

NEXUS

BRIDGES TO BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE & STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY: 13 SUCCESSFUL YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP IN BIOPREP



Photography by William Baker

NCC Students Arianna Reyes, Christopher Morales and Marie Vendryes working with stir plates and autopipettors to make plates for culturing genetically modified bacteria.

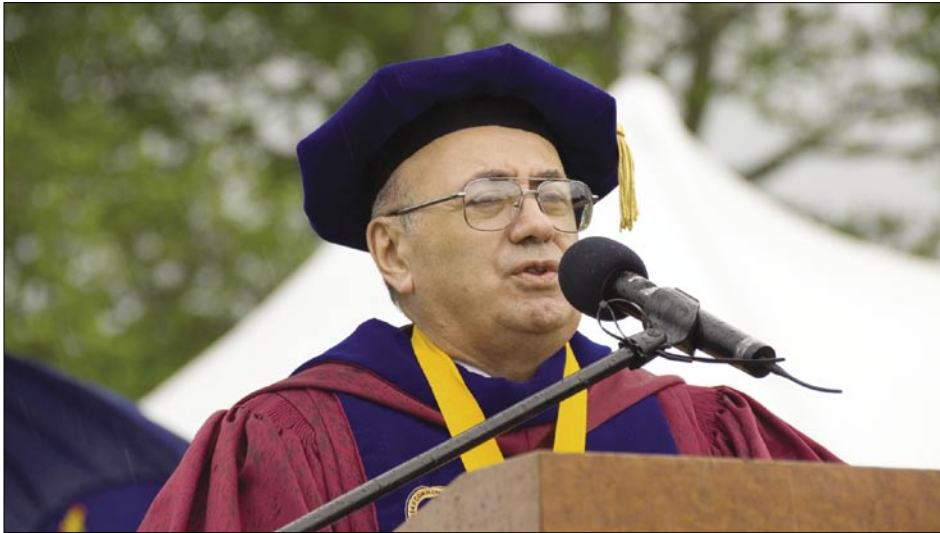
FOR THE PAST 40 YEARS, NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE HAS BEEN EDUCATING STUDENTS IN THE SCIENCES. FOR THE LAST THIRTEEN OF THEM, NCC HAS BEEN IN PARTNERSHIP WITH Stony Brook University in a prestigious program called the Biology Preparation in Research and Education Program (BioPREP). BioPREP is run under the auspices of the Long Island Group Advancing Science Education (LIGASE) through a grant from the National Institutes of Health Bridges to the Baccalaureate Program. It was developed to encourage students at two-year institutions who want to transfer to four-year schools and prepare for careers in the biological sciences. Admission to the BioPREP program is a very challenging process. Potential students must write a personal statement, and have

a grade point average of at least 3.0 (and have earned at least 24 credits, with at least two lab science courses) and have two letters of recommendation from faculty. This year, seven students from Nassau are participating in the five-week summertime program, staying at the Stony Brook dorms during the week. One of the NCC students who took part in BioPREP in 2005 was Cindy Thomas, who graduated from Nassau this May. “I found that the BioPREP program gave me a unique opportunity to work at a research-based, four-year institution on a variety of projects,” she said. Cindy’s particular project involved using tumor suppressor genes to try to kill active human cancer cells. Like the other students participating in the program, she had access to all campus facilities at Stony Brook. “I felt like I was part

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Class of 2006 — Persistence with a Purpose

by Dr. Sean A. Fanelli



Excerpts from Dr. Fanelli's message to the Class of 2006:

“THE REFORMER AND PIONEER IN PHOTO-JOURNALISM, JACOB RIIS, ONCE WROTE:

‘When nothing seems to help, I go look at a stonecutter hammering away at a rock perhaps a hundred times without as much as a crack showing in it. Yet at the hundredth and first blow, it will split in two. And I know it was not that blow that did it, but all that had gone before.’

What Jacob Riis was praising was the virtue of “persistence with a purpose.” Class of 2006, you are the embodiment of “persistence with a purpose.” It is what

brought you to this day amidst all of the challenging demands that have competed for your time and for your energy. And it is this same “persistence with a purpose” that will embolden and fortify you as you establish and realize new goals for yourselves in the year ahead.

The Class of 2006 represents all races, many nations and a bounty of personal aspirations. The Class of 2006 has 3,217 graduates and 3,217 stories, each embodying “persistence with a purpose.”

Just under sixty percent of you are female. While the youngest graduate candidate is 18, and the oldest is 78, the average age of all graduate candidates is 27. There are

four sets of twins, 25 sets of siblings and three sets of parent/child combinations. Six-hundred-thirty-five of you are graduating with honors [while] 120 of you are summa cum laude and 38 have a perfect 4.0 grade average. ... You realized Nassau would provide your key to success. You quickly learned that only in the dictionary does ‘success’ come before ‘work.’ The members of the Class of 2006 come with different stories but with similar persistence. Be flexible; remember your roots. Congratulations!”

Graduation Highlights:

Although the Sunday, May 21 ceremony was cut short by rain, the spirits of the Class of 2006 were not dampened. Weather abbreviated addresses by NCC President Dr. Sean Fanelli, Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi and United States Senator Charles Schumer inspired the graduates to continue their success, both in higher education and in life. The Nassau Community College band and chorus entertained the graduates and guests while the newly formed NCC public safety color guard lent a touch of grandeur to the event.

Tika Hernández Esler Named Associate Dean of Admissions at Nassau Community College



NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE HAS NAMED TIKA HERNÁNDEZ ESLER ITS NEW ASSOCIATE DEAN OF ADMISSIONS.

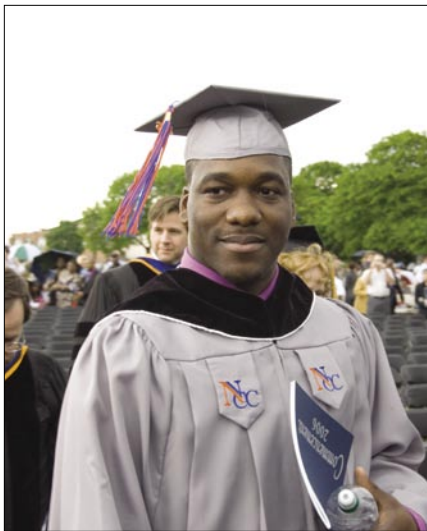
Esler was born in Cuba and arrived in the United States when she was 13 years old. She has had 37 years of experience in higher education and is a former resident of the state of Washington, where she was Dean of Student Services at Bellevue (Washington) Community College. Prior to that, Esler was Associate Dean of Enrollment Services at Bellevue. She also served as Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships at Seattle Central Community

College, a counselor in the Financial Aid Office at the University of Washington and a Financial Aid Assistant at Shoreline Community College during her career.

“Community College is my passion,” said Esler, who believes that every individual should have access to higher education. She has spent her career as a student-centered advocate and an ardent defender of the value of a college education. “Like many community colleges, Nassau is a fount of opportunity for the people of Long Island and beyond,” Esler said. “I look forward to working with my colleagues to increase admissions to the College.”

In addition to her professional duties, Esler has been active in many professional organizations. Among them are the American Association of Women in Junior and Community Colleges, the National Council of Educational Opportunity Associations and the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. She also served as a member of the City Council for the City of Kenmore, Washington.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2006!



Grants to NCC Highest Ever: \$3 Million

The amount of external funding awarded to Nassau Community College in 2004–2005 from local, state, federal, foundation and corporate sources totaled \$ 3,002,986, making it the highest amount ever received by NCC. Fifty-two faculty and professional staff from thirty campus departments were responsible for securing these awards, serving as project coordinators, project directors, or principal investigators.

According to NCC President Sean A. Fanelli, external funding provides the “extra margin of excellence” for our College’s activities. Grants were received from thirty-five governmental agencies and private organizations, including the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Labor, The U.S. Department of Education, FIPSE, the National Institutes of Health, and the Department of Health and Human Services. Current grants provide support services for students with disabilities, fund

career and technical programs, supplement academic department projects, and support collaborative projects with K–12 school systems, as well as research conducted by College faculty. Modest faculty grants, funded by the NCC Foundation, support development and research.

Among the important grants received by the College, the Perkins Grant provided funds for Nassau Community College to enhance technology in various departments. This included: improved instruction in a Wireless classroom for Accounting and Business Administration students; technological upgrading in Allied Health Sciences; digital technology for Commercial Art Students; an updated instructional setting for Hospitality and Business students; technological upgrading of the Interior Design Lab in the Department of Marketing; an improved and upgraded Nursing Learning Center; upgraded Office Technology lab equipment; upgraded

equipment in the Studio Recording Technology Lab; visits to Business and Industry to improve career and technical education; and increased accessibility of media materials for deaf and hard of hearing career and technical students; and provided College and financial aid information and assistance at the local One-Stop Centers. Other important grants received by NCC include a partnership grant with Brookhaven National Laboratory funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to create a 3-D Visualization Theatre. Project Director, Stephen Beck, Chair of the Biology Department, oversees this project. A three-year, \$846,000 Federal grant for Nursing from the Department of Health and Human Services funds activities to retain minority and underserved students in the College’s nursing program. Nursing Professor Carmelle Bellefleur, RN, Ph.D., is the grant’s project director.

CHRISTINA KELLER NAMED VALEDICTORIAN OF THE NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE CLASS OF 2006

Christina Keller of Port Washington, the valedictorian of the Nassau Community College Class of 2006, attended Stevens Institute of Technology after graduating from Schriber H.S. in 1996. She graduated with a degree in engineering and then worked as a chemical engineer for two years before deciding that the field wasn't for her. Christina always wanted to do something that made a difference in peoples' lives. A friend suggested that she think about a career in the medical field. Ever the methodical scientist, Christina called several local hospitals, all of which recommended NCC. She was accepted into the NCC nursing program. Excited by the diversity of the school and surprised by the rigorousness of the nursing program, Christina excelled. Although the coursework was challenging, she saw the reasons for it. "My professors were demanding but supportive. I learned so much," Christina said. She believes that Nassau is a wonderful asset to the community and that more people should take advantage of the opportunity it offers for a high quality, affordable education. Christina is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. She graduated with a perfect 4.0 grade point average. Christina will soon be taking the New York State Nursing Board test and ultimately hopes to build a career in pediatric nursing.



ATIF SIAL ELECTED NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT FOR THE 2006-2007 ACADEMIC YEAR



Atif Sial—a resident of Floral Park and the new Student Government Association (SGA) president at Nassau Community College—believes in being part of the solution. Atif attended high school in Missouri. When he came to Nassau Community College, he was excited by the diversity of the population. Atif also decided to take advantage of the learning opportunities at the College. He was a freshman senator in the SGA, and a member of the Speech and Debate Team, the Muslim Student Association, the Wall Street Club and the World Political Association. During his term as SGA President, Atif hopes to encourage other Nassau students to get involved the way he did. He also plans on finding ways to increase interclub communication and create further accommodations for disabled students. In addition, "I would like to listen to the students for other potential projects," he said. Atif maintains that his time at NCC has been wonderful. "We have a great school with amazing professors," he said. Atif views himself as an observer of life. To paraphrase a quote by Mahatma Gandhi that's important to him, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world." In other words, we all must be part of the solution.

VARLENE SAUVEUR ELECTED NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT TRUSTEE FOR THE 2006-2007 ACADEMIC YEAR

Varlene Sauveur, the new Student Trustee at Nassau Community College, loves to learn. She graduated from Baldwin High School in 2005, where she was on the executive board of the Future Business Leaders of America, which is part of a national organization for high school students. This year, Varlene went to Albany with other students, professors and staff to SUNY Day, a day in which students and employees from state universities lobby legislators for more aid for their schools. Her interest in government was sparked from this experience and by her involvement in the Haitian Student Organization. Varlene decided to become more active in campus life and run for student trustee. "I love Nassau Community College. It's a great starting point for any student interested in higher education," Varlene said. She believes that NCC has much to offer and is especially grateful for the dedicated professors and small class sizes. In her position as Student Trustee on College's Board of Trustees, Varlene plans to be an advocate for her fellow students. She looks forward to working with other Board members and learning about the nuts and bolts of student government and how a College is run. Varlene's twin sister Varda also attends NCC.



BRIDGES TO BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM

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of a community of scientists with similar goals and objectives,” said Cindy, who will be attending Stony Brook in the fall. She plans to continue her education at the post-graduate level to prepare for a career in biomedicine.

NCC has a well-equipped biology department with modern labs and an outstanding faculty. These resources make NCC students outstanding candidates for the BioPREP program. According to Dr. Catherine Kelly, a biology professor at NCC and campus coordinator for BioPREP, the program is highly beneficial for Nassau students as well. “I think the most important part of this program is that the students have a hands-on experience that includes the planning and execution of experiments, troubleshooting difficulties, and making collaborative decisions with their peers. It lets them see the process of science,” she said.

Students involved in the BioPREP program at Stony Brook become involved in a variety of different research projects. Among them are the isolation of DNA, gel electrophoresis, bacterial transformation and polymerase chain reaction. After learning a number of scientific techniques, students formulate proposals for indi-



NCC 2006 BioPREP Students: Seated L to R: Carolina Gallego, Marie Vendryes, Arianna Reyes, Stephanie Davidson. Standing L to R: Christopher Morales, Miguel Aria, Dr. Catherine Kelly, NCC Biology Professor, Ricky Kuril.

vidual research projects. Concentrated work on these projects begins during the second week of the program. Staying at the dorms during the week for the entire five-week program, they are immersed in scientific research, take part in lab meet-

“Our expectations are high, but so are the rewards.”

*Dr. David Bynum,
Stony Brook University*

ings and presentations and have the opportunity to listen to guest lecturers who speak to them regarding various aspects of the biological sciences.

According to Dr. David Bynum, Director of the BioPREP program at Stony Brook, “Our expectations are high, but so are the rewards.” Dr. Bynum began the program in 1993 as the ‘Bridges to Baccalaureate Program.’ Many students who have participated in BioPREP in the past have continued their education at four-year institutions and at the post-graduate level and gone on to become physicians, scientists and teachers. Stated Dr. Bynum: “I see a tremendous amount of growth in a short time from the students who participate. Their enthusiasm for science continues to grow throughout the program and beyond.”

THE NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE FIREHOUSE PLAZA ART GALLERY PRESENTS

“can’t take my eyes off of you...”

An Exhibition of Photographs by Susan Kravitz, Through September 14



self-portrait #3 ©susan kravitz

The Firehouse Plaza Art Gallery at Nassau Community College is pleased to announce the exhibition, “can’t take my eyes off of you...” This exhibition, a retrospective of “people” photographs taken around the world over the past twenty years, features the photography of Susan Kravitz, Dean of Arts and Humanities at NCC. It runs through September 14.

The Firehouse Plaza Art Gallery is located in Room 140 of the College Center Building. All exhibitions are free and open to the public. For gallery hours or more information about “can’t take my eyes off of you...”, please call 516-572-7162.

FROM NASSAU TO WASHINGTON D.C. Where Success Starts ... And Continues

By *United States Congressman Steve Israel*

I fondly remember the institution that gave me my start in higher education: Nassau Community College.

Growing up in Levittown, I chose to attend NCC for the affordable higher educational opportunities it offered while allowing me to stay involved in our Long Island community. What I found at NCC was a bastion of intellectual development and classmates with diverse backgrounds and viewpoints and a commitment to expanding their opportunities through higher education.

According to the American Association of Community Colleges, nearly 45 percent of all American undergraduates attend or have attended one of our country's 1,157 community colleges. One particularly commendable feature of community colleges is the expansion of educational opportunity that they offer to groups traditionally underrepresented at four-year institutions—including women and minorities, “non-traditional” students and students that cannot afford a four-year education.

Nassau Community College provided me with the framework to be successful in college and politics. My peers at NCC

who worked full-time in addition to taking classes inspired me to work full-time on Capitol Hill while attending George Washington University. The diversity of NCC's student body provided me with tangible examples of the fact that education is much more than what goes on inside the classroom.

To me, being an effective member of Congress means that I address the issues that face our nation and our Long Island community. I gained an understanding of the importance of strong communities

“Nassau Community College provided me with the framework to be successful in college and politics.”

while living and learning on Long Island. Nassau Community College is one of those components that play an important role in our community and in educating future leaders. As a sign of my understanding of the value of community colleges and of my commitment to their success, I joined the recently formed Community College Caucus of the House of Representatives.



Editor's Note:

Congressman Steve Israel got his start in politics by working as a constituent correspondent on Capitol Hill while attending George Washington University. Since he was first sworn in to the House in 2001, he has been widely acknowledged as an independent, effective and emerging national leader. Steve Israel lives in Huntington with his wife, Suffolk County Family Court Judge Marlene Budd. He has two daughters and a miniature schnauzer named Max.

First Annual NCC Distinguished Alumni Event Held on May 16

On Tuesday, May 16 Nassau Community College held its first annual Distinguished Alumni Event at the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City. This fundraising gala honored four Nassau alumni, each of whom distinguished him or herself in their particular field of endeavor. Proceeds from the event will go to enhancing current scholarships, creating new student scholarships and providing financial support for new academic projects not financed by public funds. The Distinguished Alumni Event honorees were: Dr. Dolores Fernández, President of Hostos Community College (CUNY); Ben Mevorach, News Director of 1010 WINS; Valerie A. Royal, Senior Director of Conferences and Meetings, National Association of International Educators; and Lou Miaritis, Executive Vice President of Lessings, Inc.



Distinguished NCC Alumni (L to R): Lou Miaritis, Valerie A. Royal, NCC President Dr. Sean A. Fanelli, Dolores Fernández and Ben Mevorach.

FACULTY / STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Harold Bellinger, J.D., MPIA, Assistant to the President for Affirmative Action and Diversity and ADA/504 Officer, provided testimony to the Nassau County Legislature's Public Safety Committee regarding proposed sex offender residency restriction legislation. His comments focused on the constitutional law aspects of the legislation.

Prof. Eugene Brown, Chemistry, was invited by Morgan State University's School of Public Health and Policy to be the keynote speaker at its 2nd Annual International Conference on Complimentary and Alternative Medicine this spring.

Prof. Jeff Cohen, Communications, was elected to the office of Member-at-Large of the New York State Communication Association (NYCSA) Executive Council at its annual convention. NYCSA is a professional organization of faculty, students and professionals in the field of communication.

Seri DiLapi, College Relations, was awarded the Heart of the Mission Award by the American Heart Association at its annual dinner. This award is presented to the individual who has dedicated herself to furthering the mission of the American Heart Association. In the past two years, Seri has coordinated the American Heart Walk at NCC, which has raised more than \$18,000.

Dr. Wendy Eisner, Psychology, co-authored *Guidelines for the Standardized Identification of the 2e Student*, published *The 2e Educational Approach* and *The Home School Partnership* and contributed on 2e children to the textbook *Infants & Toddlers* (6th Edition). She also helped revise the standards for counseling and education programs to incorporate the needs of the gifted and helped start LI-TECA's mentoring program. In addition, Dr. Eisner helped plan the 20th annual AEGUS conference, where she spoke on home-school collaboration. She is also helping to plan a national 2e coalition.

Dr. Lorraine Findlay, Allied Health Sciences, was invited to join an official U.S. delegation of Scientists and Infectious Disease Specialists who traveled to South Africa last fall. The mission of the delegation was to compile facts, foster international scientific relationships and provide advice on health issues.

Prof. Stella Fox, Reading and Basic Education, presented a paper entitled "The Role of Narrative in Developmental English" at the Community College Humanities Association National Conference, "The Humanities: Who Tells the Story?", in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Prof. Fox's

presentation examined how the narrative form can build community, humanize faculty, empower students and lay the foundation for academic discourse in a developmental English class.

Profs. Laura Gilkes, Allied Health Sciences; Joanne Lecci, Criminal Justice; Deborah O'Brien-Smith, Reading and Basic Education; and Roberta Schroder, Economics and Finance, received recognition for Excellence in Teaching at the April 4 Chancellor's Award Reception.

Prof. Connie Egelman, Student Personnel Services, received the Professional Service Award.

Dr. Patricia Halcrow, Sociology, was elected to the Suffolk Cooperative Library System board in January.

Prof. Jack Mandel, Marketing/Retailing/Fashion, was the keynote speaker for Standard Funding Corporation's annual sales convention. His talk was entitled "Magnetic Marketing for Insurance Professionals." He presented "Magnetic Marketing for the Small Retailer" at the Syosset Chamber of Commerce in May. In addition, *Long Island Pulse* magazine published Prof. Mandel's article "Long Island: A Treasure Island of Art, Fine Crafts and Collectibles" in its April, 2006 issue.

Dr. Evangeline Manjares, Associate Dean, Financial Aid, was invited to attend the welcome dinner for the new president of the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia. The dinner was held at the Yale Club in New York City. The United Board works to support a Christian presence in colleges and universities in Asia through partnerships, grant support, administered programs, faculty development and leadership.

Dr. Kumkum Prabhakar, Biology, participated in the Teacher Education Professional Development Delegation sponsored by People to People Ambassador Programs to China this spring.

Carlos Rentas, Jr., Director of Health & Safety, was elected to serve a two-year term as Secretary/Treasurer of the Executive Board of the SUNY Environmental Health & Safety Association of New York (SEHSA). The SEHSA mission is to advance and champion the highest standards of environmental health and safety on academic campuses in New York State, and to provide a forum for the exchange of professional information, regulatory interpretations and interaction between government agencies.

Kenneth Saunders, V.P. of Academic Student Services, has been accepted into the summer program at Harvard University's Institute for Educational Management. This program provides a rare opportunity for senior level administrators to examine critical leadership challenges facing higher education.

Prof. Margaret Shaw, Reading and Basic Education, participated in The Masters Mystery Art Show 2005, held in Florida. The show benefits the Master of Fine Arts in Visual Arts program at Florida International University in Miami.

Alicia Steger, Associate Director, College Relations, has been elected first vice president of the Public Relations Professionals of Long Island, a professional association for public relations practitioners from the public, private and non-profit sectors. Steger will also continue to be on the executive board of the NCC Women's Faculty Association.

Dr. Sharon Steuer, Mathematics/Statistics/Computers, was selected to be included in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*.

Prof. Mario Susko, English, has had the anthology of modern Jewish-American short stories, *A Declaration of Being*, which he co-edited with Myron Schwartzman and translated into Croatian, published by his Zagreb publisher, Meandar. Also, two British journals, *The Interpreter's House* and *Dream Catcher*, have nominated his poems "Observing Peace" and "Checkpoint" respectively, for the 2006 Forward Poetry Prize in the best single poem category.

Prof. Joseph Varacalli, Sociology, was quoted in Catholic Online. Dr. Varacalli is the director for the Center of Catholic Studies at NCC and has written extensively on matters related to the Catholic faith and is known as a national authority on these subjects.

Dr. Clive Wynter, Chemistry, was selected to be included in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*.

Dr. Donald Yu, English, was selected to be included in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*.

Note: All members of the College community are invited to send articles pertaining to their professional and community activities to Nexus for inclusion on a space availability basis. For more information, call Gail Ignacio Mattimore or Alicia Steger, Editor, in the College Relations Office at 516.572.9634 or 516.572.7249.

IMPORTANT REGISTRATION & APPLICATION INFORMATION

It's Not Too Late to Register for Summer Classes or Apply for the Fall Semester at Nassau Community College

Registration

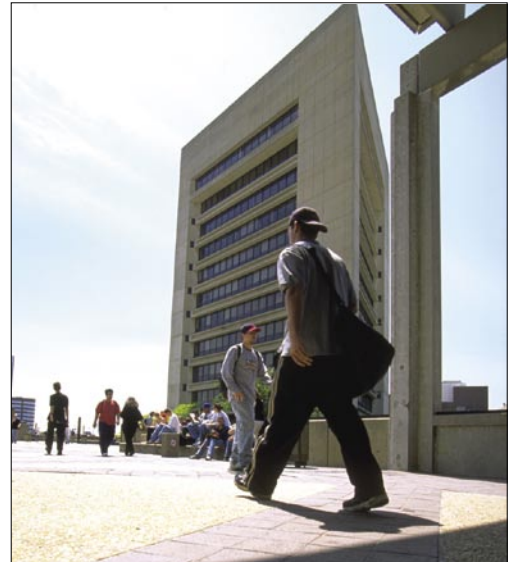
Summer Session II: July 5-August 3

Summer Session III: August 7-August 25

- Classes are available on a first-come, first-served basis
- Registration continues until the last business day before classes begin

Registration & Applications for Fall 2006

- New applications are still being accepted
- Call the Admissions Office at 516.572.7347 for more information.
- Current students may register directly at the Registrar
- Call the Registrar's Office at 516.572.7131 for more information.



Academic Advisement

Academic Advisement is available through the Academic Advisement Center (Building U)
Please call the center at 516.572.7118 for the schedule of advisor availability for your major.

Registrar, Admissions & Academic Advisement Summer Hours:

Monday through Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

For more information visit our website at www.ncc.edu



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A unit of the State University of New York

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