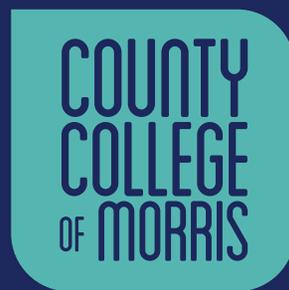




CHANGING LIVES & STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES



Annual Report  
2020-21

A portrait of Dr. Anthony J. Iacono, President of County College of Morris. He is a middle-aged man with short, dark hair, smiling slightly. He is wearing a dark blue pinstriped suit jacket over a white dress shirt and a maroon patterned tie. A small circular pin is visible on his left lapel. The background consists of out-of-focus green trees. A large, semi-transparent red shape is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing text.

*Anthony J. Iacono*

*“Over the past Academic Year, County College of Morris has proven that enriching the lives of students and strengthening the communities it serves happens when we work together. There’s never been a truer statement . . . WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER! From the development of new programs, to outstanding graduation rates, CCM marks a year of forging ahead and continuing to achieve impact.”*

*Dr. Anthony J. Iacono, President,  
County College of Morris*

*“We will all profit from a more diverse, inclusive society, understanding, accommodating, even celebrating our differences, while pulling together for the common good.”*

– Ruth Bader Ginsburg

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## MEETING THE NEEDS OF INDUSTRY

The Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Center (AMEC) has been a hub of activity since its virtual opening in December 2020. Developed with the input of industry leaders to address the demand for skilled professionals, AMEC has been:



- The training center for advanced manufacturing apprentices – supported by a \$4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor
- Toured by officials from more than a dozen companies
- Supported with state-of-art equipment donated by leading industry leaders

As Dr. Kathleen Naasz, dean of the School of Business, Mathematics, Engineering & Technologies likes to say:

“It is more than a building; it is the physical representation of an ecosystem – an ecosystem of industry partners, small and large companies, students, faculty, staff, collaborat-

ing together, innovating and impacting the local economy. What makes this place so special – you can write concepts on the walls here, go down the hallway and create a prototype with our 3D printers, tweak the design, go across the hall and manufacture it. From concept to tangible product in hand, in one day. Now . . . that is special.”



*“The world of work is changing at a very high pace, especially in the critical advanced manufacturing sector. This means that education, at all levels, must also evolve. The New Jersey community college system is the lynchpin to our success in this area, and County College of Morris (CCM) leads the way for all others. To top it off, they are an active and supportive partner to NJMEP and to the industry at large.”*

– John Kennedy, CEO, New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program

# BUILDING TOMORROW'S CAREER AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

This past summer, the Morris County Board of Commissioners held a press conference at County College of Morris (CCM) to unveil the plans for two new buildings on the campus to offer leading-edge programs for students ranging from high school to adults.

## THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND CULINARY SCIENCE CENTER

Plans for the Entrepreneurship and Culinary Science Center (ECSC) were developed by CCM in partnership with the Morris County Chamber of Commerce to accelerate entrepreneurial growth in the area.

New programs to be offered in the center are degree options focused on entrepreneurship and certificates in hospitality management and event planning, inventory management, logistics and supply

chain management. Additionally, the ECSC will allow CCM to develop a dual-enrolled program for high school students interested in earning a business degree.

## THE CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER

The Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC) will be constructed by the Morris County Vocational School District (MCVSD) at CCM to provide high school students with the education and training for in-demand careers in health care, finance, technology, renewable energy and supply chain logistics.

CTEC expands on the strong partnership the school district has with CCM to provide high school students with the opportunity to earn college credits and industry-valued credentials.

“One of our greatest frustrations has been turning away capable students from training in a chosen career pathway due to space limitations. This Career and Technical Education Center will afford us an opportunity to expand our program offerings to a larger and more diverse group of high school juniors and seniors,” said MCVSD Superintendent Scott Moffitt.



*“These two facilities will help lay the foundation for continued economic growth in the county on three fronts. The CTEC will prepare students for future careers in focused growth sectors needing workers. Meanwhile the ECSC will provide young entrepreneurs with the training and mentoring they need to found the new businesses that are essential to driving economic growth. In addition, the center will provide essential support to many mid-career professionals and baby boomers seeking new opportunities and resources to follow through on new business ideas.”*

– Meghan Hunscher, President & CEO, Morris County Chamber of Commerce

# HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS TO MEET THE DEMAND FOR SKILLED PROFESSIONALS

One of the many effects of the COVID-19 pandemic was an increase in the demand for skilled healthcare professionals. County College of Morris (CCM) and its Center for Workforce Development (WFD) were quick to respond as they launched new healthcare programs to meet growing employment needs.



## CERTIFIED NURSE AIDE

The combination of COVID-19 and the aging population have skyrocketed the need for certified nurse aides (CNAs). With 90 hours of combined classroom and clinical training, offered through WFD, people who complete this program are almost immediately employable. Many of CCM's nursing students take the CNA program during the summer, as it gives them the opportunity to find employment while they're still in school. Becoming a CNA also is a good step for those curious and interested in helping others as a member of the healthcare community. CCM also offers a CNA apprenticeship program that provides the same 90 hours core training, with additional competencies in dementia care, medical terminology and other areas.

## OTHER HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS OFFERED BY THE CENTER FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Along with the new programs the Center for Workforce Development (WFD) offers at CCM, WFD provides a wide range of training options to meet the demand for healthcare professionals. Those programs include:

### Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor

The Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor program has been running successfully at CCM for years. The program includes 270 hours of instructional time and clinical supervised experience of either paid or unpaid internship hours, and then, ultimately, certification.

### Medical Billing and Coding

Prior to the arrival of the coronavirus, there were no medical codes for COVID-19 and now there's a whole new set of codes. Medical billing and coding is a profession where being up-to-date is very important. CCM's students who take part in WFD's Medical Billing and Coding program are in demand because they train on the leading coding software in partnership with the American Academy of Professional Coders.

### North Jersey Imaging Academy

A partnership between CCM and Passaic County Community College, the North Jersey Imaging Academy for Computed Tomography, Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Mammography provides radiologic technologists with the opportunity to move ahead in their career with additional advanced certifications.



## PHARMACY TECHNICIAN APPRENTICESHIP



To address another growing demand, CCM now is offering a Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship Program that provides paid on-the-job training in addition to classroom learning.

Employer partners are a critical component of apprenticeship programs. Collaborating with WFD as an employer partner offers the opportunity to gain access to dedicated funding to cover the cost of the training and offset additional employee wages.



## PARAMEDIC SCIENCE PROGRAM

In response to a growing demand for paramedics, CCM launched its Paramedic Science Program in partnership with Atlantic Health System during its 2021 Spring Semester - the only such program in Morris County. Students who earn their associate degree are eligible to obtain a National Registry paramedic license and New Jersey paramedic certification.



## ENGAGING, INSPIRING, CONNECTING

As part of its commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, County College of Morris (CCM) has developed an extensive slate of programs to engage, assist and celebrate diverse populations.

### DOVER COLLEGE PROMISE

Designed to provide free college-readiness preparation to middle and high school students, Dover College Promise (DCP) was able to meet its scheduled launch during Academic Year 2020-21, albeit in a virtual format. A joint partnership between CCM and The Educational Center in Dover, DCP helps students and their parents to address the academic and financial challenges associated with pursuing a college education. The program assists students with navigating the college application process, and provides them with free after-school mentoring and tutoring, along with providing scholarships to attend CCM.



*"I am extremely proud to have County College of Morris located in my legislative district. As a true community college, CCM provides our diverse population with pathways of opportunity through its many first-class educational programs. The college's multi-million dollar investment and planned expansion of career readiness programs for high school students through adults are an excellent example of how the college is making a difference in people's lives every day."*

- Senator Anthony M. Bucco



## HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

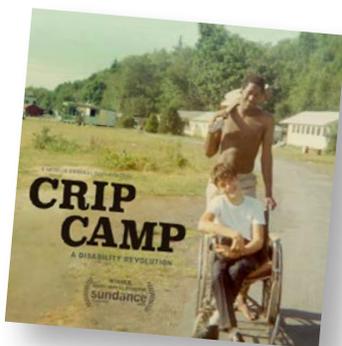
Originally scheduled to be an in-person celebration, CCM's Hispanic Heritage Month events during Academic Year 2020-21 were transitioned to an online format, offering many the opportunity to enjoy and learn more about the culture and contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans.

Consisting of five videos, the series is located at <https://bit.ly/Hispanic-Heritage-Month-CCM>. Featured are:

- Professors Carol Hamersma and Victor Keremedjiev playing traditional music from South America and Spain
- Latin Music Styles with Dr. José Beviá, professor of music at CCM and an award-winning musician and composer
- Mariachi Mi Serenata with Carlos Orozco, Alfredo Urbano, Eduardo Iquira and Alejandro Correales
- William Gomez, a local resident, giving dramatic readings of Hispanic poems as well as one of his own
- CCM students Juan Osorio and Priscilla Ponzano performing in *La basura*, a play written by Argentina's Alfredo Zemma about two people who discover love as they take out the garbage

## LEGACY PROJECT

The Legacy Project at CCM, which presents engaging lectures for the college and community, focused on a range of diverse topics during Academic Year 2020-21, covering such subjects as the Asian experience, Rwanda genocide and the disability movement. Wrapping up the year's programming was an evening of reflection on the Oscar-nominated documentary "Crip Camp" and a discussion with disability activist Judith Heumann, featured in that documentary.



## HEROES & HEALERS

A special Veterans Day tribute was held at CCM in November 2020 featuring a drive-through Hill of Honor display of photos of everyday heroes and healers, an in-person program featuring CCM Trustee Paul Licitra and County Commissioner John Krickus, and a candle-light ceremony at sundown.



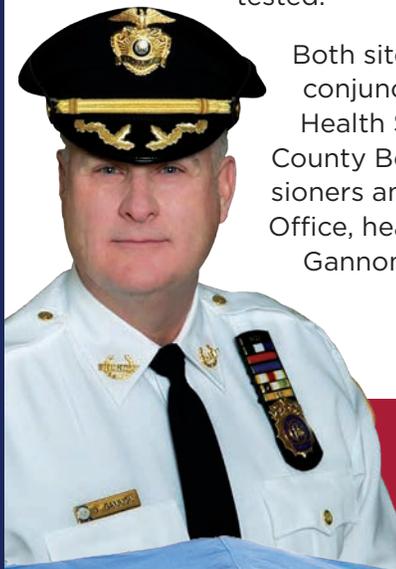
## AS ESSENTIAL PARTNER

Along with providing personal protective equipment, ventilators and other assistance for healthcare facilities and community residents during the pandemic, County College of Morris (CCM) hosted two COVID-19 testing sites on campus.

The first site, a drive-thru center that operated in Parking Lot 1, ran from March 2020 through June 2020. During its months of operation, more than 8,000 residents were able to receive nasal swab tests.

The second site, which ran from December 2020 through July 2021, operated in the Student Community Center. This time the test was the Vault Health saliva test. More than 21,000 people were tested.

Both sites were operated in conjunction with Atlantic Health System, the Morris County Board of Commissioners and the Sheriff's Office, headed by James M. Gannon, a CCM graduate.



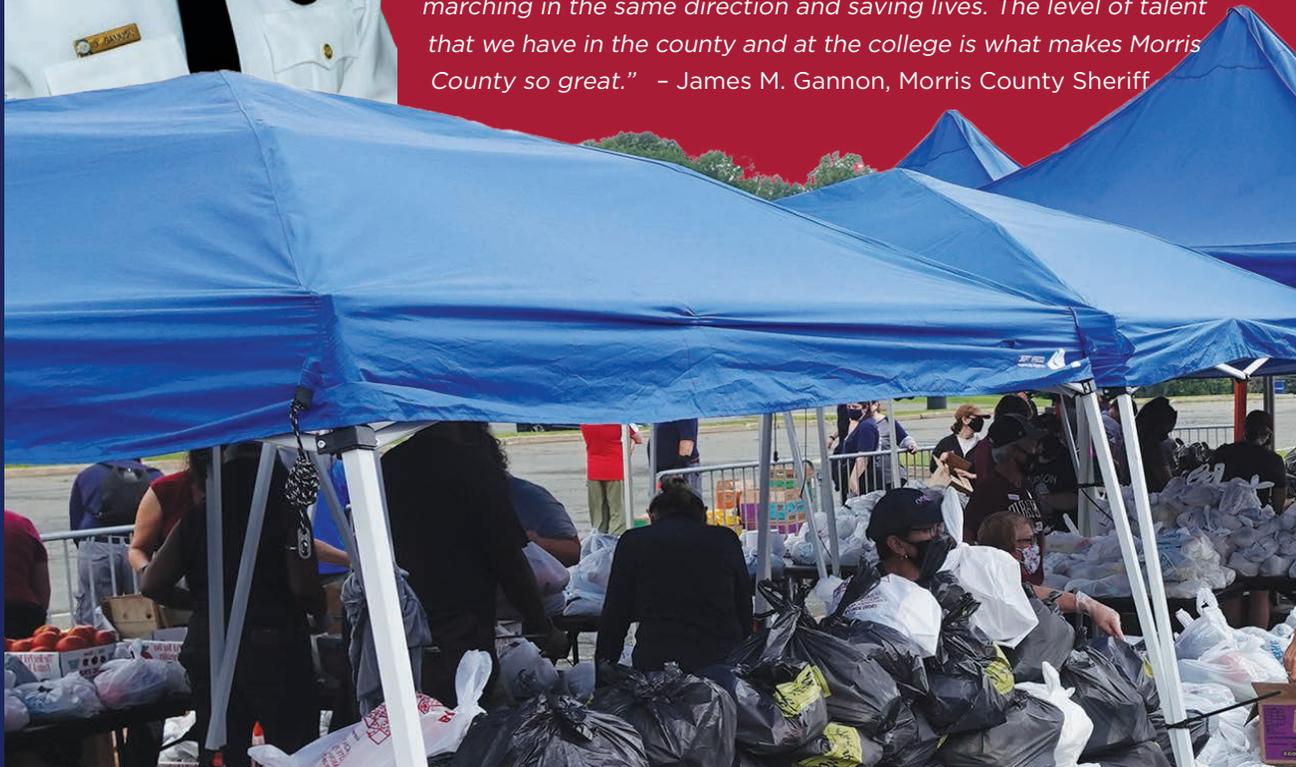
## TABLE OF HOPE

As the pandemic raged on and many found themselves unemployed or underemployed, Table of Hope and County College of Morris (CCM) partnered to make Thanksgiving 2020 a festive feast for families throughout Morris County.

The free food distribution event – providing turkeys, the fixings and more – was the third such event to be held by Table of Hope at the college. Also helping to make that day possible were the Morris County Sheriff's Office, the Morris County Board of Commissioners, Alstede Farm and the Morris County Chamber of Commerce.

“Dr. Iacono’s visionary and compassionate leadership and the commitment of the incredible CCM team have enabled us to assist over 1,000 individuals and families struggling with food insecurity. The pandemic has caused a lot of individuals and families to be in positions they never thought they would be in and we count it a blessing that through our partnership with Dr. Iacono and his team we have been able to serve the awesome Morris County community,” said Teresa Williams of Table of Hope.

*“This is the best of public-private partnerships. Everyone was marching in the same direction and saving lives. The level of talent that we have in the county and at the college is what makes Morris County so great.” – James M. Gannon, Morris County Sheriff*



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2020-21

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# GUIDING THE COLLEGE DURING TIMES OF CHALLENGE

The Board of Trustees of County College of Morris (CCM) worked tirelessly over the past Academic Year to grow the college in new directions despite the many challenges that faced the nation and the college. The focus of the trustees has been, and will continue to be, building the college of tomorrow for individuals to fulfill their dreams, a focus that is not easy to fulfill, especially during a pandemic with so many changes.

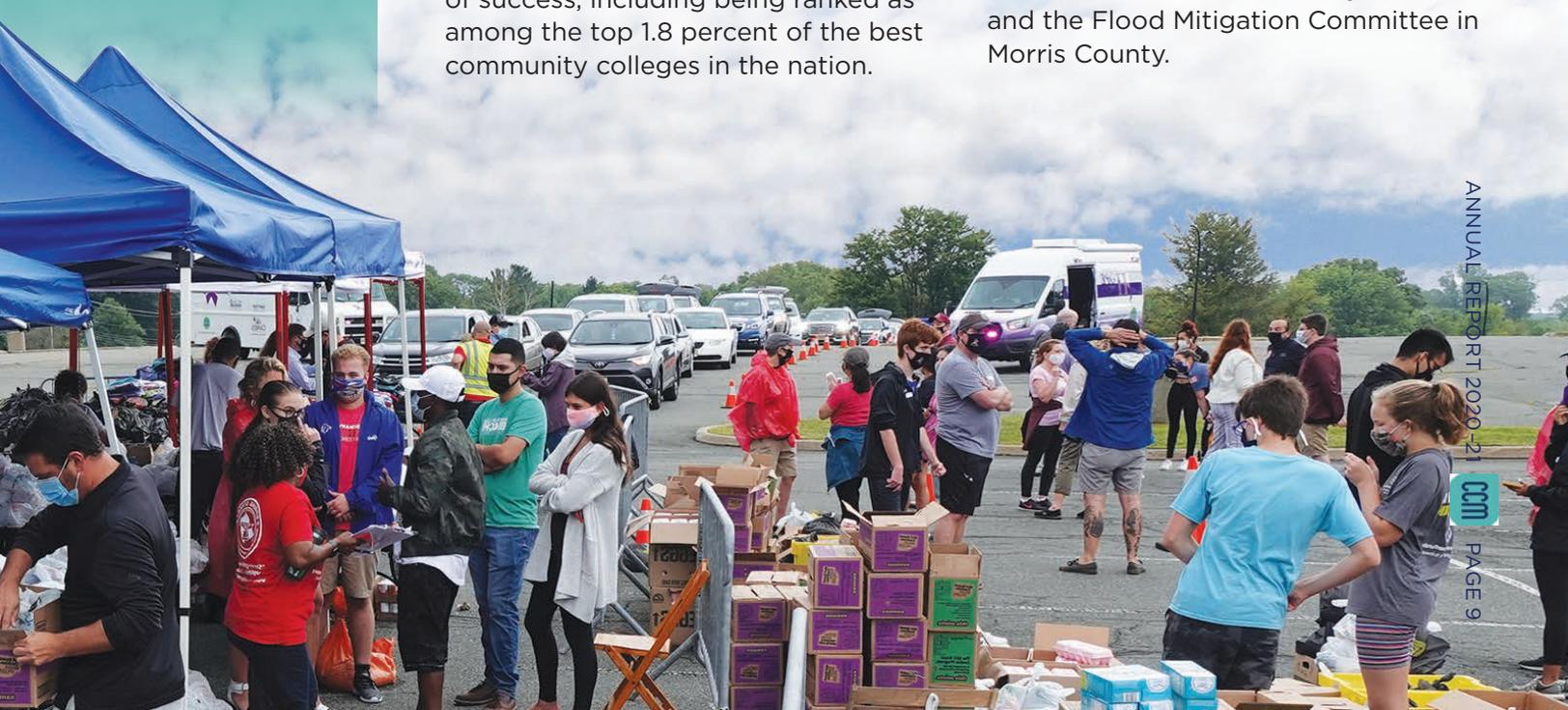
The vision and willingness of trustees to make bold decisions have guided the institution in developing new programs and resources to provide students with a bright future. The decisions that the trustees made early on during the pandemic were to ensure that the health and well-being of both students and employees were everyone's first priority. From infectious disease policy updates to operating in a remote environment with adequate technologies, they worked diligently to ensure the college was equipped and, most importantly, safe. The CCM community is grateful for the dedication and commitment of its trustees. Under their direction, CCM has obtained an increasing higher level of success, including being ranked as among the top 1.8 percent of the best community colleges in the nation.

## THOMAS A. PEPE, A LIFE DEDICATED TO SUPPORTING CCM AND OTHER COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS



The CCM community and region lost a long-time supporter and friend in 2021. Thomas A. Pepe, of Morristown, formerly of Chatham, died peacefully in late April 2021 at the age of 68.

For Pepe, helping others and working to strengthen the community were central to his core values. A long-time supporter of CCM, Pepe first served as a trustee of County College of Morris (CCM) from November 2009 through 2013 and was reappointed in 2015. For the last year and a half, he was Chair of the CCM Board of Trustees and was also a member of the CCM Foundation Board and a council member of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges. Pepe also served as a trustee and Chair of the Board for NORWESCAP and on the Human Services Advisory Council and the Flood Mitigation Committee in Morris County.



# FOUNDATION AND GRANTS

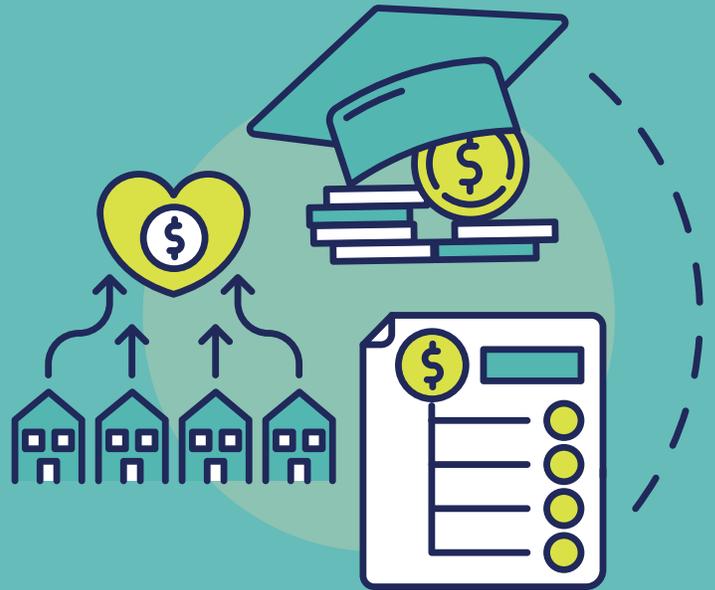
## CCM FOUNDATION STRONGER THAN EVER

The CCM Foundation had a banner Academic Year 2020-21 with assets nearing the \$12 million mark, nearly double what it was five years ago. A total of \$1 million was donated to support the work of the Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Center (AMEC) and student scholarships. AMEC, along with receiving donations of such high-tech equipment as another 3D printer and another robot, found several companies including Glenbrook technologies, Norwalt, The Knotts Company and Emerson ASCO making contributions to have specific facilities named after them. The foundation additionally received support for the college's healthcare simulation center from the A.P. Kirby Jr. Foundation. Also essential to its success, the foundation continued to partner with alumni, community partners and businesses, all with the goal of supporting CCM students so they can fulfill their goal for a rewarding life.



# GRANTS OFFICE HAS ANOTHER RECORD YEAR

During the 2020-21 Academic Year, the County College of Morris (CCM) Grants office received a record amount of grants and multi-year funding to extend community outreach and increase student support activities during this time of national emergency. Included among those grants were:



## **US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR - \$3,999,823 OVER FOUR YEARS**

CCM is leading a consortium of seven New Jersey community colleges and the German American Chamber of Commerce to build a network of apprenticeship programs in advanced manufacturing throughout New Jersey, leading to 1,600 advanced manufacturing apprentices.

## **US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR - \$531,840 OVER FOUR YEARS**

CCM is a consortium partner with Bergen Community College and 11 other colleges to train 5,000 healthcare apprentices.

## **NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - \$447,774**

The Perkins Career and Technical Grant to support career and technical education programs.

## **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - \$357,190 OVER FIVE YEARS**

The Child Care Access Means Parents in School grant to provide childcare subsidies to Pell-eligible students who find childcare costs to be a barrier to completing their education.

## **NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION - \$317,556 OVER THREE YEARS**

For the Northern New Jersey Bridges to Baccalaureate program with Passaic Com-

munity College to provide academic support and research opportunities for STEM students from underserved populations.

## **NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION - \$265,000**

The Community College Opportunity Grant to increase student success and reduce financial barriers for students.

## **NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION - \$235,277 OVER 3 YEARS**

For expanding pathways to data science careers.

## **NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION - \$223,892 OVER THREE YEARS**

For the Renewable Energy Systems Training Laboratory Development and Workforce Training program with New Jersey Institute of Technology to create a pathway to a four-year degree in renewable energy.

## **IMPACT 100 - \$110,000 OVER TWO YEARS**

To support Dover College Promise to provide low-income middle and high school students with the opportunity to participate in college-readiness activities. Qualified students also are guaranteed a scholarship to CCM.



## CLASS OF 2021 DELIGHTS IN A NEW GRADUATION EXPERIENCE

Graced with a warm spring day, graduates from the Class of 2021 at County College of Morris (CCM) were able to take part in two special celebrations on Friday, May 21, 2021, marking their outstanding success in the face of a pandemic and the resulting challenges.

Hundreds of students took part in a graduation walk where they were able to celebrate with a small gathering of family and friends, receive their diploma and have a formal photo taken. Then in the evening, a virtual celebration premiered on YouTube. The Class of 2021 consisted of more than 1,225 graduates. CCM now has one of the best graduation rates, being 13 percent higher than the national average.

“We call you Titans and no class has earned the title more in the history of County College of Morris,”

said Dr. Anthony J. Iacono, president of CCM, noting that one of the meanings of Titan is a person of great achievement. “And that is you. You have shown us greatness and achievement. You had to learn how to persevere, demonstrate resiliency and determination. I know through this class, through these Titans, our communities, our nation and our world will be better for all people.”

Serving as keynote speaker for the Class of 2021 was Richard T. Thigpen, senior vice president - corporate citizenship at PSEG and chairman of the PSEG Foundation. He also was a former assistant to the president of the NAACP State Conference for Public Affairs and currently serves on the boards of the New Jersey Climate Change Alliance, the New Jersey Legislative Black Caucus Foundation and the New Jersey Pandemic Relief Fund.

“All of you - each and every one of you - will contribute in ways large and small to shaping the future of your community, our state and our country,” said Thigpen. “Today is a day not only to look back at what you have accomplished. Today is also a day to look forward. Lead by example. Respect your fellow man and woman. Dream big dreams. You all have a role in shaping a future where the world is a better place.”



# DISCOVERING HER PASSION AND A PATHWAY TO THE IVY LEAGUE

At County College of Morris (CCM), Alida (Aly) Jimenez '20 discovered not only her passion but a pathway to the Ivy League to pursue her dream of protecting ancient artworks and the “voices of the past.”

That pathway would not have been possible without CCM given that Jimenez dropped out of high school to pursue a GED instead. It was at CCM that she was able to establish a stellar grade point average that drew the attention of Columbia University where she plans to earn a bachelor's, master's and then a Ph.D. in art history.

Born and raised in Miami, Jimenez decided to leave high school after attending five different schools during her sophomore year as a result of the many moves her parents made during that time. Shortly after, she moved to New Jersey to be with her boyfriend.

It was her boyfriend, Daniel Palmiotto, a CCM graduate, who encouraged her to attend. “He told me, ‘CCM is such a great school. I think you will benefit by being there.’ He was 150 percent correct,” she says.

With an interest in art from a young age, Jimenez, who likes to create works in charcoal, majored in visual arts. It was when she took some art history classes with Professors Clay Allen and Keith Smith that she discovered what she really wants to do. Her plan is to work in a museum in a capacity that allows her to assist with the preservation of ancient artworks.

“When you’re in a museum, you’re not just looking at ancient paintings and artifacts; you’re looking at the voices of people who are long gone, and the fact that they still have a voice is very powerful. I want to make sure I am a part of preserving those voices for future generations.”

*“I got a world-class education at CCM. The professors and staff are wonderful. I am so incredibly grateful for the quality education I got at CCM.”*

Toward that end, Jimenez began researching the professional staff at major museums in New York and found that most had earned advanced degrees

from Columbia and New York University. That is when she set her mind on attending Columbia, the only school she applied to as a transfer student.

“This is a once-in-a-life opportunity that was all made possible because I choose CCM. CCM was the turning point that solidified what I want to focus on and allowed me to get into Columbia. Now, I’m getting to do what I’m passionate about.”



*“We are proud County College of Morris continues to be one of the top-ranked community colleges in the nation, but it is much more. CCM is an important partner with Morris County, the Morris County Vocational School District and our chamber of commerce in an ongoing effort to integrate local education with the lucrative employment opportunities available in the industries that drive our economic future. Students and professionals alike can turn to programs offered at CCM to find the skills training they need to further their career ambitions. In turn, because of the talents of our workforce, local businesses are able to prosper and Morris County is able to attract new companies to relocate here. It all maintains and nurtures an excellent quality of life we have in Morris County, and CCM is an integral part of that dynamic.”*

– Stephen H. Shaw, Director, Morris County Board of County Commissioners

## A YOUNG MOTHER PURSUES HER DREAM

Caitlin Allen-Cowan credits the amazing support and encouragement she received at County College of Morris (CCM) with enabling her to reach for her dreams. She first attended CCM, “right out of high school, but lost motivation and momentum.” Even with good grades, she opted to withdraw. Some years later, she had a son and found her calling in life. “At that moment, I knew I wanted to work with children. It was more than a want, it felt like this is what I was destined to do,” recalls Allen-Cowan. She knew she needed to return to CCM and focus on what she really wanted to achieve.

Driven by a goal of providing the best life for her son, Allen-Cowan enrolled back in CCM and attended classes online, while working full time. She went on to be one of the first CCM students to earn the Child and Family Studies associate degree along with the Childcare Specialist and Child Development Associate certificates. Stacking the degree and certificates made her an excellent candidate for immediate employment. She was offered a position in a local school. Her advice to others, “Don’t let anybody limit you.”



*“I don’t think I have ever held my head as high as I did when I walked across the stage at graduation.”*

– Caitlin Allen-Cowan



*“The quality of teaching at CCM is superb. I’ve been very impressed. Some of the best teachers I have ever had were at CCM.”*

– Dr. Geordie Grant

## FINDING A PATHWAY TO GIVE BACK DURING RETIREMENT

After retiring from a rewarding career as a physician anesthesiologist, Dr. Geordie Grant, of Denville, immediately began pursuing her long-standing goal of becoming a math tutor by taking classes at County College of Morris (CCM).

She decided to attend CCM because of the good experience she had at the college before applying to medical school. First educated and trained as a chemist, Grant knew that she needed to have a background in biology to attend medical school. She took her first biology course at CCM before she applied to New Jersey Medical School. Once enrolled there, she then took some additional biology courses at CCM during the summer.

“The quality of teaching at CCM is superb,” she says. “I’ve been very impressed. Some of the best teachers I have ever had were at CCM. I’ve been fortunate to have had a good and extensive career as an anesthesiologist, but math really interests me as does helping others. Now I want to make tutoring math my vocation.”

# EARNING A SECOND ASSOCIATE DEGREE ENHANCES CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Nicholas Cruz knows higher education quite well. He earned his associate in Business Administration from County College of Morris (CCM), took business classes at Rutgers, received his bachelor's in Professional Sales from William Paterson, and then when he began working on his master's in Project Management from Montclair, he also decided to pursue another associate degree at CCM to provide him with IT experience.

"There's no comparison when it comes to the quality education you receive at CCM," says Cruz. "The teachers at CCM go the extra mile for their students. At CCM, the professors give you personal time and attention to make sure you are progressing toward your goals."

Cruz's goal is to work in project management in the field of IT. It's a goal he developed while working at UPS as a solutions engagement supervisor where he found himself managing several IT projects, work he enjoyed.

While at CCM, he also found an internship with an IT company that offered him a full-time job.

"I've found so many great job opportunities with the help of CCM," says Cruz. "I had such a good experience at CCM when I got my first degree, so when I decided I was going to start back up I knew I should start again at CCM."



*"There's no comparison when it comes to the quality education you receive at CCM."*

- Nicholas Cruz

# CCM STUDENTS GAIN NATIONAL RECOGNITION



Two students from County College of Morris (CCM) received major national recognition during Academic Year 2020-21.

## JACK KENT COOKE FOUNDATION

First, Jonathan Granda Acaro, an Engineering Science major, was selected as a semifinalist for the highly competitive Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, which provides funding to complete a bachelor's degree.

Having earned an Engineering Science degree from CCM, Acaro returned to CCM for a second degree with the goal of then earning a bachelor's in Aerospace Engineering. His ambition is to work in the defense and aerospace industries.

Following that announcement, CCM learned that Jenna Curran, then president of the Student Government Association at CCM, was named to the Phi Theta Kappa national Coca-Cola Academic Team at the Gold award level. Curran, a resident of Denville, was nominated by CCM administrators based on her academic achievement, leadership and engagement in college and community service.

Having received her degree in Liberal Arts at CCM, Curran is now working on her bachelor's degree at Fordham University with the goal of pursuing a career in government with a pre-law track foundation.

"Jonathan and Jenna are both exceptional students," said Dr. Anthony J. Iacono, CCM president. "We are incredibly proud of them and look forward to the stellar contributions they are certain to make as they continue their journeys in life."



# RECREATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JIM MORRISON

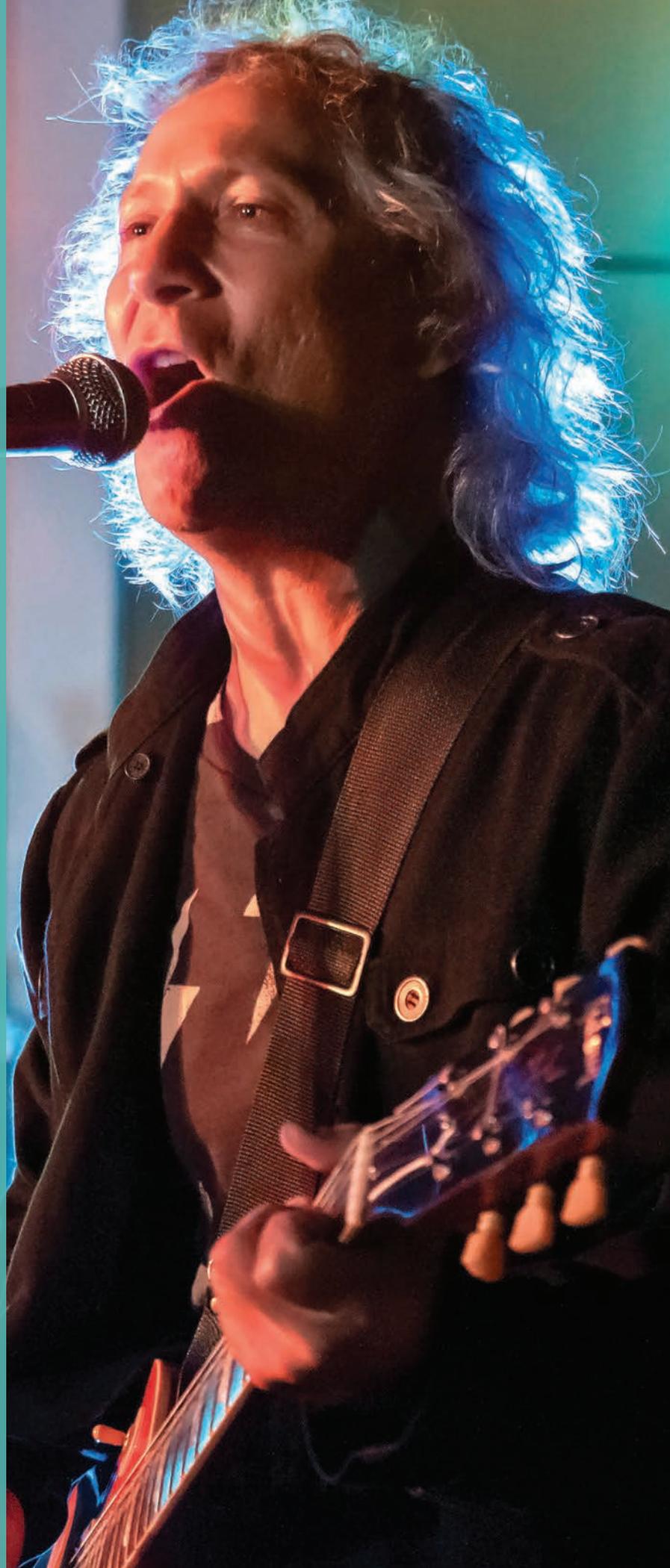
The year 2021 marked the 50th anniversary of the death of Jim Morrison and County College of Morris (CCM) Professor Joe Bilotti and his band The Soft Parade recognized the rock legend's lasting contributions with a performance at the Mayo Performing Arts Center (MPAC).

Morrison, singer, songwriter and poet, was the lead vocalist of The Doors and is regarded as a major influential front man in rock history.

The Soft Parade is known as the originators of the authentic Doors live experience and is one of the longest running and most successful of all tribute bands. The band also celebrated its 30th anniversary this year.

"The band recreates, with stunning accuracy, the primal, poetic atmosphere of a vintage Doors concert," says Bilotti, a popular and well-respected musician and music professor, who also serves on the CCM Foundation board. "The Soft Parade helped to spearhead an industry by pioneering the concept of the tribute band decades ago and has achieved international success as the very first authentic Doors tribute show."

The Soft Parade, an international touring band, has performed for massive crowds in theaters, stadiums and festivals in more than 20 countries, including Germany, Chile, Israel, Italy, France, Spain, Costa Rica and Belgium. The Soft Parade also was the first-ever band to utilize vintage gear – instruments, clothing and look-alike members – to recreate The Doors live.



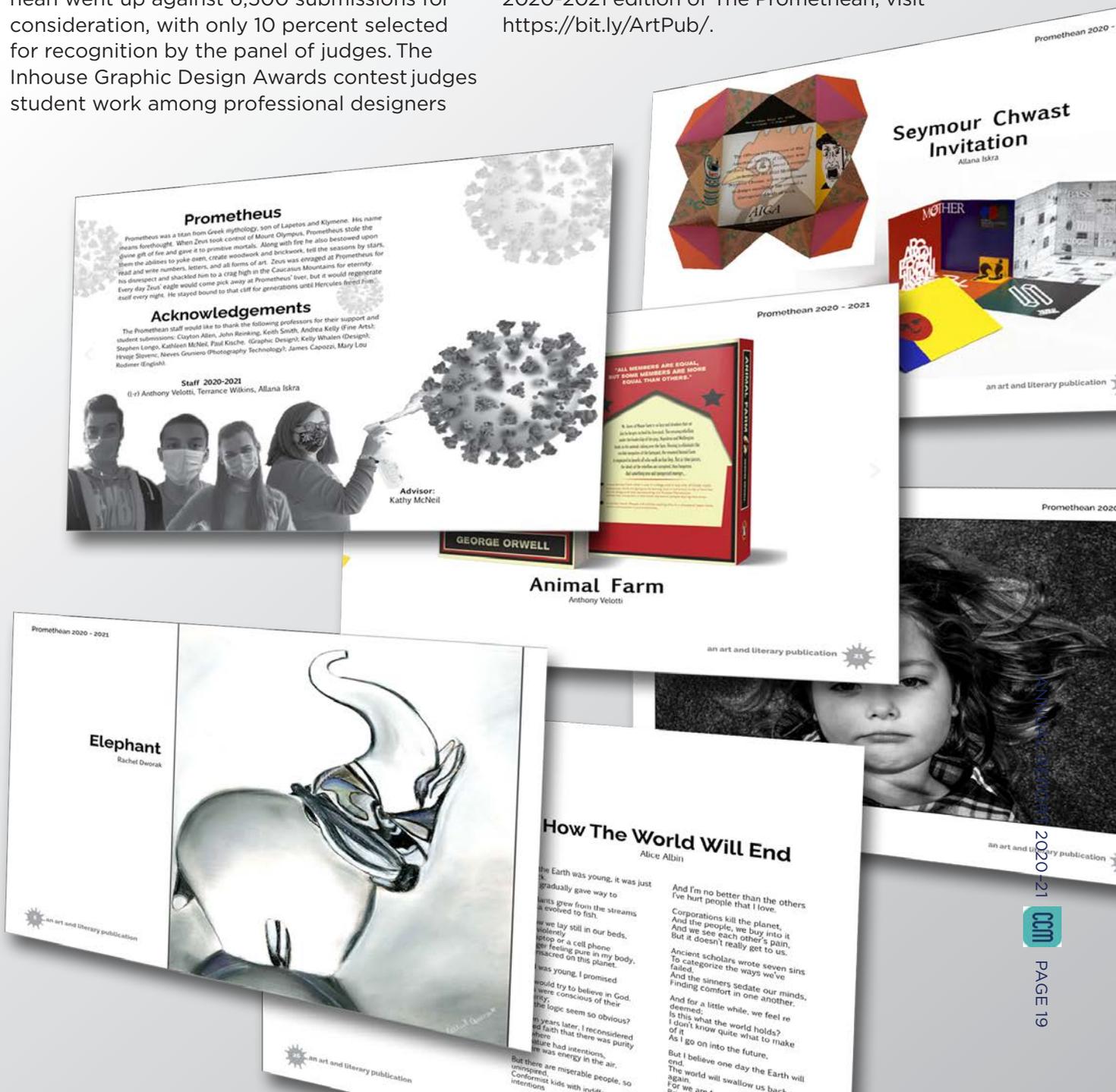
# STUDENT LITERARY MAGAZINE NOW HOLDS MORE THAN 40 NATIONAL AWARDS

Graphic Design USA selected the 2020-2021 issue of The Promethean, the student-produced literary magazine at County College of Morris (CCM), for its 2020 Inhouse Graphic Design Award, marking the 41st national award the publication has received since 2005.

The most recent award recognizes the design work of studios that work inside a business or educational setting and highlights outstanding work in all categories and media. The Promethean went up against 6,500 submissions for consideration, with only 10 percent selected for recognition by the panel of judges. The Inhouse Graphic Design Awards contest judges student work among professional designers

in this very competitive field, as there is no student category.

"I am so pleased and humbled that this professional organization continues to confirm The Promethean's excellence," said Professor Kathy McNeil, faculty advisor for The Promethean. "The publication continues to be a showcase for the best that CCM has to offer, and the continued support from so many people on campus is a big part of its success." To view the 2020-2021 edition of The Promethean, visit <https://bit.ly/ArtPub/>.



**Prometheus**  
Prometheus was a titan from Greek mythology, son of Lapetus and Klymene. His name means forethought. When Zeus took control of Mount Olympus, Prometheus stole the divine gift of fire and gave it to primitive mortals. Along with fire he also bestowed upon them the abilities to yoke oxen, create woodwork and brickwork, tell the seasons by stars, read and write numbers, letters, and all forms of art. Zeus was enraged at Prometheus for his disrespect and shackled him to a crag high in the Caucasus Mountains for eternity. Every day Zeus' eagle would come pick away at Prometheus' liver, but it would regenerate itself every night. He stayed bound to that cliff for generations until Hercules freed him.

**Acknowledgements**  
The Promethean staff would like to thank the following professors for their support and student submissions: Clayton Allen, John Reming, Keith Smith, Andrea Kelly (Fine Arts); Stephen Longo, Kathleen McNeil, Paul Kliche (Graphic Design), Kelly Whalen (Design); Hwijje Slovic, Neven Guzman (Photography Technology); James Capozzi, Mary Lou Kuchner (English).

**Staff 2020-2021**  
(l-r) Anthony Velotti, Terrence Wilkins, Allana Iskra

**Advisor:**  
Kathy McNeil

**Animal Farm**  
George Orwell

**Animal Farm**  
George Orwell

**Animal Farm**  
George Orwell

**Seymour Chwast Invitation**  
Allana Iskra

**Elephant**  
Rachel Dworak

**Elephant**  
Rachel Dworak

**Animal Farm**  
Anthony Velotti

**Animal Farm**  
Anthony Velotti

**How The World Will End**  
Alice Albin

the Earth was young, it was just  
gradually gave way to  
wents grew from the streams  
is cooled to fish,  
ur we lay still in our beds,  
violently  
laptop or a cell phone  
the feeling pure in my body,  
insistent on this planet.  
I was young, I promised  
would try to believe in God,  
I were conscious of their  
ity,  
the logic seem so obvious?  
ny years later, I reconsidered  
where  
where had intentions,  
he was energy in the air,  
But there are miserable people, so  
uninspired,  
Conformist kids with invar-  
intentions

And I'm no better than the others  
I've hurt people that I love,  
Corporations kill the planet,  
And the people, we buy into it  
And we see each other's pain,  
But it doesn't really get to us.  
Ancient scholars wrote seven sires  
To categorize the ways we've  
failed.  
And the sinners sedate our minds,  
Finding comfort in one another.  
And for a little while, we feel re-  
deemed;  
Is this what the world holds?  
I don't know quite what to make  
of it.  
As I go on into the future,  
But I believe one day the Earth will  
end.  
The world will swallow us back-  
again.  
For we are

# EXPANDING PATHWAYS TO DATA SCIENCE CAREERS



With a three-year \$235,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, Professor Kelly Fitzpatrick, Mathematics, and her colleagues at County College of Morris (CCM) have launched a Data Analytics Certificate program to meet the need for data scientists.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), there is a high demand for data scientists, whose work involves managing, analyzing and interpreting large sets of data. The BLS projections indicate that data science analytic jobs will grow by 34 percent by 2026, much faster than the average for most other industries.



One of the chief goals of the CCM program is to increase the number of women and other underrepresented students studying data analytics.

Prior to joining the CCM faculty, Fitzpatrick worked in hedge fund management as an execution trader with Trigon Investment Advisors. Her other experience includes derivatives and equity strategy at MLC International and credit and global risk management at Lehman Brothers.

“Businesses across all industry sectors, both small and large, are increasingly looking for ways to leverage the era of big-data to make strategic, marketing, sales and other operational decisions,” notes Fitzpatrick. “This grant is a fantastic opportunity to offer students cutting-edge courses for in-demand careers and for the college to be recognized at the national level for advancement in data science education.”

## PROFESSOR MARIA ESTELLE PICOUTO'S NOVEL RECOGNIZED AS BEST HISTORICAL FICTION IN SPANISH

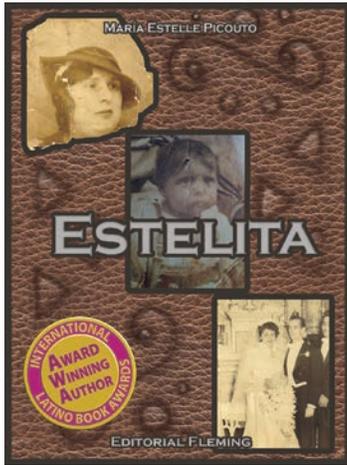
An adjunct language professor at County College of Morris, Maria Estelle Picouto found her novel "Estelita" named the Best Novel Historical Fiction in Spanish by the International Latino Book Award in its 2020 recognition program.

The book, which Picouto wrote as a tribute to her mother, also is the recipient of two honors from the Luis Munoz Marin Foundation. "Estelita" was chosen by the foundation as a book of importance to the history of Puerto Rico and selected for a community-based project to promote the reading of books addressing topics of

cultural and historical interest to Puerto Rico. Luis Munoz Marin was a Puerto Rican journalist, politician, statesman and the first elected governor of Puerto Rico.

"I wrote this novel with the main idea of honoring the memory of my mother Estelle Sanjurjo Gely," says Picouto. "It is a novel based on the story of the Sanjurjo-Gely family. It covers the periods from 1800 to 1955 and its pages are full of intrigue, envy, lies, loneliness, abandonment, and physical, emotional and institutional abuse."

The book is available on Amazon.



# WEIMAN DESIGN

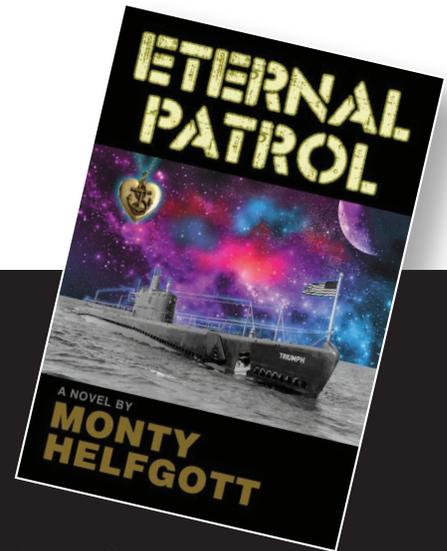
## PROFESSOR JON WEIMAN GAINS ADDITIONAL AWARDS FOR HIS GRAPHIC DESIGN WORK

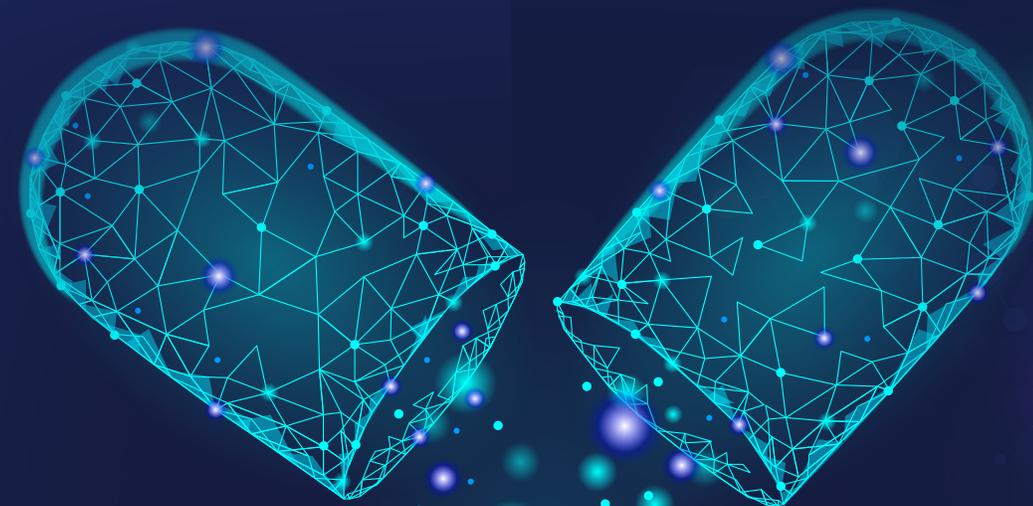
Jon Weiman, an award-winning graphic designer and adjunct professor at County College of Morris (CCM), added two more national awards to his recognitions during Academic Year 2020-21.

Weiman received two 2020 American Graphic Design Awards from Graphic Design USA for a book cover he designed for "Eternal Patrol," a book written by Floridian author Monty Helfgott, and a Bat Mitzvah invitation he created. This marks the seventh award he has received from

Graphic Design USA during the course of his career and the 22nd award he has received overall.

A resident of Randolph, Weiman is the owner of Weiman Design, LLC, a design firm specializing in graphic design, web design and illustration. To view Weiman's work, go to <http://weimandesignllc.com/>.





## BROADENING THE PATHWAY TO FIND A TREATMENT FOR COVID-19

In October 2020, Professor Brian Olson, from the Department of Biology & Chemistry at County College of Morris (CCM), took a major step forward in helping to find a treatment for the coronavirus when his research on the virus's potential drug targets was published in Computer-Aided Molecular Design. By the summer of 2021, his COVID research team had expanded to include CCM student Mia Hwang, Professor Paulina Cardaci, also from the Department of Biology & Chemistry, and Professor Eric Guadara of the Department of Information Technologies, a game development expert.

The CCM team imported the scientific data from the coronavirus research into a virtual reality format. Their purpose was to teach gamers the fundamental science so they could assist with drug development discovery using the gaming platform. Development of instructions and tutorials is ongoing.

“The scientific community must be prepared for possible vaccine escape of a future SARS-CoV-2 variant,” notes Olson, “We hope to educate about the virus while empowering the average person to try their hand at creating a drug to treat COVID, even if they’ve never studied science. It really is possible that someone could discover a drug. The work is enabling and empowering. It’s fantastic.”

Any potential drug discovered through the virtual reality format could be sent to collaborators to be tested and possibly entered into the research pipeline. The data incorporated into the gaming platform is based on the research described in Olson’s paper, An Online Repository of Solvation Thermodynamic and Structural Maps of SARS-CoV-2 Targets. In that paper, Olson and his research team provided maps of water molecules on the virus’s proteins. Olson explains that knowing what water molecules need to be displaced, and which do not, provides essential information



to guide the development of drugs to treat COVID-19. The first step toward determining that is knowing where the water molecules are located on the proteins. Utilizing a computational tool, GIST, developed by Dr. Tom Kurtzman, of Lehman College, the researchers worked from their homes during the pandemic to develop those maps.

“I have never seen the international scientific community come together the way it has now to find some answers,” says Olson. “There is international collaboration and the sharing of information that previously would not have been shared.”



# CCM PROVIDES THE PATHWAY FOR FULFILLING A DREAM

*"I had such an awesome experience at CCM. Every professor I came into contact with was great and concerned about my success . . . I highly recommend CCM."*

In high school, Travis Herbst played football, focused little on his studies, got poor grades and never took the SATs as he had no plans to attend college. As a garbage collector, however, he soon came to realize that what he had was a job and not a career. His dream was to be a nurse, something his grandmother, "Nana," had always encouraged him to pursue.

"Watching the older guys at work breaking their backs, I realized I needed to do something else. It just hit me really hard that I can't pick up garbage my whole life," says Herbst, of Parsippany.

When he enrolled at County College of Morris (CCM) and

took the required anatomy and physiology (A&P) course, however, he ended up withdrawing from the class to avoid receiving an F. He changed his major to criminal justice and earned his associate degree.

But that was not his dream. What to do? While many might have settled, not Herbst. He took the bold step of enrolling once more at CCM to take A&P again.

"I thought, 'Let me give A&P another chance.' What did I have to lose?" he recalls. "I got an A." And he was on his way – on his way to becoming such

a successful student he was inducted into Alpha Delta Nu, the nursing honor society.

He credits the quality teaching and the professors at CCM for helping him to not only to reach for his dream but to excel. He further notes that CCM provided him with the flexibility to take classes in the late afternoons and evenings so he could continue to work as he pursued his degree.



Now as a CCM graduate – for the second time – as a member of the Class of 2021, he is enrolled in the BSN program at Saint Elizabeth University. A CCM professor also helped to get him his first nursing position in the telemetry unit at St. Clare's in Dover.

# CCM Graduates Transfer to the **Best Schools**

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From the Class of 2021  
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# MORE REASONS THAN EVER TO BE PROUD:

# TITANS TROPHIES

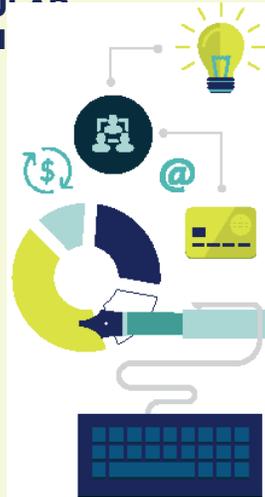


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