

EMBRACING

AT NORWALK COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DIVERSITY

AT NORWALK COMMUNITY COLLEGE



“We may have different religions,
different languages, different
colored skin, but we all belong
to one human race.” — MARK TWAIN

Norwalk Community College is a welcoming place that truly supports diversity. It is a mecca in Fairfield County for learning and respectful discussion that cuts across social and cultural divides.

Jason An

I grew up in China and had always wanted to study in the United States. While visiting my aunt who lives in Stamford, I learned that NCC offered a student visa.

I enrolled at NCC because the tuition is affordable and I can transfer to a four-year school after. I started with ESL because I didn't speak any English at all. I couldn't order food at McDonald's and didn't even know how to take a bus.

I thank NCC for giving me this opportunity. The NCC Foundation gave me a scholarship that covered tuition for a year. And now I have an internship working at a diamond company in Stamford. I do accounts payable and finance.

When I graduate, I hope to continue to work full-time and transfer to Western Connecticut State University to finish my B.A. I will graduate from NCC with 99 credits and can transfer 84 of them to West Conn. Starting at NCC really saved me a lot of money.





Vivian Dennis

I had previously worked for 15 years at a nonprofit organization. I was going to the Ben Franklin Community Center in Norwalk when I learned about NCC.

I later graduated with a certificate in General Studies, although I liked my law class the most. A lot of my family is in law enforcement, which has helped shape my career interests. I want to open a security business and I am currently working on a business plan.

NCC was home to me. All of the professors were terrific and worked with me when I struggled.

NCC changed me in a lot of ways. When I first came here I was doubtful and quiet. When I graduated, I was an entirely different person. It taught me that you're never too old to learn and that I can be somebody.

NCC's student body is multicultural and diverse in terms of age, ethnicity, gender identification and expression, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, physical and academic abilities, aspirations and background.



Eduardo Garcia

I came to NCC after graduating high school because I didn't have the finances or the grades for anything other than a community college.

Although I was discouraged at the beginning, I soon realized that NCC has so much to offer, and that everyone wanted you to do well. The faculty want you to succeed and they give you the tools to do so—like reminders to apply for the scholarships and help in how to do it.

NCC is also so rich in culture. Everyone comes from a different place and has a different mindset. Students are from all over the world and it's wonderful to converse with them.

NCC made me feel so at home and comfortable with being who I am. It gave me the confidence to enjoy being me. It's such an amazing community and everyone can find a place to belong here!

Offering more than 40 Associate Degree and 20 Certificate programs, Norwalk Community College enrolls approximately 13,000 students annually, ranging in age from 15 to 90.

Our students hail from 87 countries and speak 54 languages. As a result, the College is enriched by a wide range of cultural, geographic, socioeconomic, racial and social perspectives.

Mariem Tolba

The year I spent at NCC was one of the happiest years of my life! I am from Mauritania, an Islamic Republic in southwestern Africa. I took two years of computer science back in my country, but didn't really love it. I came to the U.S. to visit my husband who works here in computer science, and decided to stay.

I knew I needed more English, so I started at NCC with ESL. NCC helped me discover my passion. Through joining in student clubs, I learned a lot about myself and found my leadership skills. I learned I am always the one taking care of the budget to make sure we are balanced. I found that I really love accounting!

NCC is a great place to start if you don't know what you want to do with your life. It's a place to network and discover what to do next. The staff are the nicest ever—it's really a nice family.



“Our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children’s future. And we are all mortal.”

— JOHN F. KENNEDY

NCC is a member institution of the United Nations Academic Impact, a global initiative that supports 10 universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, literacy, sustainability and conflict resolution.



Ana Caceres

I came to NCC because my grades in high school were not that great. Once I started here, that changed drastically. The teachers are dedicated and really want to help you become a better student and person.

I was raised here but was born in the Dominican Republic. It is important to me that NCC is multicultural because there are people coming from different countries to make their lives better and they are really determined. Places that are not diverse often make you feel segregated at times; like you are “different.”

With diversity, you learn a lot from other people and the way they do things. That’s why I chose to transfer to Baruch College after NCC. People there are from different parts of the world as well.



Kris Solis

I had originally wanted to attend a four-year college after high school, but didn’t want to put the financial strain on my family. So, I started at NCC first to save money. Now I’m at SUNY Purchase working toward a B.A. in Visual Arts.

I want to be a conceptual artist, an illustrator who is a designer in the pre-stages of things like movies, comics and video games. At NCC, my major was Studio Arts so I was able to pick my focuses and take courses that were relevant to my career choice.

What I love about NCC is that it is a fluid environment. It’s easy to shift your ideas about what you want, rather than trying to force yourself into something that might not be right for you.

Community college is a great place to work through being unsure. Thank you NCC, for giving me that opportunity and a place to grow.

Global awareness and social responsibility are integrated into the curriculum to help mold globally-conscious citizens. Students raise awareness of important issues including climate change and social justice.

“Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and the test of our civilization.”

— MAHATMA GANDHI

Jacob Waring

When I enrolled at NCC, I was on “round two” of my education. I had taken a leave of absence from my previous college, a school for deaf and hearing-impaired students, which didn’t really work for me. I also wanted to pay off student loans.

Because of money and proximity, I enrolled at NCC. I liked how diverse the student body was—it was like a melting pot of people and experiences, not just one demographic.

I took courses I enjoyed, like theater, TV and film. I joined student clubs and became the editor of the student newspaper, *The Voice*.

The faculty always treated me with respect and made accommodations for my deafness. If I needed sign language interpreters, the Disability Office made sure I had them.

NCC encouraged me to be an advocate for myself and indirectly for the deaf community.



NCC strives to make all students feel part of the campus community with over 40 student clubs and organizations including Hay Motivo, Gay Straight Alliance, Hillel Club, Military Veterans Club and Multicultural Club.

Ivan Chocon Garcia

I recently received a degree in General Studies and am taking several classes now before I transfer to Southern Connecticut University. My long-term goal is to be a bilingual teacher.

NCC is a small college, which allows for a lot of instructor help in the classroom. The counselors are also very helpful—mine was always there for me, whether it was finding the right class to register for or helping with financial aid.

I feel like NCC is a very diverse, secure and friendly place and that makes me feel welcome.

NCC has helped me save a lot of money while providing a great education. Everyone here contributes a little something, which adds up to making NCC a great place.



NCC leads more than 100 community partnerships. These collaborations ultimately provide workforce solutions, enrich the community and help families achieve economic security.

Loretta Horton

I'm a Navy veteran and was caring for sick parents at the time I decided to go to NCC. I knew that NCC had a program that caters to veterans, and heard that NCC is friendly to all kinds of people.

And I found that to be true! At NCC, everyone's door was always open to assist with whatever need I had—academically, socially or mentally. As a non-traditional student, the College gave me more confidence and a new outlook on life.

I did well academically and was chosen to speak at graduation. I learned so much at NCC. I was stimulated and didn't have room to fail.

After graduation, I transferred to Western Connecticut State University. I want to work with women with substance abuse and addiction.

Wherever you are in your life, it's never too late to chase your dreams.



Norwalk Community College is and remains committed to providing a safe campus, support services and resources to all of our students, including those who are undocumented.



Justine Conley

I came to NCC just after high school, because I didn't feel ready to go to a four-year university.

NCC is a special place. The professors are compassionate and have inspired, comforted, encouraged and supported me. They get that students have lives outside of the classroom.

And anyone can make friends here—all you have to do is smile and introduce yourself. There is very little judgment. Just a mutual respect like 'you're doing what you gotta do, I'm doing what I gotta do, so let's get along.'

My ideas about my future are always changing, but my current path is to earn a B.S. in nursing and a Master's in midwifery. I hope to start at Southern Connecticut State University in the spring.

NCC changed me as a student and as a person. I used to hate school, now I enjoy getting great grades and watching my work pay off. Thank you, NCC, for driving me to exceed my own expectations.

The Norwalk Community College Foundation transforms lives by awarding nearly \$1 million in scholarships annually to current students and transferring graduates. Eligible students can graduate debt-free.

Diversity-Related Services and Facilities at NCC

Committee for Diversity and Inclusion

NCC has a Committee for Diversity and Inclusion, which is open to students, faculty and staff members. Committee meetings are held on the third Monday of every month at 2:30pm, in the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs.

Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs

The Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs is a large and comfortable meeting center located on the East Campus. It is used for events celebrating diversity, cultural heritage and inclusion. The center was established with support from the Committee for Diversity and Inclusion to help students gain deep knowledge of, and appreciation for, people of different races, religions, ages, gender identities, ethnic backgrounds, national origins and abilities.

Interfaith Center

Located on the College's West Campus, the Interfaith Center provides a non-denominational venue for interfaith and community service events. The space is open to NCC students, faculty and staff members and includes a Meditation/Prayer/Quiet Room for personal reflection, prayer or meditation.

Student Disability Services

NCC is accessible to students with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with

Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended. Students with disabilities that have been diagnosed and documented by a qualified professional may be eligible for services including academic adjustments, testing, tutoring, interpreters and auxiliary aids.

Non-Discrimination Policy

Norwalk Community College does not discriminate in its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, religious creed, age, sex, national origin, marital status, ancestry, present or past history of mental disorder, learning disability or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression or genetic information. In addition, the College does not discriminate in employment on the basis of veteran status or criminal record.

The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Cheryl DeVonish
Chief Diversity Officer & Special Advisor to the President, and Title IX Coordinator
(203) 857-7016
CDevonish@norwalk.edu

Fran Apfel, Ph.D.
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator
(203) 857-7192
FApfel@norwalk.edu

