

BARON BEAT

2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

**STUDENT
SUCCESS
CENTER'S
FIRST
YEAR**

**SAVING
\$75,000 ON
A ROWAN
UNIVERSITY
DEGREE**

RCBC's college
affordability
game changer,
the 3+1 program

**NAMING THE
HOMELESS**

RCBC Foundation
Scholarship recipient
tells their stories

**RCBC STUDENT
COMEDIAN
FINDS SUCCESS
AND SUPPORT**

Making light of
his life on the
autism spectrum

**NEW PRESIDENT,
NEW VISION**

MEET DR. MICHAEL A. CIOCE

3+1= More 4 You!

3+1 HAS TRANSFORMED RCBC INTO ONE OF THE REGION'S FASTEST-GROWING COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Students get:

MORE savings | **MORE** prepared for a career
MORE high-quality education | **MORE** convenience

Complete your senior year bachelor's degree courses with Rowan University, save around \$75,000 and avoid high college debt!



For more information, please visit rcbc.edu/3plus1



**BURLINGTON COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS**

2018

Kate Gibbs
Freeholder Director

Linda Hughes
Freeholder Deputy Director

Tom Pullion
Freeholder

Balvir Singh
Freeholder

Latham Tiver
Freeholder

BARON BEAT

2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Vol. 1 No. 1

Rowan College at Burlington County transforms lives by delivering innovative, high-quality and affordable educational experiences in an accessible and diverse environment.

ROWAN COLLEGE AT BURLINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. George N. Nyikita
Chair

Mr. Christopher J. Brown
Vice Chair

Mr. James C. Anderson, Jr.

Mr. Kevin Brown

Mr. Daniel Gee

Ms. Renee C. Liciaga

Ms. Jamie Martin

Mr. Daryl Minus-Vincent
Interim Executive Burlington County Superintendent

Mr. Dorion Morgan

Mr. Gino A. Pasqualone

Mr. Mickey Quinn

Ms. Cassadie Hynd
Alumni Trustee

Dr. Michael A. Cioce
College President and Board Secretary

Mr. William Burns
Board Solicitor, Capehart & Scatchard

To keep up with the latest news from the college, please visit: rcbc.edu/newsletter to receive our email updates.



Stay connected with us at rcbc.edu/social-media.

This report covers events from the 2017-2018 academic year and reflects the state of the college through June 2018.

Designed and printed at Rowan College at Burlington County.



FEATURES

4 **A NEW VISION**
RCBC President Dr. Michael A. Cioce brings a new Vision for Success

8 **HARRISON BROWN**
RCBC student comedian makes light of his life on the autism spectrum

17 **WHAT DOES THE STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER MEAN TO YOU?**
A Q&A with the RCBC community

22 **NAMING THE HOMELESS**
RCBC Foundation Scholarship recipient helps the homeless by sharing their stories

ACADEMICS

- 10 3+1 PROGRAM
- 12 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS
- 13 CULINARY

CULTURE

- 14 BARONS BEST
- 16 OFFICE MOVES

SERVICE

- 24 CELEBRATION OF PHILANTHROPY
- 26 BLACK HISTORY MONTH
- 28 GIVE KIDS A SMILE
- 30 THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW

SHARING

- 31 GRADUATION 2018
- 34 AWARDS
- 35 NUMBERS



“Rowan College at Burlington County is the best community college in the region because our students, faculty and staff have no equal. –Dr. Michael A. Cioce”

A *new* VISION

Rowan College at Burlington County’s new leader helped transform the college and brings a new Vision for Success.

Dr. Michael A. Cioce has experienced success in his own academic career as a first generation college student and during his steady rise to become RCBC’s sixth president at the beginning of the institution’s 50th year.

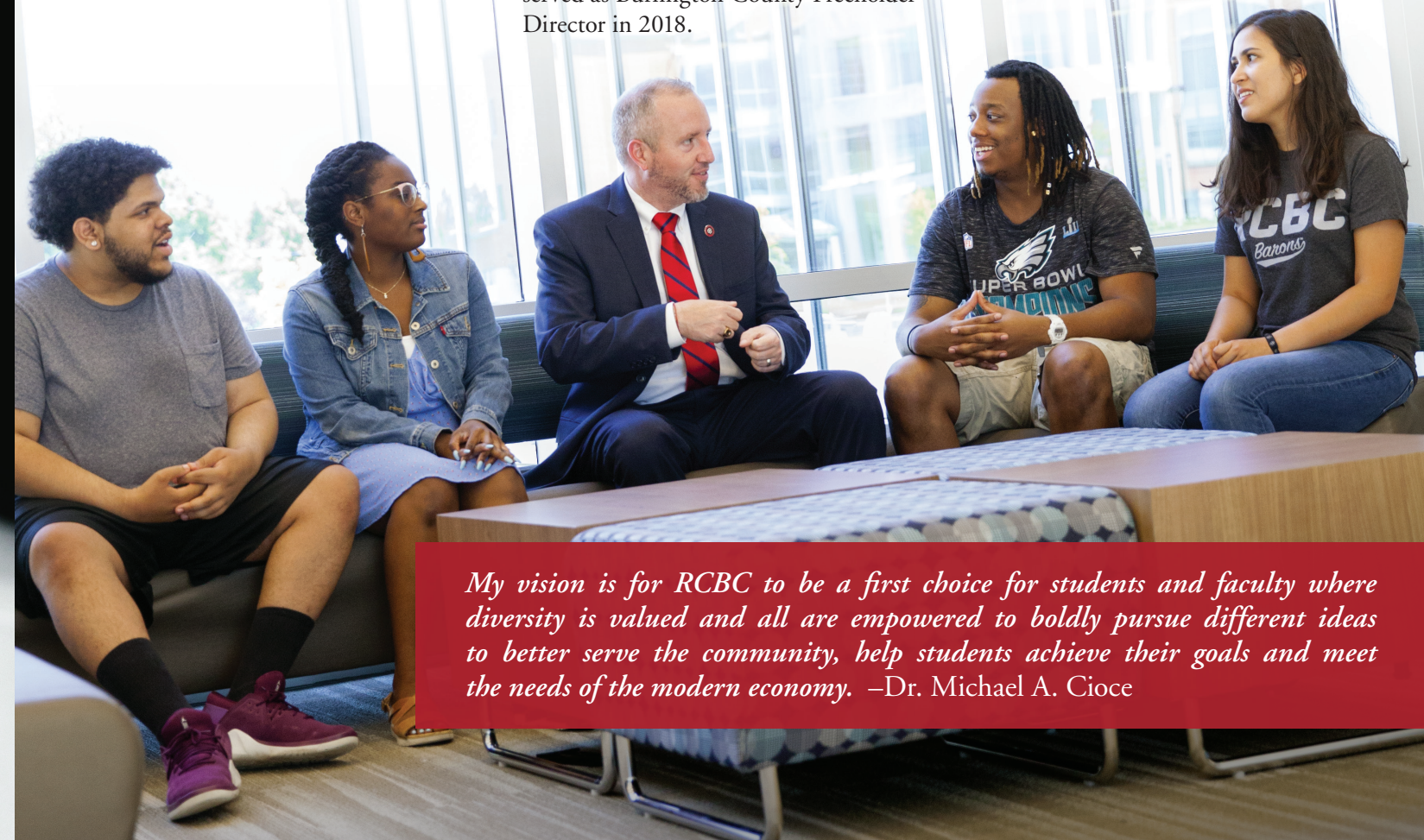
Raised in a working-class Pennsylvania family led by a single mother, Dr. Cioce learned the importance of education and diligence as he became the first in his family to earn a college degree.

As a lifelong learner, he advanced to master’s degrees of Business Administration (MBA) and Financial Management from Drexel University and a doctorate in Higher Education Administration at the University of Pennsylvania.

“As Dr. Cioce and I are both first generation students who put ourselves through college and graduate school, we know firsthand the value of education,” said Kate Gibbs, who served as Burlington County Freeholder Director in 2018.

“It has been a pleasure to partner with Mike as we continue to work to create affordable pathways to higher education in Burlington County.”

Dr. Cioce combines a student’s perspective toward customer service and program design, and a savvy business approach to college operations.



My vision is for RCBC to be a first choice for students and faculty where diversity is valued and all are empowered to boldly pursue different ideas to better serve the community, help students achieve their goals and meet the needs of the modern economy. –Dr. Michael A. Cioce

The Student Success Center became a home away from home for many of us whether working on a class project in the library's group study rooms, enjoying a Student Life activity or just grabbing a cup of coffee with friends. It's a fun center that creates community and builds pride. –Hunter Schaefer, 3+1 student

Since appointed Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Success in 2015, RCBC has achieved several noteworthy accomplishments. These include enrollment growth, the implementation of the 3+1 program with Rowan University, increased opportunities for high school students to earn college credit, and a new approach to student services in terms of customer service and organizational structure.

“Dr. Cioco has proven himself to be fully dedicated to the spirit and mission of RCBC and I am confident that students in Burlington County will benefit greatly from his leadership and service. In fact, they already have,” said Board Chair George Nyikita.

Dr. Cioco was instrumental in the programmatic design of the new Student Success Center that has quickly become the central hub for students on campus.

Heading into the presidency, Dr. Cioco's Vision for Success sets an aspirational tone to affirm RCBC as the first choice for students, the top higher education employer in southern New Jersey and a catalyst for economic growth in Burlington County and surrounding region.

“Our first half century is a history rich with inspiring stories of achievement that fills me with pride as we set forth toward an even more ambitious future,” Dr. Cioco added.

The next few pages will illustrate the Vision for Success.



#RCBCSuccess

HARRISON BROWN

HE WRITES WHAT HE KNOWS. HIS JOKES REVOLVE AROUND SCHOOL, SUMMER JOBS AND EVEN HIS LIFE ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM.

Harrison Brown defeated more than a dozen students with his comedy routine to take first place at Rowan College at Burlington County's Student Life Talent Show, which was coincidentally held in April, National Autism Awareness Month.

Life with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) may not seem like a laughing matter, but Brown says he is just "wired a little differently." He also said it helps to find humor in everyday life, and it doesn't hurt that he has an incredible capacity to remember jokes.

"One of the top reasons Rowan College at Burlington County is the number one community college in the state, is because of our students," said RCBC President Dr. Michael A. Ciocce. "Our community of students are tireless, dedicated, and supportive of one another. We encourage them to find their voices here, just like Harrison did."

The Cherry Hill resident and Cherry Hill East graduate, said that he has been honing his comedic skills since elementary school. His father is in comedy too.

"I wanted to tag along with my dad to his gig, and he jokingly said I could come along if I would get on stage too. He was only joking, but I took him up on it," said Brown.

For the past five years, Brown has been doing open mic nights and a few professional local shows.

"I love commanding an audience with laughter and it helps that the world is all yours for five minutes," he said.

He edits his show as needed to make it more appropriate to the audience and rehearses jokes with his dad to see what will get the best response.

"I wasn't expecting to be in the top three, let alone win. My heart skipped a couple beats when they announced I had won first place."

In addition to a great memory for jokes, he explains that he is hyperlexic and was reading books by the time he was just 3 years old.

"I have a fantastic memory, especially in math and science," he said.

Brown hasn't decided on a major at RCBC yet, but is leaning toward chemistry. After getting his associate degree, he is considering transferring to a four year school where he can study food science.

"I'm obsessed with nutrition," he explains. "I read 'Eat This, Not That' and I'm really into healthy food."

OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE


HIGHLIGHTS

 **31**
Active Clubs

 **84**
Registered Club Officers

 **492**
Club Events

 **\$18,607.29**
Raised by clubs

 **130** Student Life events
with **5,414** student participants

Historic 3+1 program continues to **GROW**

RCBC's groundbreaking 3+1 program with Rowan University has continued to change the way people think about college affordability and open the doors for hundreds of students who want a high-quality bachelor's degree without burdensome debt.

The program allows students to complete their junior-year credits toward a Rowan University bachelor's degree at RCBC's affordable tuition and then finish their fourth year with Rowan University, but remain on RCBC's campus.

Since RCBC became the first community college in the region to offer junior-year courses in January 2017, it has had three consecutive semesters of enrollment growth. It is evident that the program, which saves students about \$75,000 on a bachelor's degree, is resonating with students and parents throughout the county and region. There are currently more than 1,000 students committed to the 3+1 program.

Initially offered in biology, nursing, psychology, liberal studies, computing and informatics, and law and justice, RCBC was excited to announce that it would be adding inclusive education to the 3+1 program starting fall 2018.

The new program will allow students to earn a bachelor's degree in inclusive education with a certification in elementary education and the opportunity for a New Jersey Department of Education Teacher of Students with Disabilities Endorsement.

Rowan University's Inclusive Education program prepares students to become elementary classroom teachers with state certification to teach special education, for which there is a critical shortage in New Jersey and throughout the country.

"As a former RCBC trustee, I am so proud we continue to provide new pathways for Burlington County residents to earn a high-quality, four-year degree through our affordable 3+1 program. We hope to address the decades-long shortage of special education teachers in our communities. Students seeking to enter the highly rewarding teaching profession and the families of children with special needs will both benefit from the opportunities being created at our community college," said Kate Gibbs, who served as Burlington County Freeholder Director in 2018.

"Burlington County and the Rowan partnership has made education a priority and this is a huge advancement in how we can prepare teachers to meet the needs of the 21st century," said RCBC President Dr. Michael A. Cioce.

To learn more about the new inclusive education 3+1 program or other 3+1 offerings, please visit rcbc.edu/3plus1.

3+1 offers tremendous benefits to our students, our college and the regional economy as we provide affordable paths to enter fields that have a clear demand for an educated workforce.

*—Dr. Michael A. Cioce
RCBC President*



3+1 STUDENT PROFILE

Andwele Pizzaro

After living in Brooklyn, New York, for most of his life, **Andwele Pizzaro** needed to make some adjustments when he moved to Mount Holly and enrolled in RCBC for a quality education that would be close to his new home. First, he got his driver's license and then, thanks to RCBC's affordability and his earnings from a part time job, Andwele was able to buy a car.

In the city, much of his education was focused on the arts. At RCBC, he saw the college's transformation from the Pemberton Campus to the modernized Mount Laurel Campus experience and decided to make a change himself. He is majoring in biology and pursuing a bachelor's through RCBC's historic 3+1 program, which allows students to earn a four year degree from Rowan University and save around \$75,000.

"I had focused on art throughout high school, but growing up, I was very interested in nature, living things, processes - I also really enjoy ecology," said Andwele. "So when I saw that biology was part of the 3+1 program, I thought, 'Why not?' 3+1 is the best way to earn a college education."

Andwele will start his senior year in spring 2019.

Academic ACHIEVEMENT

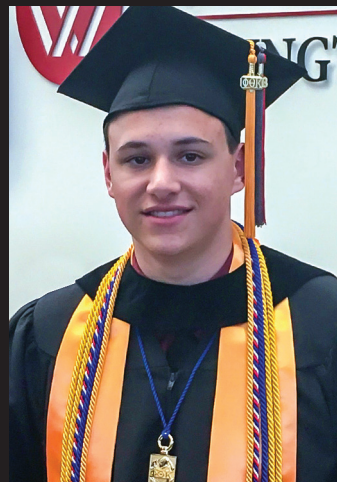
This year, numerous RCBC students earned awards for academic excellence, received merit scholarships and are now poised to succeed in life after RCBC.

One of the 2018 President's Award Winners, **Heather Casparro**, is a proud wife and mother who came to RCBC with very few literacy skills and used all of RCBC's resources to excel. The Westampton resident graduated with a 4.0 grade point average and earned a scholarship from the National Organization for Human Services, beating a nationwide pool of students that included students working on their master's degree. A child advocate volunteer, Casparro plans to attend Wilmington University and use her degree to work with a diverse population of child welfare.



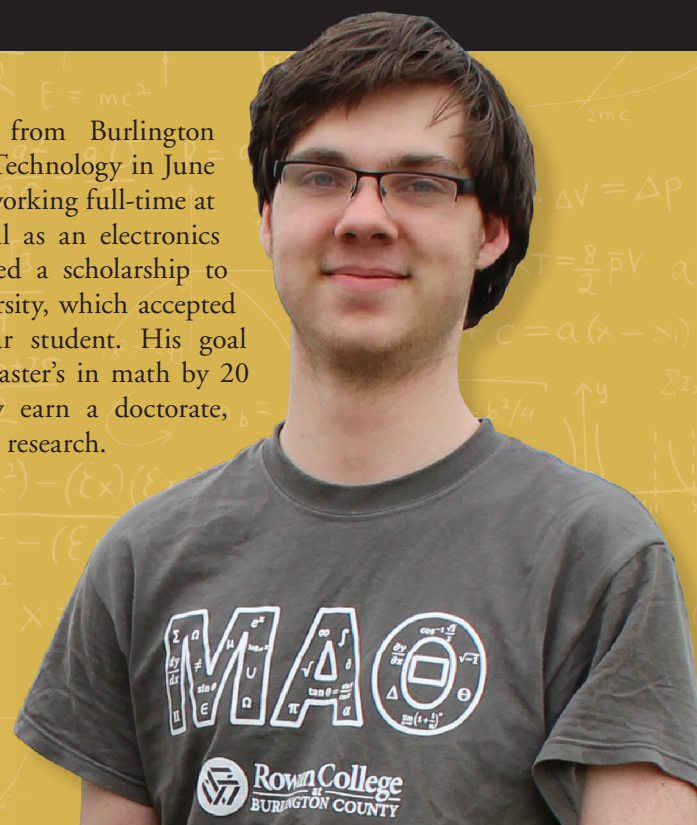
Brina Sedar (L) and Heather Casparro (R)

Jaxson T. Bonsall, of Mount Holly, earned his associate degree with high honors from RCBC a month before graduating from Burlington County Institute of Technology Medford. Throughout his high school career, Bonsall took advantage of the ability to earn college credits through dual credit opportunities that were part of an articulation agreement between BCIT and RCBC. In addition, he also enrolled in online and in person courses at RCBC during the summer and in the evening. An Eagle Scout who earned all 137 badges (a feat that less than 1 percent of all Eagle Scouts have accomplished), Bonsall is going to Virginia Tech to pursue a bachelor's in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering.



16-year old **Liam Doherty**, of Mount Laurel, tied the record for the highest an RCBC student has ever placed in the individual portion of the New Jersey Undergraduate Mathematics Competition. Top math students from both two and four-year schools in the region competed at the college's Mount Laurel Campus. He placed ninth out of 77 students. In addition, he received an Outstanding Student Talk Award for his research presentation on the Physical Applications of Fourier Analysis during the Garden State Undergraduate Mathematics Conference poster session.

Doherty graduated from Burlington County Institute of Technology in June 2018 and is already working full-time at Radwell International as an electronics technician. He earned a scholarship to attend Rowan University, which accepted him as a junior-year student. His goal is to complete his master's in math by 20 years old, eventually earn a doctorate, and work in scientific research.



Vietnamese heritage flavors a fusion fish dish



Vietnamese Caramelized & Braised Catfish

Ingredients (Serves 2)

- Pangasius conchophilus or Catfish, 1lb
- Salt to clean the fish

Aromatics

- 2 tablespoons peanut oil
- 5 cloves garlic, minced
- ½ yellow onion, sliced
- Red Chinese peppercorn or Chinese peppercorn extract oil
- 1 teaspoon annatto seeds
- 1 or 2 lime leaf

Seasoning & cooking liquid

- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoon brown or white sugar
- 1.5 tablespoons fish sauce
- About ½ teaspoon thick soy sauce
- ½ cup water and ½ cup coconut juice (OR 1 cup coconut soda)
- 1 chile, sliced (to taste, optional)
- freshly ground black pepper (you can add it here, or as a final topping when serving the fish)

Garnish

- 1 stalk chopped green onion (scallion)
- freshly ground black pepper
- 1 sliced red chile (optional)
- 2-3 chopped fried or steam Okra
- Optional: Mix edible flowers

Instructions

1. Generously salt fish and rinse under water to clean it. Set aside to dry.
2. Add oil to a pan and saute garlic and shallot over medium heat until lightly browned.
3. Layer onion on top, then the fish, evenly spaced.
4. Mixing the cooking liquid by combining all the ingredients before adding it to the pot.
5. Add the seasoning and cooking liquid (and optional chiles) and turn the heat to high until boiling. Taste the sauce and adjust the seasoning.
6. Bring it to a simmer for ~20 minutes. Adjust seasoning if needed.
7. Gently flip the filets of fish over and simmer for a final ~10 minutes with the lid partially covered.
8. Stand there to watch it the final ~10 minutes to prevent it from burning! During this time you can continually spoon the sauce over the fish.
9. Add green onion during last 2 minutes to wilt and top with sliced chiles, and some freshly ground black pepper, chopped fried Okra.

By Huy Hoang

As a child growing up in Vietnam, I would watch my mother create traditional dishes in our kitchen.

When I came to the United States, I was privileged to learn the nuances of French and Italian cuisine. I was excited to practice my new culinary skills with what I had learned from home, so I challenged myself to recreate one of my mother's dishes without the recipe. I became immersed in my memories of the flavors of Vietnam. As I started to remember, I would jot down the ingredients that I believed were in the dish.

The knowledge I have gained in RCBC's culinary arts program allowed me to incorporate French and Italian cuisines into my favorite traditional

Vietnamese dish. The new recipe, caramelized braised catfish, is a fusion of cuisines.

The catfish is served sitting on a bed of sweet bean sprouts with micro leafs and edible flowers. Accompanying the catfish is a lotus chip and a light touch of Asian fusion beurre blanc sauce. The lotus root creates a smoky aroma that fills the air. When biting into the catfish, you receive the right balance of sweet and salty. The catfish, cooked to perfection, gently melts in your mouth with every bite. The bean sprout gives you that sweet crunchy taste. As you generously dip the catfish into the yellow sauce, your taste buds explode from the Asian, French, Italian fusion.

RCBC's culinary arts students have monthly articles in the Courier-Post. This ongoing series has featured an eclectic array of menus from dozens of students and is published the first Wednesday of each month.

BEST OF THE BEST

Ann McCollum

*Project Manager of Business Engagement
Workforce Development Institute*

RCBC President Dr. Michael A. Cioce, Vice President of Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning Anna Payanzo Cotton, Director of Business Engagement Leah Arter and Director of Program Development and Instruction Linda Bobo all touted Ann's willingness to go the extra mile to help students, instructors and her colleagues.

The best part of my job is to establish relationships with local businesses, identify their training needs, and then develop and deliver these quality programs to their organizations.

The fact that family played a role in Ann's special day is no surprise. She always stressed the importance of a college education to her two sons before she took her own advice and earned her own degree at Rowan College at Burlington County in 2002.

As a student, she always thought about working for the college, and five years after graduation she began working as the secretary to the Business and Career Development Center. The next year, her duties expanded to assisting the Director of Customized Training; and by 2013 she was named Coordinator of Customized Training. She is now Project Manager of Business Engagement with the Workforce Development Institute.

She was selected as employee of the month in December 2016 after being nominated by three separate colleagues.

Ann lives in Southampton with her husband of 38 years and their Shih Tzu Bichon dog. They have two sons, a daughter-in-law, a future daughter-in-law and now two granddaughters.

"This is truly overwhelming. There are no words to describe a day in which I welcome a brand new baby girl into our family while being recognized by my 'work family' for doing the job I love to do."

Earning distinction as employee of the year is always a tremendous honor, but for Ann McCollum, it was the second-best news of the day.

While senior leadership surprised Ann by presenting her with Rowan College at Burlington County's first Employee of the Year award, her son broke up the occasion with even better news when he announced the birth of her second granddaughter, Adeline May.

McCollum was selected as the college's first employee of the year based on the following criteria:

- *Employee of the month in the 2016-2017 academic year.*
- *Contribution to student success.*
- *Extra initiative.*
- *Attendance.*
- *Performance reviews.*
- *Longevity.*



Dr. Cioce (L) and Ann McCollum (R)

Employees who earned the title of **BARONS BEST**

July 2017 – June 2018



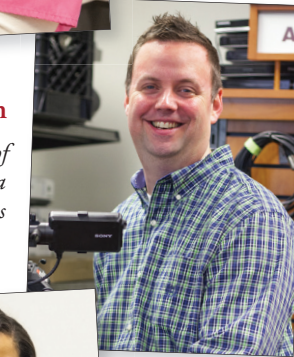
Jimmy Clang
*Senior Lead
Maintenance
Mechanic*



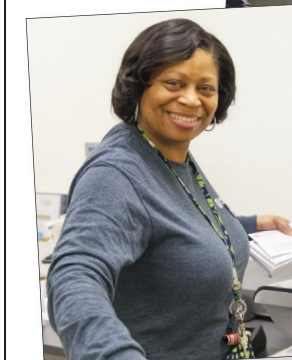
Ron Cahall
*IT User Services
Project Manager*



Mary Kay Comegys
*Clinical Assistant for
the Dental Hygiene
Department*

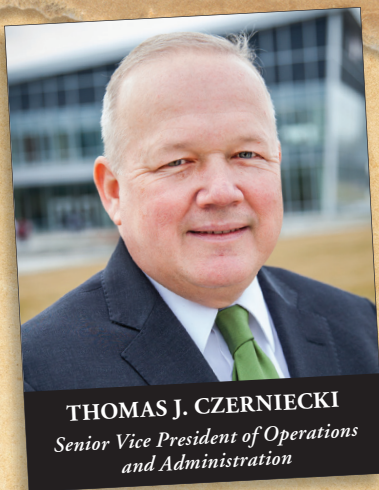


Dan Egan
*Manager of
Multimedia
Resources*

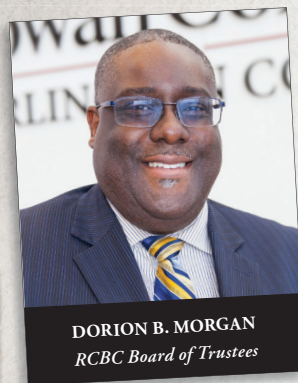


Shantrail Chaney
*Print and Mail
Services Clerk*

OFFICE Moves



THOMAS J. CZERNIECKI
Senior Vice President of Operations
and Administration



DORION B. MORGAN
RCBC Board of Trustees

In March, the Board of Trustees welcomed new Trustee **Dorion B. Morgan**, a lifelong Burlington County resident. Morgan has served as the Burlington Township Municipal Public Defender since 2003. He is also the founder and senior pastor of the Restoration Station Christian Fellowship – a non-denominational multicultural Christian church in Edgewater Park.

Morgan is an attorney at law and focuses his practice on municipal court matters, real estate, criminal, landlord/tenant and adoptions.

The RCBC Board of Trustees appointed **Thomas J. Czerniecki**, the accomplished chief executive officer of Evesham Township, to serve as Senior Vice president of Operations and Administration this spring.

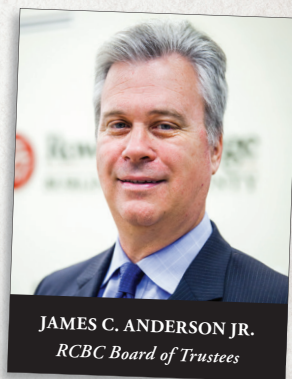
Czerniecki has twice served as Evesham Township Manager – from 2014 to 2018 and previously from 2007 to 2012.

His accomplishments at the township include:

- Implementing a strategic plan that includes eight redevelopment projects with property valued at \$85 million.
- A multi-year budgeting approach that has stabilized property taxes and improved the township's bond rating.
- A new health insurance program that has stabilized costs for both employees and the township.

At its January meeting, the college's Board of Trustees welcomed **James C. Anderson Jr.**, of Medford, who was appointed by Gov. Chris Christie.

Anderson has an extensive career in civil engineering and currently serves as Director of Solid Waste Compliance and Development for Mercer Group International of N.J.



JAMES C. ANDERSON JR.
RCBC Board of Trustees

Gino A. Pasqualone brings a wealth of experience in the building trades and workforce development and was welcomed to the college's Board of Trustees on Nov. 8, 2017.

Pasqualone, of Columbus, has served as an electrician with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) for 30 years. He completed the rigorous Joint Apprentice Training Committee program achieving the level of journeyman. He has experienced all levels of construction including foreman and shop steward and currently serves on the Executive Board of IBEW.



GINO A. PASQUALONE
RCBC Board of Trustees



What does the Student Success Center mean to you?



The Student Success Center is the true home base of RCBC. It's the heart of the entire school.

- Devon Spedden, RCBC Student

The Student Success Center is amazing. It's a central campus destination for so many of our students, staff and faculty. There are great amenities - space to socialize and grab a bite, a convenient bookstore, and a library to accomplish assistance in locating the research required for studies of all disciplines.

- Ellen Dea, Library Technical Paraprofessional

To me, the Student Success Center is the social center of the campus. It is the place where the essential operations of the college go down that keep our school running. The Student Success Center is a place of gathering, a place for networking, and a place for studying.

- Hana Katz, RCBC Student

The Student Success Center to me represents community, access and student belonging. Luckily, I get a perfect view of the vibrant student flow and interactions from my office in the Student Success Center. I believe this is a visual representation of RCBC's innovative and engaging culture.

- Nicholas LaTorre, NJ STARS Coordinator

To me, the Student Success Center is the heart of the college and the students are what keep it beating. The advisors, tutoring, library, bookstore, public safety, student life, and the dining options are all located here and provide services that are beneficial to students. As the name suggests, the Student Success Center is truly a place dedicated to providing each and every student at RCBC with the tools to be successful throughout the year.

- Au'Sét Wright, RCBC Student

The Student Success Center has been very beneficial to my experience at RCBC. The Student Success Center gives students a place to study, unwind and grab a bite to eat. It also houses registration, advising, and a testing center. Overall, the Student Success Center has improved my experience at RCBC.

- Dasia Busch, RCBC Student

It means a place on campus where I can eat breakfast, a place to do homework, and second floor comfy chairs to just think about actually being here, in college.

- Ed Lacovara, RCBC Student

The Student Success Center means more of a community on campus. It's a comfortable space to meet a study group or just to go see familiar faces and breathe a sigh of relief after a test!

- Altana West, RCBC Student

ROWAN COLLEGE AT BURLINGTON COUNTY STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER

The state-of-the art Student Success Center, designed by USA Architects in collaboration with Moody Nolan, is the gateway to the newly transformed Mount Laurel Campus.

Groundbreaking: August 2016 • Opened: August 2017

Fast Facts:

- ✓ 52 windows + over 15,000 square feet of glass curtain wall and storefront
- ✓ 79,495 square feet (1st floor: 35,780 sq. ft.; 2nd Floor: 34,960 sq. ft.; mezzanine: 8,755 sq. ft.)
- ✓ Building height: 55 feet
- ✓ 1 fireplace
- ✓ Dining room capacity: 150-308 occupants
- ✓ Building capacity: 1,733 occupants
- ✓ 20 monitors on wall by central lounge
- ✓ Size of the "Rowans" on the front and back of the building: 5'-7" high letters

It features a one-stop shop for student services from enrollment to academic planning, a knowledge commons library, bookstore, dining area and student life.

- | | |
|---|---|
| Academic Advising | Office of Student Life |
| Career Services | Office of Student Support and Disability Services |
| Educational Opportunity Fund | Registration |
| Financial Aid | Test Center |
| International Office | Transcripts |
| Military Education and Veteran Services | Transfer Center |
| NJ Stars | Tutoring |
| Office of Student Accounts | |

Classroom to CAREER

Taking students from classroom to career is one of the goals of the Workforce Development Institute. A shining classroom to career success is **Madison Weller**, of Lumberton, who earned class valedictorian.

In addition to her perfect 4.0 grade point average at RCBC, Weller was active in the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, National Society of Leadership and Success, and the college's marketing club, Baron to Baron, of which she was a founding member. With the help of the college's Career Services Center, she landed a paid internship with the college's Office of Strategic Marketing and Communications where she was integral to launching the college's Snapchat account as a marketing and student engagement tool.

Upon graduating from RCBC, she started her marketing career by securing the position of Assistant Director of Marketing and Client Services at Posternock Apell, PC.

Weller is continuing her education at Rowan University. She is pursuing bachelor's and master's degrees in writing, focusing in new media writing and publishing as an undergraduate and composition, rhetoric and media as a graduate student.

About WDI

The college's Workforce Development Institute was created when the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders took the initiative to align all of the county's workforce training and preparation efforts. The institute brings together Rowan College at Burlington County, the Workforce Development Board, American Job Center, professional development, career services and community education.

Today's Workforce Development Institute provides job seekers and businesses with a full array of industry training programs that meet the needs of the evolving workforce.

Transportation, logistics and distribution is one of several growth industries in our region, and there are not enough skilled workers to meet the market's demand.

—Anna Payanzo Cotton
Vice President of Workforce
Development and Lifelong Learning

\$1.2 million workforce development grant

In fall 2017, the N.J. Department of Labor and Workforce Development announced that it awarded a \$1.2 million grant to the RCBC Workforce Development Institute to oversee the state's Transportation, Logistics & Distribution Talent Development Center.

Talent Development Centers are charged with expanding high quality, employer driven partnerships that involve businesses, high schools, universities, labor unions and workforce development boards. The centers focus on providing education and training that leads to industry recognized credentials and college credit.

"This grant provides the opportunity to build upon our success and develop a state wide training program to fill the demand for skilled workers in transportation, logistics and distribution."

RCBC's Workforce Development Institute launched a new Transportation, Logistics and Distribution training program in 2016 that led to new jobs for over 75 percent of program graduates.

"We are excited to meet this challenge of increasing the number of workers who are certified for careers in this industry and keep Burlington County at the forefront of this growing field." said Anna Payanzo Cotton, RCBC Vice President of Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning.

"Our Workforce Development Institute has developed partnerships with some of the region's leading employers that have led to new training programs and high paying careers for residents in Burlington County," said RCBC President Dr. Michael A. Cioce.



WDI AT A GLANCE

518
Certificates
awarded



297
Business partners
served



7
New programs



636
Unemployed workers
with new jobs



>\$4.8 million
in new wages



The RCBC Foundation works to make an RCBC education more affordable by providing scholarships to students in need. This year's record-breaking Mardi Gras-themed Celebration of Philanthropy, the organization's principal fundraiser, raised \$250,000 for student scholarships.

When generous donors choose to invest in a student's RCBC education, they see results. RCBC Foundation scholarship recipients have proved that with a little help, there is nothing that they can't achieve. A prime example of such a student is **Lauren Purnell**.

Naming THE HOMELESS

A journalism student, **Lauren Purnell** is striving to tear down negative connotations for the term homeless by telling the stories of the people she meets on the streets of Philadelphia through her blog "Naming the Homeless."

I wanted to write about something a lot more meaningful than my life that would connect with others and raise awareness of individuals who are homeless.

Studies, and founding director of the award. "Instead of looking the other way when encountering people who have experienced hard times, Lauren's compassion pulls her toward them with a helpful hand and an attentive ear."

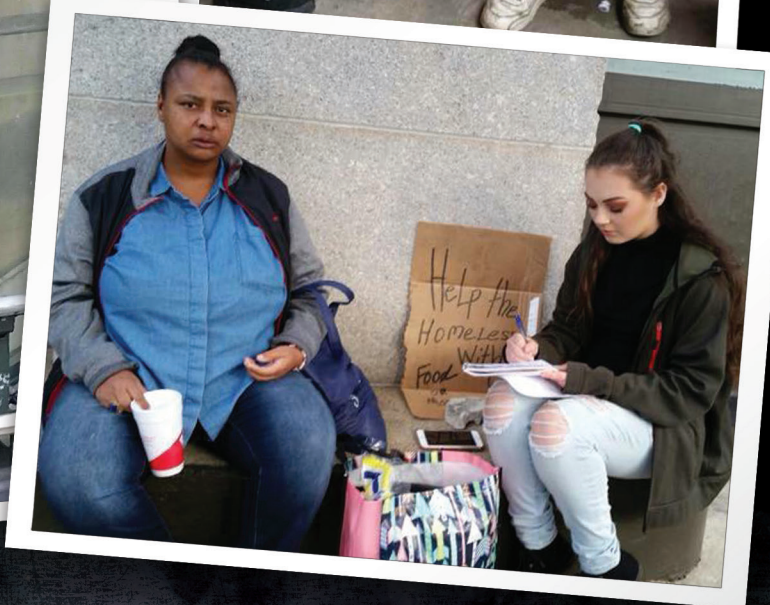
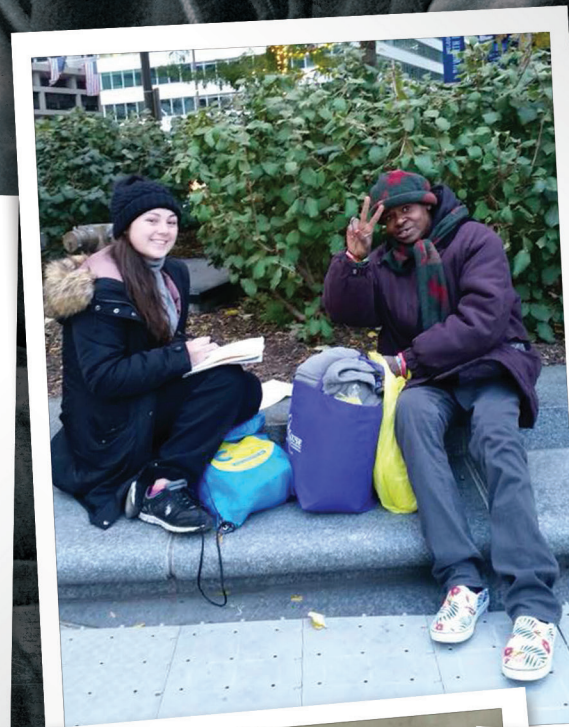
Inspired by her journalism instructor, Tim Zatariny, Purnell wanted to start a blog and decided that it would serve as a platform for those stories that often get untold. She ventured to Philadelphia with care packages and spoke to those she encountered on the streets. Her endeavors have been chronicled on namingthehomeless.com and have garnered the attention of several regional media outlets, in addition to more than \$1,000 worth of donations.

"I am so grateful for the support Naming the Homeless has received and hope to continue building upon it as long as there are people who help, compassion and connection with society," Purnell said.

Purnell plans to continue her journalism studies at Rowan University. She also won RCBC's journalism award at the annual Academic Awards ceremony that recognizes outstanding student achievement in several disciplines.

In recognition of her efforts, she received the college's Civility Award, which honors a graduating student who has promoted tolerance in their community and made positive contributions in a diverse population.

"Many Civility Award recipients have gone on to do amazing things in their community, although few, if any, have made the type of impact that Lauren has before they have graduated," said Dr. Jonathan Alexander, Associate Professor of English and Holocaust



CELEBRATION OF PHILANTHROPY

MARDI GRAS Masquerade



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Danielle Lucas
Foundation Chair

Karen Albanese
Vice Chair

Dr. Michael A. Cioce
Secretary

Philip Corradino
Treasurer

Joseph Tredinnick
Trusteeship Chair

Rhonda Feld
Scholarship Committee Chair

TRUSTEES

Richard Bell, Jr.

Kevin Brown

Dan Caldwell

Stan Ellis

Mary Ann Lacey-Gray

Wayne Hileman

Renee Liciaga

Tony Mahon

Colin McDonald

Kirk Miller

Jennifer Ohlweiler

Sam Thevanayagam

Amy Webb



1 RCBC Foundation scholarship recipient Jared Newcomb, RCBC alumna Christina Cover, Congressman Tom MacArthur, President Dr. Michael A. Cioce, RCBC Foundation scholarship recipient Mary Lawlor, and Burlington County Freeholder Deputy Director Linda Hughes.

2 The mummies performed at the Mardi Gras themed Celebration of Philanthropy, which raised about \$250,000 for student scholarships.

3 RCBC Associate Dean of Liberal Arts Bernadette Wright and RCBC Executive Assistant to the President Lynne Devericks.

4 Celebration of Philanthropy Master of Ceremonies and Emmy award winning Fox 29 reporter Bob Kelly, RCBC Foundation scholarship recipient Jared Newcomb, Burlington County Freeholder Deputy Director Linda Hughes, Burlington County Freeholder Director Kate Gibbs, Celebration of Philanthropy Keynote speaker Bobby Chez, RCBC Foundation scholarship recipient Mary Lawlor, RCBC Foundation Chair Tony Mahon, RCBC President Dr. Michael A. Cioce, and Assemblyman Ryan Peters.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Rowan College at Burlington County celebrated Black History Month with music, food, movies, special guests and more in February. The college's African American Cultural Committee organized the events to recognize the important contributions of African Americans while engaging the community in a celebration of culture and diversity.

1 RCBC Fashion Program Coordinator Lisa Steinberg talks with American fashion model Pat Cleavland, whose modeling career had a bumpy beginning due to the American standards of beauty in the 50s, 60s and early 70s. She would eventually become known for her signature walk that disrupted the fashion runways and graced the covers of famous fashion magazines in the 70s, 80s and 90s.

2 The Opening Day Speaker was the founder, President and CEO of the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey, John E. Harmon Sr. Harmon is a national leader in economically empowering and sustaining African American communities and businesses with direct outreach programs to facilitate entrepreneurship and the free enterprise system.

3 Guest speaker and president and CEO of Parts Life, Inc., Sam Thevanayagam discussed resiliency and bouncing back to achieve your goals in the face of adversity.

4 Operatic baritone Thomas Beard presented his concert program, "The Evolution of Negro Spirituals," accompanied by dancing and his pianist.

5 In addition to a chef demonstration, RCBC Director of Culinary and Pastry Arts Chef James Brudnicki and RCBC culinary students served a soulful meal during the Soulful Lunch event at the Culinary Arts Center.

6 Dr. Monique Gary, a fellowship-trained Breast Surgical Oncologist at Grand View Health in Sellersville, PA, is passionate about using her expertise to develop programs to address cancer risk and prevention, and healthcare inequality for disparate populations including ethnic, racial, LGBTQI and other minority groups in the greater Philadelphia area.



GIVE KIDS A SMILE



RCBC celebrated its 14th annual Give Kids A Smile day on Friday, Feb. 2 in its new state-of-the-art Health Sciences Center at the Mount Laurel Campus. The day gives children access to oral health care and helps those who may not otherwise have been treated. This year, 58 children, ages 12 and under, received more than \$32,000 worth of dental treatment at RCBC.



1 Dr. Barbara Ann Rich, DDS, one of the several volunteer dentists on Give Kids A Smile day, helps treat children in the Dental Hygiene Center.

2 Burlington County Freeholder Deputy Director Linda Hughes speaks with one of the children receiving dental services during Give Kids A Smile day.

3 In addition to the cleanings, fillings, and x-rays, Seeing Eye puppies in training helped spread some smiles.

4 Burlington County Freeholder Deputy Director Linda Hughes, RCBC Director of Dental Hygiene Linda Hecker, Assemblywoman Carol Murphy, and RCBC President Dr. Michael A. Cioce with a proclamation in recognition of RCBC's community service work through the Give Kids A Smile program.



NDABA MANDELA



(Top) **Ndaba Mandela** (center), the grandson of the iconic South African activist and former president Nelson Mandela, spoke at the college in September and was greeted by (L to R) Director of Student Life John Costa, Dean of Health Sciences Dr. Karen Montalto, Student Government Association Executive Vice President Altana West, Student Government Association President Daniel Richards, Vice President of Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning Anna Payanzo Cotton, President Dr. Michael A. Cioce, Burlington County Freeholder Deputy Director Linda Hughes, Board of Trustee member Primitivo J. Cruz, Liberal Arts Dean Donna Vandergrift, Student Government Association Vice President of Communications Mara Dallas, History Instructor James Judge, Assistant Professor of English Dr. Erika Baldt, and STEM Dean Dr. Edem Tetteh.



RICHARD O'BRIEN'S

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW



The RCBC student theatrical group, the Lamplight Players, performed Richard O'Brien's cult classic, "The Rocky Horror Show," an amusing musical that pays tribute to "B" sci-fi film and horror genres with an irresistible rock-n-roll score, at Burlington County Institute of Technology's Medford Campus, on Fridays, April 20 and 27, and Saturdays, April 21 and 28. The show was a success with more than 600 patrons.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF Graduation 2018

“Our plans changed, but the most important thing is that graduates had the opportunity to participate in a ceremony and have their achievements recognized by the college community.”

—Dr. Michael A. Cioce
RCBC President

With the unrelenting wet forecast, RCBC had to change graduation plans from two outdoor celebrations on the quad to five indoor ceremonies. However, the RCBC community didn't let the rain dampen the spirit of commencement.

The first of the five ceremonies was the Health Sciences Commencement on Thursday, May 17 in Votta Hall. In addition to celebrating the achievements of all the Health Sciences graduates, Student Government Association President Altana West, President Dr. Cioce and Senior Vice President and Provost Dr. David Spang honored a special faculty member with the Professor of the Year Award. Nursing Instructor **Elizabeth Brendle** is this year's recipient and received several nominations and high praise from her students.

The remaining Liberal Arts and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics graduations were split into four ceremonies throughout the day on Friday, May 18, all held inside Votta Hall.

After the ceremonies, graduates celebrated with family and friends who watched from the live stream in the Student Success Center.

A special thank you to RCBC's graduation sponsor Whole Foods Market for accommodating the change in plans and providing food and beverages for every student, faculty member and honored guest at every commencement ceremony.



TOP 5 TRANSFER SCHOOLS

1. Rowan University
2. Rutgers University-Camden
3. Wilmington University
4. Rutgers University-New Brunswick
5. Stockton University

Graduates range in age from **16 to 76** years old 

Graduates come from **six** different states and **16** different countries. 

The graduating class contains **1,340** students  who received **1,388** degrees. 

★ The Class of 2018 had ★ **29** VETERANS 

 More than 90% of graduates plan to advance their education further.

Average GPA is 3.25, including 42 graduates with a perfect 4.0.



Award-winning

faculty and administrators



STEM Dean **Dr. Edem Tetteh** was one of the 25 professionals selected to this year's Emerging Leaders of Burlington County. Dr. Tetteh joined the college in 2016 and oversees the STEM Division with more than 600 students, 27 full-time faculty and 200 adjuncts.



RCBC Nursing Instructor **Dr. Martin Manno** was nominated for the Beacon of Light award and was recognized by the New Jersey State Nurses Association. The Beacon of Light nominees are a group of 14 nurses who have displayed outstanding work towards inspiring the lives of other nurses through leadership, service, community impact and mentorship. These nurses, who exemplify excellence in nursing, have a lasting impact on the profession and mentorship.



Faith Zimnes, an RCBC alumna and dental hygiene faculty member, received a statewide award for student mentorship. Zimnes was the recipient of the 2017 Mary Jane Kellogg Dutton Faculty Mentorship Award from the New Jersey Dental Hygienists' Association. The award is given to a faculty person in New Jersey who demonstrates a commitment to the future of the dental hygiene profession and provides outstanding service to students.



Dean of Lifelong Learning **June Sernak** received one of SNJ Business People's Women of the Year awards, which recognized nine women leaders for their contributions to making our region the best place to work, live and raise a family.

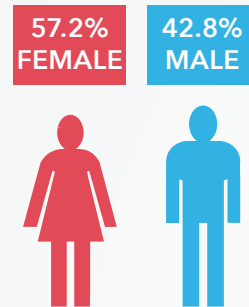


Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the international honor society for two-year colleges, recognized Assistant Mathematics Professor and RCBC's PTK Chapter Advisor **William Whitfield** with the Continued Excellence Award for Advisors.

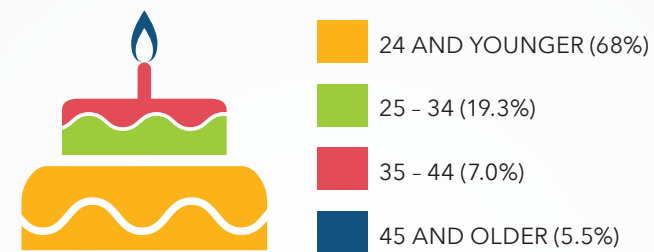
BY THE NUMBERS

STUDENT PROFILE

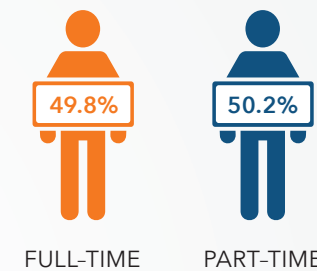
GENDER



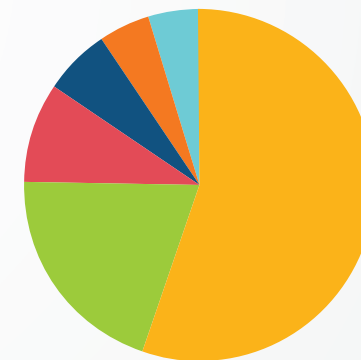
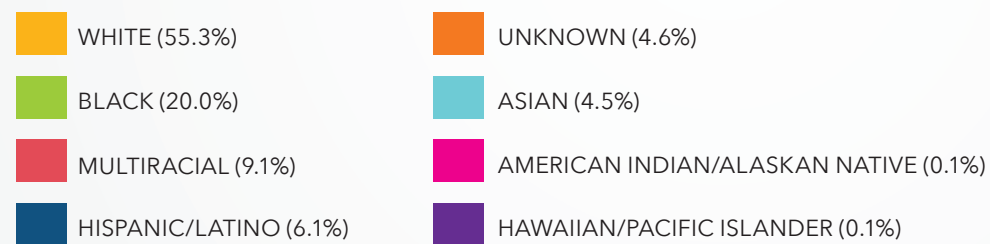
AGE RANGE



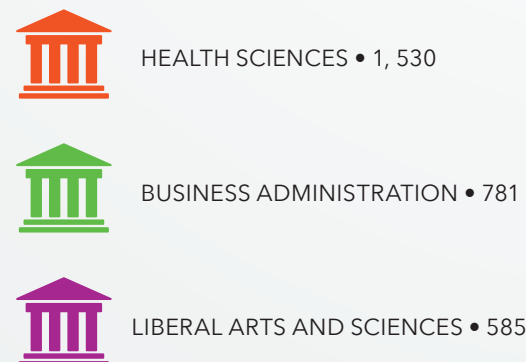
ATTENDANCE



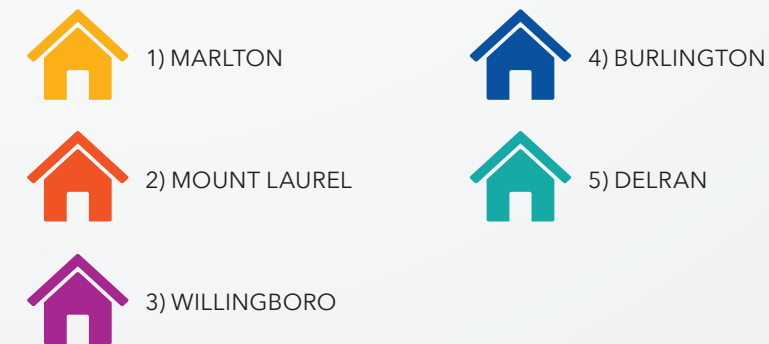
RACE



TOP 3 PROGRAM MAJORS



TOP 5 HOMETOWNS





Rowan College
at
BURLINGTON COUNTY

