



BY THE NUMBERS - Online Learning



Students Enrolled in at Least One Online Course

*National Center for Education Statistics

Center for Online Learning Launches

With demand for online options in higher education soaring and students seeking flexibility as they work toward earning degrees, Bergen has launched a Center for Online Learning. The fully virtual center launched with two degree-granting programs, psychology and business administration, and a complete complement of online services, resources and assets. To ensure the highest quality online experience, Bergen replaced its online course delivery platform with the industry-leading “Canvas” environment – a technology-enhanced student-centered learning tool.

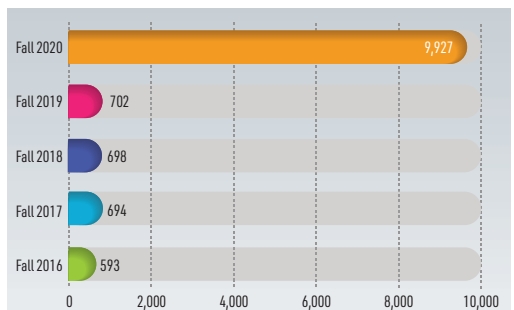
“Offering online courses has become commonplace in higher education, but we seek to go beyond simply ‘offering’ classes,” President Eric M. Friedman said. “Anchored by the College’s respected programs, faculty and student services, the Center for Online Learning will build on Bergen’s reputation for delivering a high-quality learning experience. Students throughout our region will now have online access to the same renowned programs that nearly 11,000 local residents enroll in each year.

In the grand spirit of the community college mission of access and excellence, the Center represents an important evolution in the way we serve our communities.”

The online learning evolution, accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, also exposed students to the benefits of virtual learning – flexibility, accessibility and convenience among them. With the changing landscape apparent, developing robust online education options became a key takeaway in Bergen’s newly established academic master plan.

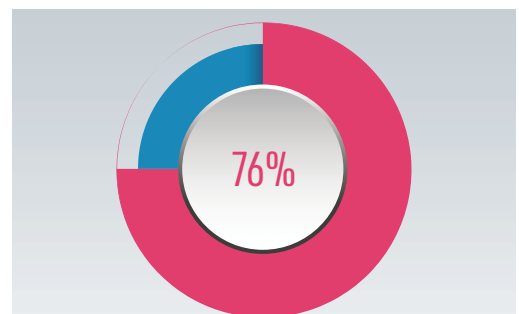
Though Bergen has offered online classes for nearly 20 years, the Center represents the first time the College will offer entire programs online. Program requirements remain the same as Bergen’s in-person offerings – 60 credit hours – and College faculty will teach all courses. President Friedman expects to add new online programs in future semesters.

Story continues on page two.



Students Enrolled Exclusively Online at Bergen

*Bergen Community College Institutional Research



Community College Students Expecting to Take Online Courses

*Cengage



5K a Day for Heroes

Caped crusaders, large and small, turned out for the seventh annual Hero 5K fundraiser for student veterans on November 13. The event featured races/walks for adults and children across the 167-acre main campus and the adjacent golf courses and roadways, encouraging participants to dress as their favorite superheroes in support of Bergen's military heroes. Nearly 300 runners participated, including a team of faculty and staff who participated as part of the "Be Well Bergen" health and wellness initiative at the institution. Organized by the wellness and exercise science department and veterans committee, the \$14,709 in proceeds raised will benefit the student veterans emergency fund. ■

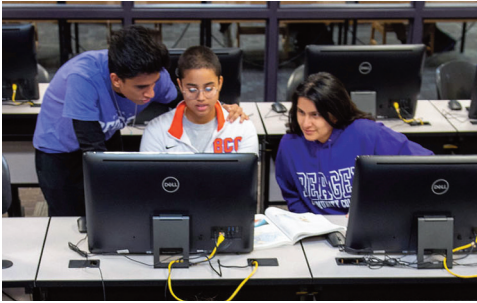


Student Spotlight Sophia Marquez

Success is no sweat for computer science student and women's volleyball captain Sophia Marquez, who earned First Team All-Region and All-Conference honors and Garden State Athletic Conference DIII Women's Volleyball player of the week awards this year. When she's not hitting the hardwood or desktop, she also devotes time as a leader on the student advisory committee to College officials. She expects to graduate in 2023.

"Bergen has helped me form strong bonds with amazing people, teachers, coaches, and others," she said. ■

Center for Online Learning Launches, continued from page 1



Students enrolling in courses through the Center for Online Learning will have access to online tutoring, advising and career services, while also benefiting from a completely virtual registration, financial aid and bursar system. To make the most of the fully virtual programs, students should have access to a personal computer, high-speed Internet, a webcam and microphone. Tuition remains the same as in-person Bergen classes.

Unique to the Center, each enrollee will work with a dedicated student success coach. The coach will provide guidance on coursework and transitioning to a fully online program. The College has also prioritized providing faculty with access to skill development workshops on best practices. The pandemic saw the institution enhance those efforts through its Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning.

Local government officials have also supported the Center's development, seeing the initiative as an important step in the evolution of higher education offerings available to local residents. In reflection of the administration's stated goals of prioritizing support and enhancements for the College, Bergen County Executive James J. Tedesco III and the Board of Commissioners awarded the institution a \$670,000 grant to assist in launching the Center. The seed money

accounts for half of the Center's initial startup costs, including helping to finance the purchase of Canvas and expanding the online student resources.

For more information on the Center for Online Learning, visit Bergen.edu/col. ■



Snapshotted



New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority Executive Director David J. Socolow Stopped by the STEM Center



Students Sign a Clear Air Pledge at the Great American Smokeout



A Kaleidoscope of Cultures at the Asian Heritage Fair



Bulldog Pride at the Winter Pep Rally



Faculty and Staff Holiday Gathering 2022



Trustee Chair Blakeslee and Vice President Wetzel Accepted the Alpine Learning Group Community Partner Award for the College

A High School, at a College

In 2014, the College and Bergen County Technical Schools officials signed a groundbreaking agreement that established a full-fledged high school program on the College's main campus – the Applied Technology High School. Since the inaugural class of 20 students entered in the fall of 2015, the initiative has expanded, adding students, courses and resources for the county's public school students.

The four-year high school program also allows students to earn college credits – with many earning enough to graduate with an associate's degree from Bergen before they earn their high school diploma!

A CLOSER LOOK - Applied Technology High School



CYBERSECURITY



ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY



HEALTH PROFESSIONS

3 Program Tracks



59 2022 Enrollment



29 2022 Graduates Who Earned Both an Associate's Degree and High School Diploma



2015 Inaugural Class



Alumni Destinations



Student Recognized by ACCT

During the Association of Community College Trustees Leadership Congress in October, the organization recognized students who secured major national awards this year, including student Kim Gastelu. The trustee association honored Gastelu for earning the Phi Theta Kappa New Century Workforce Pathway Scholar award and receiving a \$1,250 scholarship from the Coca-Cola Foundation. A delegation of officials, including President Eric M. Friedman, members of the Board of Trustees and faculty and staff attended the event in support of Gastelu and to present during conference seminars. PTK and Honors Coordinator Anna Gergen and PTK Faculty Adviser Lisa Mayer, Esq., attended the event and offered a cosigned message of support for Gastelu.

"As president of our PTK chapter, Kim has dazzled us again and again with her leadership skills, dedication, and support of other members," they said. "We were so proud to see her recognized on stage at the ACCT conference for all her hard work."

Before attending Bergen, Gastelu worked in banking, customer service and administrative roles at Merrill Lynch and Danske Bank. As a legal studies student who became Bergen's PTK president last summer, Gastelu plans to re-enter the workforce with her newly acquired legal skills and knowledge. She expects to graduate in May.

"I am honored to be a recipient of this prestigious award for my academic performance and to represent the outstanding curriculum that Bergen Community College offers," Gastelu said. "I am inspired by the fellow students that I have been able to meet through receiving this honor and by the team of strong, supportive leaders we have on staff at Bergen." ■



Supporting Diversity in STEM

The Oradell office of POWER Engineers and the company's charitable foundation have awarded the College a \$15,000 grant to support student diversity initiatives in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education. The grant will create a "POWER Scholars" program that will enable STEM students to complete certifications in diversity, equity and inclusion best practices. Bergen represents a "majority minority" institution, including 42 percent of students self-identifying as Hispanic or Latino, and remains committed to supporting initiatives that contribute to its growing diversity.

"By providing students with the right tools and training, we will ensure these future leaders can create and foster equitable and inclusive working environments," Bergen STEM Director Luis De Abreu said. "We are excited to see them infuse their training during their work and team dynamics and hope to replicate this model with other partner organizations that are willing to invest in the College's diversity, equity and inclusion efforts."

Under President Eric M. Friedman, the College

has sought to enhance inclusivity, including creating the President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Dean of Mathematics, Science and Technology Dr. Emily Vandalovsky said the grant will contribute to these efforts and add even greater depth to the College's nationally recognized STEM program.

"As a lead institution of the Research and Development Center for Workforce Innovation under NJ PATHWAYS initiatives, Bergen plays an integral part in creating and maintaining an inclusive and equitable STEM ecosystem," she said. "By engaging with industry partners and establishing programs like POWER Scholars, the STEM division further promotes its role of educating a diverse and knowledgeable workforce of tomorrow."

Funded by the POWER Foundation, the non-profit arm of global engineering and environmental firm POWER Engineers, the company's Oradell office recommended Bergen for the award. POWER Foundation Board President John Kumm said the program will assist in making the industry more inclusive.

"It's not just helping these students get certifications," he said. "This program will empower these students to use the skills they learn to impact so many more people in STEM industries."

The recruitment process for the first round of POWER Scholars began this month and training will take place during the spring semester.

More than 2,000 students enroll in Bergen's STEM offerings each year. Among its resources, Bergen features the nation's only STEM Student Research Center of its kind at a community college. The facility features large "showcase" windows that enable observation from outside the Center, a drones/robotics wing, a MakerSpace and mini-course classroom. Past student-led projects have included converting a softball field house into a workshop, high-altitude balloon launches, retrofitting a gas combustion truck and motorcycle into electric vehicles and conducting experimental testing with wind turbines and solar panels. ■

REGISTRATION REMAINS OPEN - **Start this Spring!** Register at Bergen.edu

Spring 1 (15 Weeks) - January 17
 Flex 1 (7 Weeks) - January 17

Spring 2 (12 Weeks) - February 6
 Flex 2 (7 Weeks) - March 20



Middle States Matters Accreditation Update

- In support of the College's accreditation efforts and following the input and recommendations from multiple stakeholders, a comprehensive review of the existing Mission, Vision and Values statements has taken place during the summer and fall semesters. Faculty, staff, students, alumni, Bergen County leaders and community members have participated in discussions, to provide input into the development of these updated college-wide statements. The College's Board of Trustees actively participated in the process, reviewing the recommendations brought forward and offering their input and suggestions for consideration. As a result of this inclusive process, the College revised its Mission, Vision, and Values statements and developed new Institutional Goals. The review process culminated in formal approval by the Board of Trustees of the updated Mission, Vision and Values statements and Institutional Goals at its January 10 meeting.
- A team from Bergen attended the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) 2022 Annual Conference in December. Workshops and keynote speakers provided valuable best practice information and examples to assist the College in preparing the Self-Study and related work products. Insights gained from the conference will benefit the Steering Committee and subcommittees, helping to inform their work.
- Bergen's MSCHE Vice President Liaison, Dr. Paul Starkey, will visit the main campus on Thursday, February 2. Dr. Starkey will help the College community better understand the accreditation process and answer questions regarding the development of the Self-Study report. While Dr. Starkey does not have a role in determining the extent to which Bergen is in compliance with the Accreditation Standards and Requirements of Affiliation, his expertise and knowledge serve as a valuable resource to the College as it works to demonstrate how Bergen meets and exceeds the accreditation standards and requirements. The College community will have an opportunity to meet with Dr. Starkey at 2 p.m. in the Moses Family Meeting and Training Center (TEC-128), during the town hall meeting scheduled for that day. During his visit, Dr. Starkey will also meet with members of the Board of Trustees, the Self-Study Steering Committee and Faculty Senate officers.
- As the Self-Study Design document nears completion, the Steering Committee chairs have met throughout the fall semester to finalize work plans for the spring semester. Some of the Standards Subcommittees have held their organizational meetings and begun discussion on timelines and the assignment of criteria for examination. Following Dr. Starkey's visit in February, the Steering Committee will begin to meet regularly as will all of the Standards Subcommittees. ■

MISSION

Bergen Community College provides accessible and transformative programs and services to its diverse community. As a comprehensive community college, we are committed to student success, innovation, and inclusivity.

VALUES

Consistent with Bergen Community College and who we are as a community, these core values guide our daily work:

Commitment: We are committed to providing an education in the liberal arts, sciences, technical fields, and a variety of non-credit programs that foster critical thinking, facilitate upward mobility, and instill a sense of purpose.

Creativity: We are imaginative and innovative in promoting success for our students and in accomplishing our goals.

Collaboration: We emphasize teamwork and acknowledge and take pride in the contributions of others.

Communication: We regularly and openly share what we do with both internal and external community members.

Care: We identify, prioritize, and resolve issues by leading with an ethic of care.

Challenge: We challenge ourselves to improve upon our programs and services.

Celebration: We acknowledge, honor and take pride in the quality of our work and the work of others.

VISION

Bergen Community College will be:

- A first-choice option for its community.
- A national model for innovation and partnerships.
- An institution recognized for its ability to meet the needs of an ever-changing student population in a landscape of evolving employers' workforce needs.

INSTITUTIONAL GOALS

- Bergen Community College serves the needs of a diverse college population by creating a welcoming campus environment where all members of the community are valued. The College adheres to the principle of access, equity, and inclusion.
- Bergen Community College offers educational programs and services that promote the success for students of different abilities and economic needs.
- Bergen Community College provides evidence of effective educational experiences.
- Bergen Community College offers programs and services which enable community members to engage in lifelong learning opportunities.
- Bergen Community College cultivates community relationships which support a growing network of partnerships with external organizations.
- Bergen Community College shares its stories of success as a vital resource in Bergen County and the surrounding region.

Approved January 10, 2023