



2025 NEWSLETTER

Newsletter

June 2025

Sussex County Community College is excited to share our latest updates with our community.

Academics

The College announced that Christopher Land from Sussex County Technical School won the concurrent faculty member of the year award. Superintendent Gus Modla added, "Chris is not only a talented educator but also a dedicated mentor who has poured his heart into building an incredible Engineering program."

Thank you to everyone who came together to celebrate our students during this year's 2025 Commencement. It was a memorable event for everyone involved!



SCCC and Optics Technology Supervisor, Jack Stafford, were featured in [Optics Manufacturing and Education News](#) last month.

Deborah Lanza, Assoc. Professor of Psychology completed her Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative Research Training Certificate. She is involved



Finance & Facilities

Facilities Updates:

PSTA basement renovation is ongoing. The outdoor gun range sound study is completed and site design is being prepared

Nursing simulation lab renovation continues

Optics Center construction began and is on schedule

Library renovation begins 6/25

Administration Bldg. bids due 6/9/25

ATC renovation: exterior completed; interior goes for bid 7/25

A Bldg: Allied Health in design phase

in research exploring how self-compassion may relate to self-sabotaging behaviors, habits that can interfere with academic performance and personal growth, which many students experience.

Allison Ognibene, lead faculty of Theater Arts, wrote an original play called "[Mile 59](#)" that will be featured in the renowned New York Theater Festival, "NY Summerfest" in June at the Hudson Guild Theater. She also just defended her thesis to earn her MFA in Performing Arts Management.

SCCC partnered with Sussex Cty Technical School to offer programming for current SCTS students, allowing them to earn college credits toward an Associate of Fine Arts degree in their senior year. There are over 25 qualifying seniors from SCTS who will enroll in classes at SCCC full-time next year.

SCCC Instructor Christina Winters and adjunct Mercedes Lippert led chemistry students on a trip to the Sterling Hill Mining Museum in Ogdensburg, home to rare fluorescent minerals. Students used the experience to inform research projects, which they presented as part of their final grade.

Instructor Jumana Hablawi presented on the concept of internationalization and its importance. Internationalization can enhance the quality of education and prepare students to succeed in the global labor market, while fostering open-minded individuals who care for the world and one another.

The Visual & Performing Arts Dept. collaborated with the Sussex Cty Arts and Heritage Council through a grant made possible by SCAHC. An innovative and interactive children's theater workshop entitled "I Can! We Can!" was offered.

SCCC is supporting the Bihn Collection Project at the Sterling Hill Mining Museum, which features over 4,000 stone artifacts from over 30 sites in Sussex County. Dr. Tony Balzano, Professor of Anthropology & Sociology, is helping to bring the two organizations together for the betterment of the region from an educational and understanding perspective.

Dr. Homer attended the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce Business and Education Roundtable. Educators and businesses discussed obstacles and opportunities from their areas as they related to providing a skilled workforce for Sussex County.

Drs. Okay and Homer visited the New Jersey School of

Administration Bldg. ADA ramp designs in review

Enrollment & Marketing

Summer Enrollment continues to look strong into FY26. Summer Applications are up about 2% and enrollment is up about 7%.

Fall Enrollment looks solid, thanks in part, to the College's Strategic Enrollment Group, which meets weekly to analyze data and make informed decisions regarding course fill rates, applicant conversion rates, FAFSA completions, and more.

Information Technology

The IT Dept. is busy with training and data conversion to the new cloud-hosted Jenzabar One, with go-live planned for October 2025.

SCCC is collaborating with Planet Networks on a new fiber connection that will enable the PSTA to integrate into the College network fully.

IT has installed 30 additional grant-funded All-In-One workstations for faculty and staff that were not upgraded with the last AIO group purchase.

The IT Dept. is moving equipment to and from storage and network connection additions for the renovation of the C Building, the cafeteria, and the Learning Commons project. They are also working with Dr. Homer for network services on other building projects, including

Conservation to discuss partnerships regarding research and educational opportunities. Members from the NJSOC will visit SCCC for further planning.

SCCC's Arbor Bakeshop hosted pop-up Bakeshops featuring graduate Ruxt Rodriguez, who will open Fratelli Bakery in Newton.

the R Building, the B Building at McGuire, and the Adult Transition Center.

Student Affairs & Campus Life

The College was awarded an \$18,846 grant from the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education. These funds will be used to address hygiene, food, and housing insecurity for students on campus.

[New Student Orientation Registration](#) is now open for any incoming Fall 2025 students.

The Skylanders Wrestling program is running the Skylander Wrestling Club over the summer on Tuesday nights. The Club is a free clinic open to college and high school wrestlers.

Congratulations to student-veteran Joseph Pascua on earning the 2025 Sparta VFW Ralph Rojas Scholarship through the Sparta VFW.

SCCC is partnering with the Sussex County Sheriff's Junior Academy at the PSTA, open to rising 6th–through 8th–grade students interested in law enforcement and public safety. Applications are available at the Sheriff's Office or online at www.sussexcountysheriff.com.

SCCC Foundation

The Foundation proudly presented recognition cords to graduating students who received scholarships. Pictured are 26 of the 64 recipients whose educational journeys were made possible by the generosity of our scholarship donors.

The Foundation hosted three thank-you events at the Arbor Restaurant for our most generous donors, who contributed \$1,000 or more to SCCC this year. The 61 members of the President's Society contributed \$760,000 to support the mission of the College during the 2024-2025 academic year.



The Foundation submitted additional grants totaling \$85,000 to support the purchase of equipment for Allied Health programs.

The Foundation continues to collaborate with faculty and staff to submit grant opportunities with funding requests for the Adult Transition Ctr., Student Center Theater, and Anthropology Dept.

The Foundation's online Scholarship application portal is open for new and current students until June 30th. To date, 266 students have started applications. Students can visit sussex.edu/scholarships for more information.

Sussex County Community College | One College Hill Road | Newton, NJ 07860 US

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