

New Jersey Community Colleges Honor Outstanding Student Scholars and Leaders: Thirty-Eight Students Named to the 2020 New Jersey All-State Academic Team

TRENTON, N.J. – Even amid the COVID-19 crisis, New Jersey’s community college students have maintained their unwavering commitment to scholarship, leadership, and service. In recognition of achievement and excellence, the New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC) and the state’s 18 community colleges have named 38 students from across the state to the 2020 New Jersey All-State Academic Team.

“While due to the current pandemic we were unable to host a celebration in-person this year, the state’s community colleges are committed to recognizing and celebrating the outstanding achievements and exceptional service of 38 students to their communities and colleges as members of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society,” said NJCCC Chair Phil Linfante, Ph.D. *“The 38 amazing students truly reflect the strong spirit of optimism, resolve, and commitment and the rich diversity of our state,”* said NJCCC President Aaron Fichtner, Ph.D.

Each year, the New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC) honors students from each of the state’s 18 community colleges who are named to the New Jersey All-State Academic Team at an Annual Community College Scholars Celebration. The celebration was scheduled to occur at the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton on April 30, 2020.

In addition, nine New Jersey community college students were honored by Phi Theta Kappa and the Coca-Cola Foundation with scholarships as part of the USA All-State Academic Team competition.

Marie Febrillet of Passaic County Community College received \$2,250 in scholarships from Coca-Cola Foundation and the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation and was named a New Jersey New Century Transfer Pathway Scholar. In addition, the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation has awarded Marie Febrillet, with the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarship. Ms. Febrillet will receive up to \$40,000 annually for a maximum of three years to complete her bachelor’s degree as well as funding for graduate school. Ms. Febrillet, of Passaic, will graduate in May with an Associates Degree in Communications and Media Studies.

“As Harriet Tubman said, ‘Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.’ As community college students, we need to believe we have the power to make meaningful and impactful



change. We must believe in our dreams, speak up, and be the voice for future generations,” Ms. Febrillet said.

Jade Tollis of Bergen Community College received a \$1,250 scholarship from the Coca-Cola Foundation and was named a New Jersey New Century Workforce Pathway Scholar. Ms. Tollis, of Teaneck, will graduate in May with an Associates Degree in Veterinary Technology.

“I am beyond humbled to have been selected as a member of the 2020 New Jersey All-State Academic Team. Opportunities such as this one are a constant reminder of how my enrollment in Phi Theta Kappa and at Bergen Community College has opened so many doors for me. Thank you for believing in me and my career goals!” Jade said.

Kira Campagna and Balsam Mazahreh both of Camden County College and Emily Josephson of Ocean County College each received a \$1,500 scholarship for being named a Coca-Cola Gold Scholar. Daniel Mirman of Passaic County Community College received a \$1,250 scholarship for being named a Coca-Cola Silver Scholar. Kailyn Segovia-Vazquez of Hudson County Community College, Sameeha Rao of Union County College, and Noelle Miller of Warren County Community College each received a \$1,000 scholarship for being named a Coca-Cola Bronze Scholar.

The 2020 New Jersey All-State Academic Team members are:

- Atlantic Cape Community College students Kalissa Krapf of Milmay and Desimir Berardo of Absecon;
- Bergen Community College students Erisa Ganellari of Garfield, Jenna Santacroce of Saddle Brook and Jade Tollis of Teaneck;
- Brookdale Community College students Veronique Manfredini of Sea Girt and Victoria Santos of Loch Arbour;
- Camden County College students Kira Campagna of Cherry Hill and Balsam Mazahreh of Maple Shade;
- Essex County College students Krystal Borneo of Irvington and Gabriella Quain of Newark;
- Hudson County Community College students Kailyn Segovia-Vazquez of Bayonne and Rimsha Bazaid of Jersey City;
- Mercer County Community College students Kimberly Beck of East Windsor and Raymond Kleinschmidt of Toms River;

- College students Komal Mir of East Brunswick and Kayla Wathen of Milltown;
- County College of Morris students Corey Anding of Newark and Emma Mendoza of Boonton;
 - Ocean County College students Emily Josephson of Jackson and Gabriel Bagsic of Toms River;
 - Passaic County Community College students Marie Febrillet of Passaic and Daniel Mirman of Wayne;
 - Raritan Valley Community College students Nigora Ganieva of Bedminster and Noah Motz of Whitehouse Station;
 - Rowan College at Burlington County students Jane Cheslo of Burlington and Brittney Davis of Mount Laurel;
 - Rowan College of South Jersey, Cumberland students Ztasha Kirkland of Vineland and DeAnna Pascucci of Millville;
 - Rowan College of South Jersey, Gloucester students Allyson Broadbent of Mantua and Anthony Hairston of Camden;
 - Salem Community College student Jennifer McGraw of Deepwater;
 - Sussex County Community College students Iliana Mendoza Cobos and Gabriella Lora, both of Newton;
 - Union County College students Sameeha Rao of Iselin and Jeffery Drajin of Clark; and
 - Warren County Community College students Andrea Massimo of Washington and Noelle Miller of Hackettstown.

In addition, recently, the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation announced the 50 high-achieving community college students from across the country that were selected as recipients of the prestigious Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. Four of these students attend New Jersey community colleges. The highly competitive national scholarship will provide selected students with up to \$40,000 a year to complete their bachelor's degrees. The New Jersey recipients of the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship are:

- Hudson County Community College, Abdellah Amrhar
- Bergen Community College, Luis Cedeno Vera
- Passaic County Community College, Marie Febrillet; and
- Union County College, Kamilla Kocsis