As the midpoint of the 2016–2017 academic year approaches, I wanted to take the opportunity to share the latest news regarding some of the many programs, projects and other activities taking place at the Community College of Allegheny County.

First, I’d like thank everyone who participated in the college’s 50th Anniversary. It’s been an incredible year for CCAC with numerous opportunities for the college and wider community to come together to celebrate the many individuals who have had a hand in making this college the remarkable institution it is today. In the past six months alone, the college hosted a series of high-profile campus anniversary events including a Health, Safety & Wellness Fair at Boyce Campus on September 13 where more than 300 individuals took part in a variety of health care demonstrations and activities presented by CCAC’s nursing and allied health programs as well as several partnering organizations; a fascinating talk on the State of the State—Taking the Pulse of Pennsylvania’s Health, given by Pennsylvania Physician General Dr. Rachel Levine and sponsored by Allegheny Health Network and Highmark and held September 30 at Boyce Campus; and the grand reopening of West Hall that took place immediately prior to Allegheny Campus’ Through the Decades program, which included presentations from CCAC alumni Robert “Bob” Mill and Frances “Fran” Kralosky Dice in addition to the unveiling of the Then & Now historical retrospective, now on permanent display on the second floor of the Foerster Student Services Center.

And to cap off a year of festivities, the college hosted a 50th Anniversary Gala at the Wyndham Grand in Downtown Pittsburgh on November 19. The Honorable Dan Onorato and Cathryn L. Irvis served as co-chairs with WTAE-TV News Anchor Andrew Stockey serving as master of ceremonies. Honorary Anniversary Chairs Candice and Bob Mill and Charlene and Dominic Petrelli joined...
more than 550 guests in honoring 50 distinguished college alumni while I had the honor of presenting CCAC Professor Francis “Fran” Maxin with a special award for his distinguished service to the college. As many may know, Fran has been with the college for 50 years—a record of service of which we can all be proud.

Media Personality and CCAC Alumnus Jimmy Krenn presided over the live auction, encouraging guests to “bid high and bid often” for a range of unique packages, including a James Bond-themed European vacation. I know I am personally indebted to Mr. Krenn for helping to close the bids for two barbeque packages I offered and will prepare. And kudos all around to renowned Chef and CCAC Alumnus Robert “Bob” Sendall for creating an exceptional dinner menu.

Additionally, I’d like to thank the 50th Anniversary Planning and Steering Committees, the 50th Anniversary Gala Host Committee, the CCAC Board of Trustees, the CCAC Educational Foundation Board of Directors, as well as other members of the CCAC family who helped make this year’s 50th Anniversary truly golden. Together, this amazing group of individuals assisted the college and the CCAC Educational Foundation in raising more than $700,000—and we’re still not done!

Enrollment, Retention & Engagement Initiatives Remain Top Priority
As I reported in my previous college update, student enrollment, retention and completion continue to drive institutional programming and planning. As outlined in the recently released 2016–2021 Strategic Plan, CCAC is committed to ensuring that our institution remains accessible and that a college education remains achievable for all members of our community. To that end, CCAC continues to develop and expand upon programs that create pathways of access to students of all abilities from a diverse range of backgrounds.

Following on the success of the Men of Merit initiative, Women on a Mission (WOM) is a new retention program designed to positively impact the college experience of female students of color by exposing them to campus resources, mentors, speakers and professional development opportunities. This fall, 40 women participated in the eight-week program through bi-weekly meetings covering topics such as financial literacy, the CCAC Roadmap to Your Destination, career development, family dynamics and balancing school, work and life. Since its start in January 2016 at South Campus, this free program has expanded to the Boyce and North campuses and Homewood-Brushton Center, with plans for future expansion. After WOM’s first semester, 78 percent of participants were retained; five of those students graduated with either a CCAC degree or certificate, and several students were accepted to four-year schools.

Last summer, a team of six CCAC faculty, counselors and advisors returned energized and excited from the 2016 Achieving the Dream Relaunch Conference. The team felt inspired and supported when they made an effort to connect as a group outside of formal sessions. Following on that experience, the team invited faculty and staff at each of the four campuses to come together in a designated space to reflect, share and think about what it means to be an educator. Reports from each campus show that we are already discovering that we can more effectively understand and meet the challenges of our jobs when we gather together. The campus gatherings reflected the range and diversity of our interests as well as our shared commitment to making a difference in students’ lives.

CCAC programming for in-demand career education at the Energy Innovation Center (EIC) has continued to grow with two successful cohorts of HVAC students in the fall semester. Of the day cohort that began in the spring, 89 percent of the students continued and are graduating from the program this month. Of the evening cohort that began in the summer, 90 percent are continuing and will graduate in June. In addition, a noncredit series, “Effective Marketing in the Technology Age,” as well as a photography class, ran successfully in the fall.

CCAC North is piloting a retention project called Single Point of Contact whereby new students are assigned to a campus or center administrator/mentor. Each administrator
is responsible for contacting each of their students throughout the semester in an effort to build relationships and ultimately to affect retention. Currently 795 new students have been assigned to one of 18 administrators. Students and parents have been very responsive to this outreach, and an assessment will be conducted with both the student participants and the administrative participants to determine ways to enhance and expand the program.

The Summer Bridge program is an enrollment and retention activity at Allegheny Campus designed to provide critical skills for Pittsburgh Public School graduates who earned less than a 2.5 GPA. During the week-long program, they received intensive instruction in Math and English along with a component on college knowledge to navigate from high school to college. This experience prepared them to return in the fall as Promise Extension students. The Pittsburgh Promise funds this “second chance” program exclusively through CCAC. Students receive funding for tuition, fees and books for two semesters, taking a minimum of nine credits during the fall semester while maintaining a 2.0 or above.

In response to the sudden closure of all ITT Educational Services technical schools, CCAC has worked to accommodate ITT Technical Institute students to enable them to complete their educational and career goals. Consequently, the college provided orientation/information sessions in September and October for former ITT students at Allegheny Campus and West Hills Center. We received many inquiries from former ITT students, who were also able to meet with an advisor at any CCAC campus or center. We continue to work to help former ITT students further their educational and career goals.

While the above illustrates just some of the efforts undertaken to impact enrollment and retention, these efforts are helping to reverse the decline in enrollment. This is especially good news considering the challenges all colleges face due to the falling high school graduation numbers. The Fall 16 headcount totals 16,119; this represents a 0.42 percent increase in FTE (11,634.83) over Fall 15 (11,586.08). That said, considerable work remains to increase enrollment to a level of modest growth. Although we have more than a month to go before the start of spring classes, the college is making progress with some constituencies, including at our North Campus where both FTE and headcount are up compared to this time last year at 15.23 and 12.39 percent, respectively. Washington County Center FTE is also up by 10 percent from 12 months ago.

Investing in Educational Excellence: New Faculty Hires, Programs & Partnerships

Following upon the efforts that were made to fill full-time faculty positions in 2015–2016, the college once again worked to fill full-time positions in a wide variety of disciplines across the college. CCAC is pleased to have welcomed the following individuals since July 1, 2016:

Leonora Anyango-Kivuva
Assistant Professor, ESL, South Campus

Beverly Brady
Instructor, Allied Health, South Campus

Michael Chirdon-Jones
Assistant Professor, Academic Advising, Boyce Campus

Klotilda Lazaj
Assistant Professor, Mathematics, Allegheny Campus

Margaret McDaniel
Associate Professor, Economics, Boyce Campus

Luke Neibler
Instructor, English, North Campus

Wendi Slusser
Assistant Professor, Allied Health, Boyce Campus

Amy Sosanko
Assistant Professor, Academic Advising, South Campus

Hannah Thomas
Instructor, Developmental Studies, South Campus

Patricia Thompson
Assistant Professor, Mechatronics, North Campus

Beginning in the spring semester, CCAC will offer a Film Technician Certificate program at South Campus (which will be expanded to include Allegheny Campus in the fall) that will help to address crew shortages and provide careers with family-sustaining wages. Through a combination of core and specialty classes, students will develop the skills to complete the certificate, gain on-set movie or TV experience and be prepared to work as a crew member in the film and television industry, as well as at concerts and sporting events. Positions such as construction worker, scenic artist, set dresser, grip, set lighting technician, sound mixer and editor, video assistant, camera operator, craft services member, production assistant, wardrobe assistant and location scout will be covered. The hope is to enroll 120 students in 12 courses per semester.
In October, CCAC and Robert Morris University entered into a collaborative agreement that enables CCAC students who have earned an Associate of Science in Cybersecurity to seamlessly transfer into the Cyber Forensics and Information Security Bachelor of Science program at RMU. Cybersecurity is an area of increasing importance both in terms of our personal as well as our nation’s security. Programs like this will help prepare the thousands of cybersecurity professionals who will be needed for jobs in this critical industry. Through this partnership, our two institutions are working to ensure that our region’s students have the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in one of the most technologically advanced and challenging fields existing in the world today.

CCAC, the University of Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Public Schools will officially sign a partnership agreement on December 20 at the University of Pittsburgh. The partnership is being created with the intent that the three education entities will establish a strong pipeline system from the Pittsburgh Public Schools to CCAC and then to the University of Pittsburgh. An emphasis will be placed on underrepresented student populations, and student support and transition assistance will aid in meeting the goals of advancing matriculation, retention and graduation rates.

Aimed at capturing the interest of future students, the college has been working with area high schools to host events designed to appeal to a wide range of academic interests and capabilities. In September, the campus presidents, Dr. Blacklaw, Dr. Archey and Rick Adams accompanied me to a meeting of 42 superintendents at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to present and discuss information on dual enrollment programs, career and transfer programs, workforce development, financial aid, support services and partnerships with four-year colleges and universities. The meeting was very productive, and it opened new opportunities for CCAC to expand dual enrollment within the school districts. The college is now providing the chance for high school students in Advanced Placement and Honors courses to also enroll in CCAC’s Dual Enrollment courses. When all forms of Dual Enrollment are factored in, fall 2016 enrollment was more than 35 percent higher than fall 2015 enrollment. This is an encouraging trend that we hope will continue.

CCAC North has entered into a partnership with the Northland Public Library and local school districts to provide a Digital Boot Camp for Parents, a monthly Saturday morning series to educate parents of middle school and high school students on best practices for digital citizenship. Topics include cyberbullying, Internet safety and how to talk to your teens about technology. The forums are being held at North Campus from October to April.

The fall semester saw the return of CCAC’s “Midnight Welding” program. First offered in 2010 in response to increased demand, the program provides an opportunity for incumbent workers, people with childcare concerns and others to train for a new career in just one semester. In 16 weeks, students who complete the course will be prepared to take the industry certification exam from the American Welding Society and will be ready for entry-level employment. The program follows the same curriculum as CCAC’s daytime Welding Technology program and may be a viable alternative for students who were not able to register for the popular daytime program.

CCAC is partnering with Mined Minds Foundation, a nonprofit organization, to provide computer programming training to residents of Greene County. The intensive “coding boot camp,” which began in August, focuses on the fundamentals of software development so participants can go from no coding experience to starting a sustainable career within the technology industry. The training is offered at no cost to qualifying students and is particularly suited to displaced, dislocated, unemployed or underemployed individuals.

A mutually beneficial partnership between CCAC and ACHIEVA, a nonprofit organization that supports individuals with disabilities and their families, yielded a bountiful harvest from the CCAC South Campus community garden this summer and fall. Through this partnership, customers of ACHIEVA help to maintain the gardens and greenhouse while learning valuable skills. The ACHIEVA clients shared in the harvest by taking
home some of the fresh vegetables. The greater part of the produce went to the Campus Cupboard South Food Pantry, supplementing food from the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. The food pantry had a very successful fall launch, providing frozen meat, cereal, canned goods, fresh produce and more to 28 student households, ultimately reaching 75 people.

Following on the success of the South Campus food pantry, “pop-up” food pantries took place at Allegheny and Boyce campuses in October and November to serve students who are experiencing food insecurity. The one-day food pantries were made possible by a $1,000 grant from the Sprout Fund, with food supplied by the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. A variety of groups and individuals helped to make the pop-up food pantries a success, including Student Life, student ambassadors, Phi Theta Kappa, basketball team members, Men of Merit students and others. At Allegheny Campus, PTK students collaborated on a second pop-up food bank, christened “the CCAC Food Box Project,” for a CCAC Honors 2016 Leadership initiative. North Campus is also planning a pop-up food pantry, a project that is being led by North student government. Funding is currently being sought to provide for the addition of permanent food banks at all campuses.

In partnership with the Mon Valley Providers Council, South Campus hosted two community resource fairs, where more than 20 community organizations provided information to students on how to obtain assistance with and/or access to food, housing, child care, assistance with utility bills and drug and alcohol addiction. Students were also able to learn more about employment and volunteer opportunities.

UPMC and Boyce Campus are partnering to train UPMC employees seeking to move up the career ladder in the healthcare organization. UPMC employees have been admitted to the CCAC Surgical Technology Program for fall, and additional UPMC employees will begin the Central Sterile Certificate Program in January 2017. Boyce Campus is also offering a course for employees who are preparing to take the Central Service Technician examination for credentialing.

CCAC is implementing an intergenerational mentoring and respite care program called the CareShared Intergenerational Partnership, which is being made possible through the support of the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania and the Jefferson Regional Foundation. The project, tied to service learning and our work-study program at Allegheny and South campuses, pairs CCAC work-study students with older citizens to: 1) provide a mentoring relationship for the students; 2) provide primary caregivers with respite care breaks; and 3) interest students in geriatric care. Allegheny Campus has been paired with Age Well Pittsburgh and South Campus is partnering with Family Services of Western Pennsylvania.

We continue to explore dynamic partnership opportunities. In October, Dean of Nursing Kathy Mayle and other CCAC administrators met with representatives from Chatham University, The Meiya Education Group and Guangdong Lingnan Institute of Technology, both of China. The Chinese delegation wanted to explore educational pathways and partnerships with CCAC regarding our Nursing and Allied Health program offerings. There was a great exchange and discussion about future partnership opportunities. The Lingnan group is specifically interested in creating dual degrees in nursing. Stay tuned for updates about this exciting development!
Middle States Evaluation Team
Interim Chair Visits CCAC, Self-Study Draft Completed

CCAC welcomed the interim chair of our Middle States Evaluation Team, Dr. Mark McCormick, standing-in for Dr. Richard Fox, who will chair the full team on their visit in March. During Dr. McCormick’s visit on November 14 and 15, he met with administrators, faculty, staff and students and toured the West Hills Center and the Carpenters Training Center. Dr. McCormick carefully reviewed the preliminary draft of our self-study and engaged in conversations about our draft document, which was created under the direction of Steering Committee Co-chairs Stephen Wells and Kevin Smay. I want to thank everyone for the good work that has been accomplished throughout this two-year process. As stated in the Self-Study Executive Summary, the institution is entering a time of significant change and opportunity, and the self-study provides a pathway toward maintaining and improving the institution’s current programs while simultaneously identifying and implementing innovative approaches to community college education.

Strategic Technology Offers Enhanced Student Services, Electronic Functionality

In October, a new online Student Account Center was introduced that enables students to more easily manage their student account and financial information at the college. The system uses Touchnet software, which provides full-service e-commerce functionality, plus many more enhanced features, which include: enrollment in the CCAC payment plan; e-billing and e-refunds; more payment options; a secure and mobile-friendly payment center; text alerts of important information regarding a student’s account; and authorized user access to a third party. We are pleased to offer this new online self-service, which will make for a more efficient and convenient user experience.

We are now in the implementation phase of Ad Astra software, which is expected to be fully functional college-wide in early February 2017. Ad Astra Information Systems is a higher-education technology company that uses data, software and analysis to help institutions enhance academic planning and student success. Ad Astra Platinum Analytics will enable the college to inform decision making regarding course scheduling, enrollment management and degree completion, resulting in the creation of student-friendly and efficient course schedules, with the primary goal of accelerating time-to-completion for students by allowing them to take more credits per term and reduce non-productive credits. The college’s outdated space scheduling system will be replaced by Ad Astra Schedule, which is a more robust system that integrates with Colleague to optimize space utilization, manage rooms and produce custom calendars, workflow and notifications.

We are also kicking off the implementation phase of Advise software. Advise is a Constituent Relationship Management (CRM) system built on the Microsoft Dynamics platform that is designed to enhance student success and improve retention rates. CRM Advise is a powerful tool for improving student outcomes through an institutional approach that strategically leverages technology. In addition, we are in the process of implementing Recruit, a sophisticated CRM system for not only recruiting new students, but also deploying streamlined and intensive communications for onboarding. Personalized communications campaigns will help to introduce the college to our prospective students. Recruit delivers many of the key features that prospective students expect, including: an online inquiry form; campus visit scheduler; integrated online application for admission; and web-based event registration management.

Grant Funding Initiatives: Recent Awards

CCAC has secured more than $306,000 in new grants to fund programs and services that will expand opportunities for a great number of our students. The following awards have been received since June 2016:

Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board Grant
CCAC received a $10,000 grant from the Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board (TRWIB) for a Health Information Technology Apprenticeship. The grant will serve to support the regional planning efforts that will ultimately result in new apprenticeship programs in medical records technology and health care informatics. We also received a $90,000 grant from TRWIB for a GED program at Braddock Hills Center. The grant will serve 30 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act eligible out-of-school youth.

BNY Mellon Grant
CCAC has been awarded a $175,000 grant from BNY Mellon for the Pathway to a Technology Career program. The program seeks to annually enroll 40 students in a
workforce readiness and training program that results in employment with family-sustaining wages in a technology field. The program will offer certificates in Computer-Aided Drafting, Cybersecurity, and Information Technology Support for students served by South Campus and Homewood-Brushton Center. The grant provides for two full-time success coaches, as well as transportation and tuition assistance. Qualified students must be eligible for a Pell Grant, be enrolled full time and meet other requirements. Students are currently being recruited for classes, which will begin in January 2017.

**Anne L. & George H. Clapp Charitable Trust Grant**
CCAC recently received a grant from the Anne L. and George H. Clapp Charitable Trust. This grant will provide funding for the CCAC Early Learning STEM program.

**Sprout Fund Grant**
CCAC received a $1,000 grant from the Sprout Fund for “pop-up” food pantries at Allegheny and Boyce campuses this fall, which were offered to serve students and their families who are experiencing food insecurity. (For a related story, see page 5).

**“It’s On Us PA” Grant.**
We are pleased to report that CCAC has been awarded a $30,000 grant through Governor Wolf’s “It’s On Us PA” program. The college will work to prevent, address and respond effectively to sexual violence through the grant. It’s On Us PA is a statewide campaign that 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.

**Grant Updates**
Last spring, CCAC was awarded a USDA grant totaling $50,000 plus $19,000 in supplemental funds to support the Donora Campus Feasibility Study. Campos Research Strategy was hired as the consultant to initiate Phase I of the study. Currently in Phase II, a Request for Proposals has been prepared, resulting in 14 submissions from local firms. A recommendation as to which firm should conduct the study will be made to the Board of Trustees in January.

The Health Profession Opportunity Grant program continues to expand. All employees are now on board, and they have relocated to their newly renovated spaces at Boyce Campus. As of mid-November, there were 175 total participants (120 in treatment and 55 in control); five students had completed Nurse Aide Training and 46 students were enrolled in credit and noncredit programs for the fall semester. The first professional development workshop for participants was held in September and was facilitated by Allegheny Health Network. Partnerships are also being formed with organizations such as the Allegheny Housing Authority and the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

The TRIO Student Support Services program has added a mentor component, which partners students with faculty and administrators. This opportunity allows students to receive support, guidance and assistance in addition to gaining valuable career insight from CCAC professionals. Mentors meet with their students once a month, and once a semester a collective group event is held to foster relationships and interaction among all participants. TRIO/SSS is a federally-funded program that provides support to students who are first generation, low income or have a disability to persist to graduation.

**Capital Improvement Projects Enhance CCAC Programs, Services & Image**
Several major construction projects and facility-related improvements across the campuses have been completed, and many more are underway and are on track for completion in the spring.

**Allegheny**
The transformation of West Hall into CCAC’s new Cultural & Fine Arts Center is complete. The center opened to students on the first day of fall classes, with the official ribbon cutting on October 5. The stunning facility includes the Art, Music, Speech, Language and Criminal Justice
departments as well as an art gallery, a choral performance area and a recording studio. The Visual Arts Center (VAC), which is now being utilized as a training facility by the City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, will undergo a "building envelope project," with work to start in December. The project will include repairs to the roof, dormers and trim, as well as structural work inside the building. During these upgrades, we will be working to minimize disruption for the bureau, which is leasing the building for a three-year term.

Renovation of the Student Support Services area in the Library Building is underway. The project, which includes painting, the building of new offices and the installation of new carpeting, is expected to be complete in February.

At the K. Leroy Irvis Science Center, Phase I of the Mechanical Renovation Project, revision of the steam system, has been completed. Phase II, the correcting of mechanical system problems, is ready for bid. At Milton Hall, the heating water redundancy and potable water booster project was completed at the end of November. The project replaced the outdated heating water systems and obsolete pumps with redundant systems, in which there is a back-up pump if one pump malfunctions. A booster pump was also installed to provide more water pressure for the potable water to the upper floors. And at Byers Hall, major roof repairs were completed in September.

Work is now getting started at the Homewood-Brushton Center to transform the second floor student lounge into a multi-purpose room. In addition, new classroom and lab space will be created for the Certified Nursing Assistant program. The work will be completed in early spring.

**Boyce**

The refurbishment of the Boyce Campus pedestrian bridge, steps and railing is now in progress. The work, which is weather dependent, is expected to be completed in early 2017. A new scoreboard system has been installed at the Boyce Campus baseball field. In addition, painting and new carpeting projects have been completed while, at the Boyce Campus baseball field, a new scoreboard system has been installed.

**North**

Currently underway, the North Campus envelope project will result in much-needed repairs to the exterior insulation and finishing systems. Workers are examining all parapets, where the roof meets the walls, as well as the seams of the building and upper-level window systems. Inside the building, painting projects have been completed and new carpeting has been installed.

**South**

New chemistry lab fume heads are being installed, with the work to be completed in January. Also, work is being done to repair leaks to the underground hot water system of the campus. Phase I of the Business Continuity project, the initial phase of upgrading ITS systems at South, is underway. The project, which provides infrastructure support for ITS, electrical and HVAC systems, is expected to be completed by early 2017. Additionally, both the carpeting and seating have been replaced in the Theatre while new carpeting has also been installed in other areas of the campus.

Savings on utilities continue to mount from our participation in the U.S. Energy Department’s Better Buildings Challenge, a leadership initiative aiming to create energy efficiency solutions and accelerate investments by companies, organizations and local government. As a partner, we set an ambitious goal of improving the energy efficiency of our entire 1.5 million-square-foot building portfolio by 20 percent within 10 years. As of mid- November, through the Energy Retrofit Project at South Campus, we have already accumulated $448,586 in energy and water savings, plus $17,587.78 in rebates.

**Office of College Services**

Plans are underway for a new fire suppression system at OCS, which will include a sprinkler system on all floors and a new alarm system for the entire building. The project will include a separate sprinkler system for the IT operations center on the third floor. Installation will take place in the coming months, with completion in the early spring.

**College-wide**

Possibly the largest project the college has ever taken on that very few people will ever see, the Electrical Grid Study is in full swing. Phases I and II have been completed at Boyce, South and North campuses and at West Hills Center and have also commenced at Allegheny Campus. At Boyce Campus, we have completed Phase III and are working on Phase IV, and we are also getting ready to begin Phases III and IV at South Campus. The study will provide a framework on which we can build on our ITS infrastructure. A related project also underway is the Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) and Emergency Generator project, which will support emergency power and provide UPS systems to back up the IT network systems college-wide. At the same time, we are conducting an electrical upgrade project that prioritizes and corrects problems found in the grid study.
Work is ongoing on the Facilities Master Plan, which is being prepared by Celli-Flynn Brennan Architects & Planners. The resulting plan, to be completed in the spring, will align with the college’s strategic plan and support academics, enrollment, technology, financial standing, facilities assessment and space utilization. The plan will be designed to give direction and move CCAC forward for the next five to 10 years while providing the flexibility for updates.

And finally, replacement of flooring on all campuses is on track to be completed by the end of 2016. Facilities looked at priority areas and determined where to use resources, as recommended by the campuses.

**CCAC Highlights: Awards & Other Distinctions**

CCAC continues to receive accolades for innovative programs as well as for the many accomplished individuals who teach and oversee these programs. Here are a few examples of programs and people who have received recognition in recent months.

Dr. Charles (Chuck) Martoni, Boyce Campus president, was honored at the Angels’ Place annual Halo Award Dinner held October 20 at LeMont Restaurant atop Mount Washington. During the dinner, Dr. Martoni was recognized by the organization’s Board of Directors for his ongoing support of the agency, which serves the community with early education, child care and family support services. A Swissvale resident, Dr. Martoni was instrumental in helping Angels’ Place grow and open their second of three child care and family support centers, located in Swissvale. Congratulations, Dr. Martoni, on receiving this well-deserved award!

CCAC South Campus student RyKai Wright has been named an Achieving the Dream (ATD) 2017 DREAM Scholar. As such, she will have the opportunity to participate in a unique learning and professional development experience culminating at the ATD annual DREAM 2017 conference on student success, February 21–24 at the Hilton, Union Square, in San Francisco, Calif. There, she will engage with 2,000 other community college leaders, all of whom will be working in tandem to bring about powerful change for students to succeed. Wright is a CCAC Honors Program student and serves as an Honors Program ambassador. She is majoring in Engineering Technology—Mechanical at CCAC South Campus and will graduate in the spring with an Associate of Science before transferring to a four-year university in the fall to pursue her bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering. Congratulations to Ms. Wright on this outstanding achievement!

Recent graduates of the CCAC FireVEST scholarship program were honored by Allegheny County Council in October at the Allegheny County Courthouse. The 15 CCAC program graduates were recognized for their academic achievements and their commitment to serve as volunteer firefighters in their respective communities for the next five years. A partnership between CCAC, the Allegheny County Executive and the Allegheny County Fire Academy, the FireVEST scholarship program provides scholarships to residents of Allegheny County who are either current volunteers or who join a volunteer fire department in Allegheny County. Since January 2009, more than 330 Allegheny County volunteer firefighters have participated in this recruitment and retention program. Congratulations to all 15 graduates!
Congratulations to CCAC North Campus Cross Country team member Cody DiVecchio, who won the Western Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference (WPCC) Championship held at Westmoreland County Community College on October 15. One week later, DiVecchio finished fourth among 31 runners at the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region XX Men’s Championship in Herndon, Va. He went on to compete in the NJCAA Division III Men’s Cross Country Championship in Canandaigua, N.Y., on November 12, finishing 55 out of 182 runners.

CCAC North Campus Golf team member Jake Gazella made the All-Conference team of the Western Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference (WPCC) and finished the season with the conference’s lowest scoring average (74.5). He was also runner-up at two tournaments in October—the WPCC Tournament at the Links at Spring Church and the Pennsylvania Invitational Golf Tournament held at Penn National Golf Course. My congratulations to this scratch golfer!

In October, CCAC was honored for the college’s Vocational and Career Training for Learning Support Student program. Theresa Bryant, vice president, Workforce Development, and Mary Jo Guercio, director, Community Training and Development, received the Exemplary Noncredit Workforce Development Program Award from the National Council for Workforce Education. Students participating in CCAC’s learning supports program are individuals who have a desire to train for a fulfilling career and who have significant intellectual, behavioral, learning and/or emotional disabilities. Students accepted into these programs have chosen to prepare for, obtain and maintain competitive employment in the fields of Nursing Assistant, Health Care Technician, Environmental Services/Janitorial, Indoor/Outdoor Building Maintenance and Food Service. I congratulate the Workforce Development Division on this significant award.

Four members of the CCAC family authored the article “The Impact of the Clinical Social Worker in a Community College Biotech Program: A Cohort Study,” which was published in the Journal of College Science Teaching (July/August 2016). The article was authored by Anne Tanski, Workforce Development project manager; Sandra Bobick, Learning Community coordinator; Katherine Mosley-Turner, student support specialist; and Giovanni Garofalo, assistant director of Planning and Research. I encourage all to read this very interesting and informative article—congratulations on this collaborative effort!
From October 2015 to September 2016, CCAC Nursing Program graduates sitting for the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX) performed at a total average pass rate of 90.74 percent, which is well above the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing NCLEX pass rate requirement of 80 percent, as well as above the U.S. average of 84.38 percent. Congratulations to all the Nursing graduates and faculty on this outstanding accomplishment.

CCAC nurses should also be commended for their efforts in reaching out to the less fortunate members of our community. On September 10, the Allegheny Campus Student Nurses Association of Pennsylvania (SNAP) Club hosted their third Cookout in the Park with Healthcare Options. The event was aimed at helping the area’s homeless and others obtain free healthcare, safety and prevention information. CCAC student nurses also served a picnic lunch and provided games for children, as well as handouts of toiletries, clothing, backpacks and school supplies.

Additionally, I am very pleased to report that the CCAC Nursing program was recently recognized at Pittsburgh Magazine’s Excellence in Nursing Awards. Ebony Edwards, assistant professor of Nursing at Allegheny campus, received honorable mention for Academics; and Dr. Renee Thompson, a CCAC alumna and Nursing adjunct, won under the category of Entrepreneur. Congratulations to both on this well-deserved recognition!

The Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) has reviewed the CCAC 2016 Annual Report of Current Status and Resource Assessment Matrix to determine compliance with accreditation Standards and CoARC Accreditation Policies and Procedures. Based on the review, the commission confirmed CCAC’s Respiratory Care program met or exceeded all currently set thresholds for success on each of the required outcome measures. I congratulate the Program Director Richard Laurent, faculty and staff for their leadership in completing this task and providing continuous improvement in respiratory care education.

CCAC’s Radiologic Technology Program has exceeded the required standards as published by the JRCERT (Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology). I want to acknowledge and congratulate Dr. Kellerman, faculty and staff for receiving 100 percent compliance with the JRCERT accreditors for the Radiologic Technology Program at Boyce Campus. The accreditors also granted the maximum timeframe of eight years for the program’s next visit.

Following a continuing accreditation review and a site visit of CCAC’s Medical Laboratory Technician Program in September, the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences Board of Directors approved continuing accreditation for the program until October 31, 2026. As a result, CCAC’s Medical Laboratory Technician Program will commence the continuing accreditation process with submission of the Self-Study Report on October 1, 2025 and will schedule a site visit during spring 2026. Congratulations on receiving this remarkable 10-year accreditation.

CCAC adjunct faculty member Bilita McIntosh has been awarded the title of Ms. Pennsylvania Plus America 2016. She competed for the title of Miss American Beauties Plus Elite Queen at the national pageant in October, finishing as second runner-up. McIntosh, a computer science instructor at CCAC North Campus and a CCAC alumna, is dedicating her year of service to promoting her personal platform, “Beauty and Brains, Intelligence is Beautiful.” Congratulations Ms. McIntosh!

College Events Mark an Historic Year
This has been a very eventful and memorable year! Below is a sampling of some key events that have taken place in the past six months. CCAC now has a convenient college-wide events calendar where you can see everything that is going on, months in advance, all in one place and at the click of a mouse. To view the calendar, click on the following: ccac.edu/events

South Campus Honors Suite Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting
On September 19, the college celebrated the opening of the new Honors Suite at South Campus with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The purpose of the center is to provide CCAC
Honors students from all four campuses with additional learning opportunities, as well as a place to connect with fellow students and Honors faculty members. The Honors Center is an interconnected, student-focused space on campus devoted to the CCAC Honors Program, which exists to unite outstanding students and faculty in the pursuit and advancement of academic excellence. I was delighted to join South Campus President Charlene Newkirk, Honors Director Julia Fennell, Honors Alumnus and Adjunct Professor Terrance Manning and Allegheny Campus Honors Scholar Surbhi Sharma in speaking to those gathered about the value of Honors education and the significance of the new space for Honors students at CCAC.

**Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony**
CCAC held its first college-wide induction ceremony for new Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society members on November 18 on Allegheny Campus. Approximately 50 student inductees from the four CCAC campus chapters of PTK participated. The four student chapter presidents officiated, and chapter advisors conferred honor stoles on the new inductees. Chapter advisors also installed the chapter presidents and a total of 21 officers from Allegheny, Boyce, North and South campuses. Along with North Campus President Dr. Gretchen Mullin-Sawicki and Provost Dr. Stuart Blacklaw, I had the honor of speaking to the inductees and guests. The celebration was a wonderful opportunity to promote Phi Theta Kappa’s mission of recognizing academic achievement and providing college students with opportunities to grow as scholars and leaders.

**Manufacturing Day 2016 & CCAC Skilled Trades & Services Fair**
In October, CCAC West Hills Center invited high school students, parents, community members and local businesses to Manufacturing Day 2016, an international event where thousands of businesses and schools across North America celebrate modern manufacturing and inspire the next generation of manufacturers. Attendees participated in facility tours and hands-on demonstrations, talked to employers and learned about educational opportunities that offer an edge in a competitive market. Visitors also had an opportunity to participate in a series of interactive demonstrations in the Mechatronics and Welding laboratories, take guided facility tours and engage college and local business leaders in a panel discussion focused on manufacturing careers and the future of manufacturing. West Hills Center also hosted a **CCAC Skilled Trades & Services Fair** in November. At least 500 attendees, primarily high school students from throughout the region, learned all about in-demand technical and trades careers. Participants enjoyed hands-on student contests and live trades demonstrations throughout the day.

**Robert M. Mill Lecture Series**
CCAC was proud to present “Leveraging the Collective Strengths of Labor and Management to Secure Exceptional Employee Benefits,” a labor and management discussion, on December 1 at Boyce Campus. The lecture explored how the 53 entities of the Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium work together to deliver health care plans widely touted as some of the best in the region. The event was the latest in the college’s Robert M. Mill Lecture Series, **Pittsburgh Labor & Management Past & Future: A Labor-Management Discussion.** This event provides a forum in which individuals with diverse viewpoints can gather to discuss the impact that labor-management relations have on the region and the economy.

And please mark your calendars for the college-wide Nursing Pinning Ceremony, scheduled to take place on Friday, December 16, at 6:00 p.m. in the gymnasium of the Physical Education Building on Allegheny Campus. This will be a memorable event you won’t want to miss.
As with previous editions, this report contains only a small portion of the many successful initiatives undertaken and accomplishments achieved over these past six months. However, I hope it has helped illustrate the tremendous work being done here at CCAC.

Before this 50th Anniversary year draws to a close, I’d like to take this opportunity to share with you what CCAC has come to mean to me in these past few years. When I joined the college in March 2014, everything was new and unfamiliar. I had a lot to learn about the college and its culture, the programs and people—even navigating Pittsburgh was a bit of an adventure. It all took time, but I had a considerable amount of help from the CCAC Board of Trustees, the Educational Foundation Board of Directors, community leaders and the college community. We have made significant progress toward meeting many of our goals, and I look forward to continuing to work together in the months and years to come. I have learned a great deal during my tenure, and I am deeply grateful for the ongoing support you have all shown to this college, to our students and to me personally.

For 50 years, CCAC has provided students from every background imaginable a place to learn, discover their passions and pursue their dreams. And with your help, it will continue to be this for the next 50 years. Here’s to one million stories…and counting!

I look forward to seeing you at the holiday party at Byers Hall on December 15.

Happy Holidays,
Dr. Quintin B. Bullock