

ACADEMIC CONNECTIONS

Message from the Provost

The fall semester is fully underway as we enter October. In between powerful storms, campus has come to life with students and warm days of early autumn. I am grateful for all faculty and staff in making necessary adjustments to keep the community safe and healthy. Our protocols are working; the vaccination rate among students, faculty, and staff increased impressively over the past month. No doubt the challenges this fall have been many, but the resilience of spirit and acts of human kindness, large and small, that I witness every day have been heartening. Thank you for participating in NJCU's 40th Convocation on September 15. Our community came together to celebrate the start of the academic year in a formal tradition that remains embedded in our academic life. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Anthony Jack, inspired students, staff, and faculty with a talk on equity in higher education and the challenges faced by first-generation and lower income students. We greatly enjoyed his visit.

This month I want to highlight NJCU's launch into the American Council on Education (ACE) Learner Success Lab 2.0. NJCU will participate in a national cohort including CETYS University (Mexico), Clarke University, Florida International University, Lewis University, Rowan College at Burlington County, Southern University at Shreveport, and Washington State University Tri-Cities for an 18-month suite of Transformation Labs to advance evidence-based practice for persistence and completion and career exploration for our students. This is vital work for us, as it will help us increase retention and time-to-degree completion. This is a cross-divisional effort, being led by three co-chairs at NJCU – Dr. Gail Fernandez, Dr. Jason Martinek, and Ms. Veronica Garcia (SOAR). Under their leadership we will work through a structured planning process that will involve many individuals across campus, from faculty to student support services.

I would also like to announce that a search will begin this month for our new director of the Career Office at NJCU. We are excited to get this search underway and are looking forward to a new chapter of career and professional development opportunities and experiential learning for our students.

Please enjoy this month's *Academic Connections*. We look forward to your suggestions and submissions for future editions.

Tamara

Faculty and Staff Updates



Mr. Todd Regn
Executive Director - Office of Research, Grants,
and Sponsored Programs

Todd Regn has over 25 years of project, personnel, and change management experience, including over 20 years of grant and contract administration experience. Todd has spent over 15 years protecting and facilitating the research interests, scholarly activities, and creative endeavors of universities, including 7 years directing a research administration office. The universities have included a predominantly undergraduate institution (PUI), a medical school, and a major research institution.

He has extensive experience in mentoring faculty, which includes grant writing workshops, individual career planning and professional development, proposal editing, and securing funding. Todd strongly advocates for the professional development of staff, which directly affects morale and increases customer service. Todd also advocates for supporting students' academic success by providing research stipends, especially in the summer. This creates an opportunity for the students to perform hands-on research, allowing for a richer educational experience.

Todd holds a master's degree in Psychology from Northern Arizona University, and a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Rutgers University. He is currently a member of the Society for Research Administrators International.



Dr. Daniel Ward
Interim Director of Online Learning

Daniel Ward, Ed.D. was named Interim Director of Online Learning effective July 1, 2021. Daniel has over 15 years of experience in instructional technology, course design, training and support. He manages the department's staff, budget, instructional design projects and faculty development and training offerings.

Daniel is an Adjunct Professor of Computer Science at NJCU and Caldwell University. Daniel's dissertation research focused on student perceptions of researched-based online course design standards.

Daniel was appointed as an official workshop facilitator for the Quality Matters (QM) organization. He is a Quality Matters Coordinator, QM Peer Reviewer and the sole QM workshop facilitator at NJCU. He received several Quality Matters certifications, and facilitated Quality Matters workshops for more than 200 NJCU instructors as of September 2021.

Daniel is also a board member of the Hispanic Educational Technology Services (HETS) consortium. The organization's mission is to promote, support, and increase the capabilities of member institutions in order to enhance Hispanic/Latino student success and opportunities in Higher Education.

OCTOBER EVENTS

Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration 2021

Hispanic Food Cooking Demo

October 5 | 12-1 PM

GSUB Lobby

Sponsored by the Center for Community Engagement and The Community Center

Latinx Leads Student Leadership Conference

October 9

Sponsored by the Center for Leadership and Engagement

Pride Time: Beyond The Sticker Fall 2021 National Hispanic Heritage Month Edition

October 12 | 12 PM

Virtual

Sponsored by The Speicher-Rubin Women's Center for Equity and Diversity

Latinx Student Success: A Panel Discussion

October 14 | 2:30 PM

Virtual

Sponsored by the Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies

Hispanic Heritage Month Closing Ceremony

October 20 | 2 PM

Multipurpose Room B

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Interfolio (Reappointment and Promotion Platform)

Faculty Reappointment/Tenure Schedules:

- [AY 2021-2022 Reappointment Schedule for September Applicants](#)
- [AY 2021-2022 Reappointment Schedule for November Applicants](#)

Faculty Promotion Schedule:

- [AY-2021-2022 Faculty Promotion Schedule](#)

Upcoming Action Item:

- Mid-term grade rosters will be available from October 1st – October 14th.
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INITIATIVES

COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEARNING (CEL)

Twenty-eight faculty representing the Honors Program, General Education, Criminal Justice, Women's and Gender Studies, Sociology & Anthropology, Supply Chain and Logistics, Management, Marketing, Psychology, Biology, Chemistry, Earth & Environmental Sciences, Literacy Education, English, Counseling and Counselor Education, and Nursing have been part of the Faculty Fellows Cohort on Civic Engagement. As Fellows, faculty develop and/or adapt courses to include a community engaged learning (CEL) component. More than 500 students have completed CEL courses. CEL topics have included:

- Trial Advocacy and the American Legal System (Nir)
- Transportation and Society (Mokashi)
- Community System Analysis (Lee)
- LGBTQ Social Change (Musial)
- Diversity in Difference (Musial)
- Going Public: The History of American Public Education (Rosen)
- Refugees and Forced Migration (Westerman)
- GIS Mapping (Montgomery)

A new cohort will begin this November. Look for a forthcoming email with details.

GRANTS

STEM

Dr. John C. Grew received a new Title III Part F award (HSI-STEM) from the U.S. Education Department for \$5 million over 5 years, beginning October 1, 2021, and concluding September 30, 2026. The award will support a full-time Supplemental Instruction (SI) coordinator for STEM courses, a full-time STEM articulation specialist, a full-time STEM Co-Op coordinator, undergraduate research, instrumentation acquisition, professional conference travel, and a full-time program assistant. The project is directed at increasing the number of students who enroll, are retained in, and graduate from NJCU's STEM programs through proven high-impact practices and student-directed services. This award carries NJCU to 18 consecutive years of HSI-STEM funding over four uninterrupted grant cycles.

Sociology and Anthropology

The Sociology and Anthropology Department was awarded a \$35,000 IDEAS grant from the U.S. Department of State for a project entitled "Social Work, Refugees & Immigrants in the Global City." The purpose of this grant is to diversify the range of students who are able to study abroad and the range of disciplines that employ student travel in their curriculum. As part of this project, Dr. Jennifer Pax and Dr. William Westerman will organize an online symposium on social work with refugees, and given the current situation, one focus will be on working with Afghan refugees. The grant will also allow Dr. Pax and Dr. Westerman to run a two-week course in Athens, Greece, in collaboration with the Department of Social Work at the University of West Attica in May. Future plans include developing a second field site for summer coursework and expanding international field placements as part of the department's new B.S.W. program.

PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

Department of Online Learning

The Department of Online Learning offers NJCU faculty regularly scheduled training and faculty development sessions on various topics including: Pedagogical Best Practices, Effective use of Educational Technologies in online, blended, hyflex and web-enhanced courses. The schedule of these sessions is shared with faculty on a weekly basis by email (sent by the Provost's office) and posted to the "Fundamentals of Online Teaching" course in Blackboard. The Department of Online Learning has worked with the Information Technology Department to develop a Knowledge Base of frequently asked questions and resolutions for faculty and students. This resource is continuously updated and can be reviewed at: <https://njcu.info/help/>. If faculty or students have any questions regarding the use of Blackboard, accessing the Fundamentals of Online Teaching course or are in need of any assistance in regards to pedagogical best practices, please contact: helpdesk@njcu.edu.

History

Dr Jacob A Zumoff, Assistant Professor of History, gave a virtual talk "The Red Thread: The Passaic Textile Strike," on September 9, under the auspices of the scholarly journal American Communist History, publication of the Historians of American Communism. The chair was Dr. Timothy Johnson (retired professor at NYU and journal editor) and the respondent was Dr. Norman Markowitz (Rutgers University).

Panel Discussion

Dr. Louise Stanton and NJCU alumna, Hana Katz (Class of 2021--in red dress), participated in a panel discussion on "The Role of Businesswomen in Building a Sustainable Green Economy" at the Turkish Mission to the United Nations during the UN General Assembly opening on September 21, 2021. The program, organized by the Turkish First Lady, Emine Erdoğan, brought together Turkish and American businesswomen and others to discuss initiatives to promote environmental and economic sustainability. NJCU's participation in the program was facilitated by our newest international partner, Istanbul Galata University.



Sociology and Anthropology

Dr. William Westerman was an invited speaker at the Symposium on Telling Migrant Stories at George Mason University in Arlington, Va. His talk was called "Challenging Colonial Paradigms in the Collection and Ethnographic Study of Immigrant Stories."

EXHIBITS, PERFORMANCES, AND PUBLICATIONS

Art

Assistant Professor Deborah Jack has a retrospective exhibition of 20 years of work at Pen + Brush in New York City through January 29, 2022. <http://www.penandbrush.org/exhibitions/deborah-jack-20-years>

English

Professor James Broderick's novel, *The Last Words of James Joyce*, published by Addison & Highsmith, will be available February 8. Principal photography on the filming of his screenplay, *Holmestead*, was completed on October 2, and his off-off Broadway play, *The Hamlet Experience*, opens at the Teatro Latea in Manhattan November 4. (Tickets are available at <https://innovationtickets.com/product/the-hamlet-experience/>).

History

Dr. Jacob A Zumoff, Assistant Professor of History, had his book *The Red Thread: The Passaic Textile Strike* published by Rutgers University Press. <https://www.rutgersuniversitypress.org/bucknell/the-red-thread/9781978809895>.

Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies

Dr. David Blackmore published the article "Wild Times Ending Badly: Gasparino Damata's Os solteirões and the Censorship of Queer Fiction under the Brazilian Military Regime" in *Chasqui: Revista de literatura latinoamericana* (vol. 50, no. 1, May 2021, pp. 43-59).

Dr. Virginia Ochoa-Winemiller published the article "Comercio, reproducción y apropiación: La hibridación cultural en el oriente de Honduras" in *Memorias del XXXIII Simposio de Investigaciones Arqueológicas en Guatemala 2019*, Asociación Tikal, Guatemala (2021).

Women's and Gender Studies

Dr. Antoinette Ellis-Williams' *Burn Installation: Phase One Origins and Activism* was exhibited at the Akwaaba Gallery in Newark, NJ on September 24 & 25.

SERVICE

Dr. William Westerman was named editor of *Transformations: The Journal of Inclusive Scholarship and Pedagogy* beginning with volume 30. The Journal was founded in 1990 as part of what was then known as the New Jersey Project, a consortium of faculty from different New Jersey universities to promote the study and discussion of expanding diversity and inclusion in the college classroom. For the last 25 years, the journal has been edited out of New Jersey City University Campus, and is currently published by Penn State University Press. Previous editors at NJCU include Jacqueline Ellis, Ellen Gruber Garvey, Edvige Giunta, and Jason Martinek. Other NJCU faculty on the editorial board include Sonya Donaldson, Donna Farina, and former academic vice-president Jo Bruno, who will now be joined by new NJCU editorial board members Basanti Chakraborty, Victor Tuazon, and Grace Wambu.

SEPTEMBER RECAP

White Coat Ceremony

The White Coat Ceremony took place in the Margaret Williams Theater on September 29th. Nearly 50 of the more than 60 nursing students participated.

The White Coat Ceremony is designed as a rite of passage to emphasize the importance of compassionate patient care at the very start of training. In addition to reciting the oath, students come forward during the ceremony to be “cloaked” before family and friends in the iconic white coat that signifies their status as healthcare professionals.



Enrollment Management Summit

Faculty, staff and administrators attended an Enrollment Summit on September 23rd. Attendees heard from a number of speakers including Dr. Henderson, Dr. Jhashi, and VP Rohdin. Working in groups, attendees discussed and reported out on key questions related to enrollment. Follow up working sessions will be held to continue the work.

NJCU CONVOCATION 2021



Office of the Provost

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HOW TO SEND NEWS AND SUBMISSIONS

Please send faculty achievements and departmental events to Academic Affairs at academicaffairs@njcu.edu.

Next Academic Connections will appear on Monday, November 1. Submission of news deadline is **Friday, October 21**.