With the second half of the 2019–2020 academic year fast approaching, I’d like to take this opportunity to share the latest news regarding CCAC’s major initiatives and other accomplishments, including the recent launch of our fundraising campaign, Pioneering Pittsburgh’s New Workforce, in addition to student engagement and community outreach activities as well as information on recent awards and recognitions presented to members of our college community.

On November 18, I was pleased to join County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, Executive Vice President of Corporate Affairs for Highmark Health and Chair of the Highmark Foundation Daniel Onorato, Chair and President of the PNC Foundation Sally McCrady, Allegheny General Hospital Chief Nursing Officer Marge DiCuccio and CCAC Board Chair Frederick Thieman to publicly launch Pioneering Pittsburgh’s New Workforce—a $65 million fundraising campaign designed to support CCAC’s collaborative workforce initiative that was first announced in September 2017.

Held in the Milton Hall Rotunda on Allegheny Campus, the launch included the announcement of a $5 million lead gift from Highmark Health to fund a 10-year investment in workforce development. In addition, the PNC Foundation has made a generous $2.5 million grant in support of CCAC’s workforce initiatives. Thanks to these and other significant gifts from Colcom Foundation, Duquesne Light, the McElhattan Foundation, Peoples Gas and Pitt Ohio, CCAC is well on the way toward meeting its fundraising goal, with more than $44 million already committed by county, state, foundation and corporate partners.

The cornerstone of CCAC’s system-wide initiative is the construction of a new 60,000-square-foot Workforce Training Center on Allegheny Campus. As reported previously, this new facility will house programs in in-demand fields such as cybersecurity, information technology, autonomous and process technology, machine learning, advanced manufacturing and robotics. The center will also feature experiential classrooms and labs, collaborative areas, and a new culinary school as well as provide programming space for the creative arts and EMT, CNA, AEMT and paramedic training.

The new center is currently in the construction document phase, and the project is expected to be put out for bid in late January/early February, with construction anticipated to get underway in late spring 2020. If all goes according to plan, the center will be completed in November of 2021, with the first classes to be held in the spring of 2022.
In addition to the workforce center, the campaign will provide $20 million for upgrades to workforce development capacity across all campuses, including the renovation of Chalfant Hall on Allegheny Campus, which will become CCAC’s new Faculty Innovation Center. The center will feature a digital learning lab and a testing lab, among other instructional spaces, and will provide comprehensive professional development opportunities to CCAC faculty at all levels and stages of their careers. The campaign will also include $5 million for new college-wide programming.

A feasibility study for the renovation of Chalfant Hall has been completed and is ready for review. Design phases for bidding the project for construction are expected to be finalized in late spring or early summer, with the newly renovated building available for occupancy in November 2021.

Although the building might not be ready, the Faculty Innovation Center is rapidly taking shape thanks to the combined efforts of Dr. Ebony English, Endowed Professor for Teaching & Learning, Michael Rinsem, Endowed Professor for Technical Curriculum, and Millie Rodriguez, Dean of the Virtual Campus—all of whom will have offices within the historic structure. In her new role, English is working to facilitate the creation of leading-edge curriculum and instructional methodologies for faculty and students through the Center for Teaching & Learning, with the goal of placing into the hands of faculty the knowledge, skills and tools needed to apply advanced pedagogical techniques to our classes and programs across the college. In October, English updated the Board of Trustees on the center’s progress, which will further these goals. As she noted in her report, the 10,495-square-foot Faculty Innovation Center will foster continued faculty collaboration, enhance educational expertise, support continuous program improvement, increase a culture of scholarship, promote educational excellence and provide opportunities for faculty innovation.

As Endowed Professor for Technical Curriculum, Rinsem has also been busy advancing the goals of his new position, which is designed to facilitate collaboration with business and industry leaders and to foster interdisciplinary research collaborations to develop the curricula and assist CCAC faculty in their efforts to create programs needed to address the workforce needs in the region. Professor Rinsem’s presentation to the Board of Trustees in November highlighted some of these efforts, such as how CCAC is preparing students for Industry 4.0—the new generation of advanced manufacturing that includes cybersecurity and other new technologies. Key partnerships that he is working on include the Allegheny Conference Manufacturing Focus Group, the College in High School program, and Carnegie Mellon University and Mill 19, where there is potential for a CCAC presence in the high-tech space on Hazelwood Green. Other new partners include Leetsdale Industrial Park, where CCAC’s Plastics Manufacturing Technology students will intern, and the Pittsburgh Super Computing Center, which will offer CCAC access to resources and provide curriculum potential for big data, artificial intelligence, cloud computing and much more.
There is potential for a CCAC presence in Mill 19 on Hazelwood Green, which will offer a high-tech resource for manufacturers in the region.

As the public launch made clear, many of the region’s major employers are working with CCAC to develop a pipeline of skilled employees—including students from diverse backgrounds who have not yet experienced our region’s economic boom—to meet the needs of industry today and in the future. In addition to some of the partnerships listed above, the Highmark Foundation is funding a pilot program for Allegheny General Hospital employees, Pittsburgh Public Schools CTE program participants and North Side residents to complete CCAC’s two-year Registered Nurse (RN) program. This RN pilot program will support a dedicated retention coordinator to provide guidance to students balancing the competing priorities of work, school and families. Classes for admitted students will begin this January.

Created to address the region’s critical workforce needs while providing residents of our region with education and training that lead to family-sustaining careers, the RN pilot program and other similarly focused programs get right to the heart of CCAC’s mission and the college’s new campaign. As a result, there has been an increased amount of interest in CCAC’s workforce plans since November’s launch. Stay tuned for more exciting news to come!

Funded by the Highmark Foundation, classes for CCAC’s RN pilot program are scheduled to begin in January.
Assessment Projects & Activities

It has been three years since CCAC formally centralized assessment as fundamental to all the work the college does. As we know, assessment is a key factor in student success, retention and completion, and the results have been nothing short of remarkable. Dr. Kalina White and Professor Caroline Evans have continued their outstanding leadership of the college's assessment efforts. At All College Day in August, followed by an update at the November Board of Trustees meeting, they introduced the Integrated Assessment initiative. This system enables faculty to collect assessment data for course, program and general education learning goals on one form. Going forward, assessment data will be integrated with student data from Ellucian and curriculum maps through the Assessment Repository, a new technology solution. The beta version, the interactive Assessment Dashboard, was created to give transparent access to information about student learning to all stakeholders at the college, including CCAC's Board of Trustees. With the Assessment Dashboard, the college will now be able to identify the links between assessment, student characteristics and grades, and determine how course pathways should be designed for best student success rates. The second round of pilot data is coming in, and we anticipate moving to the mature system in spring 2020.

Other assessment projects continue apace. In its third semester, the Common Hour now provides time for faculty to complete program-specific work to enhance teaching, learning and innovation in addition to offering an ongoing professional development series. Talks for the fall 2019 semester included service to the college hosted by the academic deans, information regarding the Integrated Learning Platform (ILP) on Blackboard from the Virtual Campus, and an introduction to college budgeting, purchasing and finances by Vice President for Finance Joyce Breckinridge.

Four new Assessment coordinators also began their duties this semester: Jessica Spradley (Allegheny Campus), Kevin Anderson (Boyce Campus), Rita Gallegos (North Campus) and Debora Misencik (South Campus). The coordinators support training efforts for the new Integrated Assessment system as well as applications to the Continuous Quality Improvement Fund. Meanwhile, the liaisons have continued to build the last pieces of the Integrated Assessment system, completing six rubrics over the summer. The entire Assessment Team is planning for All College Day, where all faculty will be invited to share feedback about the new Integrated Assessment process; faculty will also have dedicated time to continue their important assessment-related work. Thank you to everyone involved in assessment efforts throughout the college, which will greatly benefit our students for years to come!

CCAC continues to provide a complete and holistic college experience for our students, which includes services and resources that offer both academic and personal support. These services address basic needs such as hunger, housing and transportation as well as other fundamental physical and mental health needs—all of which can create barriers to our students’ success. Programs and other initiatives designed to reduce or remove these barriers, such as the newly implemented human services navigator project and others mentioned in the pages to come, enable students to focus on their academics and work toward the completion of their academic program.

CCAC Human Services Navigator Project

In September and with funding from the Eden Hall Foundation, CCAC brought on board three highly skilled and trained human services navigators to further student success and completion. Complementing the work of the college's 12 full-time counselors, the navigators help female students in need (per grant requirements) to establish appropriate connections with the social services they require for themselves and their families. This model complements the established work of current CCAC staff, particularly the student success coaches, student support specialists and counseling staff, who engage students in meaningful ways but are primarily focused on the academic aspects of a student’s situation and short-term crisis management.

CCAC's navigators bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to assist our students. They are Dr. Pricilla Robertson (previously from the CCAC Office of Military & Veterans Services), Kimberly Davis and Jill Delaney (both new to the college). In partnership with the Allegheny County Department of Human Services and CCAC staff, the navigators have received extensive training to guide our students through the various obstacles they face toward degree completion. The availability of navigators on CCAC campuses and at the centers will result in students receiving the assistance they need to persist, flourish and graduate from CCAC with a degree or certification, and ultimately gain employment.

Registration Secretary Jessica Wolbert stocks the new food pantry at West Hills Center in preparation for the opening of the pantry this spring.

West Hills Center Food Pantry

Since the spring of 2018, CCAC has offered the services of five permanent food pantries at each of the four campuses and the Homewood-Brushton Center, which are serving hundreds of students in need of food assistance each month. A new food pantry for West Hills Center is in the works and is expected to open in early February in room S714. More details will be shared in the coming months. The benefits of pantries on the campuses are irrefutable—students who utilize the pantries are showing improved academic success, retention and graduation rates. For example, an analysis of the CCAC South Campus Cupboard (2016–2018) shows fall to spring retention rates of 83 percent among students who used the food pantry, compared to 71 percent among students who did not.
Beginning March 15, 2020, CCAC students will see bus service restored to North Campus.

North Campus Bus Service
After a considerable amount of advocacy on the part of the CCAC community, the Port Authority recently announced the restoration of PAT bus service to CCAC North Campus and the Northland Library in McCandless beginning March 15. It took more than five years of lobbying by North Hills residents, businesses, and a coalition called Buses for Perry Highway that included the college. Restoration of the service is very good news for CCAC students, particularly those who take classes in multimedia, data analytics and other programs that are specific to North Campus.

CCAC Promotional Activities: College-Wide
Open Houses, New TV Spots & Roar Tour
On other fronts, CCAC continues to showcase the college’s many programs in an effort to attract future students to CCAC. Two college-wide open houses were held on October 12 and December 4 that offered prospective students and their families information pertaining to admissions and enrollment procedures, financial aid options, transfer and career opportunities, and college services, sports, clubs and other activities. They also had the opportunity to meet CCAC faculty and students and tour the campuses and centers. Additionally, many programs were featured during the open houses. These included Automotive Technology; Biology; Computer Information Technology; Court Reporting; Criminal Justice; Culinary Arts; Data Analytics; English; Film Technician; Multimedia Programming, Simulation & Gaming; Mechatronics Technology; Music Technology; Nursing; Paralegal; Physics; Psychology; Radiation Therapy Technology; Radiologic Technologist; Respiratory Therapy; and Welding Technology.

To further highlight the college and its programs, CCAC undertook two full days of filming for four new commercials—a (:30) and a (:15) spot featuring the college’s Arts & Humanities programs and a (:30) and a (:15) spot showcasing CCAC’s many transfer programs. Exclusively featuring CCAC faculty, staff and students, the commercials, which are now airing on TV and in area cinemas, may be viewed here.

And finally, CCAC’s Wild Cat “Ace” was kept very busy the first part of October visiting all of the college’s campus and center locations, including the Energy Innovation Center. In all, more than one thousand students, faculty and staff turned out for the “Roar Tour,” where they participated in mascot-themed giveaways, enjoyed free pizza and took selfies with Ace.

The Roar Tour’s success in enhancing student engagement and morale was the result of the efforts of many individuals—faculty, staff, students who volunteered to wear the costume, and of course, the student life directors and assistant deans who coordinated the events at the various campuses and centers.
The college once again worked to fill full-time faculty positions in a variety of disciplines across the college. CCAC is pleased to have welcomed the following educators since July 1, 2019:

- **Lynn Davenport**
  - Associate Professor
  - Economics
  - South Campus

- **Robert Ficco**
  - Assistant Professor
  - Biology
  - Allegheny Campus

- **Ashleigh Fox**
  - Assistant Professor
  - English
  - North Campus

- **Cheryl Freedman**
  - Associate Professor
  - Aviation
  - South Campus

- **Ann George**
  - Associate Professor
  - Nursing
  - Boyce Campus

- **Heather Geyer**
  - Associate Professor
  - Nursing
  - Boyce Campus

- **Dawn Jackson**
  - Instructor
  - Library & Learning Services
  - North Campus

- **John David Kokales**
  - Associate Professor
  - Physics
  - Allegheny Campus

- **Roger Levine**
  - Associate Professor
  - Culinary Arts
  - Allegheny Campus

- **Samantha Merz**
  - Assistant Instructor
  - Chemistry/Physics
  - Boyce Campus

- **Swetha Nattuashok**
  - Assistant Professor
  - Nursing
  - Allegheny Campus

- **Betty Ann Rock**
  - Assistant Professor
  - Nursing
  - South Campus

- **Coral Sheldon-Hess**
  - Assistant Professor
  - CIT
  - Allegheny Campus

- **Stephen Sue**
  - Assistant Professor
  - Music Technology
  - Allegheny Campus

- **James Winyard**
  - Instructor
  - CIT
  - Allegheny Campus

- **Cindie Wolf**
  - Associate Professor
  - Nursing
  - CCAC at California University of Pennsylvania

- **Erin Yuhaschek**
  - Assistant Professor
  - Developmental Studies
  - South Campus

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

- **Kimberly Davis**
  - CCAC Navigator
  - Student Development
  - Office of College Services

- **Jill Delaney**
  - CCAC Navigator
  - Student Development
  - Office of College Services

- **Samantha Farmer**
  - Student Development Specialist
  - Student Development
  - South Campus

- **Cara Fulton**
  - Pathways to Professional Careers Coordinator
  - Student Development
  - Office of College Services

- **Eileen Grande**
  - Assistant Director of Accounting
  - Office of College Services

- **Yuhan Hung**
  - Data Analyst
  - Planning & Institutional Research
  - Office of College Services

- **Anastasia Lopez**
  - Director of Job Placement & Career Services
  - North Campus

- **Corey Williams**
  - Internal Auditor
  - Office of College Services

- **Rhaslyn McGhee**
  - Project Director of Student Support Services Program
  - TRIO
  - Allegheny Campus

- **James R. McMahon**
  - Chief Executive Officer
  - CCAC Educational Foundation
  - Byers Hall

- **Julie Paul**
  - Associate Dean of Nursing
  - Nursing
  - Office of College Services

- **Benjamin Shaffer**
  - Student Success Specialist
  - Perkins
  - Boyce Campus

- **Jennifer Swaney**
  - Student Success Coach
  - Student Development
  - Boyce Campus

- **Leah Taylor**
  - Accounts Payable Supervisor
  - Office of College Services

- **Gwendolyn Victum**
  - Program Transition/Retention Coordinator
  - Nursing
  - Office of College Services

- **Darius Markham**
  - Coordinator, Commercial Driver’s License Program
  - Workforce Development
  - Boyce Campus
New Partnerships & Programs Expand Educational Opportunities

With CCAC’s commitment to ensuring that a college education is available to everyone, CCAC continues to develop and expand programs that create pathways of access for students of all abilities and backgrounds.

CCAC’s Plastics Manufacturing Technology Certificate Program

CCAC’s Plastics Manufacturing Technology Certificate program got underway this fall with 16 students enrolled. This exciting new program is preparing students for in-demand careers that lead to family-sustaining jobs in the growing plastics manufacturing industry. Made possible through a $150,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development, the program includes full scholarships that cover tuition, fees and books. The students will earn an industry-recognized certification and receive hands-on experience as well as a paid six-week internship with a local manufacturer. Infrastructure improvements are being made at West Hills Center to accommodate the equipment that will be used in the spring semester. The first cohort will complete the program and earn their certification in early May. A second cohort of 18 to 20 students will run from January 25 to June 30.

Health Professions Opportunity Grant

October 1 marked the beginning of the fifth year of the Health Professions Opportunity Grant (HPOG) at CCAC. Awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Family Assistance in 2015, this was one of the largest federal grants we’ve ever received—and we’ve put it to good use! At Boyce Campus, the HPOG program continues to grow and is on track with strong enrollment. Over the course of the last four years, the CCAC HPOG team has been able to assist hundreds of Allegheny County residents with achieving their dreams of gaining the skills and education needed to begin their careers in the health care field in occupations such as central service technician, medical assistant and emergency medical technician (EMT). More than 300 HPOG students have already completed their training, with another 56 projected to complete their training at the end of December. In total, approximately 1,200 individuals have enrolled in the HPOG program.

CCAC, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre & the R.E.A.A.D.Y. Foundation Partnership

The college entered into a partnership with the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre (PBT) and the Redefining Education, Achieving Associate Degrees for Youth (R.E.A.A.D.Y.) Foundation to offer PBT students and pre-professionals the opportunity to earn an associate degree in the arts at the same time they receive their high school diploma. Through its Early College in High School Academy, CCAC has been able to reach more students at a younger age to assist them in furthering their education. By offering this program to PBT students and pre-professionals, talented high school students will be able to earn an associate degree upon graduation while continuing their professional training at PBT.

PartnerUp

A partnership with PNC Bank, which was initiated by Dr. Evon Walters, president of CCAC’s Northwest Region, has resulted in a total of 22 recently hired PNC employees—13 students in the 2019 summer cohort and nine in the 2019 fall cohort—completing the BUS101 Introduction to Business course taught by Associate Professor Gerald Ferguson. These recent high school graduates, who previously had no plans to attend college, were hired by PNC and were afforded, through the PartnerUp initiative, an opportunity to enroll in a college-credit class at CCAC. The course ended on a high note with the students giving PowerPoint presentations to CCAC and PNC personnel. Through the coordination of Professor Mary Beth Johnson, the students in the second cohort were assigned CCAC mentors, and they had the opportunity to hear a variety of business-related perspectives, courtesy of guest speakers. Some of the students have decided to pursue a degree and are continuing their education while employed at PNC.

College in High School Program

As a result of the relationships built with both Northgate and West Allegheny school districts, North Campus experienced tremendous growth in enrollment in the College in the High School program. Northgate’s enrollment grew from 62 students in fall 2018 to 172 students in fall 2019. West Allegheny’s enrollment in CIHS grew from 57 students in fall 2018 to 337 students in fall 2019. Several other districts in the region have also expressed interest in the CIHS program. Those districts include North Allegheny, which registered 28 students for fall 2019, as well as Shaler, Cornell and North Catholic. In addition, information sessions led by Southeast Region President Charlene Newkirk were held at Boyce and South campuses in October to discuss the CIHS program. Local superintendents, principals, school board members, parents and students attended to learn more about the college courses and programs that are available for high school students in the Bethel Park, Gateway, Franklin Regional, Forbes, Pittsburgh Public, West Jefferson Hills and Woodland Hills school districts.
Barber Certificate Program
After much planning and effort, the CCAC Barber School at the Homewood-Brushton Center, which was previously noncredit, is now a credit program. Beginning in January, students will be able to earn a Barber Certificate in three semesters with classes offered in the day and evening. In addition to the 15 students enrolled, there is a list of at least 10 individuals who want to sign up for the program. Students get extensive hands-on practice in barbering as they prepare to take the Practical Skills and Theory examinations required by the Pennsylvania State Board of Barber Examiners for licensure as a barber. Since it reopened in the fall of 2017, there has been a waiting list to get into this highly successful program.

RubyRide
South Campus, in partnership with the Jefferson Regional Foundation, launched the RubyRide pilot program, which will run for six months. The rideshare program offers services within a five-mile zone of the campus, where students will be able to take advantage of unlimited rides to access jobs, education, health care and food for $20 a month. There are also potential employment opportunities for students with RubyRide at $17 per hour while drivers wait for ride calls and an additional $5 per hour when their cars are moving. Jefferson Regional Foundation approved a $120,000 grant to Economic Development South to fund the rideshare pilot and address the transportation access barriers for Jefferson-area residents who are seeking health care or education to improve their quality of life.

Mobility21
As part of the college’s participation in Mobility21, the National University Transportation Center for Improving Mobility, CCAC automotive, mechatronics and data analytics faculty have developed a course to introduce students to the future of transportation. The course, Explorations in Transportation Innovation, will focus on vehicle sensor technology, the data generated by those sensors and the uses for that data. As a survey course, students from all academic disciplines will be able to acquire transferrable skills relevant to their field. This course is paid for by Mobility21 and will be offered on Saturdays at the West Hills Center in spring 2020. Stay tuned for more exciting news about this cutting-edge program!

Capital Improvement Projects: Enhancing CCAC Programs, Services & Image
Several major facility-related improvements across the campuses are in progress or have been completed. Here are just a few highlights:

A recent renovation project at the Homewood-Brushton Center focused on upgrading classroom technology, including collaboration areas, which will enhance the student learning experience. Audio-visual upgrades are in progress in key areas on all campuses. These include the gymnasium and dining facility at North Campus, the cafeteria at West Hills Center, the Foerster Student Services Center Lobby at Allegheny Campus and the Mezzanine at South Campus. All of these upgrades will be completed in the spring.

Classroom improvements continue across the college as each campus was approved and funded to upgrade classrooms with new technology following recommendations from the Student Success through Technologies committee. These upgrades include the South Campus Collaboration Room (D201), which was completed in November; Boyce Campus S587, S659, N544 and N568; and North Campus N1101, N1109, N1113 and N1115. In addition, N1125 has been set up as a tech prototype classroom for faculty to try out equipment, see how it operates and provide feedback. The proposed “classrooms of the future” may include Clear Touch monitors and other interactive teaching systems. At Allegheny Campus, an Innovation Lab is being prepared for Room M109. The room will include collaboration space and upgraded IT teaching systems and will be completed in January.

Collegewide electrical system upgrades needed for the Logicalis Network Upgrade project are now in place, and the network infrastructure components will be fully implemented in early spring. Installation of the Emergency Generator and Uninterruptible Power Supply system has been completed at all campuses and centers. Replacement of the Emergency Generator at the Office of College Services will be finished in the spring. The Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone system installation has begun college-wide and is also expected to be up and running in the spring. The VoIP phone system will enable users to make voice calls using a broadband internet connection instead of a regular phone line.
Office of Sponsored Programs & Sponsored Research: Recent Grant Awards

From July 1 to November 22, through the Office of Sponsored Programs & Sponsored Research, CCAC has secured $1,994,350 in new grants to fund programs and services that will expand opportunities for students. The following awards have been received:

**OCDEL Apprenticeship Pathway**

CCAC received a $231,120 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Office of Child Development and Early Learning. The grant will be used to develop a consistent and holistic Early Childhood Education (ECE) system that includes sustained articulation agreements that will increase and enhance access for success for the ECE workforce to earn industry-recognized credentials. Partners include Carlow University, Partner4Work, Trying Together and Literacy Pittsburgh.

**Pathways to Professional Careers**

CCAC received a grant totaling $605,230 from Partner4Work and Point Park University to prepare Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/Youth Development Program-eligible students while at CCAC for experiential learning through cooperative education placement upon transfer to Point Park. This grant will provide opportunities for talented, diverse and locally connected students to gain valuable work experience while working toward their degree.

**Faculty Innovation Center**

CCAC received a grant totaling $1,000,000 from the Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program for the Faculty Innovation Center, where college faculty, staff, students and community members will be able to work in a collaborative environment to create engaging learning and teaching experiences. As a result, the center will increase student success, build vital community partnerships and invite individuals to be members of an intellectually diverse and active learning community.

**Verizon Innovative Learning in STEM**

CCAC received a $158,000 grant from the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship and the Verizon Foundation. The Verizon Innovative Learning in STEM program will focus on the provision of STEM and entrepreneurial skills to 100 middle school students (50 males, 50 females). The program will begin with a nationally-standardized curriculum for a three-week summer STEM camp hosted by CCAC and followed by monthly Saturday STEM-related activities at the college.

**Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center**

While not included in the grant tally, CCAC is also participating in the following initiative that is being funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center (PSC), in collaboration with CCAC, Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Pittsburgh and UPMC, received a $10 million grant from the NSF. In partnership with Hewlett Packard Enterprise, PSC and the collaborators will deploy Bridges-2, a system designed to provide researchers in Pennsylvania and the nation the massive computational capacity and the flexibility to adapt to the rapidly evolving field of data- and computation-intensive research. CCAC’s role in this project includes active faculty and student engagement in curricular offerings/innovations, training, and research in data analytics and artificial intelligence.

**CCAC Educational Foundation: Recent Grants & Gifts**

The CCAC Educational Foundation has been active in initiatives that have resulted in significant funding for the college. On December 3, the foundation joined with organizations throughout the region to participate in Give Big Pittsburgh, a single-day online fundraising effort. Kicked off with a $5,000 match from a foundation board member, CCAC raised $10,800 through this initiative to generate funds for the Student Emergency GAP Fund, which provides emergency financial assistance for students so they do not have to choose between their education and a financial emergency.
Grants received by the foundation include:

- $331,037 from the Eden Hall Foundation to fund the CCAC Human Services Navigator Project (see page 4).
- $130,000 from General Motors for GM Dealer Technician Scholarships. This program provides full scholarships to CCAC automotive students and began with the fall 2019 semester.

Gifts received by the foundation include:

- $30,000 from First National Bank and $10,000 from the Buncher Company through the EITC program to support dual enrollment.
- $10,000 from Frances L. Kelly in support of two endowed scholarships.
- $10,000 from Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities to endow a new scholarship in clean energy and sustainability.
- $4,200 from Daniel Fix to finish endowing a new scholarship in Electrical Distribution Technology and Heating and Air Conditioning.
- $1,000 from Beth Amber to launch the Jim Emswiller Memorial Scholarship for students in CCAC's Film Technician program. The Theatre department is seeking contributions to reach $10,000 so the scholarship can be endowed.

The Theatre department is seeking contributions to reach $10,000 so the scholarship can be endowed.

At this year’s golf tournament in support of the CCAC Educational Foundation, the foursome of Anthony Ditka, Michael O’Day, Bruce Beemer and Bill Bresnahan took home top honors.

The CCAC Educational Foundation’s 29th Annual Golf Tournament was held September 9 at Treesdale Golf and Country Club. One hundred golfers enjoyed a beautiful weather day on the course while raising more than $70,000 in support of the students and programs at CCAC!

Thanks to the generosity of many donors, the foundation was pleased to award approximately $150,000 as part of the fall 2019 scholarship cycle to more than 200 deserving CCAC students. Spring scholarships will be awarded in January, so please encourage students in need to apply.

CCAC Highlights: Awards & Other Distinctions

With a total of 82,706,648 steps, CCAC finished in first place in the 2019 SparkPittsburgh Step Challenge for Large Companies! To celebrate our victory, WTAE–TV filmed a commercial at Boyce Campus, which won the trophy for the campus with the most steps—19,945,297 to be exact. Students, staff and faculty, along with Ace, the CCAC Mascot, displayed their CCAC Wild Cats pride in the commercial. Congratulations to all 267 employees who took part in the Step Challenge, with a special round of thanks extended to members of the Wellness Committee for taking a lead role. This impressive win underscores the college community's commitment to health and wellness—keep on walking, everyone!

In the commercial, Yvonne Powers, director of Employee & Labor Relations, leads the celebration of CCAC’s first place finish in the 2019 SparkPittsburgh Step Challenge.

Congratulations to CCAC’s Early Education & Childhood Development Associate of Science Degree program for receiving renewed accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children's (NAEYC) Commission on the Accreditation of Early Childhood Higher Education programs. CCAC is one of only eight institutions in the country that received renewed accreditation this year. Accreditation serves as a mechanism for ensuring a consistent and high level of program quality and alignment to the NAEYC Initial and Advanced Standards for Early Childhood Professional Preparation Programs. By following a quality standard, we are providing an effective program that graduates the best-trained early childhood teachers. The Early Education and Childhood Development faculty, with Professor Melanie Yeschenko as the coordinator, worked very hard to make this happen. Kudos to all, and keep up the great work!

CCAC’s Nursing program continues to deliver an educational experience that thoroughly prepares students for both the required examination and future employment opportunities. CCAC’s current National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) first-time pass rate for Nursing is 95.16%, which is 9.63% higher than the national mean for all associate degree programs! The program boasts other impressive statistics, including producer of the greatest number of Registered Nurses in Southwestern Pennsylvania. These are statistics of which to be proud!
CCAC’s Nursing Program continues to receive top marks in a number of areas, including for examination pass rates that are nearly 10% higher than the national mean.

And staying with the Nursing program, I am very pleased to report that Janette Petro, professor of Nursing at Boyce Campus, received an honorable mention in the Academic Category of the Excellence in Nursing awards by Pittsburgh Magazine, December 2019 edition. Also recognized were Veronica Smith, assistant professor of Nursing at South Campus, and Dr. Patricia Paul, professor of Nursing at South Campus, for their podium presentation at the National League for Nursing Summit held on September 27 in Fort Washington, Maryland. Their presentation, “The Escape Room,” which was followed by a Q&A session, was very well received by the more than 250 faculty in attendance. Congratulations on these achievements!

CCAC was recognized at the 2019 Pennsylvania Apprenticeship Summit for its collaboration with the German American Chamber of Commerce (GACC). The Pittsburgh Chapter of the GACC received the award for Outstanding Pre-Apprenticeship Program in the state for its Dual Apprenticeship Program Model for Mechatronics Technician and Polymer Technician. CCAC’s role in providing technical instruction to the apprentices was acknowledged at the summit by Eileen Capriani, deputy secretary for Workforce Development at the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry. In attendance at the summit was Debra Killmeyer, assistant vice president, CCAC Workforce Development, who collaborated with the GACC to develop the program’s related technical curriculum. The apprentices receive training at CCAC from Assistant Professor Justin Starr and from Adjunct Instructor Chris Quick. High school graduates in the apprenticeship program take mechatronics technology classes at CCAC’s West Hills Center. Apprentices are able to earn a Mechatronics Certificate and a Manufacturing Skills Standards Council (MSSC) Certification while working full-time and receiving the necessary training to succeed in a high-demand career in advanced manufacturing. Congratulations on this significant recognition!

Doralee Brooks, professor of Developmental Studies, was recently chosen as the winner of the 2019 Cathy Smith Bowers Chapbook Contest for her book, “Home Comfort,” which will have a title change to “When I Hold You Up to the Light” prior to being available for purchase in the spring. Juel Smith, interim associate dean of Academic Affairs, was selected as the recipient of the “Change Maker” Award at the 2019 YWCA Justice Awards Luncheon held on November 22 at the Omni William Penn Hotel. Smith was also recently elected to serve on the board of directors of The Crossroads Foundation. Rob Velella, student development specialist, was recognized by The Incline as part of the magazine’s 2019 class of “Who’s Next: Education.” The recognition honors local educators under age 40 who are making a difference in their area of expertise. Another “under 40” recipient is Andrew Johnson, executive director of Community Partnerships and External Affairs, who was named as one of Pittsburgh Magazine’s 40 Under 40 Honorees in its October issue. The annual list recognizes individuals under 40 years of age for their career accomplishments, volunteer work and commitment to the Pittsburgh region. Kudos on all these achievements!

Daniel Duffy, executive director, CCAC Military & Veterans Services, is congratulated by Brigadier General (Retired) George Schwartz, chair, PNGAS Education Action Council.

CCAC has been selected to receive the inaugural Pennsylvania National Guard Associations (PNGAS) Guard Friendly School designation. Of the more than 480 schools eligible as recipients of Pennsylvania Educational Assistance Program (EAP) funds, CCAC is among the first 30 to receive the inaugural designation. EAP funds pay for Pennsylvania National Guard Members’ full tuition minus fees. In the fall semester, 29 CCAC students received the benefit, for a total of $43,000 in paid tuition. Daniel Duffy, executive director of Military & Veterans Services, attended the PNGAS ceremony in Lancaster on November 8 to accept the award. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor!
Robert Koch, automotive professor and department head, served on a panel at the Pennsylvania Automated Vehicle Summit in September. Koch shared how CCAC will be in a position to prepare new students for the autonomous vehicle job market. Professors and Assessment Co-leaders Caroline Evans and Dr. Kalina White presented “You said Please, so I Thought Assessment was Optional?” at the Annual Conference on Teaching and Learning Assessment held at Drexel University. Their presentation focused on how to build a culture of assessment at a community college. Dr. Christopher Robinson, associate professor, recently trained 150 social workers and guidance counselors at Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) about the history of and transfer opportunities available for community college students who want attend Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other minority-serving institutions. The training took place at the PPS annual fall 2019 professional development day held at Pittsburgh University Prep High School in the Hill District.

Hope Balanti, Career Services Employment Specialist, presented the revised CCAC Job Search Manual at the 2019 PennACE (Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Employers) Conference in State College. The presentation focused on how different sections of the manual are utilized in classroom presentations and how instructors use the worksheets and activities to meet learning outcomes in career readiness. It’s great to see CCAC so expertly represented out in the community!

In October, Dr. Michael Chirdon-Jones, advisor at CCAC’s Boyce Campus, and Amy Sosanko, advisor, CCAC South Campus, presented at a national conference for the National Academic Advising Association. Chirdon-Jones’ presentation, “Beyond the Developmental and Prescriptive Dichotomy: What Students Want from Academic Advising,” summarized the results of a yearlong qualitative research study that focused on understanding what students need from the advising process. Sosanko presented “Fostering Success: Support for Students with Experience in Foster Care.” Sosanko is a 2019 recipient of the Hardie Conference Travel Award through the University of Illinois, College of Education, where she is earning her EdD in Educational Policy, Organization and Leadership. Chirdon-Jones completed his EdD in 2018 through the University of Pittsburgh, with a focus on Social and Comparative Analysis in Education. Dr. Rhaslyn McGhee, director of TRIO-Student Support Services, successfully defended her dissertation earlier this fall at the University Institute in Cincinnati. McGhee has a PhD in Humanities and Culture. Kathleen Hillen, information security analyst, ITS, received her Master of Science in Cybersecurity and Information Assurance from Robert Morris University in May. Congratulations to all these scholars!

And speaking of scholars, kudos to Jeanine Bedner, a student in the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program at Boyce Campus, who received the Student Leadership Award at the Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association’s (PPTA) Move PA Annual Conference. Bedner is secretary of the CCAC Student Physical Therapy Association Class of 2020 and is the seventh recipient of this award from the PTA program at CCAC. She was also selected to be the PPTA Student Advocacy Chair. Bedner’s personal initiative, leadership, community service and professional contributions make her an exemplary role model for fellow students. Since the inception of the award in 2010, Boyce Campus is the only institution out of the 39 accredited programs in the state to have seven students honored with the award.

The CCAC Model United Nations Club (CCAC-MUN) was awarded “Honorable Mention” for its representation of the Hellenic Republic at the National Model United Nations Conference in Washington, D.C., in November. The conference was attended by more than 1,000 students from colleges and universities across the U.S. and nine other nations. To prepare for the simulation of international politics and diplomacy, six CCAC students spent many hours studying the history, economy and politics of Greece. They worked for three days in their committees, which included negotiating with delegates representing other countries and writing resolutions. This is the second year in a row that the CCAC-MUN Club has received a team recognition.
Faculty and students of the CCAC North Campus chapter of the Psi Beta Honor Society include, from the left: Allison Barash, professor, Psychology, and chapter advisor; Nikita Simile, secretary; Anastasia Tsouris, treasurer; Katlin Hanlon, president; Dr. Anne Louise Dailey, professor emeritus, Psychology, and chapter advisor; and Jessica Juracko, vice president.

Congratulations also go to the CCAC North Campus chapter of Psi Beta, the Community College National Honor Society in Psychology, which received the 2018–2019 Chapter Excellence Award. This is the second time in 10 years the chapter has been recognized. The mission of Psi Beta is to encourage professional development and psychological literacy of students at two-year colleges through excellence in scholarship, leadership, research and community service. The honor society, with 45 active members, is overseen by co-advisors Allison Barash, professor, Psychology, and Dr. Anne Louise Dailey, professor emeritus, Psychology. More than 1,200 students have joined the chapter, which was started by Dailey in 1981, and an induction ceremony has been held at North Campus every year for the past 38 years. Keep up the great work!

Recent graduates of CCAC’s FireVEST scholarship program were honored during the Allegheny County Council meeting on October 22 at the Allegheny County Courthouse. The 12 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. Since January 2009, more than 375 Allegheny County volunteer firefighters have participated in this recruitment and retention program, whose purpose is to help keep Allegheny County’s volunteer fire companies staffed, well-trained and ready to respond. The following CCAC FireVEST graduates were honored by Allegheny County Council: Tanner Bock, Rennerdale VFD; Joseph Figueroa-Rivera, Monroeville VFC #1; Alexander Green, Rennerdale VFD; Tyler Hilliard, Baurerstown VFD; Mark Loya, Hilltop Hose Company #3; David Moore, Reserve VFD; Jacob Poznik, Aspinwall VFD; Sean Ronick, Broughton VFD; Shelby Snir, Citizens Hose VFC #1; Harrison Tinney, Bower Hill VFD; Daniel Vaughn, Point Breeze VFC #4; and Kaitlyn Wichelmann, West Mifflin VFC #3. The graduates majored in programs such as Liberal Arts & Sciences, Criminal Justice & Criminology, Mechatronics, Fire Science Administration, HVAC, Automotive Technology, Medical Lab Technician, Architectural Drafting & Design and Computer Information Systems. Congratulations to these public servants who were recognized for their role in keeping us all safe!

Gathered to congratulate CCAC FireVEST graduate Kaitlyn Wichelmann are, from the left: Chief Matt Brown, Allegheny County Emergency Services; Debra Killmeyer, CCAC Workforce Development; Dr. Elizabeth Strenkowski, CCAC Boyce Campus Admissions; Cindy Kirk, Allegheny County Council; Bob Macey, Allegheny County Council; CCAC FireVEST graduate Kaitlyn Wichelmann, West Mifflin VFC #3; Nick Futules, Allegheny County Council; Bob Palmosina, Allegheny County Council; Connie Wichelmann; Mel Wichelmann; Dustin Wichelmann; and Dustin Pisarcik. In the back are Allegheny County Council members Pat Catena, Sam DeMarco, Tom Baker, Paul Klein, John DeFazio, Sue Means, Anita Prior, Denise Ranalli-Russell, John Palmiere, Paul Zavarella and DeWitt Walton.

The CCAC Wild Cats Volleyball Team finished in second place at the National Junior Collegiate Athletic Association Region XX Championship hosted by Butler County Community College in October. Two CCAC students, Abi Cmar and Harper Ercole, were named Region XX All-Tournament players. Earlier this month, the Wild Cats also placed second in the Western Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference (WPCC) Championship Tournament with three players named to the WPCC All-Conference Team. This year marked the first time the team has been in the conference finals since 1993. Congratulations on a great season!

CCAC Wild Cats Volleyball Team members, flanked by Head Coach Scott Smithley (left) and Assistant Coach Joe Guiciardi, pose with their second-place plaque following the NJCAA Region XX Championship.

And kudos to CCAC Cross Country athlete Gary Blough, who finished in third place at the 2019 WPCC Cross Country Championship that took place on October 17 at Westmoreland County Community College. Blough was also named to the WPCC All-Conference Team and competed at the National Junior Collegiate Athletic Association Region XX Championship at Hagerstown Community College in Maryland in October.
Autumn Events Showcase the College

Below is a sampling of some key events that have taken place in the past six months, marking 2019 as another eventful year at CCAC.

Nursing Program's 50th Anniversary Celebration

CCAC’s Nursing program celebrated the 50th anniversary of its first graduating class with a fundraising brunch on Saturday, September 14. Held in conjunction with the CCAC Educational Foundation, the event took place in the auditorium lobby of the Foerster Student Services Center. Alumni and faculty from all 50 years of the program gathered to celebrate the milestone, and graduates of the first class were honored with a commemorative gift. Speaking at the event were Dr. Stuart Blacklaw, provost and executive vice president, Kathy Mayle, dean, Nursing, Dr. Rose Ferrara-Love, CCAC alumna from the Class of 1975, and Professor Mary Jane Smith, who has been part of the Nursing faculty since 1969. Smith reflected on the first class and how the program has changed over the past five decades. Congratulations to all who have been involved with CCAC’s acclaimed Nursing program on this significant milestone!

CCAC 5K

CCAC South Campus’ Second Annual 5K, held on Sunday, October 20, was a runaway success! Approximately 60 students, faculty, staff and community members attempted the 3.1-mile course. This year’s race had five more sponsors than last year’s, and an additional fundraising event was held afterwards at Buffalo Wild Wings. Trophies were awarded to the overall top male and female winners, and medals were awarded to the top three males and the top three females in each of the seven age groups. The 5K was made possible through the dedication and support of many student and staff volunteers.

“Won’t You Be My Neighbor?” Lecture & Screening

On November 15, Allegheny Campus hosted a free screening of the acclaimed documentary “Won’t You Be My Neighbor?” along with a lecture by Dr. Roberta Schomburg, executive director of the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children’s Media, in the Foerster Student Services Center Auditorium. The event was open to the public and the college community and was sponsored by Allegheny Campus Student Life and the Students for Human Life and Dignity Club. The screening was followed by a lively Q&A period and concluded with a reception in the auditorium lobby.

Panel Discussion

CCAC Allegheny Campus hosted a panel discussion titled “Pittsburgh’s Inequality Across Gender and Race” on November 21 in the Foerster Student Services Center Auditorium. The discussion included experts in the field from CCAC, the University of Pittsburgh and the City of Pittsburgh and was hosted by the CCAC Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion. The free event was held in response to a report by a team of Pitt researchers and released by the City of Pittsburgh’s Gender Equity Commission, which found that the health, education and employment prospects of Black Pittsburgh residents trail those of other comparable U.S. cities. CCAC participants included moderator Carmen Livingston, professor and campus diversity officer; Juel Smith, interim associate dean, Academic Affairs, and professor, Biology, Boyce Campus; and Sonya Thomas, student, Social Work.

Odyssey Day, Manufacturing Day 2019, CCAC Skilled Trades & Services Fair

October and November were busy months at West Hills Center, beginning with the 11th Annual National Alternative Fuel Vehicle Odyssey Day on October 4. Held in collaboration with Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities (PRCC), the day was filled with educating the public on alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles that provide cleaner, more energy efficient forms of transportation. The event featured displays, rides in alternative fuel vehicles, workshops, demonstrations, panel discussions and more. A major highlight was the presentation of a $10,000 check by Rick Price, executive director of PRCC, to Dr. Evon Walters, president, Northwest Region and James McMahon, chief executive officer, CCAC Educational Foundation. The donation will endow a scholarship that will advance student development in the field of clean energy and sustainability.
Jennifer Cowans, director of Business Operations at West Hills Center, and Karl Watson, professor of Automotive Engineering, check out the interior of a Tesla Model X during Odyssey Day.

On October 23, West Hills Center invited high school students, parents, community members and businesses to Manufacturing Day 2019, an international event where thousands of businesses and schools across North America inspire the next generation of manufacturers. The center hosted 15 area manufacturers and four affiliated organizations to share information on their products, manufacturing processes and career opportunities. Students from four local high schools as well as many CCAC students visited the center to learn more about manufacturing and to meet with potential employers. Students toured the mechatronics labs and participated in hands-on demonstrations, such as virtual welding. A panel discussion among manufacturers addressed questions about technology, career and advancement opportunities, and trends in the U.S. manufacturing industry.

In recognition of the strides made by South Campus this year, the 12th Annual Skilled Trades & Services Fair, held at West Hills Center on November 26, was another success. More than 400 participants attended, with students from about 25 high schools in Allegheny and neighboring counties, along with CCAC friends and family members. Attendees learned all about in-demand technical and trades careers and enjoyed hands-on contests and live demonstrations. The event included a workshop and panel discussion by women who work in skilled trades professions. The “Women in the Trades” panel included JoHanna Clendenning, CCAC graduate and journeyman plumber, and Pam Grove, CCAC manufacturing grant coordinator, among other prominent trades experts. The panelists shared their stories, answered questions and offered advice to other women seeking careers in STEM or the skilled trades.

Collaboration Room

Earlier this month, South Campus held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the grand opening of its state-of-the-art Collaboration Room—a brand new type of space at the campus that will foster innovation and collaboration on projects among students. The room, which is located in D201 and can be used by any class, features advanced technology, including white board desks and walls, mini computers with touch screens and cutting-edge Wolf Vision software as well as seating to promote collaboration. I was pleased to speak at the ribbon cutting ceremony along with Charlene Newkirk, president, Southeast Region, Dr. Stephen Wells, professor, English, and Courtney Seiler, who talked about how she and her fellow students will benefit from the new space. Thank you to all who brought this project to fruition!

Students and other attendees talk with representatives from local companies, including United States Steel, about manufacturing career opportunities during Manufacturing Day 2019.

County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and Southeast Region President Charlene Newkirk congratulate winners of the 5th Annual Civics Bowl held at South Campus to help individuals studying for the U.S. Citizenship exam.

Civics Bowl

On September 21, South Campus hosted the 5th Annual Civics Bowl in partnership with the Bhutanese Community Association of Pittsburgh and Literacy Pittsburgh to help individuals who are studying for the U.S. Citizenship exam. Southeast Region President Charlene Newkirk provided opening remarks and County Executive Rich Fitzgerald was an honored guest. Faculty members Laurie Sprinkle, Jason Stoebe, Shawn-Colin Thomas and Carmen Livingston volunteered to serve on one of the four teams with members of the Bhutanese and Algerian, Nepalese, Congolese, Mexican, Moroccan, Russian and South Sudanese communities. Faculty members Debbie Conway, Veena Venugopal and Leonora Anyango-Kivuva, along with Dean Jolin, assistant dean of Student Development, also volunteered, as did several CCAC Honors students.
**Naturalization Ceremony**

On November 20, South Campus hosted a naturalization ceremony where 27 individuals took the oath of citizenship. The new United States citizens represented 21 countries reflecting the diversity of the U.S., including Bhutan, Burma, Canada, China, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Romania, Sudan and Ukraine. Congratulations to all these new United States citizens!

![Photo of individuals taking the oath of citizenship at the naturalization ceremony.]

**CCAC’s Community Outreach Extends Far & Wide**

CCAC students from multiple campuses rolled up their sleeves to volunteer at the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank on September 11, 2019. Also known as Patriot Day, September 11 is a National Day of Service and Remembrance when Americans across the country are called to volunteer in their local communities in tribute to the individuals lost and injured in the attacks, first responders, and the many who have risen in service to defend freedom. The volunteers included new and returning students of various ages and majors. Together, they spent hours repackaging more than 60 boxes of food donations for distribution to individuals and families in need. Rachel Bowden, CCAC Food Security AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer, organized the event as an opportunity for participants to give back while getting a chance to see how the food bank benefits the community.

![Photo of CCAC volunteers at the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.]

More than 150 local high school teachers and students attended the 2019 BotsIQ Teacher/Student Professional Development Day at West Hills Center in September. The event is held for students to design and build robots for educational robotics competitions. Teachers and students participated in 45-minute training workshops throughout the day on safety inspection, introduction to metals, bots building, curriculum development and more. The teachers also took tours of the Mechatronics program spaces conducted by Assistant Professor Patricia Thompson.

In October, Allegheny Campus hosted the League of Women Voters for a Candidate Forum featuring the candidates for county executive. The event was cosponsored by the ACLU, Pittsburgh UNITED and Black Political Empowerment Project. CCAC Phi Theta Kappa and Political Science Club students volunteered as greeters, time-keepers, runners and question sorters. Approximately 65 individuals, plus 15 student volunteers, were in attendance. Dr. Jacqueline Cavalier, professor, History, was instrumental in bringing this event to CCAC, while Donald Breitharth, PTK advisor, and David Manel, associate professor and Political Science Club advisor, recruited the student volunteers. Dr. Carol Yoannone, dean of Academic Affairs, provided the opening remarks.

![Photo of students participating in the BotsIQ Teacher/Student Professional Development Day.]

The CCAC’s Respiratory Therapy program practice their skills on one of the program’s simulation manikins.

**CCAC’s Respiratory Therapy program** students and faculty celebrated National Respiratory Care Day at Allegheny Campus in October by holding an open house in the Foerster Student Services Center. The students performed diagnostic procedures for fellow students, faculty and staff while educating participants about the growing profession. More than 100 visitors were greeted, and six individuals committed to apply for admission to the program. Also, for the fifth year in a row, CCAC Respiratory Therapy students volunteered in a mock disaster drill at UPMC Mercy Hospital this summer. The students acted as individuals who were involved in a biochemical disaster, thereby seeing things from the patient’s perspective.

![Photo of CCAC’s Respiratory Therapy students participating in the mock disaster drill.]

Taking a break for a photo at the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank are CCAC volunteers, from the left: Alexandria Peters, AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer Kathryn Chestnut, Ty Zachary Digs, Esme Stasa, AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer Rachel Bowden, Chloe Nguyen, Bridget Struble, Ebony Copeland and Sierra Meyer.
For the eighth year in a row, the CCAC Student Physical Therapy Association (SPTA) collected Thanksgiving dinner food items for its Help Give Thanks service learning project in collaboration with the Churchill-Wilkins Rotary Club, which purchased 50 turkeys to complete the holiday meals. Physical Therapist Assistant program faculty and students delivered the turkeys and food items to the Rainbow Kitchen in Homestead. Each Thanksgiving dinner fed a family of four to six people, resulting in 250 to 300 meals! The CCAC SPTA also participated in *The Walk to End Alzheimer’s* that took place at Highmark Stadium in Pittsburgh on October 13. Nine students from the Classes of 2020 and 2021 raised $880 for the Alzheimer’s Association. In addition, the students participated in the CCAC Boyce Campus Supportive Services Disability Fair, held on October 16.

The Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) at Boyce Campus held a yoga mat/block drive to benefit the Alle-Kiski Area HOPE Center, whose mission is the elimination of domestic violence. The students, with support from faculty advisors Miranda Virone, assistant professor, and Dr. Lillian Briola, program director and head of Allied Health, donated 26 yoga mats and 25 yoga blocks to the center as it prepared to offer a yoga class as part of a health and wellness initiative. SOTA also hosted the Lower Kiski Search and Rescue Mission, which provided a demonstration with their K-9 crew, and made a $100 donation to their cause.

Members of the Student Occupational Therapy Association gather with the Lower Kiski Search and Rescue Mission’s K-9 crew and their handlers following a demonstration at Boyce Campus in October, which was sponsored by SOTA.

CCAC Honors students across all campuses raised more than $800 for the Homeless Children’s Education Fund (HCEF), a local organization that provides support and mentoring to homeless children in the Greater Pittsburgh area so their education won’t be disrupted. To aid the campaign, Honors students sold $1 “helping hand” certificates to friends and family. They also held “Candyland” events at each campus to raise awareness and funds for HCEF.

And a heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated blood on Monday, November 11, during the Veterans Day Blood Drive. The generosity of donors will aid many of our neighbors in need. In all, 107 individuals donated blood, which will be used to directly help 320 patients in our local communities. Additionally, the CCAC Office of Military & Veterans Services collaborated with Strive For A Better Tomorrow for Holidays for Veterans again this year. The office collected more than 200 blankets for the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System’s Aspinwall Division and its Veterans Recovery Center and other local veteran organizations. The blankets were collected college-wide for distribution in early December. Many thanks to all who participated in this effort to keep our veterans warm this winter!
When this report was first distributed five years ago, my intention was to provide a brief update on some of the many projects taking place at the college over the previous six months. However, with so much continuing to be accomplished on a daily basis at CCAC, it is not surprising that this report has grown over time.

The sheer number of successful programs, projects, partnerships, and individual and collective achievements accomplished over these past six months is nothing short of remarkable. And it’s all because of your hard work and the dedication you have to this college, its mission and our students.

So during this season of reflective celebration, I want to take a moment to thank you for all that you have done to help give every student the one gift they will always treasure—the gift of a college education.

It’s been my great honor to work with you this past year, and I wish you all the very best as you celebrate the season and ring in the New Year with family and friends. I look forward to seeing you at the holiday party at Byers Hall on December 19.

Happy Holidays,
Dr. Quintin B. Bullock