



NJCU

KNIGHTLY NEWS

STUDENT SUCCESS AND RETENTION UPDATES



NEWSLETTER

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



Dear NJCU Gothic Knights:

As we have recently celebrated Thanksgiving and all the reflections that come with this holiday, I want to take a moment to reflect on the accomplishments we've achieved together and express my gratitude for being a part of the vibrant NJCU community. This is a time to celebrate progress, partnerships, and the shared commitment to our students' success.

This fall has been a remarkable season of collaboration and innovation, and I would like to reflect on some of the things I am thankful for:

- In October, I had the honor of joining President Acebo and Provost Breault at the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) Conference, where we presented the strides NJCU has made since 2022. The presentation highlighted NJCU's collective accomplishments, and I'm proud to share that it was met with enthusiasm and requests from attendees to visit NJCU to see our work firsthand.
- Advancing College Readiness Nationally: I was humbled to be selected to serve on the American Association of Community College's Commission for College Readiness. At the Fall 2024 meeting, I engaged in critical discussions and offered recommendations to improve college readiness for incoming college students, including the impactful roles of dual-enrollment programs and AI-driven tools for instruction and student support services.
- Enhancing Student Advising Tools: Together with colleagues Ritu Shastri and Santhi Pamidighantam, we unveiled an enhanced OSAS advising tool built in-house, incorporating feedback from students, faculty, and staff. With over 100 enhancement requests, this tool reflects the institution's commitment to empowering advisors and supporting students. I am excited about the upcoming training sessions that will help our community maximize its potential.

As I reflect on these milestones, I am deeply thankful for each and every member of the NJCU community who participates in student success and retention. Whether through teaching, advising, mentoring, campus maintenance, or administrative work, your dedication fuels our mission and ensures that our students continue to achieve success.

May this Thanksgiving season bring you moments of joy, gratitude, and connection with loved ones. Together, let's continue to create a brighter future for NJCU and the communities we serve.

Best Regards,

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



GEAR UP/COLLEGE BOUND



The GEAR UP team, in collaboration with NJCU's Assistant Director for Educational Partnerships, hosted a workshop for over 20 Dual Enrollment students, highlighting academic support services. This fall, GEAR UP also held five Saturday sessions, each averaging over 150 students, provided academic support in Math, Science, and ELA, along with mental health workshops led by college mentors.

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, GEAR UP scholars volunteered and participated in LATI events, including the "Stories of Belonging" program and the closing ceremony. On October 19th, scholars joined peers from across New Jersey for a Mentor Protégé Retreat hosted by OSHE, fostering connections and mentorship opportunities.

On October 26th, students attended NJCU's open house, participating in campus tours, admissions sessions, and a college fair. This fall, GEAR UP scholars explored several universities as part of their exploration of higher educational options. Visits included trips to Saint Peter's University on November 1st and NJIT on November 8th.



UNIVERSITY ADVISEMENT CENTER

Advisors have been assisting students with schedule planning, guiding seniors through their final steps toward graduation, and supporting transfer and first-year students as they begin their journeys as Gothic Knights.

To further support students, the UAC has strengthened its collaboration with the Admissions team to enhance First-Year Initiatives, ensuring a seamless transition for new students into university life.

During the week of November 18th, UAC advisors tabled across campus, providing on-the-spot registration assistance, answering questions, and helping students navigate their academic paths. Students were encouraged to take advantage of this convenient opportunity to connect with advisors and receive personalized guidance.





MEN OF COLOR INITIATIVE

The Men of Color Initiative (MOCI) at NJCU had a remarkable November, marked by events fostering community and student development. A standout was the MOCI Barbershop Event, held in collaboration with Housing, which transformed a student space into a barbershop pop-up. Over 75 students attended, receiving free haircuts while engaging in meaningful conversations that strengthened community ties.

Other highlights included the launch of the Focus Lab, a mobile quiet study space supporting focused learning, and the Annual Sneaker Challenge, which continues to boost program visibility and excitement. Grammy-nominated artist Krvm inspired students during an impromptu visit.

The month also featured a Self-Defense Workshop, co-hosted by MOCI, fostering empowerment and practical skill-building, and a film screening of "Rob Peace", sparking thought-provoking discussions. Additionally, MOCI member Jalen Gallaway represented the program performing the National Anthem at the NJCU men's basketball game against Stevens.



TRiO Learning Community [TLC]



Paradigm Shift facilitated a Social-Emotional Learning workshop for TRiO students on November 6th, guiding them in self-expression and the development of healthy boundaries. On November 8th, Paradigm Shift returned to provide professional development for TRiO staff, focusing on empowering students with essential 21st-century skills such as communication and responsibility.

TRiO Director, Christina Rolon Velez, participated in NJCU's "First Generation Day Brunch Celebration" on November 7th, where she shared her journey as a first-generation college student and her path to success.

YOUTH CORPS

Over the last month, New Jersey Youth Corps wrapped up Cohort 1 with a flurry of engaging activities. Scholars participated in college tours, experiencing campus life and dormitories, and enjoyed a thrilling visit to RPM Raceway in Jersey City. Students embraced community service by dressing up for Trunk or Treat events with The Learning Center (TLC) and A. Harry Moore School.

Youth Corps recognizes alumnus Daniel Bratton, who attended the Presidents' Roundtable's transformative student leadership conference in Connecticut alongside Dr. Jonelle Knox, Assistant Provost for Student Success and Retention. Daniel described the experience, which included discussions with college presidents and group projects, as "unforgettable and life-changing." Staff members Asad Faison and Jahshae Stewart also shined this month, presenting at the Garden State Employment and Training Association Conference in Atlantic City. Their session, SURFING, highlighted strategies for building resilience and life skills among scholars.

Lastly, the Youth Corps team interviewed nearly 100 applicants for the upcoming cohort and are thrilled to welcome 30 new students to the program. The program staff looks forward to supporting their growth and success!



DR. LEE HAGAN AFRICANA STUDIES CENTER

2025 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD COMPETITION

SPONSORED BY THE LEE HAGAN AFRICANA STUDIES CENTER

APPLICATION DEADLINE
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2024
11:59 p.m.



Lewis Spears
Director, Lee Hagan
Africana Studies Center

TO APPLY

Email all application materials to lspears@njcu.edu

Eligibility Requirements:

- Enrolled at NJCU for the Fall 2024 semester. The application is also contingent upon full-time registration (minimum of 12 credits) for Spring 2025.
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00.
- Must have completed a minimum of 12 college level credits at NJCU.
- Previous Dr. King Scholarship recipients are not eligible.

Submission Formats:

- Written Essay (maximum of 500 words, single-spaced)
- Digital Entry (podcast, video, website; maximum 5 minutes)

Supporting Documents:

- Unofficial Transcript

Theme: From Dream to Duty: Catalysts for Change and Hope for the Future

Topic: Making a Career of Humanity: A Lifelong Commitment to Social Justice

Essay/Digital Question:

As we move further into the 21st century, issues of inequality continue to evolve, particularly in areas like technology access, climate justice, and systemic racial disparities. Dr. King's call to "make a career of humanity" is as relevant today as ever. How do you plan to address these modern inequalities and promote social justice, equity, and inclusion in your chosen field after graduation? In what ways can you integrate a lifelong commitment to service and activism into your career path? How would society be transformed if more people answered Dr. King's call to create lasting change by making social justice a core part of their personal and professional lives?

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!



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:

- Visit <https://njculc.mywconline.com> or scan the QR code to create your account.
- 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:

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

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 or 201-200-2143.