



NORWALK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF IN-
TEREST:**

- Greetings from the Dean of Students
- NCC Graduate attends Yale Women's Campaign School
- A trip to Paris hosted by the French club
- NCC Initiatives
- STRIVE
- Diversity Quiz

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Diversity Newsletter

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Greetings from the Dean of Students



Greetings! I am so excited about what we are experiencing at this dynamic institution – increased enrollment, a variety of courses and subjects for learning, and yes, the vibrant diversity that we share. At NCC, we have over 87 foreign countries represented, and that certainly adds to the flavor and essence of what makes us #NCCproud.

Please know that we are expecting great things from our students and the continued excellence of our faculty and staff. My Office is always open to you to assist you in your endeavors, or just to stop by an enlightening conversation. Thank you for your commitment to diversity and the struggles of adversity. I truly believe that the best is yet to come!

Allow me to share with you this short poem below by the late Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, former President of Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA. Remember it as you journey through this academic year. Live well and be well!

-Calvin McFadden, Ph.D.
Dean of Students

*I've only just a minute,
Only sixty seconds in it.
Forced upon me, can't refuse it,
Didn't seek it, didn't choose it,
But it's up to me to use it.
I must suffer if I lose it,
Give an account if I abuse it,
Just a tiny little minute,
But eternity is in it.*

-Dr. Benjamin E. Mays

Recent NCC Graduate Attends Renowned Yale Women's Campaign School



Eloisa Melendez is a recent NCC graduate who has served as a member on the Norwalk City Council for four years. On Election Day, she was re-elected to her third term as a Council member. Her involvement in politics led her to apply to the renowned Women's Campaign School at Yale University. After an arduous application process, Eloisa was selected to participate; a great honor considering only 80 applicants chosen from an application pool of 600 applications. The school is nonpartisan, inviting women from different party affiliations to participate. It also invites women from around the world to participate with ten percent of the class of 2017 having been international applicants.

Founded in 1993, The Women's Campaign School at Yale University prepares women to run for political offices at every level of government. The School runs a weeklong intensive summer program where attendees have a full day schedule attending workshops that cover topics such as campaigning with a strong emphasis on fundraising, targeting voters using media, talking points-do and don'ts of speech, and "Dressing to win" among other important topics.

When asked about her experience at Campaign School she stated, "my experiences at Women's campaign school have instilled in me skills that would help me to run for higher office." She noted it being "an intense program," as there was an early start to the day and they would work into the late evening. Although, she has had four years' experience in politics, her experience showed her that there was still so much more to learn. Eloisa eloquently described how walking into a room that housed a painting of Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, her role model, tied the entire experience together for her.

Eloisa encourages female students to get involved in politics and run for office. She states, "women all around the country are waking up and running for office but we need more." She is currently attending UCONN as a Political Science major. Her goals include becoming active in the legislative branch.

To learn more about the Women's Campaign School at Yale University, please follow the link <http://www.wcsyale.org/>

"I do know one thing about myself: I don't measure myself by other's expectations or let others define my worth"

**Supreme Court
Justice Sonia
Sotomayor**



Sister Circle Initiative

At NCC, we pride ourselves at being an educational community, which embraces diversity and inspires excellence among our students, faculty and staff. One of our current strategic goals is to implement interventions and practices to increase student success. With the latter in mind, Sister Circle was developed.

Sister Circle is a new initiative intended to provide female students at NCC with the opportunity to connect with women who work in diverse areas of the college. The group will be run by women committed to providing personal and professional mentoring to female students at NCC, by sharing experiences and resources, nurturing hopes, improving futures, and providing opportunities for women to learn and grow. We will facilitate and create safe spaces where women can come together and support one another on their own personal path of self-empowerment. By creating a support system, Sister Circle will foster solidarity, leadership, and encouragement. We aim to give female students at NCC an opportunity to:

1. Connect with, educate, & empower one another
2. Connect with and receive mentoring from female employees at NCC
3. Examine personal, academic, professional, and social challenges
4. Set and accomplish academic, professional, and social goals
5. Have a place where they can feel comfortable, accepted, and understood

If you have any questions, please contact Stefanie Ortiz at sortiz@norwalk.edu



STRIVE YES AWARDS

STRIVE (Successful Training Results in Valuable Employees)

Mission

STRIVE's mission is to enhance the vitality of Norwalk Community College and the surrounding area by maximizing leadership potential in career minded individuals and creating opportunities for them to develop socially, professionally, and civically for the purposes of fostering career enhancement and increasing professional and personal networks. STRIVE plans to focus on the following facets: Professional Development, Civic Outreach, and Social/Business Networking.

YES AWARDS (Your Excellence Shows)

The STRIVE committee is sponsoring a new Employee Recognition Award Program. The YES award acknowledges NCC Faculty and Staff whose contributions that have a positive impact on the NCC community and students; offers extraordinary efforts above and beyond the standard duties of the position; and performs significantly beyond expectation on a specific assignment, task, or goal. The purpose of an employee recognition program is to recognize and reward work, contributions, and behaviors that support/further the mission, goals, values, and initiatives of NCC.

Eligibility

All NCC Faculty and Staff (both full and part time) are eligible to receive the YES award. Ballot boxes will be placed in the West Campus Lobby and East Campus Atrium. Nominations can be made by students and colleagues. Recipients will be awarded on a semester basis. Recipients will receive a plaque, a small gift, and a letter from President Levinson in their professional file. Deadline **Friday, Dec. 8.**

Diversity Quiz

*Learn more about
NCC and the
world around us
through our
Diversity Quiz?!*

1. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, what percentage of the U.S. Government budget goes to welfare and Social Security?
 - A. 25 % to welfare and 25% to Social Security
 - B. less than 1% to welfare and 20% to Social Security
 - C. 2% to welfare and 35 % to Social Security
 - D. Less than 1% to welfare and less than 1% to Social Security

2. What is the most spoken language in the world in 2017?
 - A. Mandarin
 - B. Spanish
 - C. English
 - D. Hindi

3. NCC is a member college of which organization:
 - A. United Nations Academic Impact
 - B. United Society of Academic Standards
 - C. The Consortium for Graduate Study in Management
 - D. Social Enterprise Alliance

4. Which of the following variables most closely predicts how someone will score on the SAT Test?
 - A. Parent Involvement
 - B. Race
 - C. Family Income
 - D. Region of residence or high school

5. Which NCC Professor has a volume of poetry published called "A Love Supreme"?
 - A. Professor Streets
 - B. Professor Aluma-Cazorla
 - C. Professor Arturo
 - D. Professor Dattolo

Diversity Quiz Answer Key: 1. B 2. A 3. A 4. C 5. C

UN VOYAGE A PARIS



Visit famous Parisian sites like the Sacre-Coeur, Montmartre, Arc de Triomphe, Musee de Louvre, and, of course, the Eiffel Tower. The trip will take place the week of Spring Break March 9th-17th. The cost of the trip is \$1980 for double occupancy and includes round-trip airfare, travel to and from hotels, hotel stay, breakfast, and more. For more information, please contact Professor Robert Lamothe at rlamothe@norwalk.edu or (203) 857-7371.

UNDERSTANDING DIVERSITY

Understanding Diversity is a new section in the Diversity Newsletter that aims to tackle questions and different understandings around topics of diversity.. Our first question is..

Do you know the difference between Spanish, Hispanic, and Latinx?

It is a problematic issue because it implies assigning a name to an ethnicity that has multiples labels. First, let's make clear that each denomination is a social construction. People are free to consider themselves from whatever ethnicity they prefer. However, there is a consensus that the denomination "Hispanic", as the name suggests, focuses on Spanish-speaking origin. Spain is included, (As it is Equatorial Guinea in Africa, and even parts of the Philippines) but Brazil is not because Brazilians speak Portuguese. In the other hand, "Latino" refers to people of Latin American origin. This includes Brazil (And Haiti! Where French and Creole are spoken) but excludes Spain. Spanish is a language, and it is the nationality of people from Spain, as English is a language, and is the nationality of people from England. People from United States of America, people from Canada or Australia, for example, speak English, but they are not English! They are Americans, Canadians, and Australians. They are Anglo speakers. For the same reason, it is not correct to name a U.S. Latino with a Mexican ascendency as a Spanish. Unless this person feels comfortable being referred as that..

(Answered by Andres Aluma-Cazorla, NCC Spanish Language and Latin American Studies Professor)

Do you have a question aimed at understanding diversity? Please email us at ptitus@norwalk.edu., You may see it answered in our next issue.



Center for Multicultural Affairs

From sugar skulls to Italian heritage and Native American heritage celebrations, the Center for Multicultural Affairs has been at the epicenter of pushing forth diversity at NCC. Please view a few photos from this semester events and look out for upcoming events in the spring .

Italian Heritage Month celebration 10/26/17



Domestic Violence Workshop

11/2/17



Native American Pequot Tribe presentation

11/16/17



What does Diversity mean to you?

Please send us an image, quote, life motto, paragraph or poem that shows your definition of diversity. We want to hear from you!

You may even see your submission in our next issue.

Diversity Newsletter is brought to you by the Committee for diversity and Inclusion Newsletter Subcommittee
Karla Lara, Wendy Mendes, Denise Rawles-Smith and Pracilya Titus.

Special Thanks to all who contributed to the Diversity Newsletter .

If you would like to contribute or if you have any questions, please email [Pracilya Titus](mailto:ptitus@norwalk.edu) at ptitus@norwalk.edu

All are invited to attend Committee for Diversity and Inclusion meetings. Meetings are scheduled for 2:30pm on the 3rd Monday of every month. Location: Center for Multi-Cultural Affairs E-215

