



YEAR-END REPORT

College Update

August 2020



Dr. Quintin B. Bullock
CCAC President

Without question, the 2019–2020 academic year has been unlike any other in the college’s history. While the first half of the year featured many successes for the college, including new articulation agreements as well as expanded dual enrollment and other educational opportunities, the onset of the COVID–19 pandemic in March ground many activities to a screeching halt, stymied the college’s forward momentum, and led to a substantial rethink of nearly every aspect of CCAC’s day-to-day operations. In a matter of just a few weeks (and in some cases, days), CCAC crafted new ways of delivering instruction, accessing student services, hosting virtual events and marketing the college—all while working to develop a plan to keep the college community safe.

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CCAC’s Response to COVID–19

Beginning March 14, when Allegheny County recorded its first COVID–19 case, I, along with members of my cabinet, have been committed to overseeing collegewide efforts to safeguard the health and well-being of the college and the wider community while ensuring that students have the resources they need to achieve their academic goals. CCAC was quick to modify college operations, closing all facilities and converting hundreds of credit courses from face-to-face to online or alternative delivery formats. Incredibly challenging and time-consuming, these changes could not have happened as quickly as they did without our faculty, and the ITS, Online Learning, Student Services and Academic Services departments, as well as the individuals across the college who worked tirelessly to make the transition to virtual learning as smooth and seamless as possible. It was a truly collaborative effort that enabled our students to complete their spring coursework during the early days of the pandemic.

Since that time, members of the COVID–19 Reopening Team Steering Committee, together with other college personnel, have worked diligently to develop and implement a comprehensive safety plan for the resumption of face-to-face instruction that adheres to Governor Wolf’s mandates and aligns with Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention expectations and standards. This includes ensuring safe and

accessible support services and activities for the fall semester as well as the remainder of the 2020–2021 academic year. The protocols and plans set forth in CCAC’s [COVID–19 Reopening of College Facilities Plan](#) will continue to be updated, revised or rescinded, as needed, as conditions change and/or permit the college to resume normal instructional delivery, services and activities.

As many of you have already experienced for yourselves and what our returning students are about to discover, CCAC is a very different place from the college they left in the spring, with face masks or coverings and physical (social) distancing essential requirements for entering school grounds. Both students and employees will find new pedestrian traffic flows, new classroom seating arrangements and protective barriers in use, among other significant changes throughout the college. These and other safety protocols are found in greater detail in CCAC’s [COVID–19 Health & Safety Plan](#).

CCAC has responded to COVID–19 in other ways, too. In March, the region was faced with a shortage of personal protective equipment. Upon learning of this, the CCAC community stepped up by donating a large amount of supplies to help health care professionals serving on the front lines. Dozens of boxes containing hundreds of surgical non-sterile gloves and isolation gowns were collected from the CCAC Nursing and Allied Health

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departments on all four campuses. The college's Automotive and HVAC programs also donated approximately 1,000 pairs of gloves and hundreds of masks for distribution to health care workers in need of protective equipment. All of the supplies were transported to Allegheny County Emergency Services for distribution, providing much-needed assistance during this critical time.

Driving Enrollment in Challenging Times

The COVID pandemic has had an effect on all of our lives, and for many of our students, the impact has been particularly disruptive. All of the indecision around whether to return to their home college or stay closer to home, take in-person or online classes, and/or take time off or not, has led to a great deal of confusion and uncertainty. As a result, colleges across the country are experiencing challenges in fall enrollment, and CCAC is no exception. Although the current situation is evolving, it does present some opportunities for community colleges—and CCAC—because our ability to provide accessible, affordable in-person and online classes taught by faculty who are experts in their fields addresses many existing student concerns.

To spur students into action, the college is running a robust Fall Enrollment Campaign focused on CCAC's ability to meet students' needs during the pandemic. The campaign includes advertising across all mediums—video, radio, digital, outdoor, transit and print—and includes a [new ad spot](#) showcasing the college's online programs, faculty, affordability, accessibility and transfer opportunities.

In addition to heavily promoting the benefits of a CCAC education, the college is also taking a deep dive into our admissions and recruitment operations, with the aim of streamlining the onboarding process for students. **Dr. Brian Sajko**, CCAC's new vice president for Enrollment Management, is leading these efforts, and just over a month in, has identified and begun work on five key points of action:

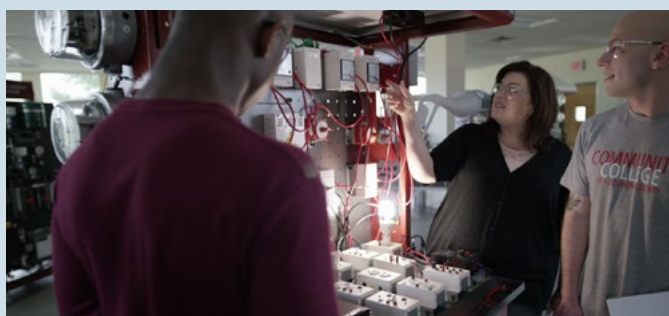
- establish an organizational structure for the new Division of Enrollment Management that aligns with CCAC's one college concept and organizes responsibilities around functional areas rather than campus locations and eliminates non-essential campus-specific flows, habits, messaging, etc.;
- align structure and staff in the division in order to take full advantage of CCAC's recruitment pipelines (e.g., dual enrollment, community education, etc.) both within and outside the college;
- begin the process of establishing a data-supported roadblock removal process that encompasses all areas of the college and includes the creation of a Persistence and Completion Council;
- unify the college's messaging to maximize recruitment, persistence, and completion; this includes identifying individuals who can serve as information funnels for the purpose of enhancing the college's marketing communications and recruitment communication flows; and

- establish best practices in enrollment management that include formalizing a professional development training regimen and structure for Admissions and Financial Aid.

On September 1, the college will be launching the CCAC Virtual Campus. Developed with the goal of maximizing learning, creating intentional access, and fostering diversity and inclusion, students in this virtual community will be able to interact with fellow students and instructors in a more inclusive educational space through myriad remote student activities, livestreams, and interactive group social experiences and connections.

The Virtual Campus is just the latest addition to CCAC's virtual offerings that include student support services, online instruction, and a technology-focused infrastructure—underscoring the college's ongoing commitment to offering affordable, flexible learning options that meet the needs of today's e-connected student.

Investing in Educational Excellence: New Faculty & Administrative Hires



Assistant Professor Patricia Thompson is now teaching Engineering, Drafting & Design.

CCAC filled positions in a variety of academic disciplines. In addition to the 17 new faculty members who joined the college at the beginning of the school year, CCAC is pleased to have welcomed the following educators since publication of the College Update Mid-Year Report in December:

Dena Butchko
Assistant Professor
Nursing
South Campus

John Float
Assistant Professor
Mathematics
South Campus

Amanda Coligan
Assistant Professor
Health Information Technology
Allegheny Campus

Leigh Frederick
Associate Professor
Nursing
Allegheny Campus

Rachel D'Alessandro
Assistant Professor
Counseling
North Campus

Elizabeth Sarraf
Counselor
Counseling
Allegheny Campus

Rusty Das
Assistant Professor
Nursing
South Campus

Michelle Vecchio
Associate Professor
Nursing
Boyce Campus

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

Zachary Cox
Assistant Professor
English
Boyce Campus

Julie Stimmel
Counselor
Counseling
North Campus

Dr. Justin Starr
Assistant Professor
Mechatronics
West Hills Center

Patricia Thompson
Assistant Professor
Engineering, Drafting & Design
South Campus

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

Clint Ambrose
ITS User Support Analyst
North Campus

Carol Joy Powell
Development Associate
Educational Foundation
Byers Hall

Emily Bendig
Digital Marketing Manager
Public Relations & Marketing
Office of College Services

Daren Rodriguez
ITS Application Developer II
Office of College Services

John Bigler
ITS User Support Analyst
West Hills Center

Dr. Brian Sajko
Vice President
Enrollment Management
Office of College Services

Adam Carpentero
ITS User Support Analyst
South Campus

R'Monni Sargent
ITS User Support Analyst
Boyce Campus

Jankie Cohen
Student Support Coach
HPOG
Boyce Campus

Sarnali Shaw
Military & Veterans Success
Facilitator
Military & Veterans Services
Boyce Campus

Mark Cox
ITS User Support Analyst
Boyce Campus

Robert Stalnaker
ITS Network Cable Technician
Office of College Services

Crystal Hinnebusch
Student Support Specialist
Perkins
North Campus

Cameron Stewart
ITS User Support Analyst
South Campus

Kristina Hout
Manager of Scholarships
& Alumni Affairs
Educational Foundation
Byers Hall

Samuel Tima
ITS Service Desk Support Analyst
Boyce Campus

Alyssa Lloyd
ITS Digital Content Designer
Boyce Campus

Natasha Walton
Executive Director
Sponsored Programs &
Sponsored Research
Office of College Services

Philip Mangis
ITS Director of Technical Services
Office of College Services

New & Expanding Partnerships & Programs Enhance Educational Opportunities

As CCAC is committed to ensuring that a college education is available to everyone, the college continues to develop and expand programs that create pathways to success for students of all backgrounds and abilities.

Digital Innovation STEM Lab

The Homewood-Brushton Center is receiving funding support from the Verizon Foundation and Neighborhood Allies to build a Digital Innovation Lab. The grant will invest \$250,000 to \$400,000 in co-designing and remodeling an existing space within the center. In addition to complementing Verizon's vision of expanding access to high-demand programs, the construction of this lab, expected to occur next spring, will establish a new STEM program niche with the aim of being a feeder system for the new Workforce Training Center. This grant involves the partnership efforts of the Homewood Children's Village and the YMCA.

Advanced Manufacturing Advisory Council

In anticipation of the construction of the new Workforce Training Center, the college established an Advanced Manufacturing Advisory Council—a partnership among local advanced manufacturing businesses, the German American Chamber of Commerce, Catalyst Connection, Allegheny Conference on Community Development and the Pittsburgh Public, West Allegheny, Northgate, Cornell, Sto-Rox and Chartiers Valley school districts. The council's purpose is to explore, discuss and implement strategies, programs and systems that will result in designing and building an advanced manufacturing pipeline that leads to an Advanced Manufacturing Academy. The council, which will meet twice a year, held its first meeting in October.

Junior Chamber Intern Program: African American Chamber of Commerce

The Junior Chamber Intern program helps students interested in becoming entrepreneurs by offering networking, mentoring and professional development opportunities. Building on the success of the previous academic year, CCAC's Homewood-Brushton Center collaborated with the chamber to offer three workshops during the fall 2019 and spring 2020 semesters. The fall workshops dealt with financing and legal issues. In February, the center hosted a workshop featuring the SAVVY Marketing Group, which provided students with valuable information on aspects of marketing a personal business.

College in High School at North Campus & West Hills Center

The College in High School and Dual Enrollment program continues to expand at North Campus and West Hills Center. The partnering high schools, which offer a broad range of college credit courses, include A.W. Beattie Career Center, North Hills High School, North Allegheny Senior High School, North Catholic High School, Northgate Junior/Senior High School and West Allegheny High School. Through these partnerships, more than 350 students enrolled last fall and this spring. Additionally,

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Northgate School District initiated a CCAC/CIHS marketing campaign that led to the creation of 46 CIHS classes for fall 2019 and spring 2020. Also of note, CCAC included West Allegheny High School in the proposal for a National Science Foundation grant for mechatronics programming. As a result, the school received machinery that will enable them to offer courses in this field.

BARC (Bulldogs Achieving Readiness for College) Program

In the fall of 2019, this partnership was established by the CCAC Homewood-Brushton Center, Westinghouse High School and The Pittsburgh Promise. The program enables 11th and 12th grade students to take CCAC courses in place of, or in addition to, a high school course. These transferable credits comprise general education courses typically required of a college freshman. Additionally, the students take two Student Development Series courses focused on career planning, time management, study skills, job readiness and college expectations. The Pittsburgh Promise, which provides funding for tuition, has agreed to allow these students to take multiple courses in a semester, as opposed to other dual enrollment programs in the city.



Early College Program

CCAC's Early College Program will begin serving the Baldwin and Steel Valley school districts this fall. Directed by **Brenna Jones** (left), this new grant-funded program will enable high school students to complete college courses that lead to a certificate in

Business Management, Information Technology Support and Accounting. The goal is to enroll 80 students, with 40 students selected from each district. Participating students will take college courses at their respective high schools during 9th and 10th grades and at South Campus during 11th and 12th grades. This innovative program will also include a summer orientation for rising 9th grade students, a Summer Bridge program and opportunities for the students to utilize CCAC facilities and hear from professionals in the fields of business and finance.

Contact Tracing Course

In an effort to help safely reopen the economy and slow the spread of COVID-19, the college launched a noncredit Contact Tracing course in late May. The aim of contact tracing is to connect with individuals diagnosed with COVID-19, identify individuals with whom they have come in contact, and proceed to get in touch with every contact discovered. Developed in consultation with regional health authorities, the course comprises up to 45 hours of training delivered online via Zoom over a two-week period. The response to the course has been very positive—98 students in four cohorts have successfully completed the course as of August 5, and the program has received more than 850 inquiries. A fifth and sixth cohort of students began the program on August 6 and August 12, respectively.

Give Honors A Try!

The CCAC Honors Council will offer a pilot program this fall called Give Honors A Try! The program will permit non-Honors students who meet certain criteria to take Honors courses and participate in a variety of opportunities for academic and personal enrichment. When pandemic restrictions are lifted, these opportunities could include conferences, community service projects, study abroad tours and other Honors activities. By widening the gate of access to Honors enrichment, more students will be encouraged to challenge themselves and engage more fully with all that CCAC offers.

Articulation Agreement with Southern New Hampshire University

In January, I was pleased to join with the other Pennsylvania community college presidents in a digital signing ceremony marking a new partnership and articulation agreement with Southern New Hampshire University. Under the agreement, students from all 14 Pennsylvania community colleges are able to transfer up to 90 credits to SNHU and complete their bachelor's degree online with a 10% tuition reduction. When it was signed, the partnership represented the only statewide articulation agreement of its kind in the state.

Office of Sponsored Programs & Sponsored Research: Recent Grant Awards

From December 2019 to June 2020, through the Office of Sponsored Programs & Sponsored Research, CCAC secured \$8,741,057 in new grants to fund programs and services that will expand opportunities for students. The following awards have been received:

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act—for Students

CCAC received \$3,993,740 from the U.S. Department of Education through the CARES Act's Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. The funding provides emergency financial aid grants to students whose lives have been disrupted, many of whom are facing financial challenges and struggling to make ends meet due to the coronavirus. As of August 5, the college has awarded \$3,518,502 to 6,651 unduplicated students.

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act—for Institutions

CCAC also received \$3,993,739 from the U.S. Department of Education through the CARES Act's Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund designed to help colleges cover any associated costs with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus on or after March 13, 2020.

Mechatronics 2.0—Advancing Mechatronics Technician Education

CCAC received a \$402,560 grant from the National Science Foundation Advanced Technology Education (ATE) program. The ATE program involves partnerships between academic institutions and industry to help meet the growing need in the region for skilled

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technicians in advanced manufacturing and energy companies. The Advancing Mechatronics Technician Education project will build on the success of the previously funded Technicians in Energy, Advanced Manufacturing and Supply Chain Technology (TEAMS) project at CCAC. This new initiative will enhance and expand the mechatronics curriculum to meet regional workforce needs in the areas of robotics, plastics and process technology with the overarching theme of “green manufacturing.”

Industrial Manufacturing Technician (IMT) Apprenticeship Program

The college received \$20,000 from Partner4Work to train four CCAC IMT apprentices through the U.S. Department of Labor’s Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. The main components of the 18-month program are company involvement, on-the-job training, technical instruction, rewards for skills gains, and attainment of nationally recognized occupational credentials. This funding is in addition to the \$296,973 CCAC received from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development in 2019 to support 30 IMT apprentices.

Registered Apprenticeship Training for Early Childhood Educators

CCAC received \$10,343 from Partner4Work for a collaboration project to develop the Early Childhood Registered Apprenticeship program. Funding covers tuition and fees for students pursuing a career in the early childhood field.

Vision 2022

The college received \$250,000 from Clarion University/Appalachian Regional Commission to offer training opportunities to reinvigorate the regional economy and prepare for the emerging petrochemical industry. This will include the development of highly skilled secondary education pre-apprenticeship programs; the certification of employer demanded apprenticeships; the creation of career-ladder training in targeted industry clusters; the discovery of customized training needs to upgrade the existing workforce; and the implementation of entrepreneurial training that leads to job growth.

It’s On Us

CCAC received \$30,000 from the Pennsylvania Department of Education for It’s On Us PA. The statewide campaign invites everyone to play a role in ending sexual assault by bringing together college and university presidents, superintendents, administrators, teachers, students, families and community members to reframe the conversation around sexual violence and pledge to be part of the solution. I was pleased to participate in a video in support of this important initiative.

OCDEL Apprenticeship for Infant/Toddler Teachers

The college received a \$10,000 grant from Shippensburg University/Berks County Intermediate Unit. Through the grant, up to five apprentice infant/toddler teachers will receive training in developing and demonstrating mastery of work experience competencies. The apprentices will receive nine credits for successful completion of on-the-job learning and demonstration of competency mastery,

which will correspond to the required courses included in the Early Education and Child Development Associate of Science Degree program sequence.

Dwight D. Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship Program

CCAC received \$25,000 from the U.S. Department of Transportation for students to pursue associate, bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in transportation-related disciplines. The program is designed to stimulate interest among students attending minority-serving institutions of higher education and community colleges to conduct transportation-related research; pursue transportation-related degrees; enter the transportation workforce; and enhance the breadth, scope and diversity of knowledge of the entire transportation community in the United States.

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.

Grants received by the foundation include:

- \$1 million from the Richard King Mellon Foundation for The Promise Extension Program at CCAC, which will expand and institutionalize a comprehensive academic support and mentoring structure to advance college completion rates. The chief objective is for extension program students to not only continue their postsecondary education as Pittsburgh Promise scholars, but to graduate and join the region’s workforce.



Dollar Bank executives presented a \$50,000 check at the February CCAC Board of Trustees meeting to support the college’s Dual Enrollment initiatives. Pictured are Dollar Bank Vice President of Treasury Management Jackie Rizzo, CCAC Educational Foundation CEO Jamie McMahon, CCAC Board of Trustees Chair Mona Generett, Dollar Bank Executive Vice President & Director of Treasury Management Judy Murtha, and CCAC President Dr. Quintin Bullock.

Gifts received by the foundation include:

- \$50,000 from Dollar Bank through Pennsylvania’s Educational Improvement Tax Credit program to support dual enrollment.
- \$10,000 from Dr. Tony Summers and Martha Kelly to create the Patricia Summers Hopper Endowed Scholarship.
- \$10,000 in unrestricted funds from foundation board member Judy Wojanis.

CCAC Educational Foundation: COVID–19 Relief Efforts

In response to the COVID–19 pandemic, the CCAC Educational Foundation launched a community-based fundraising campaign

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in support of the Student Emergency GAP Fund to help CCAC students in need. The campaign included a direct email appeal to CCAC family, friends and past donors followed by fundraising via social media channels. Additionally, the foundation applied for and received several grants earmarked for this endeavor. Students can apply for a GAP award via the foundation website at ccac.edu/foundation/gap-fund.php.

For the first time in its history, the CCAC Educational Foundation is offering scholarship assistance to newly enrolled CCAC students. As part of a pilot program to provide support during the COVID-19 pandemic and to help boost enrollment, the foundation is making funding available to create 80 to 100 additional scholarships for fall 2020. In addition, the regular fall 2020 application cycle opened in mid-July. Students have been encouraged to apply through the online application portal at ccac.awardspring.com. Including the new funding, the foundation will award more than \$250,000 in scholarships during this academic year.

Capital Improvement Projects: Enhancing CCAC Programs, Services & Image

Several major facility-related improvements across the campuses are in progress or have been completed. Here are a few highlights:

The design of CCAC's new 60,000-square-foot Workforce Training Center on Allegheny Campus has been completed and approved. The new facility will house programs for in-demand fields such as cybersecurity, information technology, autonomous and process technology, machine learning, advanced manufacturing and robotics. The center will also feature classrooms, collaborative areas and a new culinary school. The construction project was bid with five prime contractors, and the CCAC Board of Trustees approved the recommendation to contract with the lowest, most responsible bidders. The contract for general construction, scheduled to begin in the fall, was awarded to Rycon Construction, Inc. The relocation of the site's underground utilities, including electrical, network and telecommunication systems, was completed in July. The relocation of water lines will be completed by the end of this month.

The design document phase of the renovation of Chalfant Hall into the CCAC Center for Faculty Innovation was completed in July. The project has been approved by the Pittsburgh Historic Review Commission, and plans are now underway for demolition of the interior, abatement of hazardous materials, and restoration of the historic windows.

The college solar project, funded by a grant provided by the Allegheny County Health Department Clean Air Fund, is complete. Photovoltaic arrays (solar panels) have been installed on one-half of the Allegheny Campus Fieldhouse roof and on the roof of West Hills Center, which will result in a reduction of energy costs. In addition, a lighting retrofit of the VAC Building, currently in use by the Pittsburgh Police Academy, is in the design phase. All of the lights in the building will be replaced with energy-efficient LED lights.

Classroom improvements continue across the college with new technology following recommendations from the Student Success through Technologies committee. Currently in progress at Allegheny Campus is a new innovative classroom (M109), which will provide the latest technology for collaborative learning, including smart screens for teaching from multiple platforms within the room. In addition, a Nursing lab (M108) will expand available lab space for students in the program. The room consists of a lab and teaching space that will accommodate 12 Nursing students as well as an observation room with video capabilities so the students can review procedures. Both rooms will be completed in time for the spring semester.

CCAC Highlights: Awards & Other Distinctions

Recognized for their outstanding commitment and contributions to their students and colleagues, eight CCAC faculty members received National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Awards. The 2020 honorees comprise two awardees from each campus—Allegheny Campus: **Kathleen Kane**, professor of Mathematics; **David Manel**, associate professor of Political Science; Boyce Campus: **Susan Rosepink**, associate professor of Nursing; **Raymond Weaver**, professor of Mathematics; North Campus: **Cristen Colantoni-Brannon**, professor of Chemistry; **Jason Nadzam**, associate professor of Heating & Air Conditioning; South Campus: **Dr. Christopher Robinson**, associate professor of Social Work; and **Dr. Melanie Yeschenko**, professor of Child and Family Studies.

For the third year in a row, CCAC has been named one of the **Most Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges**.

This national recognition celebrates two-year community and technical college workplaces that are vibrant, diverse, supportive and marked by a deep commitment to staff work-life balance, professional development and inclusive excellence. CCAC is one of 16 community colleges across the nation to receive the 2020 award, which is presented by Diverse: Issues in Higher Education and NISOD. The award recognizes CCAC's best-in-class student and staff recruitment and retention practices, inclusive learning and working environments, and meaningful community service and engagement opportunities.

The college has been selected to receive a **2020 CASE Educational Fundraising Award for Overall Improvement** in the category of Public Two-Year Institutions with Endowments over \$8 Million. The Educational Fundraising Awards annually recognize exemplary development programs. According to the award letter, CCAC is "*demonstrating the highest levels of professionalism and best practice in fundraising*," and "*contributing to the betterment of educational advancement worldwide by serving as a model to which others can aspire*."

CCAC was honored with two awards in the **35th Annual Educational Advertising Awards** competition. The college received a Gold Award in the Annual Report category for the college's 2018 Annual Report, #Success, which was created in-house by the Public Relations & Marketing Department. CCAC also received

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a Merit Award in the Special Video category for the CCAC Educational Foundation campaign video, *Pioneering Pittsburgh's New Workforce*, which was produced by branding and marketing communications firm BD&E.

The college received a **Gold Seal for Excellence in Student Voter Engagement** from the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge for achieving a student voting rate between 40% and 49% in the 2018 midterm elections. The achievement is a result of collegewide efforts to promote voter registration and participation at all CCAC campuses and centers. The average for college campuses in Pennsylvania participating in the challenge was 37%.



Students in CCAC's Respiratory Therapy program gather with Professor Jason Trautman and Professor and Program Coordinator Richard Laurent (center).

CCAC's Respiratory Therapy program achieved a perfect accreditation score from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC). It is a repeat performance of the last time the program was accredited 10 years ago. Among the program's strengths, according to CoARC, are an *"engaged, interactive medical director, a well-equipped program laboratory, dedicated competent faculty, enthusiastic students and graduates, and a wide array of diverse clinical affiliates."* The program also boasts a 100% job placement rate!

Dr. Evon Walters, president, CCAC Northwest Region, is one of 28 college or campus presidents nationwide to receive the prestigious PTK Honor Society Paragon Award for New Presidents. The award is given to new college or campus presidents who have shown strong support of student success by recognizing academic achievement, leadership and service among high-achieving students at their college. CCAC student chapter members and advisors nominated Dr. Walters, who is the only 2020 award recipient in Pennsylvania.



Dr. Stephen Wells, professor of English, South Campus, received the Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty Recognition Award from the American Association of Community Colleges. This national award recognizes individuals who make a difference by demonstrating passion, showing a willingness to support students inside and outside of the classroom, participating in college committees, and going above and beyond what is required to ensure students are successful in their academic endeavors.



Dr. Christopher Robinson, professor of Social Work, South Campus, received the Vitamin C Healing Inaugural 2020 Social Worker Appreciation of Greatness (S.W.A.G.) Award. The goal of the annual *S.W.A.G. Awards Ceremony* is to recognize 21 social workers in the Greater Pittsburgh area who exemplify servant leadership through their commitment to promoting advocacy, social justice, generational healing and building stronger communities.



Faculty members **Dr. Emily Marshman** (at left), assistant professor of Physics, Allegheny Campus, and **Dr. Sulakshana Plumley**, professor of Physics, Boyce Campus, attended the *American Physical Society Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics* at Carnegie Mellon University Jan. 17–19. They were invited to take part in panel discussions at the conference. Five second-year CCAC students were also in attendance.

Dr. Patricia Paul, professor of Nursing, South Campus, and **Veronica Smith**, assistant professor of Nursing, South Campus, presented their Escape Room project at the *UPMC Nursing Education Best Practice Conference* at UPMC Mercy Hospital in March.

Academic Advisor Amy Sosanko, South Campus, gave a presentation at the *8th Annual College Success Forum* at Robert Morris University in January. Sosanko was part of a panel of experts from local colleges and universities that addressed the topic of "Providing Support and Guidance to College Students with Foster Care Experience."

Eleven CCAC students were honored by the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges as members of the **26th Annual All-Pennsylvania Academic Team**. This honor recognizes exceptional community college students who have achieved academic excellence and demonstrated a commitment to their colleges and communities. Among Pennsylvania's outstanding community college scholars were CCAC students **Ashley Butela, Ashley Evans, Nicole Haas, Raja (RJ) Krishnaswamy, Megan Partin, Kimberly Reed, Carianne Savage, Courtney Seiler, Sjon Walters, Craig Wolfley** and **Qingqing Zhao**, who was also named a Coca-Cola Silver Scholar. Each student received a full two-year scholarship to any university in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

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Posing for a photo are staff members of CCAC's multiple award-winning student newspaper, *The Voice*.

The CCAC student newspaper, **The Voice**, once again brought home numerous awards for excellence in student journalism, including seven first-place awards. The newspaper garnered 17 Student Keystone Media Awards for 2020—the highest number of awards the newspaper has received to date. The college has also reclaimed its title as the winningest community college newspaper in Pennsylvania, having earned more awards than any other community college in the state! In addition, CCAC student Samantha Hrubec received an honorable mention award from the Associated Collegiate Press for the 2019 Cartoon of the Year in the Comic Panel/Strip category for three comic strips published in *The Voice*.

CCAC Mechatronics students **Jacob Graleski** and **Andrew Knez** were recognized as Apprentice of the Year Award winners by the German American Chamber of Commerce, Pittsburgh Chapter. The Apprentice of the Year Award is given to an apprentice who demonstrates extraordinary skills and abilities inside and outside of the classroom. Graleski and Knez tied for first place, so they each received the award at the chamber's *Ice Gala* held January 25 at the Energy Innovation Center.



CCAC Engineering students Linda Pan, Samuel Nydes, Logan Paul and James Tudor take a study break to experience the Minnesota winter.

Dr. Justin Starr, assistant professor of Robotics, South Campus, and four engineering students braved temperatures of 20 degrees below zero to attend the *Bell Experience* in Minnesota Jan. 18–20. The Bell Program is a course of study for transfer students offered by Minnesota State University that enables community college graduates to earn an ABET-accredited bachelor's degree in engineering while gaining paid work experience. The students completed mock interviews, engineering design projects and a technical learning experience.

CCAC Honors students **Samantha Graves**, **Alexis Hershberger**, **Melanie Kostopolos**, **Erin McClain** and **Adriana Vencato** were selected to present their undergraduate research at the *Northeast Regional Honors Council Conference*. Each of the students' research projects explored an aspect of the 2020 conference theme, "Finding Your Voice: Speaking Truth to Power." Originally scheduled for April, the conference was postponed due to COVID-19.



Displaying their award are CCAC Wildcats Basketball Team members (from the left): Andy Griffiths, Malik Stewart, Daysean Woodson, Markeife Harvey, Imari Walker, Jalen Rogers, Shy Faulkner and Nate Kennedy.

The **CCAC Wild Cats Men's Basketball Team** finished the season as winners of the *Western Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference (WPCC) Division III Regular Season Championship!* Special congratulations go to **Shy Faulkner**, **Daysean Woodson** and **Janel Rogers** for being named to the WPCC All-Conference Team. In addition, Faulkner was named to the Men's Basketball Division III All-Region First Team, and Rogers was named to the All-Region Honorable Mention Team. Extra congratulations go to Faulkner for being named a 2019–2020 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division III Basketball Third Team All-American! The sophomore finished the 2019–2020 basketball season as one of the top 10 players with a total of 659 points for the year, and he was ranked fifth in the nation for averaging 26.4 points per game.



CCAC Wildcats Bowling Team members (from the left) are: Sofia Sedlak, Paige Adams, Kali Adams and Anna Swindle; (back row): Jason Fitterer, Chase Chabanik and Justin Schmitt.

Congratulations to the **CCAC Wild Cats Women's Bowling Team** for winning the *WPCC Championship Tournament!* In addition, the women took home seven other titles from the tournament: **Paige Adams** and **Anna Swindle** were named WPCC Women's Doubles Champions; Swindle was named Women's Singles Champion and Women's All Events Runner-up; Paige Adams was named Women's Singles Runner-up and Women's All Events Champion; and **Kali Adams** placed third for Singles and for All Events. On the men's side, CCAC bowlers **Jason Fitterer** and **Justin Schmitt**

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were named WPCC Men's Doubles Champions. Schmitt was also named Men's Singles Champion and Men's All Events Champion.

CCAC Wild Cats Volleyball Team member Abigail Cmar was named NJCAA Honorable Mention All-American! The CCAC Wild Cats Volleyball Team placed second in the *WPCC Championship Tournament*; they also finished in second place at the *2019 NJCAA Region XX Championship* last fall.

CCAC's Phi Theta Kappa chapters once again received numerous awards at the *PTK Virtual Middle States Regional Awards* program on March 28. All four CCAC chapters received both Five-Star Status—the highest level of achievement of the honor society—and Middle States Gold simultaneously for the first



CCAC PTK students Nina DeBiasio (center) and Brandon Cunningham take a fun photo with other community college students at a PTK Middle States Region Western Leadership Conference.

time! The following awards were also received: South Campus—College Project Award, Honors In Action Theme Award, Middle States Distinguished Chapter; Allegheny Campus—Honors In Action Theme Award. Boyce Campus' Sigma Omicron Chapter was also named a Milestone Chapter for its strides in the Five-Star program. Awards received by CCAC PTK advisors and administrators include: Middle States Paragon Award for Chapter Advisors—**Don Breitbarth**; Middle States Distinguished Advisor Award—Allegheny and South Advisor teams. The following student leaders were recognized: Middle States PTK Hall of Honor Member—**Ashley Kichi** (South); Middle States PTK Hall of Honor for Chapter Officers—**Jiyong Ahn** (Allegheny); **Nina Debasio** (Boyce); **Nicole Haas** (North); **Sara Hnatiw** (South); **Raja (RJ) Krishnaswamy** (Boyce); and **Michael Phelan** (North). Congratulations to all of the chapters and members for an outstanding year!



CCAC student **Mark Steidl** was named a 2019 ACHIEVA Awards of Excellence honoree. Steidl received the 2nd annual Cecil and David Rosenthal Community Award in December during a ceremony held at the Sheraton Station Square. Named in memory of Cecil and David Rosenthal, the award, along with a \$1,000 gift, is given to a person with an intellectual or developmental disability who, like the brothers, has embraced being a part of their community.

Gathered around to congratulate Mark Steidl are: Mary Richter (standing), board chair of ACHIEVA; Steve Suroviev, president and CEO of ACHIEVA; and Michele Rosenthal, sister of the late Cecil and David Rosenthal.

Jeanine Bedner, a second-year student in the Physical Therapist Assistant program, was chosen as one of the Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association scholarship recipients invited to attend the *Federal Advocacy Forum* in Washington, D.C. For the second year, she was the only PTA student selected from the 21 PTA Programs in the state.

Spring Events Showcase the College



Pausing for a photo following a panel discussion at the Collegiate Basic Needs Dialogue are (from the left): Dr. Charlene Newkirk, president, CCAC Southeast Region; Dr. Alicia Harvey-Smith, president, Pittsburgh Technical College; Dr. Suzanne Mellon, president, Carlow University; Cathe Dykstra, CEO & president of Family Scholar House; Dr. David Finegold, president, Chatham University; and Dr. Quintin Bullock, president, CCAC.

Collegiate Basic Needs Dialogue

I was pleased to participate in a Q&A session with a panel of college presidents at the *Third Annual Collegiate Basic Needs Dialogue* held at South Campus on January 9. The one-day conference organized by the Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education (PCHE) focused on improving services to help students with basic needs. Among the hundreds in attendance were college students, administrators and other individuals interested in food and housing insecurity, risk factors, and supportive services related to academic and life success. The day also included workshops, lunch and a keynote address delivered by Cathe Dykstra, CEO and president of Family Scholar House. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this event such a success!



CCAC Honors students and faculty members gather for a photo in front of the historic Taj Mahal during their study tour in India.

Honors Program Study Tour in India

A group of 12 CCAC Honors students embarked on the adventure of a lifetime when they journeyed to India in January for an 11-day international study tour. This was the third time the CCAC Honors program has traveled to India. Accompanied by four

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Honors faculty members, the students visited many cultural and historical sites in the “Golden Triangle” cities of Delhi, Jaipur and Agra in the northwest part of India. In the reflective essays they wrote upon returning to the U.S., all of the students expressed a new appreciation for everything they have as well as a greater understanding of and empathy for people of other cultures.

Olympic Culinary Preview Party

CCAC Culinary Arts students, along with **Associate Professor Arthur Inzinga**, attended an *Olympic Culinary Preview Party* for members of the American Culinary Federation Culinary Team USA at Westmoreland County Community College in January. At the event, CCAC students participated in a seminar put on by Team USA. The students also presented their own gourmet creations to guests as part of a fundraiser for the team, which was preparing for the *2020 International Culinary Olympics* in Germany.

Scholarship Luncheon

On March 3, the CCAC Educational Foundation hosted its annual *Scholarship Luncheon* at the Sheraton Station Square. Approximately 150 individuals attended, including scholarship donors, the CCAC Educational Foundation Board of Directors, the CCAC Board of Trustees, CCAC faculty and staff, and many student scholarship recipients, who used the event to meet and thank their donors. The foundation was able to award more than \$200,000 to almost 300 scholarship recipients during the 2019–20 academic year. An additional 339 students received scholarships through The Pittsburgh Promise.

One College, One Community Reads!

Although it had to end prematurely due to the COVID–19 pandemic, this year’s *One College, One Community Reads!* initiative got off to a great start on March 4 at the South Campus Auditorium. The public was invited to attend the kickoff of this literary initiative that is designed to promote reading and open dialogue within the college and the wider community. Speaking at the event was Dr. Veronica Watson, Professor of English and Director of Graduate Studies in Literature and Criticism at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and Convener, the Frederick Douglass Institute Collaborative of Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education. She shared insights on themes in Pulitzer and Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison’s first novel, “The Bluest Eye,” the focus of the month-long series of *One College, One Community Reads!* events.



3 on 3 Tournament
A *3 on 3 Tournament*, sponsored by the Men of Merit Initiative and with the support of Student Life, was held at Boyce Campus in February.

Displaying their winning T-shirts at the 3 on 3 Tournament are CCAC students (from the left): Eli'sha Utterback, Julian Rivera, Manny Roman and Rey Santiago. The students are flanked by (at left) Student Support Specialist Ben Shaffer and Counselor Devin Patterson. At the far right is Frank Torbert, official.



EMS professionals from CCAC and the region pause for a photo during a training at Montour School District.

Mega CPR AED Class

CCAC’s Public Safety Institute celebrated Valentine’s Day by conducting one of the largest Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) classes ever held in the region. On a day that is typically devoted to matters of the heart, instructors from several local emergency services and a hospital trained all 230 members of the faculty and staff of the Montour School District simultaneously on lifesaving techniques.



Sharing their expertise in the film industry are panelists (from the left): Jolene Dames, Mamie Stein, Jennifer Springel, Taylor Ryan and Kelli French.

Beyond the Frame Panel Discussion

On March 10, Perkins & Career Technical Education and the CCAC Film Technician program presented *Beyond the Frame*, a panel discussion focused on technical careers in the Pittsburgh film industry. In the spirit of Women’s History Month, the all-women panel, moderated by CCAC Film Technician student **Jennifer Springel**, shared their professional expertise, personal experiences and insights regarding gender equity and access to career opportunities. More than 40 students, faculty and guests attended to learn more about working in the film industry.

Black History Month

In honor of Black History Month, CCAC campuses and centers hosted a wide variety of activities throughout February to celebrate the achievements of African Americans and recognize the central role of Blacks in U.S. history. The activities included art displays featuring Black Americans and culture, faculty presentations, video documentaries, musical performances, interactive learning experiences, and free luncheons for students.



Artist Marlon Gist conducts a live painting session for students at Boyce Campus during Black History Month.

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CCAC Celebrations Go Virtual

Although many in-person events could not be held due to COVID-19 restrictions, several events were held in a virtual format, enabling the continuation of long-held traditions and celebrations at the college. Here are details about some of these events:

With the *Spring 2020 Induction Ceremony* of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society being postponed, CCAC's PTK Chapter's accomplishments for the year were highlighted during the *Virtual Student Awards* presentation held in May, which was co-hosted by the four Student Life offices. The PTK chapters remained busy this spring, inducting the following number of members: Allegheny Campus—61; Boyce Campus—24; North Campus—32; South Campus—31. Over the course of the entire academic year, the chapters inducted a total of 294 new members! A virtual PTK induction ceremony will take place sometime this fall.



Class of 2020 Student Reflections speaker Ashley Evans shares her remarks during filming for CCAC's first-ever Virtual Commencement exercises.

Through a lot of collaboration and effort on the part of many, CCAC held a *2020 Virtual Commencement* celebration on Thursday, May 14, at 7:00 p.m. The ceremony included the reading of all 2,479 graduate names streamed via the college's YouTube and other social media channels. Graduates, their families and friends gathered to watch the ceremony, and they were also invited to participate in the *CCAC Class of 2020 Celebration Week* through social media. Thank you to everyone who helped make this unconventional commencement a memorable experience for our graduates!

The *All College Out of the Darkness Walk* also went virtual after being postponed to May 16, CCAC stepped up to the plate and surpassed the college's goal of \$6,000 to raise \$7,232 for the effort! The Out of the Darkness Campus Walks are the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's signature student fundraising series, designed to engage youth and young adults in the fight to prevent suicide, the second leading cause of death among people ages 15–24.

The fact that the long-running Boyce Campus *Scouting for Food Drive* was held virtually did not negatively impact the result—the campus surpassed its goal of \$2,500 to raise \$4,940. All donations benefit students in need through the Boyce Campus Cupboard and the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.



And finally, even though CCAC club members and officers were apart due to COVID-19, students still found ways to unite their communities through Zoom. A number of student organizations met weekly to discuss current affairs, support each other and plan for the return to CCAC, including Stand for the Silent, Phi Theta Kappa, Gaming Society, History/Veterans Club, Student Government, Rainbow Alliance and Men of Merit Initiative. The Lunch Bunch program, open to all students, staff and faculty, also continued to meet virtually every Monday.

There are a lot of superlatives I could use to describe CCAC's college community—smart, talented, hard-working, compassionate and dedicated—just to name a few. But the one descriptive that stands out more than any other, especially in these challenging times, is resilient.

As we know, the COVID-19 pandemic is unlike anything we've ever experienced, and it came with no playbook. Yet, the resilience that all of you have displayed in overcoming obstacles and meeting new challenges to ensure everyone's safety while enabling our students to continue to reap the benefits of a CCAC education has been nothing short of extraordinary. And for this and for everything you continue to do day-in and day-out for our students and this college—thank you!

Be safe,
Dr. Quintin Bullock