

## Fall is Here!

DCC has been bustling with activity this past month, with classes in full swing and a variety of engaging events for students, faculty, staff and community members to enjoy.

We kicked off the semester with our signature fall welcome event, **FalconFest**, on Sept. 4 and 5. The perfect weather set the stage for a vibrant celebration of all things DCC, featuring fun activities, games and valuable information. Sunshine and smiles were everywhere as new and returning students explored campus opportunities, while faculty and staff enthusiastically shared their expertise.



Dr. Jordan also highlighted our many resources and opportunities at the **Think**

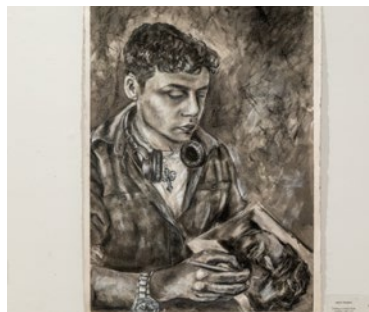


**Ahead** program orientation on Aug. 27. Think Ahead is a two-year work readiness program that prepares students with disabilities for employment and introduces them to the college environment. The Class of 2026 received a warm welcome from Dr. Jordan along with our community and government partners, and second-year Think Ahead program students shared their wisdom and advice.

**The Fall 2024 Student Art Exhibit**, which opened on the first day of classes in the Mildred I. Washington Art Gallery, showcases the work of our talented students and recent alumni. The diverse collection includes paintings, drawings, digital illustrations, sculpture, ceramics, mixed media, fabric art and more. A reception on Aug. 28 celebrated the exhibit participants and honored the recipients of the President's Award. Look inside the exhibit [here](#), and, if you get the chance, swing by! The show is up through the end of the week.



*First Place: Katelyn Oles for "Monochromatic Drawing" from ART 110 with part-time Associate Professor Kristen Rego*



*Second Place: Jason Umazior for "Drawing" from ART 112 with Associate Professor Lindsey Guile*



*Third Place: Norah Bannon for "Pressed Flower Mural" from ART 274 with part-time Associate Professor Jessica Murphy*

# Save the Dates!

## Town Hall Series with Dr. Jordan

In a continuation of efforts to enhance transparency and communication at DCC, the Office of the President is planning a series of four campuswide Town Hall sessions.

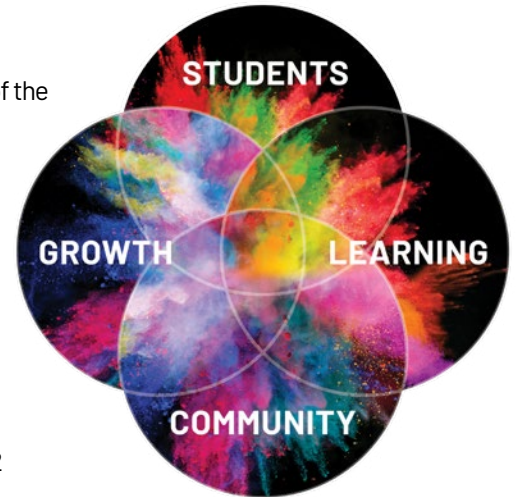
The Town Halls will amplify the vision set forth in the strategic plan through the four lenses around the specific theme, "This is Our Future." Mark your calendar for the following dates:

**This is Our Future: The Students Lens** – Friday, Oct. 11, 1–2:30 p.m., Bowne Hall, room 122

**This is Our Future: The Learning Lens** – Friday, Oct. 25, 10–11:30 a.m., Greenspan Cafeteria

**This is Our Future: The Community Lens** – Friday, Nov. 15, 2–3:30 p.m., Greenspan Cafeteria

**This is Our Future: The Growth Lens** – Friday, Dec. 6, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Bowne Hall, room 122



Each Town Hall will include remarks from Dr. Jordan along with ample time for engaged discussion. Hope to see you there!



## Gina D'Angelo-Mullen

### Director of Marketing and Communications

Gina D'Angelo-Mullen has dedicated her extensive career to building and leading award-winning marketing and communications departments throughout the Hudson Valley and tri-state region. With over two decades of experience in both public and private sectors, she is a resourceful and strategic leader who brings a wealth of expertise to her role as Director of Marketing and College Communications at DCC.

D'Angelo-Mullen's career has followed a trajectory of growth and transformation. In her most recent role as senior director for Optum (formerly CareMount), a Fortune 500 company, she led a multifaceted marketing team inclusive of digital, creative, media planning, branding, analytics and public relations for a region supporting over 2 million patients and 10,000 employees and providers. D'Angelo-Mullen earned several honors and recognition along the way, including being named one of Crain's NY "Notable in Marketing and PR" in 2021 and receiving Hudson Valley Magazine's 2020 Women in Business award.

Inspired by a visit from a PR executive during a career day in high school and driven by her innate facility with communication, people and leadership—skills she jokes about honing as the eldest daughter with three younger brothers—she pursued a bachelor's degree in communications-public relations from Marist College and has been invested in the field ever since.

*"This is a pivotal chapter for DCC and I am excited to help drive the growth and innovation happening here. I look forward to leveraging my experience and the talents of my team to advance the College's mission. I am ready to work with Dr. Jordan and leadership to enhance our branding and support the strategic plan."*

Fun facts about Gina: She grew up in New Haven, where her family runs Libby's Italian Pastry Shop, a fixture on Wooster Street (or Little Italy) for four generations. Gina has two daughters: one a freshman at FDR High School and the other following in her footsteps as a communications and digital design major at the University of New Haven. Gina is passionate about fitness, naming Zumba and Peloton among her top activities, so it's fitting that her husband is a personal trainer. They share their home with two cats, Cappy and Noli, named after staples of Italian cuisine.

## DCC in the News

### Weidman Paints a Picture of Hudson Valley Art Scene

Director of the Mildred I. Washington Art Gallery and Professor of Communications, Media Arts and Film Dana Weidman was recently featured in a Hudson Valley One article: [What is the nature of Hudson Valley art?](#) by Sparrow. Not only does the piece highlight Weidman's valuable insights on the region's unique aesthetic, but it also includes three of her paintings! Check it out [here](#).



### Direct Support Professional Student Earns National Recognition



As our new Direct Support Professional (DSP) program enters its second year, our students are already earning national recognition for their dedication and accomplishments in the field. This acknowledgment highlights the impact of the program and the exceptional training provided at DCC.

Last month, DSP student Jodi Beck was honored as the E-Badge Earner of The Month by the National Association of Direct Support Professionals (NADSP). The E-Badge Academy is a key component of the DSP Program, and this honor brings both our student and our institution prestigious national recognition. Read the full story on the [NADSP website](#).

## Got News?

Whether it's a student success story, new instructional equipment, a class trip, an exciting event, an award, a conference presentation or something else, we want to hear about it and share your story with our audience! Send your stories to [www.sunydutchess.edu/media](http://www.sunydutchess.edu/media).

## Safety Week Wrap-up!

The second week of September is Campus Safety Week, designed to bring awareness to how we all contribute to a safe and healthful environment. It kicked off on Monday, Sept. 9, with a workshop led by the Office of Campus Safety and Security and EMS Coordinator Bernadette Cekuta on recognizing opioid overdose victims and administer Narcaning (naloxone). This was followed by a tabling event and personal safety training by the Town of Poughkeepsie Police on Sept. 10. On Sept. 12, Cekuta conducted a workshop on key actions you can take in an emergency before help arrives, including compression-only CPR, opioid overdose prevention, and how to use a defibrillator.

More events will be added next year, said Director of Campus Safety and Project Management Barbara Warren. "With a strong safety and security culture," she added, "there is a higher chance that we can overcome any potential challenges that we face in the future."



## Celebrating Hispanic Heritage

Each year, our Hispanic Heritage Committee collaborates to brighten the early months of fall with vibrant cultural and creative events that invite the community to explore and celebrate Hispanic heritage. Led by Dr. Mehmet Kucukozer, professor of Behavioral Sciences, the committee includes Dr. Craig Stokes, professor of Spanish; Dr. Ornella Lepri Mazzuca, professor of Spanish; Katherine Espinosa, associate professor of Biology; and Matt Hanlon, director of Student Activities.

The committee has done another outstanding job this year, combining intellectual and experiential activities to immerse audiences in the diverse and multifaceted aspects of Hispanic culture. Whether you want to enjoy empanadas while watching a documentary chronicling the evolution of hip hop in the Puerto Rican migrant community of the South Bronx, learn to rumba, experience poetry and conversation about the Latin American experience and Hispanic culture, or let the sounds of jazz and son jarocho wash over you, you're sure to come away with a deeper understanding of and appreciation for these rich traditions.

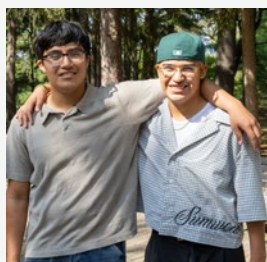
The grand finale—a musical concert by the female-fronted group *Juntas Chicas*—will take place on Washington Quad in the afternoon of Oct. 31 (rain location: Drumlin Hall Cafeteria). Be sure to come out and support these fantastic events!

### Looking for Your Next Great Read?

Head to Ritz Library and check out the Hispanic Heritage Month display representing an array of contemporary and classic authors, from Jorge Luis Borges to Julia Alvarez.



### The Latin American Student Organization is Back in Action!



After a hiatus, our Latin American Student Organization (LASO) is up and running once again. The club is led by brothers Hector Antonio (president) and Antonio Sanchez (vice president), who are both students in the TRiO program.



The September Hispanic Heritage Month activities centered around the creative vision and impact of renowned Mexican painter Frida Kahlo. Attendees at the first two events—a documentary screening and experiential art workshop—gained insight into her life and drew inspiration from her work and historical influences.

Next month, the celebration continues as our community explores music, dance and poetry, offering opportunities to engage with Hispanic culture as both learners and participants. All events are free and open to the public—and food will be served at next Tuesday's event! Be sure to invite your friends, family and colleagues to join!

Below is a quick preview of the upcoming events. Visit [www.sunydutchess.edu/hhm](http://www.sunydutchess.edu/hhm) for more details.

#### **From Mambo to Hip Hop: A South Bronx Tale**

Documentary Viewing

Oct. 1, 12:30–1:45 p.m. • Hudson Hall, room 404

#### **Rumba Workshop with Dancer-Choreographer Argelia Arreola**

Oct. 8, 7–8 p.m. • Hudson Hall, room 404

#### **Reading and Conversation with Poets**

**Daniel Villegas and Edwin Torres**

Oct. 10, 12:30–1:45 p.m. • Mildred I. Washington Art Gallery

#### **An Evening of Conversation with Music with Mexican Composer Ik'Balam Moyrón Castillo**

Oct. 16, 7–8:15 p.m.

Livestreamed at [www.sunydutchess.edu/live](http://www.sunydutchess.edu/live)

#### **Musical Concert: Juntas Chicas**

Oct. 10, 12:30–1:45 p.m. • Mildred I. Washington Art Gallery

## VIPs in Action:



This year's Fall Convocation featured a fun and informative new addition: a talk show-style interview with campus leadership, hosted by Associate Dean of Student Services Mike Roe and Assistant Professor of Business Management Tom Winship. The format allowed for lively updates and insights from six Dutchess Community College VIPs, with Roe and Winship skillfully posing audience-submitted questions and blending humor with thoughtful discussion.



**Vice President for Enrollment and Student Success Scott Schnackenberg** addressed both the challenges and early progress toward DCC's ambitious goal of enrolling 5,000 students by 2028. He outlined promising initiatives like outreach to adult students, new transfer partnerships, and the launch of programs and microcredentials and brought attention to the importance of retention and graduation rates, noting that a 5% increase in retention could significantly boost enrollment.



**Vice President for Instruction and Learning Dr. Ray Houston** emphasized the significance of faculty support and learning tools in promoting student achievement. He pointed to the College's investment in professional development for faculty, through workshops and courses, and underscored the vital role the Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) plays in providing resources for both faculty and students.



**Associate Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the DCC Foundation Diana Pollard** stressed the Foundation's contribution to advancing the College's mission. She detailed the extensive support provided by the Foundation for faculty, staff, students and alumni, including professional development, campus facility enhancements and community event sponsorships.



## VIPs in Action: On Stage with Mike & Tom



**Chief of Staff and Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness Dr. Susan Rogers** focused on the impact of grant funding, marketing and messaging in driving key initiatives and effectively conveying the value of the institution. She noted that the College has received nearly \$5 million in new grant funding over the past academic year alone, which has helped fund the development of the Mechatronics Lab at the Center of Excellence for Industry & Innovation in Fishkill and our new Direct Support Professional (DSP) program.

**Vice President for Finance and Administration Adam Rathbun** emphasized the need for investing in technology and campus facilities to support the College's growth. He highlighted key projects, including a \$2 million elevator installation and a feasibility study for Hudson Hall as vital steps in improving infrastructure and enhancing the student experience.

**Former Board Chair Michael Dupree** highlighted the Board's dual role in both managing finances and setting policies to support the College's growth. He emphasized the Board's commitment to investing in programming, people and professional development as essential to achieving the institution's goals.

As we strive to achieve our WIG and realize the objectives in our 2023-28 Strategic Plan, we have leaders overseeing every aspect of DCC who are dedicated to advancing our mission and supporting our community. Their collaborative efforts ensure that we remain focused on our goals, foster an enriching environment for our students and drive meaningful progress in all areas of the College.



# Fall Convocation Recap

The Aug. 22 Fall Convocation marked the official start of the semester's work for faculty returning to campus, and a celebration of the beginning of the fall semester for those faculty and staff who have been working all summer long.

After a delicious continental breakfast, the day moved on to an inspirational welcome by Dr. Jordan, setting the tone for another successful academic year. His major focus was on the College's goal to create a more positive campus culture, and how that would in turn be reflected in our community. He said, "Having all our organizational structures aligned with our strategic plan demonstrates unity and a singular focus that our community will recognize and embrace."

His speech was followed by "Mike and Tom in the Morning," a talk-show style interview with six VIPs (see previous page). The conversation highlighted the topics for the 2024/25 academic year: focus on the WIG (wildly important goal), and, together, dedicate ourselves to striving to create a more positive campus culture.

## Chancellor's Award Recipients

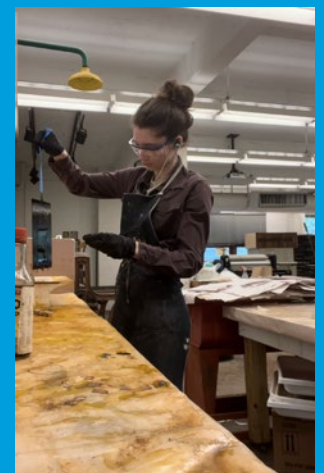
During the Fall Convocation lunch break, we celebrated our 2023/24 Chancellor's Award recipients: Professor Kevin Cavanaugh, Associate Professor Holly McCabe, Adjunct Instructor Gary Nagelhout, Assistant Dean for Enrollment and Student Success Marcia Butland, Institutional Research Associate Director Dr. Suzanne Riela Turturro, and Senior Office Assistant of the History, Government & Economics Department Andrea Townsend.



# Vassar Exchange Program Opens Artistic Possibilities



Visual Arts student Katelyn Oles took part in DCC's Vassar Exchange program this past spring. This program offers exceptional full-time DCC students the opportunity to experience a prestigious liberal arts education at no additional tuition cost. As a first year student in her second semester at DCC, Oles took Intaglio Printmaking alongside third- and fourth year visual arts majors at Vassar.



"I think what was most memorable was the caliber of work produced by upperclassmen," said Oles. "It was inspiring to work with motivated, hardworking individuals. The experience definitely made me want to continue in art at a four year school."

Oles' project, "What Printers Are Made For," is currently on display outside the ceramics studio in Washington Center – stop by to check it out!

# Help is On the Way!

We're pleased to introduce Brian Wilcove, who joined DCC at the beginning of this month as senior IT support administrator—otherwise known as the Help Desk manager. A graduate of SUNY New Paltz with a major in biology and a minor in computer science, Wilcove returned to the area last October and is excited to embark on a new adventure working in a college environment.

Wilcove says what he most enjoys about his new role is working with students and teaching them about various technologies. He's currently developing a training plan to ensure procedures are streamlined and that each student aide is well-equipped to meet the needs of faculty and staff.

Fun facts about Brian: When he's not at work, Brian enjoys spending time with his two-year-old labradoodle, Remy, and his wife, whom he met at SUNY New Paltz. An outdoor enthusiast, he embarks on a backpacking and canoeing trip to Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario each year with his friends. In his spare time, he likes tinkering with IT equipment and catching up with friends.



*"I'm here to help. Submit a ticket.  
We're here to support you!"*



## Use \$Tr0n9 Passwords

Simple passwords based on common information, like birthdays or pet names, provide poor protection for accounts holding your personal information. Although remembering a unique, strong password for each account can be challenging, using a password manager helps you securely create and store strong passwords, protecting against unauthorized access, data theft and identity fraud.

Passwords should be:

1. **Long:** Aim for at least 12 characters—the longer, the better.
2. **Random:** Use a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers and symbols, or create a memorable passphrase using 4-7 unrelated words.
3. **Unique:** Use a different strong password for each of your online accounts.

Also, don't forget to enable Multifactor Authentication for all your email, social media and financial accounts for an added layer of protection.

Remember, the Help Desk can be reached at [Helpdesk@sunydutchess.edu](mailto:Helpdesk@sunydutchess.edu).

Can't email? Call x4357 or (845) 431-8005.

If you get voicemail, please leave your contact information and a description of your troubles.

All voicemails are automatically generated into tickets.



## Upcoming Events

Looking for a fun way to support your colleagues and DCC students? Consider attending one of our upcoming events. It's a great way to connect with the college community and be inspired by the outstanding work happening right here! To view a full list, visit [www.sunydutchess.edu/events](http://www.sunydutchess.edu/events).

### Counseling Center Out of the Darkness Walk

September 28, 9 a.m. • Walkway Over the Hudson

In honor of Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, DCC will participate in an [Out of the Darkness Community Walk](#) this Saturday. There's still time to [sign up](#) to join our team, or donate using [this link](#). If you have any questions, please email [counselingcenter@sunydutchess.edu](mailto:counselingcenter@sunydutchess.edu).

### DCC Foundation Lecture Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Why It Matters Today

Oct. 3, 7-9 p.m. • James & Betty Hall Theatre

Dr. Heather Ann Thompson, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and professor, will discuss the lasting impact of the 1971 Attica Prison Uprising and its relevance to today's justice and civil rights issues. This is the sixth event in the Dr. D. David Conklin Distinguished Lecture Series, facilitated by history professor Dr. Werner Steger.

### DCC Foundation Panel Discussion November 5, 2024 – U.S. Voters Decide What the World Looks Like in 2025 and Beyond

Oct. 24, 7-9 p.m. • James & Betty Hall Theatre

Three foreign policy experts will discuss the role of foreign affairs in Kamala Harris' and Donald Trump's campaigns and what the election results could mean for U.S. leadership in 2025 and beyond. Co-sponsored by Mr. Reitano and The World Affairs Council of the Mid-Hudson Valley, the panel will be facilitated by Dr. Karin Riedl.

### DCC Foundation Fundraiser Harmony and Horizons: Transforming Lives Through Music and the Arts

Nov. 6, 5:30-7:30 p.m. • Millbrook Vineyards & Winery

In partnership with the DCC Academy of Music, the DCC Foundation will host its first annual fall music fundraiser. Enjoy performances by our talented students and alumni, plus a lively raffle—all in support of our vibrant musical community. Tickets are \$50 and include wine and small plate appetizers. Tickets can be purchased [here](#) or by contacting Stefani Timpano at [stefania.timpano@sunydutchess.edu](mailto:stefania.timpano@sunydutchess.edu).

## Mark Your Calendar for the Fall Family Festival!

Get ready for spooky good time on **Sunday, Oct. 27 from 2-5 p.m.** on Washington Quad. Faculty, staff, alumni and students are invited to bring their families for games, activities, food and prizes. Don't forget to plan your costume!



## Give Your Career the TLC it Deserves

No matter if you're just starting at DCC, celebrating decades of service, or anywhere in between, the Teaching Learning Center (TLC) offers activities that will enrich and enhance your professional journey. From building new skills to sharing insights with colleagues, the TLC provides opportunities to grow and connect with the DCC community.



Renovated last year with support from the DCC Foundation, the TLC now features updated technology and furniture, including an 86-inch touchscreen monitor, new computers, and more, creating an ideal space for collaboration and professional development.

Be sure to check out their monthly newsletter for upcoming events, and don't miss the TLC's HEALing fireside chats, which offer lunch discussions on issues in higher education. Three sessions are scheduled for this semester—Fridays, Oct. 4, Oct. 25, and Nov. 22 at noon, with participation capped at 16, so pre-register if interested.

Learn more about the TLC at [www.sunydutchess.edu/tlc](http://www.sunydutchess.edu/tlc), where you'll find an event calendar and other employee resources.

## Help Us Build DCC's Digital Presence!

**Need to update something on the website?** Fill out our simple web request form at [www.sunydutchess.edu/web-request](http://www.sunydutchess.edu/web-request). This helps us keep organized and efficient.

# Campus Notes

## ENROLLMENT Updates

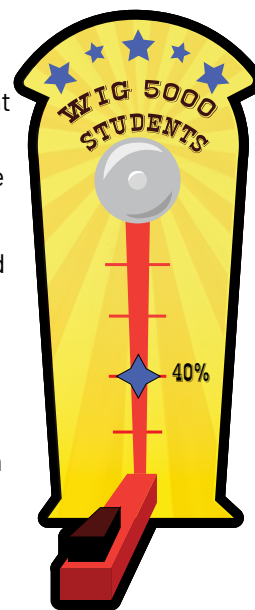
In an exciting update from Vice President for Enrollment and Student Success Scott Schnackenberg, as of the Sept. 17 census date for the fall semester, DCC enrollment has increased by over 420 students over the past two years, putting the College at over 40% of the students we needed to add to reach our Wildly Important Goal (WIG) of 5,000 students by 2028.

This fall, there are 4,374 students enrolled for 48,097 credits for the fall term—182 more students (+4.3%) and 977 more credits (+2.1%) than at this time last year. The strongest increase has been among our continuing student population, with 190 more students and 1,564 additional credits compared to last year, primarily driven by part-time enrollment.

We saw the most significant growth in programs—including those in aviation, allied health, architecture, technology and science—that tend to enroll older, non-traditional students. Adding targeted digital outreach to attract older students clearly had an impact. Enrollment of non-matriculated students increased from 484 to 560, largely due to the growth in microcredential enrollment, particularly in the Direct Support Professional (DSP) program.

There are 294 students in the residence hall, an increase of over 50 from last year's total. This is the second consecutive year with an increase in DCC occupancy of over 20%.

"The increase in our student population over the past two years, despite challenges like the new FAFSA rollout, reflects the hard work of our faculty, staff and administration in addressing student needs and overcoming barriers," said Schnackenberg. "While we still have room for improvement, I am optimistic that our collaboration with the National Institute for Student Success will help us enhance retention efforts, which hold the greatest promise for helping us achieve our Wildly Important Goal."



## Creative Campaign Urges Students to Wake Up and Register!

As the semester approached you may have noticed a new effort to get students to register through social media. This new campaign, centered around a video developed by the Office of Marketing and Communications, served as a lighthearted reminder for students to take action and register for the fall. You can watch the video [here](#).

But that's not all. To further drive enrollment, portions of this video were repurposed for a targeted paid campaign promoting late-start classes. This campaign was aimed at adults aged 18-24 and 25-50, along with a curated list of individuals who had previously shown interest on our website. The results have been impressive—reaching over 25,000 individuals so far. This campaign highlights the power of creative content and strategic targeting in our social media efforts to boost enrollment and engagement.



## A Beautiful Day for a Run

For the sixth year, DCC hosted the Dutchess County Classic, an event orchestrated by the Mid-Hudson Road Runners Club that's become an annual tradition since 1979. On Sunday, September 15, our campus was the starting and ending location for the 10K and half marathon, both scenic routes that took racers along the Rail Trail and out and back across the Walkway Over the Hudson. DCC Athletic Director Matt Paquet was on hand to wish all the racers luck.

DCC has been proud to serve as a hub for events like the Classic—events that bring people in the community together and celebrate our resilience, growth and strength. See you at the starting line next year!



## Welcome, Future Nurses!

On Sept. 9, the DCC Nursing Club hosted the annual Freshman Reception, welcoming our new nursing students and giving all current students in the program an opportunity to meet and share experiences and insights. After remarks from President Jordan, Vice President for Instruction and Learning Dr. Ray Houston, Interim Nursing Department Chair Carmel Dorner and members of the Nursing Club, guest speakers from various campus departments talked about the support and services nursing students can call on during their time at DCC, including tutoring help and scholarship opportunities.



## Teal and Purple for Suicide Prevention

Tuesday, Sept. 10 was World Suicide Prevention Day. To spread awareness and honor all whose lives have been impacted by suicide, the DCC community was invited to wear teal or purple. In addition to showing our colors, the DCC Counseling Center and DCC's Active Minds Chapter held a table event in Drumlin.



## Personnel Updates

### New Hires

#### Welcome to DCC!

**Kevin Hauenstein**, credit-free instructor, EMT Program

**Keila Lopes**, credit-free instructor, ESL

**Randall Meyer**, professional tutor, Math and Science Center

**Thomas Milholm**, assistant coach women's volleyball, Athletics

**Elizabeth Quansah**, part-time faculty, Nursing

**Zachary Reid**, assistant coach men's soccer, Athletics

**Brian Wilcove**, senior IT support administrator, Computer Center

**Samantha Yanqui**, professional tutor, Math and Science Center

### Promotions, Title Changes & Appointments

#### Congratulations, Colleagues!

**Brianna Abbate**, P-TECH liaison, Instruction and Learning

**Donna Collins**, senior program assistant, ACT Center

**Hannah Webster**, full-time faculty, English and Humanities

### Temporary Position Changes

#### Thanks for Your Teamwork!

**Maureen Byrum**, interim executive assistant to the President, Office of the President

**Elizabeth Dunn**, interim student resource navigator, Office of Advocacy and Accountability