



# NJCU

## KNIGHTLY NEWS

STUDENT SUCCESS AND RETENTION UPDATES



December 2024 | Edition IV

NEWSLETTER



This communication aims to provide updates on accomplishments, current projects, and personnel and operational changes.



As snow begins to blanket the season with its frosty charm, we are at the end of another year. December not only brings the joy of the holidays, with gifts and gatherings among family and friends, but also marks the close of the Fall 2024 semester—a time to reflect, celebrate, and look forward.

### Celebrating Our 2024 Accomplishments

This year, we achieved significant milestones together as a university community focusing on student success and retention. Here are just a few of the highlights:

- Increased the number of students who reached good academic standing.
- Made great progress toward rolling out the One Stop Advising System (OSAS), NJCU's homegrown advisement system and CMS for student information.
- Expanded holistic reviews of readmitted students that include academic support, which is helping them stay on track and achieve academic success.
- Through campus-wide collaborations, we enhanced outreach efforts for student registration and supported math course completion options.
- Centralized in-person tutoring and expanded academic support programs, providing students with the resources they need to excel.

These achievements remind us that each and every NJCU community member is dedicated to student success and retention.

### Looking Ahead to 2025

As we prepare to begin a new year, I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. Together, we will build on our progress and increase our efforts to support and engage New Jersey City University students on their journey to academic success.

To our Fall 2024 graduates, congratulations on your remarkable achievement! As your time on campus culminates, NJCU's model "Enter to Learn, Exit to Serve". Now is your time to serve locally and globally. To the entire Gothic Knight community, your dedication to student success and retention has been truly valued and is evident in all we have achieved in 2024. I look forward to the accomplishments NJCU will make in 2025.

I wish you and your family a joyful and safe holiday season and a happy New Year.

Best Regards,

Jonelle Knox Ed.D  
Assistant Provost (Academic Affairs) – Student Success & Retention



## DR. LEE HAGAN AFRICANA STUDIES CENTER



Dr. Lee Hagan Africana Studies Center has launched a weekly social media trivia campaign on Instagram (@hagancenter), offering participants the chance to win a \$10 gift card by answering trivia questions. Congratulations to Alessandra and Nafisa, who have been recent winners! QR codes located in the dormitories, GSUB, and the library make it easy to join—good luck!



On December 12th, the Black Man Healing Project, in collaboration with the Lee Hagan Africana Studies Center, Ozone, MOCI, and OSP, hosted a free event at NJCU that brought together approximately 50 men from the community.

The evening featured powerful discussions addressing Black male trauma, mental health, relationships, self-care, and healing. Highlights included guest speakers such as Lewis Spears, Director of the Lee Hagan Center, as well as engaging discussion panels, wellness resources, and job opportunities.

## GEAR UP/COLLEGE BOUND

This month, a meal drive was successfully hosted, distributing a total of 550 meals to over 170 GEAR UP Scholars, families, staff, and Jersey City community members. The remaining meals were generously donated to SGA, which distributed them to nearly 50 NJCU housing students at West Campus Village, making a positive impact during the holiday season.

Valuable support was provided to students at Innovation High School through multiple tutoring sessions for Dual Enrollment students in Math 175 and Bio 130, assisting them in preparing for finals. Additionally, a guest speaker led a mental health session for 9th graders on December 7th, promoting well-being and awareness. In collaboration with the Department of Supplemental Instruction and Innovation High School, the Math 175 Dual Enrollment students were invited to attend the Supplemental Instruction Study Jam for further academic support and preparation for their finals.

The senior class continues to receive college decisions, with three students officially accepted into NJCU. Despite colder weather, engagement with sessions remains strong, averaging 150 students weekly over four sessions.



## UNIVERSITY ADVISEMENT CENTER

As 2024 draws to a close and we prepare for the Spring 2025 semester, the University Advisement Center reflects on a year filled with achievements and progress. The UAC remains committed to supporting students and building strong partnerships across campus that champion student success.

Through collaborative efforts with faculty, staff, and campus partners, the UAC has worked diligently to streamline resources and create opportunities that empower students to pursue their academic and career goals. These partnerships have been instrumental in ensuring that students receive the guidance and support they need to navigate their educational journeys and stay on track toward graduation.

The UAC's mission centers on delivering exceptional advisement services that inspire and prepare students for a bright future. Looking ahead to 2025, the UAC is dedicated to launching new initiatives and hosting events to help students excel academically. Through collaborative efforts with faculty, staff, and campus partners, the UAC plans to create new opportunities to support student success and retention, while working to increase graduation rates.

The upcoming semester promises workshops, success programs, and resources to make the Spring term productive and rewarding for students. As the UAC continues to celebrate student achievement, it extends warm holiday wishes and a happy New Year to the NJCU family.

The UAC team eagerly anticipates another year of helping students achieve academic success and celebrating their achievements.





## MEN OF COLOR INITIATIVE



Over the past month, the Men of Color Initiative (MOCI) has continued to strengthen its community and expand its impact through dynamic programming and meaningful engagement. The Rise and Recharge end-of-semester event was a success, bringing together over 75 attendees for a day of celebration and preparation. The event embodied MOCI's mission to support both the personal and academic growth of its members by offering free haircuts, self-care stations, study sessions, career development resources, and camaraderie.

MOCI co-sponsored The Black Male Healing Project, a transformative session focused on mental health and resilience. The program hosted a conversation with Marquise Watson, a prominent industry leader in sports management who currently works with LeBron James' Uninterrupted and formerly worked with the Philadelphia 76ers. His insights on leadership, resilience, and navigating the sports industry provided inspiration to participants.

Since September 1, 2024, MOCI has grown by adding 87 new members.



## TRiO Learning Community [TLC]



Led by TRiO Director Christina Velez, the TLC program successfully submitted the Annual Performance Report (APR). TRiO/TLC achieved its goals for the 2023-2024 academic year, inclusive of the following results:

- 87% of program students persisted
- 91% of NJCU TRiO students remain in good academic standing
- 57% of NJCU TRiO participants obtained their four-year degree

During the holiday season, TRiO/TLC students participated in an escape room experience, utilizing teamwork and problem-solving skills to complete a challenge. The annual group photo was also taken at the Rockefeller Center tree, a historic tradition.



### YOUTH CORPS



In November, the Youth Corps launched Cohort 2, welcoming 38 students for orientation—its largest cohort of the year!



Asad Faison led the first-ever Parent Orientation. This event provided parents and guardians of Youth Corps applicants an opportunity to learn about the program's history, services, and offerings. Over breakfast, parents and guardians had the chance to meet Youth Corps staff and ask questions. Following the Parent Orientation, students participated in a two-week orientation that included team-building activities, professional development workshops, life skills training, certifications, and rigorous academic classes designed to strengthen their educational foundation. As part of this orientation, scholars engaged in the first-ever corps-wide Community Service Day at Let's Celebrate Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen in Jersey City. During the event, participants learned about the impact Youth Corps has on the communities it serves, alongside service-learning partners. Together, participants contributed over 200 service hours, unloaded food, and helped the pantry prepare for its annual holiday turkey giveaway.



In the spirit of community, Youth Corps celebrated its annual Thanksgiving meal and potluck. This gathering was particularly meaningful for corps members, many of whom may face difficult circumstances and lack the opportunity to enjoy a traditional holiday meal with loved ones. The program also highlights the achievements of participants in the Career Advancement Program. In November, two students enrolled in Real Estate courses, two began Graphic Design courses at NJCU, and one started an internship with the Hudson County Department of Health and Human Services.

Cohort 1 concluded its 16-week program in November, with eight scholars successfully passing three or more of their GED exams. The remaining students are continuing their studies and preparing to retest by the end of the program year.

Youth Corps has relocated to its new home in Vodra Hall, Room 143.

### LEARNING COMMONS AND TUTORING

With just a few weeks left in the semester, we're excited to announce that in-person math and computer science tutoring is now available at the Learning Commons located at the Congressman Frank J. Guarini Library, 1st floor!

Whether you're preparing for finals or need help with a challenging concept, our tutors are here to help you succeed.

How to Schedule a Session:

1. Visit <https://njculc.mywconline.com> or scan the QR code to create your account.
2. Book an appointment with a math or computer science tutor.

Join Our Team: Paid (In-Person) Tutoring Opportunities for Spring 2025.

We are hiring peer tutors for Spring 2025! If you're interested in a paid (in-person) tutoring position, we are currently seeking tutors in the following subject areas:

- Accounting
- Computer Science
- Economics
- Mathematics
- Sciences (Biology, Chemistry)

We're also open to hiring tutors for additional subjects not listed above. If you're interested in tutoring, please contact Dr. Kristina Harb, Interim Associate Director of The Learning Commons and Tutoring Services, at [KHarb@NJCU.edu](mailto:KHarb@NJCU.edu) or 201-200-2143.

