Medical Sonographer. It is easy to understand why students are attracted to the health care professions, given the fact that CCAC graduates are in great demand and that these professions offer a wealth of career opportunities.

Enrollment in emerging and/or high tech career programs is also high, with programs such as Multimedia Programming, Simulation & Gaming continuing to attract students interested in this growing industry. And too, enrollment in our Skilled Trades programs is also up, especially those that offer paid apprenticeships. Additionally, enrollment in CCAC’s Dual Enrollment programs for high school students continues to remain strong, with enrollment up 17% over last year. We expect that CCAC will continue to experience growth in these popular classes.

Our work in all these areas is consistent with recent remarks made by Patrick Gallagher, Chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh, at the Institute of Politics Elected Officials Retreat. He noted that “workforce training, child care, and education supports are all critical, and the regions that figure it out will be the successful ones.” Through CCAC’s ongoing and successful collaborations across the region, the college is well positioned to take the lead in preparing today’s emerging professionals for their role in Pittsburgh’s new workforce.

To take that lead, the college will need to ensure that enrollment remains robust for all demographic groups. For fall 2021 enrollment, as depicted by gender in the chart on the following page, female enrollment is down slightly by 2%, while conversely, male enrollment is up 2% compared to fall 2020. Overall, there has been no significant increase or decrease by gender over the past five years.
### Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>17FA</th>
<th>18FA</th>
<th>19FA</th>
<th>20FA</th>
<th>21FA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>54.5</td>
<td>53.6</td>
<td>55.8</td>
<td>53.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45.6</td>
<td>46.4</td>
<td>44.2</td>
<td>46.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

However, when broken down by race/ethnicity, the outlook is mixed. While the number of students reporting two or more races has increased over the past five years, the share of Black or African American enrollment has declined, which underscores the need for enhanced and sustained outreach to this critically important student population.

### Race/Ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>17FA</th>
<th>18FA</th>
<th>19FA</th>
<th>20FA</th>
<th>21FA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American/Alaska Native</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>15.9</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>13.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaiian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonresident Alien</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more races</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>61.1</td>
<td>61.3</td>
<td>60.9</td>
<td>62.4</td>
<td>61.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On other fronts, the number of students 18 years of age or younger has increased over the past five years (green, below). Given the decline in students ages 20–29 (pale red, below), we may be seeing a reduction in the number of traditional college-age students. The percentage of nontraditional students (30+ years of age) continues to remain consistent over the same five-year period.

### Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>17FA</th>
<th>18FA</th>
<th>19FA</th>
<th>20FA</th>
<th>21FA</th>
<th>5-year change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;18</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18–19</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>20.3</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20–21</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>18.4</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>-2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22–24</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>15.9</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>-1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25–29</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>-1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30–34</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35–39</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40–49</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50–64</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>-0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 64</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since the arrival of COVID–19, CCAC has offered a variety of courses in different modalities to provide students with greater flexibility. When looking at registrations during this time period, the majority of students selected an alternative form of instruction. The breakdown by students and sections is summarized as follows:

### Modality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modality</th>
<th>% of Students (by registration)</th>
<th># Sections</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By Appointment</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College in High School</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-Ground</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>866</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-Ground Hybrid</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-Ground Remote</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
<td>427</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote Hybrid</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,452</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As the college continues to respond to student needs during the pandemic, there has been a significant increase in both the number of start dates available to students as well as the length of the term. Although 16-week sections remain the biggest segment, CCAC offers students the choice of 37 different time segments—nine more time segments than the college offered last year. The top five most popular course lengths this fall are 16, 14, 9, 8 and 11 weeks.

### Online Campus Enrollment

The Virtual Campus (VC) is dedicated to meeting the diverse needs of busy students by ensuring that everyone can access high quality educational programs from anywhere and at any time. VC offers faculty members the tools necessary to develop and design their courses centered on student success. It also assists students to ensure that navigating the course is not a barrier—especially for those individuals who are new to distance learning. To better prepare online students, VC works to improve the quality and accessibility of resources for all. Website content is constantly reviewed and improved to offer a better experience to prospective and current virtual campus students.

Additionally, updates and enhancements to the student course Getting to Know Blackboard have improved student navigation and required online knowledge. Advisors are also able to access the students’ courses to enable advisors to gain a deeper understanding of what students should expect in their courses.

Currently, CCAC offers 15 degrees and 12 certificate programs entirely online. This semester, 185 sections were offered online with a total headcount of 5,236 and 10,082 registrations.
Admissions & Financial Aid Activities

This past semester, Admissions staff were busy welcoming students to the campus for visits and tours and assisting individuals dropping in during regular office hours. Other activities included numerous virtual chat sessions, virtual Open Houses, weekly virtual enrollment information sessions, meta-major sessions, and individual Allied Health information sessions. CCAC recruiters participated in community events, such as the Latino Fair and the Historical Black Colleges and Universities Fair at PNC Park. CCAC was also represented at a dozen college fairs hosted by individual schools and regional school counselor associations.

In December, CCAC held its f rst in-person Open House since the pandemic began. Enrollment Information Sessions will continue to be held twice a week leading up to the start of spring classes, with chat sessions available throughout.

Interest in CCAC’s Dual Enrollment and College in High School programs remains high, with all enrollments handled by Admissions. To date, the team has responded to the more than 1,600 email inquiries received via the Admissions mailbox. For all other prospects, Signal Vine and email campaigns are underway, followed by a phone campaign to individuals who have applied but who have not yet enrolled for spring 2022 classes.

To help defray tuition costs, Financial Aid distributed 10,134 awards totaling just over $13.3 million to CCAC students. This is inclusive of Pell grants ($7+ million), loans, and PHEAA funds as well as Pittsburgh Promise and other scholarship funding. CCAC partnered with PHEAA to offer a virtual FAFSA presentation. This was followed by individual appointments with the college’s financial aid staff for students and/or families who needed assistance in completing the financial aid application.

Financial aid leaders are working closely with ITS and the Registrar on an overhaul of financial aid rules that need to be updated to match the college’s current business processes. Financial Aid is also working with the Registrar to clearly de ne and utilize Degree Audit as the student’s academic plan for Student Academic Progress (SAP) appeals.

CCAC Information Center

To further CCAC’s one college operations, the CCAC Information Center was launched, which collapsed 28 individual phone numbers into a single, centralized phone number, 412.237.CCAC. Other services include a new centralized email address (information@ccac.edu) and chat functionality (wildcatchat.ccac.edu). Center staff have been fully trained to address most inquiries, with all interactions recorded for quality and tracking purposes. Second tier support is available when staff are unable to fully address the caller’s inquiry.

Using a continuous improvement model, adjustments have been made to provide more effective service to incoming callers. Callbacks were phased out and replaced by voicemails so that staff may be better prepared to address inquiries. Wrap-up codes have also been implemented, which has led to more efective monitoring of interactions. To date, center staff have responded to more than 19,000 phone inquiries, and nearly 1,700 chats, 2,300 emails and 300 voicemail messages.

In the college’s website and social media communications are running on the new Zoom platform, digital display and computer screens, and on the new Zoom media opportunities.

Going forward, the center will be adding an automated menu system to accommodate busy call times, which will alert supervisors when the team is experiencing higher than normal phone traffic. The CCAC Information Center is currently staffed by four employees divided into two daytime and two afternoon/evening shifts, with plans for a new staff member to join the center in January.

Spring 2022 Enrollment Campaign

Looking to the spring 2022 academic term, the college has passed the midpoint of a four-month marketing campaign designed to bolster interest in both online and in-person classes, including CCAC’s evening and weekend programming. The campaign encompasses a number of strategic ad buys, in addition to maximizing the college’s earned media opportunities.

There is a heavy emphasis on digital placement across a range of platforms through February, including Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and Google Search, and ads are also retargeting visitors to CCAC’s website. Since early October, a mix of (:30) and (:15) spots have been running on TV and cable and are being streamed digitally, along with (:10) and (:06) spots, through the end of January, with radio spots running on Spotify and across the Pittsburgh metro target market. Additionally, a number of billboards have been placed in highly visible locations throughout the region, and CCAC ads are appearing on high school websites as well as on other strategic websites and e-publications in order to capture the attention of specifc populations. The college is also running 12 weeks of sponsored promotional messaging on WESA 90.5 FM targeting business professionals.

These paid placements have been augmented by the college’s media outreach efforts, which have resulted in a number of news stories highlighting not only collegewide programing, but specifc programs in need of additional promotion. In addition to printed and e-materials, CCAC spring 2022 communications are running on the college’s website and social media platforms, digital display and computer screens, and on the new Zoom backgrounds recently provided to the college community.

INFORMATION CENTER STATS TO DATE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phone inquiries</th>
<th>Chats</th>
<th>Emails</th>
<th>Voicemails</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19,000+</td>
<td>1,700</td>
<td>2,300</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INVESTING IN EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE:
New Faculty & Administrative Hires

CCAC filled positions in a variety of academic disciplines. The college is pleased to have welcomed the following educators since publication of the College Update End-of-Year Report in August:

Mark Craven
Instructor/Academic Advisor
Allegheny Campus

Jeremy Davis
Instructor
Automotive Technology
West Hills Center

Molly Dorian
Assistant Professor
Occupational Therapy Assistant
Boyce Campus

Anne Duffy
Assistant Instructor
Allied Health
South Campus

Margaret Hines
Assistant Instructor
Biology
North Campus

Chelsea Lang
Assistant Professor
Nursing
Boyce Campus

Michele Napierkowski
Assistant Professor
Early Education & Child Development
North Campus

Cedric Rudolph
Diverse Faculty Fellow Instructor
English
Allegheny Campus

Nicholas Twardus
Instructor
Film Technician
South Campus

Additionally, CCAC filled various administrative positions across the college and is pleased to have welcomed the following individuals:

Sean Brutscher
Lead Digital Developer
ITS
Office of College Services

Aaliyah Coleman
Student Engagement Coordinator
Southeast Region

Kathleen Crowley
Data Entry Clerk
Registration & Advisement
Boyce Campus

Dr. Susan Dawkins
Coordinator, KEYS Program
Allegheny Campus

Ying Dong
Data Analyst
Assessment & Institutional Effectiveness
Office of College Services

Veronica Fallert
Student Engagement Specialist
Student Life
South Campus

Paula Shubock
Assistant Professor
CIT
North Campus

Paula Stevenson
Associate Professor
Business
South Campus

Heather Vincent
Associate Professor
Nursing
North Campus

Bradley Henry
Employer Relations Administrator
Human Resources
Office of College Services

Michael Howe
Assistant Director of Military & Veteran Services
Allegheny Campus

Vivian Livesay
Planning & Research Associate
Assessment & Institutional Effectiveness
Office of College Services

Eileen Lockley
Learning Technologist
ITS
Office of College Services

Carmen Lucas
Student Support Specialist
Perkins
South Campus

Anthony Palombo
Network Cable Technician
ITS
Office of College Services

Dr. Debra Roach
Vice President of Workforce Development
West Hills Center

Dr. Kristofer Stubbs
Early College Program Director
South Campus

Erene Morcous Ibrahim
Assistant Instructor (Ed Tech)
Biology
North Campus

Also, the following faculty members have moved to new positions:

Renee Bonelli
Assistant Professor
Nursing
South Campus

Sheila Brown
Assistant Professor
Barber Program
Homewood-Brushton Center

Neil Jones
Academic Advisor
Academic Advising
Boyce Campus

Eleen Morcous Ibrahim
Assistant Instructor (Ed Tech)
Biology
North Campus

Paula Shubock
Assistant Professor
CIT
North Campus

Paula Stevenson
Associate Professor
Business
South Campus

Heather Vincent
Associate Professor
Nursing
North Campus

Dr. Kellie Geiges
Director of Professional Development
Human Resources
Office of College Services

Tamika Germany
Compliance Officer
Internal Audit
Office of College Services

Dr. Debra Roach
Vice President of Workforce Development
West Hills Center

Dr. Kristofer Stubbs
Early College Program Director
South Campus
NEW & EXPANDING PARTNERSHIPS & PROGRAMS

In line with our commitment to ensure that a college education is available to everyone, CCAC continues to develop and expand programs that create pathways for students of all abilities and backgrounds. These new initiatives include:

Respiratory Therapy Program—UPMC Partnership
CCAC’s Respiratory Therapy Associate of Science Degree program and UPMC are joining forces to increase the number of skilled respiratory therapists in the region. Participants have an opportunity to make a meaningful impact in the community while receiving tuition assistance of $6,000, a generous sign-on bonus and paid work opportunities while completing the program. A job at UPMC is guaranteed upon successful completion of the program. Classes begin in January, and participants can complete their degree in 23 months. The expansion of the Respiratory Therapy program to support UPMC’s current and future workforce affirms the strong and ongoing partnership the college has with UPMC.

Computed Assisted Tomography Program—UPMC Partnership
CCAC’s Computed Assisted Tomography Diploma program has also teamed up with UPMC to help fill the urgent demand for skilled CT technologists in our region. Participants have the opportunity to get paid, hands-on experience as a CT tech with UPMC while completing classes at CCAC. Accepted students who commit to a two-year work agreement with UPMC will have access to a full-tuition discount for the CT program, paid on-the-job training and mentorship, up to 80 hours of at-work time in the first six months to complete online classes, a $10,000 sign-on bonus for new employees, and UPMC’s premier benefits package. Classes for the two-semester program begin on Jan. 31. Congratulations to everyone who has helped to establish both of these exciting new partnerships with UPMC!

Free CDL Training for Military and Veterans
I am pleased to announce that the college has received a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to provide free commercial driver’s license (CDL) training to current and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces, including National Guard members, Reservists and certain family members, living in greater Allegheny County. The grant will cover the full tuition and training for 31 individuals. CCAC is one of only four institutions in the state, and the only one in Western Pennsylvania, that received an award. This program is sure to benefit our veterans and the entire community while helping to fill the urgent need for drivers.
CCAC now a third-party test site
The college has been approved to provide third-party CDL testing as an agent of the Pennsylvania Department of Motor Vehicles. Being a third-party test site enables CCAC to offer the CDL Class A driver’s test to our own students as well as to members of the public who are seeking a commercial license. The new site is a win-win for CCAC and the DMV, which has been overwhelmed by requests for testing because of the huge demand for licensed commercial drivers.

Project Steno
CCAC once again offered Project Steno’s Basic Training—a free introductory court reporting course, comprised of six two-hour sessions, where students learn the basics of stenography and gain insight into this well-paying profession. Project Steno’s Basic Training offers a hands-on opportunity to learn the basics of stenographic theory in a virtual classroom while introducing candidates to the many career options available to today’s court reporting and captioning professionals.

IMT Apprenticeship Program
I am pleased to announce that the first cohort of 10 students successfully completed the college’s new Industrial Manufacturing Technician (IMT) Apprenticeship program, which prepares workers while helping manufacturers to develop a highly-skilled workforce. Participating companies enrolled their employees so they could acquire new skills and advance in their positions. The 18-month program is provided at no cost to students and includes on-the-job training, classroom time and online learning modules. The students earn a wage while they learn and gain nationally recognized credentials. Congratulations to all these hard-working apprentices on their accomplishment!

Life Launch: Ignite Reentry Program
I am proud to report that CCAC has joined forces with Goodwill YouthWorks for Life Launch: IGNITE, a program created through the Young Adult Reentry Partnership project. The program addresses a growing need for reentry services, which can reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for individuals who have been involved with the justice system. IGNITE targets young adults with a difficult past who want to work toward a better future. Eligible youth may receive soft skills training, case management support, assistance with a job search or exploring education/apprenticeship or paid work experiences. Program participants have the opportunity to earn an industry-recognized credential in Customer Service and Sales online through CCAC—all at no cost. Participants also have access to a dedicated CCAC navigator, who will provide resources to put them on the path to success.

LOOKING AHEAD—

Virtual Courses for Certified Radiologic Technologists
The college is offering a new and convenient opportunity for certified radiologic technologists to earn continuing education (CE) units. For the spring 2022 semester, CCAC will be offering five virtual courses that can be completed at any time of day or night, seven days a week. These courses will meet the structural education requirements necessary to qualify to apply for the national certification examination. CCAC will also offer a mammography clinical course to provide students with the chance to experience hands-on training within a mammography suite. The classes are open to any certified technologist recognized by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) and/or any certified radiographer or current certified mammographer.

Schell Games Apprenticeship Program
CCAC is partnering with Schell Games to sponsor an apprenticeship program for students interested in the gaming industry. The program’s hybrid training curriculum will guide aspiring gaming professionals through a three-year Associate of Science in Multimedia Programming, Simulation & Gaming. The program, which launches in the fall of 2022, is a blend of classroom study (20 hours per week) and paid on-the-job training at Schell Games’ Station Square office, and it will include professional training and development, company-specific onboarding, and curriculum and project work. Schell Games will pay the full tuition for the two apprentices in the program’s inaugural class. The company will also provide public transit or parking passes to cover students’ commutes. We are looking forward to implementing this wonderful opportunity for individuals interested in the gaming industry.

Certified Nurse Training Program
CCAC’s Washington County Center is establishing a Certified Nurse Training program based on the existing program at the Braddock Hills Center. A number of local students are interested, and instructors are in the pipeline. Long-term care facilities and the Washington County community will greatly benefit from the program, planned for a February start. Staff at the facilities will be transporting hospital beds and other related equipment to the center. Thank you to everyone who has worked to bring this new program to Washington County.
OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS & SPONSORED RESEARCH: RECENT GRANT AWARDS

From July 1, 2021 to Nov. 5, 2021, through the Office of Sponsored Programs & Sponsored Research, CCAC secured $5,133,792 in new funding for programs and services that will expand opportunities for students. The following awards have been received:

Near Completers
CCAC received $1,493,431 from the Partner4Work/PA Department of Labor & Industry to support job seekers who have been displaced from employment due to the COVID–19 pandemic and who were within one semester or less of completing training to enroll in education programs of one semester or less in duration that can rapidly attach the participant to industry-recognized credentials, degrees and employment in a high-priority occupation.

Commercial Motor Vehicle Operator Safety Training Program
CCAC received $132,409 from the U.S. Department of Transportation—Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to recruit and enroll veterans and/or their family members in the college’s Commercial Driver’s License program.

Early Care and Education Professional Development Organization at the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education
CCAC received $45,700 from Shippensburg University/Pennsylvania Department of Human Services’ Office of Child Development and Early Learning to provide credit courses to those who work with young learners and increase access to early care and education centers.

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)—Strengthening Institutions Programs (SIP) Portion
CCAC received a supplemental award of $1,374,979 from the U.S. Department of Education—Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund under the American Rescue Plan Act. The grant funds were used to cover lost revenue.

Governors Emergency Education Relief II (GEER II)
CCAC received $2,087,273 from the Pennsylvania Department of Education to purchase Dell VXRAIL infrastructure powered by VMWARE and vSAN and the Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) platform. This new technology will result in cost savings with regard to staff productivity, consolidation, energy and cooling. VDI will replace the need for high-end computer desktops and laptops, and it will eliminate the need to image and run software on each machine.

CCAC EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION: RECENT GRANTS & GIFTS

The CCAC Educational Foundation continues to be active in initiatives that have resulted in significant funding for the college. Selected grants and gifts of $5,000 and above are listed below.

Grants received by the foundation include:

- $1 million from the Heinz Endowments, $1 million from the Henry L. Hillman Foundation and $500,000 from UPMC to support the college’s Pioneering Pittsburgh’s New Workforce campaign. Total fundraising for this project is now over $70 million.
- $39,000 from the McKeesport Hospital Foundation to continue its support of CCAC nursing students. These funds provide wraparound support for the students who are part of the UPMC Scholars Program, a partnership between CCAC, UPMC McKeesport Hospital and the McKeesport Hospital Foundation. The program provides career opportunities for McKeesport area community members and also increases available nursing talent for the hospital.
- $26,000 from the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, which has been used in support of all food pantries across CCAC’s campuses and centers.
- $25,000 from the Posner Foundation for the Student Emergency GAP Fund, which provides immediate funding to CCAC students who are experiencing financial hardship that is preventing them from continuing their education.
- $10,000 in sponsorship support from Citizens for the Advancing Diversity at Community Colleges: Constructing a CDO Playbook conference, which was hosted by CCAC on September 22–24. The virtual diversity experience was designed specifically for chief diversity officers at the nation’s community colleges. Citizens also contributed $25,000 to workforce development initiatives at the college.
- $10,000 from the Kern Family Foundation in support of CCAC faculty member Dr. Justin Starr, who has been named an Engineering Unleashed Fellow for 2021. Professor Starr will use these grant funds to advance engineering education at CCAC.

Gifts received by the foundation include:

- $25,000 from an anonymous donor to continue the High School to Career Scholarship, which funds full tuition, fees and books for students graduating from high schools in Pittsburgh’s East End who intend to pursue a degree program that will lead to gainful employment upon their graduation from CCAC. This program has been in existence for more than a decade and is currently providing funding for 10 students.
- $10,000 from Dr. Leelavati Murthy, CCAC professor of Biology, to establish an endowed scholarship named the Gangamma and Gundlupet Sadashiv Dakshinamurthy Memorial Scholarship in memory of her parents.
- $9,000 from the St. Vincent DePaul Society to be directed toward unrestricted scholarship support.
- $5,000 from Ebenezer Baptist Church for the Student Emergency GAP Fund, an initiative also supported by members of the CCAC community, most recently during November’s Give Big Pittsburgh/Giving Tuesday fundraising appeal.

The CCAC Educational Foundation has continued to support students throughout the ongoing pandemic. The COVID–19 Laptop Program distributed nearly 300 laptops to students in need and has now transitioned to the Laptop Loan Program under the IT department. For the fall 2021 scholarship cycle, almost $200,000 was distributed to students.

**DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION INITIATIVES**

This fall, the Equity & Diversity Committee was established as a representational group across campuses and divisions to assist the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI) with developing a comprehensive strategic plan to guide the institutional work of the college’s Five Commitments.

To date, the committee has completed a SWOT analysis of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) for the college, created a diversity dictionary to establish a common language of DEI for the institution and developed a mission statement, which reads as follows:

The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ODEI) leads the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) as an exemplary model of integrated Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work for community colleges across the nation through providing intentional support through education, knowledge building, professional development, fair and impartial civil rights complaint resolutions, and community engagement.

ODEI also established a Community Equity and Diversity Council comprised of 23 community organizations. The council’s goal is to provide an understanding of the community’s DEI needs and the college’s role in supporting these needs, as well as to share with community partners new opportunities to expand our footprint in DEI spaces in addition to the initiatives we are working on institutionally. This council is designed to be mutually beneficial in creating positive changes toward a more inclusive city for both CCAC and the wider community.

In addition, the newly formed Student Equity and Diversity Committee met four times this semester with varying levels of participation. The student committee also reviewed the diversity dictionary as well as contributed additional terms and definitions.

There are also a number of DEI-related activities that Academic Affairs is advancing. In early November, Academic Affairs representatives met with Dr. Cynthia Warrick of Stillman College to discuss establishing an articulation agreement between our two colleges. With the initial contacts made, Dr. Ralph Proctor, professor of Ethnic and Diversity Studies, is taking the lead to craft a super-articulation agreement, with a goal of creating mentoring relationships to help students navigate both CCAC and the transfer to Stillman upon graduation. Similar opportunities with other institutions are being explored. And too, Academic Affairs is continuing to build strategies to support diversity among adjunct and full-time faculty, as well as address DEI in curricula.

ODEI was recently awarded an It’s On Us PA grant for 2021–2022 in the amount of $30,000 to help advance the college’s sexual violence prevention and awareness efforts. This year’s project is titled “Reducing Sexual Assault Reporting Barriers: Expanding Awareness, Prevention, Resources, and Assessment in the Context of COVID–19.” Goals of the project include: implementing a student climate survey to assess sexual assault awareness; creating a virtual branding campaign to increase social media and online awareness and prevention; and reducing language reporting barriers for nonnative English-speaking members of the CCAC community.

Following last year’s successful launch of Level 1 of the DEI Certificate program that was created in partnership with the Office of Human Resources, Level 2 was developed, providing comprehensive training for employees on DEI matters, including unconscious bias. To date, 255 individuals have initiated Level 1; this includes 53 faculty, 36 adjuncts, 102 administrators and 64 staff. A further 76 employees have fully completed Level 1; this includes 23 faculty, 10 adjuncts, 15 administrators and 28 staff.

Level 2 of the DEI Certificate program focuses on diverse communication. Accordingly, a communication forum is built into every activity. The Level 2 Certificate training incorporates monthly professional development activities inclusive of LinkedIn Learning videos, external presentations, activities, informational articles, and recommended book readings. The program includes two discussion forums per month to support the topic of the month. At the end of each monthly module, an assessment will be provided, with participants able to move forward upon completion of the previous module’s assessment.
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES

Throughout the summer and into the fall semester, CCAC worked to install security patches on all student computers. In addition, phones were installed in any classroom or lab that did not have one. Where phones already existed, the equipment was relocated to the instructor’s desk where possible, in order to enable faculty members to quickly place calls for assistance in emergency or other urgent situations.

CCAC also upgraded meeting rooms at each campus location, as well as at West Hills Center and OCS. Technology in these spaces consists of the following:

- 4K interactive display with 20 points of touch interactive display
- User-friendly touch control panel
- Cables for presenting from a personal device
- High quality microphones
- Speakers for optimal sound
- Interactive software capabilities
- Wireless screen sharing from a mobile device to the interactive display
- Zoom room capabilities

The Data Center and Virtual Desk Integration are getting upgraded equipment and software to support the ease of accessing virtual environments for faculty who teach specialized technology and engineering courses. It will also make software available to students without the need to have high-end computers.

Wireless system upgrades are occurring at all campuses and centers. Phase I upgrades include replacing access points in buildings, while Phase II will expand WiFi to outside locations.

The Marketing and ITS departments are working with Modern Campus and Red Rooster to redesign the CCAC website. To date, the team has developed a digital style guide, performed a needs assessment with college employees and students, designed a new look for the home page, developed templates, created a new taxonomy, updated search optimization, made changes to searches and tagging within the website, and implemented changes to ensure the site is ADA compliant. Additional services have also been purchased to better organize and present content, such as including more direct access to and presentation of EMSI data, as well as modernizing calendars and the directory.

The team is also working with Modern Campus to provide students with 3D interactive maps that will be available on the website for every CCAC location. To date, a design has been selected, and a legend with icons and points of interest for every CCAC location has been created.

In October, the CCAC Go! mobile app was launched. Prospective students can access the guest profile where they can engage with enrollment services and learn more about CCAC and the college’s many programs. Current students have access to this and more, including Blackboard, academic email, and their schedules and grades.

In addition to revamping the college website, a complete redesign of the MyCCAC portal is in the works. It will look very similar to the CCAC Go! mobile app, but will be designed for desktop use. Upon logging in, tiles will appear tailored to an employee’s role at the college. All content will be available through corresponding tiles and sub menus, and SharePoint document libraries will store all documents and instructional video links in a central location for easy access.

The Status Page/StatusGator services officially launched in November. These two services monitor all of the ITS services available to end users, including those that are hosted in the cloud. The services are grouped and listed on status.ccac.edu. End users can quickly and easily view which ITS services are available or experiencing issues, with possible workarounds provided when applicable. Users can sign up to receive proactive alerts via email or text by clicking the subscribe button. By subscribing to alerts (email or text), end users will receive real-time information about service status without the need to call the ITS ServiceDesk.

A cross-collaborative team comprised of representatives from the Center for Teaching and Learning, Dean of Adjunct Services, Human Resources, and ITS is working on a redesign of the CCAC Learning Communities web pages. This group is working on leveraging functionality within the system to deliver a role-based landing page upon logging in that will, in turn, provide more focused information to CCAC employees in the areas of learning, goals and performance.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS: ENHANCING CCAC PROGRAMS, SERVICES & IMAGE

Major facility-related projects are taking place across the college or have been completed. Here are a few highlights:

Work at the new Workforce Development and Training Center site continues to progress, despite delays due to the pandemic. The preliminary site preparation for the removal, upgrades and relocation of the existing utilities has been completed. These utilities include Duquesne Light, Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority, fiber optic and copper carriers for the voice and data networks, and Clearway (formerly Pittsburgh Thermal), supplier of chilled water and steam heating for multiple buildings on Allegheny Campus. The general contractor has been on site doing prep work and the engineering needed for the building’s foundation, with digging expected to begin soon. Barring any further delays, the center should be ready for occupancy in late 2023.
Renovation of Chalfant Hall is on track and making steady progress. As home to the new Center for Faculty Innovation, the facility will offer instructional classroom space and offices for our endowed professor for teaching and learning, endowed professor for technical curriculum, and the dean of our Virtual Campus. The center will also house a digital learning lab, testing lab, and other learning spaces. The Phase 3 interior and exterior rebuild is ongoing, with the completion date of the project estimated to be the second quarter of 2023.

The newly rebuilt pedestrian bridge linking the Foerster Student Services Center to Milton Hall reopened in October. With new structural steel in place, the renovated bridge features many upgrades to the original version, which significantly enhance pedestrian safety and mobility. These include power saving, energy compliant LED lighting, water displacement drainage and multiple level landings that provide greater wheelchair accessibility.

Assembly of the array for the North Campus Solar Project is nearly complete. Connection to the building’s electrical system, originally scheduled for Thanksgiving break, has been delayed due to supply chain issues affecting the new switchgear. The photovoltaic array should generate enough electricity to satisfy 30% to 40% of the North Campus electric load and will help CCAC to lower its electricity costs. The array is being constructed and operated by a third party at no capital cost to the college—CCAC will pay a stipulated rate for electricity generated by the system to the developer throughout the life of the Power Purchase Agreement contract.

Work is beginning on the state-of-the-art LED lighting system that is being installed in the VAC building. It will include a wireless control system that will be tied into the college’s building management system to aid in the energy-efficient control of other building systems. The system will cut lighting costs in the building by an estimate of at least one-half. The project is expected to be finished by January. In addition, a new, more efficient boiler is being installed in the building.

The engineering for the rebuild of the CCAC/OCS Data Center has been completed, and the possible relocation of the data center to a site at North Campus is also being explored by the engineers. The rebuild of the center will provide much-needed modernization, resulting in greatly improved network reliability and energy efficiency.

Renovation of the Allegheny Campus gymnasium was completed in September. The gym received a new scoreboard and shot clock. In addition, the ramp leading up to the gym and the gym floor were rebranded. The floor was also refinshed, with new paint colors added.

Student Government approved a room upgrade at CCAC’s Boyce Campus—now both campuses in the Southeast Region have an Honors Hub for students. Each hub has a small classroom with a faculty office and cozy lounge space for students to relax and congregate. The spaces will also function as work areas with additional collaboration spaces. The table surfaces are writeable and the furniture is modular, so it can be rearranged to suit the needs of students and staff.

Thirty-five classrooms across the college have been identified to receive new technology, equipment and furniture to enhance the learning environment. The work is progressing satisfactorily and will be completed by June 30, 2022.

CCAC HIGHLIGHTS: AWARDS & OTHER DISTINCTIONS

Southeast Region President Charlene Newkirk was selected as a winner of the Pittsburgh Business Times 2021 Women of Influence Award, which honors professional women in Western Pennsylvania for outstanding performance and influence in our region. More than 300 people gathered at the Westin Convention Center Hotel on Oct. 6 to celebrate all 26 winners, whom PBT describes as “inspiring women who have started and grown businesses, mentored future generations and made the community a better place.” Congratulations to President Newkirk on this well-deserved award!

Assistant Professor of Mechatronics Dr. Justin Starr has been named an Engineering Unleashed Fellow—one of 27 individuals from higher education institutions across the country who have been named fellows this year. The designation salutes leadership in undergraduate engineering education and is accompanied by recognition, advanced project work, funding and community with other fellows. Engineering Unleashed is a community of 3,800 faculty members from 340 institutions of higher education, which is powered by Kern Entrepreneurial Engineering Network, a collaborative whose shared mission is to graduate engineers with an entrepreneurial mindset who are equipped to create societal, personal and economic value. Congratulations, Dr. Starr!
CCAC is honored to be included in Washington Monthly’s 2021 Best Colleges for Student Voting Honor Roll, which lists “the colleges doing the most to turn their students into citizens.” To make the honor roll, schools had to meet multiple criteria, including submitting action plans to the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge for 2018 and 2020 and signing up to receive data from the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement. In addition, student voting on our campuses increased significantly in last year’s presidential election, rising to 63.2% in 2020 from a rate of 57.7% in 2016. The full campus report comes from the Institute for Democracy & Higher Education.

I am also pleased to report that CCAC was named a 2020 Vibrant Champion by Vibrant Pittsburgh and the Allegheny Conference on Community Development. The two organizations collaborated to create the Vibrant Index Initiative, which drives diversity, equity and inclusion changes across industry and sector. The 2021 Vibrant Index Summary Report names CCAC and three other organizations—PNC, UPMC and The Pittsburgh Promise—as Vibrant Champions for having achieved at or above the 95th percentile on the 2020 Diagnostic.

CCAC Physical Therapist Assistant student Alysse Dambrot has received the American Physical Therapy Association Pennsylvania Chapter Student Leadership Award, which recognizes students for mentoring, leadership skills and encouraging membership in the organization. Annually, two outstanding students from the 19 physical therapy programs and 18 physical therapist assistant programs in the state are selected to receive the award. Dambrot, who was nominated by Physical Therapist Professor and Program Coordinator Dr. Norman Johnson, is the eighth recipient of the award from CCAC—the only program in the state to have eight students honored with the award since its inception in 2010. Congratulations to Dambrot and to the program on its continued success!

Sandy Stanley, RN lead with the bereavement program at West Penn Hospital, sent the college a heartfelt note of appreciation about the CCAC RN students who shadowed her the previous week and observed bereavement work and footprint castings for newborns. As a result of this experience, the entire clinical group rallied together and donated $125 to the WPH Angelheart Bereavement program, which provides support for families experiencing neonatal and newborn loss. Thank you, CCAC Nursing students, for making a difference!

CCAC Adjunct Art Professors RJ Thompson and Bernie Wilke recently completed a mural project they initiated in the neighborhood of Bellevue. The grant-funded project was also supported by individual donations, and it is a great case study in how CCAC faculty are impacting communities through the arts. During feedback sessions, Bellevue residents, business owners and stakeholders shared their vision, and several community members suggested that the development of murals would be a tangible way of enhancing Lincoln Avenue with visual arts. What was originally supposed to be a single mural turned into the Bellevue Mural Arts Program. Local artist Jennie Denton provided the design, and a small army of volunteers helped with the painting. The group has expanded its efforts to create community-driven art for Bellevue Elementary School and Northgate Junior/Senior High School. We’re looking forward to seeing the colorful results and to learning more about this wonderful initiative by our talented faculty.

CCAC alumna Chantelle Bellavance is achieving success in her chosen field—and beyond. After earning an Associate of Science in Mathematics & Sciences and a Certificate in Computer Aided Drafting & Design, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Energy and Sustainability at Penn State University. Currently working as a technical analyst in network operations, Bellavance has also found success as a children’s book author. “Little, Love Yourself from the Inside Out” was published in September and is getting rave reviews. The book is designed to help children learn to build self-confidence and acceptance of themselves and others while showing them how to work through difficult feelings.
AUTUMN EVENTS KEEP STUDENTS CONNECTED & ENGAGED

In September, CCAC was honored to serve as the host institution for the 2021 Inaugural Community College Diversity Institute, convened by Coopwood Diversity Leadership and Education Universal. With its theme and title “Advancing Diversity at Community Colleges: Constructing the CDO Playbook,” this timely virtual conference represented the first institute of its kind—a national forum specifically designed to address the role and needs of the chief diversity officer (CDO) within the community college sector. The 100+ participants included CDOs, college presidents and senior administrative, academic and student affairs leaders, and representatives from the American Association for Community Colleges and community organizations such as Citizens Bank, the lead sponsor. Over three days, participants heard from a number of educators, leaders and scholars, including author, professor and anti-racist activist Dr. Ibram X. Kendi. The conference fostered meaningful discussions on a range of issues impacting diversity, equity and inclusion.

Also in September, the college hosted NJCAA President Christopher Parker and his team during a visit to Allegheny Campus. Dr. Parker and his associates met with Northwest Region President Dr. Evon Walters, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management Dr. Mary Lou Kennedy, and Dean of Students Dr. Vladimir St. Surin. The group toured the athletic facilities at Allegheny Campus and discussed CCAC athletics and current trends in Division 3 schools.

CCAC partnered with Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities once again to host the 12th annual Odyssey Day on Oct. 1. The event promotes the use of alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles. CCAC students and industry leaders were able to attend sessions with industry experts such as Duquesne Light, Tesla, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Ford, GM and Chrysler.

On October 13, CCAC’s Psi Beta National Honor Society in Psychology facilitated a presentation from Dr. Brayden Kameg, assistant professor of Nursing at the University of Pittsburgh, to provide an overview of risk and protective factors for mental health outcomes in the context of the COVID–19 pandemic. The informative presentation covered emerging trends related to rates of depression, anxiety, suicidality and substance use; screening for mental health issues; safety planning; and the means of promoting resiliency, including best practices for self-care.

West Hills Center hosted the Virtual Skilled Trades & Services Fair on Nov. 23. Students and community members attended the free event to learn about training for high-paying and highly rewarding careers. Following opening remarks by Northwest Region President Dr. Evon Walters and an overview of Skilled Trades programs by Director of Enrollment Rhena McCaskill, attendees explored career options with industry experts and viewed presentations by several of CCAC’s union and apprenticeship partners. The fair featured CCAC’s Automotive Technology, HVAC, Mechatronics (advanced manufacturing), Commercial Driver’s License and Welding programs and the Barber School.

The college community honored our students, faculty, administrators, and staff who have served in the United States Armed Forces on Veterans Day through profiles on CCAC’s social media sites. Thank you to the veteran members of our Wild Cats family who took the time to share your unique stories for Veterans Day—and, most of all, thank you for your service! The profiles can be seen on CCAC’s Facebook page.

On December 18, the college will celebrate the accomplishments of 196 newly graduated nurses from Allegheny and Boyce campuses and CCAC at California University of Pennsylvania at the 2021 Virtual Nursing Pinning Ceremony. A recording of the Nursing Pinning Ceremony will be made available to the college community. Congratulations, graduates, and thank you to everyone who is helping to make this celebration a memorable experience!

Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator, NASA Science Mission Directorate, talks with Mechatronics students at West Hills Center, where they show him a robotic assembly line they were troubleshooting and repairing.

Dr. Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator, NASA Science Mission Directorate, visited West Hills Center last summer to talk to CCAC Mechatronics and Engineering students about the need for students in the skilled trades to apply for jobs at NASA. He told the students that engineers design spacecraft, but that he also needs people who are excellent electrical technicians and welders to build them.
In observance of Physical Therapy Month, 11 Physical Therapy Assistant students from the Classes of 2021 and 2022 participated in a PT Day of Service by holding the fourth annual Boyce Park Cleanup on Saturday, Oct. 16. The event was coordinated by Alysse Dambrot, Student Physical Therapy Association Class of 2022 president, and Melissa Sell, Class of 2021. The rainy weather did not discourage the students from collecting 20 five-gallon buckets full of garbage along the roadsides. In total, the students removed approximately half a ton of garbage from the park.

In honor of Veterans Day 2021, the Office of Military & Veterans Services conducted a donation drive to support veterans through the Veterans Resource Center at the Veterans Place. The Veterans Resource Center serves veterans facing homelessness or at risk of homelessness by providing them with essential resources such as transportation, food, clothing, laundry and shower facilities, financial assistance, and individualized case management. Thank you to all who participated in this worthy effort to support the men and women who have served our country.

The CCAC Honors Program is working to raise money and awareness for the homeless youth of Allegheny County through the Homeless Children's Education Fund (HCEF). The HCEF’s mission is to advance the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness in Southwestern Pennsylvania, guiding them to be productive, empowered citizens. HCEF provides supplies and mentoring to children who are experiencing homelessness to continue their education. All Honors students have the opportunity to fundraise for HCEF by selling “helping hand” bingo cards—and CCAC administrators, faculty and staff are encouraged to support these efforts to help change the trajectories of these children's lives. Thank you to all who have contributed.

CCAC students and faculty stepped up once again to help the less fortunate this holiday season. For the 10th year, the CCAC Student Physical Therapy Association (SPTA) collected hundreds of various Thanksgiving dinner food items for its Help Give Thanks service learning project. The collection was coordinated by Class of 2022 President Alysse Dambrot and Class of 2023 President Dylan Florentine. The Churchill-Wilkins Rotary Club purchased 60 18–20 pound turkeys from Kuhn’s Market, and the Shop ‘n Save in Wilkins Township donated eight cases of assorted food items. Churchill Vision and Laser Center coordinated the ordering and pick-up. On Nov. 17, Dr. Norman Johnson, PTA program coordinator, and Mark Allston, CCAC student success coach, along with other Rotarians, and Dr. Stephen Bannister, PTA program professor, delivered the Thanksgiving turkeys and food items to the Rainbow Kitchen Community Services for distribution. Each holiday dinner fed a family of four to six people, resulting in 240 to 360 meals. Churchill-Wilkins Rotary also presented the Rainbow Kitchen with a check in the amount of $1,000 to purchase additional food items for distribution.

Student leaders Ana Bellamy, Bri Bellamy, and Kayden Nock established and received grant funding for The Drive-Thru Kindness Tour, which was designed to improve mental health while following COVID guidelines and social distancing. The December 3 event included giveaways, dinner and a concert at South Campus (with live-streaming to other CCAC locations). The students worked closely with CCAC departments to accomplish their goal—Student Life assisted with logistics, Counseling and the resource navigators helped with positive mental health and self-care resources, and Advising and other faculty helped to promote attendance. Congratulations to the students and others involved in organizing this impactful event!
As this report illustrates, CCAC’s first half of the 2021–22 academic year has begun with a number of accomplishments—new partnerships, exciting programs and noteworthy awards and community collaborations. And what makes these achievements so impressive is that not only have they occurred in great numbers all across the college, but that they have and are happening during extremely challenging times.

A college is only as good as its people, and we are fortunate to have some of the very best working here at CCAC. The support you have provided to our students and the compassion you have shown for the many challenges they have experienced during this pandemic are testaments to the dedicated and resilient nature of our CCAC family. So, it is with profound gratitude that I thank each and every one of you for what you have done and continue to do to make CCAC a place where all students have the chance to succeed.

I wish you all good health, great joy and much cheer as you gather with family and friends to celebrate the holidays and ring in the New Year.

Happy Holidays,

Dr. Quintin Bullock