

CLAC STAFF

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COORDINATOR

CHARLOTTE KING, EVENING
& SATURDAY SUPERVISOR

MARILYN PONGRACZ,
ELRC SUPERVISOR

DALE EGAN,
ELRC ASSISTANT
SUPERVISOR

ANY QUESTIONS?

EMAIL US AT
TUTORING@BERGEN.EDU OR
VISIT OUR NEW **VIRTUAL
FRONT DESK!**

THE CERULLO LEARNING ASSISTANCE CENTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF AN AWARD-WINNING CENTER



Testing and Tutoring at the Meadowlands Campus

Take advantage of subject matter tutoring and testing services at the Meadowlands campus.



Supplemental Instruction Center

Learn through the Socratic Method with an SI Leader.



English Language Resource Center

Receive help with grammar, reading, writing, and speech if English is not your native language.



Tutoring Center

Schedule one-on-one appointments and drop-in assistance while also participating in study groups and other tutoring session formats.



Writing Center

Practice critical thinking skills and develop your writing process to complete assignments, conduct academic research, and write to meet the demands of 21st century literacies.



Math and Science Walk-in Center

Experience tutorial support in a collaborative setting with peers.

TUTOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Every year CLAC peer and professional tutors not only assist thousands of our students each semester, but they perform exceptionally well in their own academics and extra-curricular activities.

It is this well-roundedness that makes these tutors particularly notable. CLAC tutors' versatility, academic excellence, and ambition is what makes the CLAC the number one tutoring center among community colleges in the country!

To be able to help the BCC student body with their academic concerns and then take care of their own school work is truly a feat. It gives us great pleasure to recognize what they have accomplished.

NEWS, UPDATES, HOT TOPICS

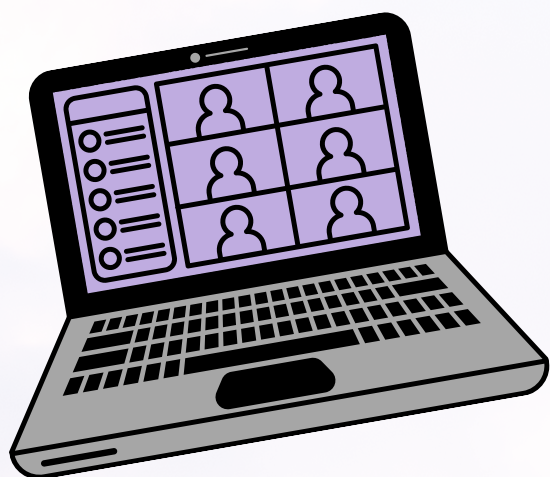
- CRLA PA/NJ 2021 CONFERENCE!
- CRLA TUTOR CERTIFICATIONS!
- PROFILES IN EXCELLENCE!
- CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS!
- TUTOR AWARDS CEREMONY!
- PETS OF THE CLAC!



College Reading & Learning Association (CRLA) PA/NJ Spring 2021 Conference!

Virtual Conference

THE SPRING 2021 COLLEGE READING & LEARNING ASSOCIATION (CRLA) PA/NJ CHAPTER CONFERENCE WAS HELD VIRTUALLY AT BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE THIS YEAR. THE SPRING 2021 CONFERENCE TOOK PLACE ON FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2021. THE THEME THIS YEAR WAS, "ENGAGING WITH STUDENTS REMOTELY" WHICH INSPIRED PRESENTATIONS RELATED TO HOW WE SUPERVISE, SUPPORT, AND CELEBRATE OUR STUDENTS. ALL PRESENTATIONS CAN BE FOUND ON [THE CRLA PA/NJ WEBSITE](#).



Presentations

- **DR. BROCK FISHER, KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
- **CANDICE KAUP-SCIOSCIA, SUPPORTING SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS THROUGH PERMANENT TUTORING APPOINTMENTS**
- **JOHN FINDURA, KELLI HAYES, DANEIAH NASSER, FJOLLA HAXHI, WRITERS' ROUNDTABLE**
- **MARILYN PONGRACZ, LEAH CARMONA, BRAINSTORMING STRATEGIES FOR WRITING**
- **MINA AHN, ALICE HEFFNER, MARIA KASPAROVA, PAIRED FOR SUCCESS: INCORPORATING A TUTOR IN LEARNING COMMUNITIES**

CRLA Tutor Certifications!

THE COLLEGE READING AND LEARNING ASSOCIATION (CRLA) IS A GROUP OF STUDENT-ORIENTED PROFESSIONALS ACTIVE IN THE FIELDS OF READING, LEARNING ASSISTANCE, DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION, TUTORING, AND MENTORING AT THE COLLEGE/ADULT LEVEL. CRLA'S MOST VITAL FUNCTION AND OVERALL PURPOSE IS TO PROVIDE A FORUM FOR THE INTERCHANGE OF IDEAS, METHODS, AND INFORMATION TO IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING AND TO FACILITATE THE PROFESSIONAL GROWTH OF ITS MEMBERS.

THE CLAC IS A LEVEL III CERTIFIED TUTOR TRAINING PROGRAM UNDER CRLA'S INTERNATIONAL TUTOR TRAINING PROGRAM CERTIFICATION (ITTPC). THIS MEANS THAT THE CLAC HAS THE AUTHORITY TO RECOGNIZE THEIR TUTORS AS HAVING MET THE RIGOROUS ITTPC TUTOR TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR CRLA LEVELS I, II, AND III. EARNING CRLA CERTIFICATION PROVIDES RECOGNITION OF THE HARD WORK THESE TUTORS HAVE COMMITTED TO. IT CERTIFIES THEY HAVE MET THE REQUIREMENTS OF AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED STANDARD OF SKILLS AND TRAINING FOR TUTORS AND PROVIDES A PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIAL THAT CAN TRANSFER TO OTHER CERTIFYING COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

Level 1

VALERIA CORREA VASQUEZ
RINA GOLDHAGEN
PAULA GUERRERO
MARGARITA KULKO
AISHE LITA

Level 3

ALICE HEFFNER
AKUNNA IHEMAGUBA
LAILA METWALY
DANEIAH NASSER

Level 2

CHANTANU CHAND
STEPHEN DESROSIER
JOSEPHINE MARESCA
ARIELLE SACHER
HELEN WITTE

"I EARNED MY CRLA LEVEL II - ADVANCED TUTOR CERTIFICATION THIS SEMESTER. EARNED LEVEL I LAST FALL AND I AM LOOKING TO ACHIEVE LEVEL III THIS SUMMER!" - STEPHEN DESROSIER

Profiles in Excellence!

THE SPRING 2021 SEMESTER SAW SOME REMARKABLE FEATS ACCOMPLISHED BY OUR TUTORS! FROM SNOW STORMS TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES TO PERSISTENCE IN THE FACE OF OVERWHELMING ODDS AND ACADEMIC PRESSURE DURING A GLOBAL PANDEMIC! WE WANT TO HIGHLIGHT ONE SUCH STORY HERE!

X-Treme Tutoring


YMER DINOSHI IS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF TUTORING EXCELLENCE DURING TRYING TIMES. ON A FROSTY FEBRUARY 22, 2021, DINOSHI EXPERIENCED A MORNING POWER OUTAGE DUE TO DOWNED POWER LINES IN HIS AREA. AS A CURRENT STUDENT AT NJIT PURSUING ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, HE EVEN MISSED HIS OWN CLASS AT NJIT BECAUSE OF THE POWER OUTAGE. FOR MOST PEOPLE, THEY WOULD PROBABLY CUT THEIR LOSSES AT THAT POINT. BUT, NOT DINOSHI WHO HAD 4 VIRTUAL TUTORING APPOINTMENTS SCHEDULED THAT AFTERNOON FROM 2-6 PM. WITH SOME CREATIVE INGENUITY, HE WAS ABLE TO FIND AN ALTERNATIVE WAY TO CONDUCT HIS APPOINTMENTS.

AFTER SOME QUICK THINKING AND A QUICK SEARCH, DINOSHI FOUND A CABLE LONG ENOUGH THAT HE COULD CONNECT TO HIS CAR TO POWER HIS LAPTOP. BECAUSE OF THIS INGENUITY, HE WAS ABLE TO TUTOR ALL OF HIS APPOINTMENTS AND, BY 4 PM, HIS POWER RETURNED. DINOSHI'S PERSISTENCE IN THESE TRYING TIMES SPEAKS TO HIS DEDICATION TO STUDENT LEARNING.



Ymer Dinoshi

PROFESSIONAL TUTOR, BERGEN
ALUMNIS, A.S. 2020



FOR MORE GREAT
STORIES, CHECK
OUT THE **BCC**
INSTAGRAM!

"THERE ARE MANY TUTORS WHO ARE DEDICATED TO THE STUDENTS AT THE CLAC. I HOPE THEY CAN GET THE SAME RECOGNITION AS ME."

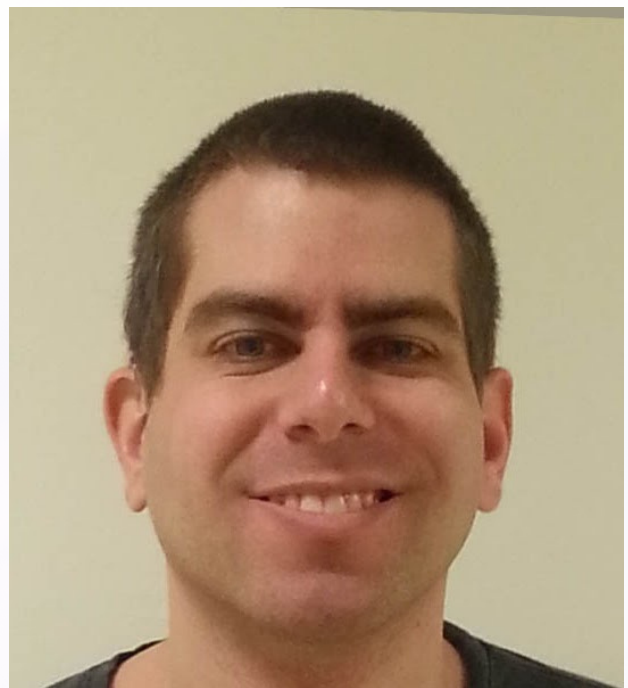
Celebrating Achievements!

Scholarships, Awards, & Acknowledgements

- **HyeJin Kim**, Peer Tutor, recipient of the Professor Robert Neil Ender Memorial Award at Bergen Community College.
- **Luz Mildred Cusi Ttito**, ELRC Peer Tutor, was one of 7 out of 700 applicants to receive the 2020 Phi theta Kappa Global Leaders of Promise Scholarship.
- **Raymond Yoon**, Peer Tutor, recipient of the Middle States Region PTK - Most Distinguished Chapter Member Award.
- **Caitlin Mooney**, Professional Tutor/SL Leader, will be a peer mentor for freshman in computer science at NJIT next year.

Great Opportunity!

"I WAS SELECTED BY MY FRIEND WHO WORKS AS A SWIM INSTRUCTOR AT NJ SWIM SCHOOL IN BRICK, NJ TO TEACH AN AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLASS OF ABOUT 15 KIDS DURING THE SWIM'S FIRST EVER 'SIGN AND SWIM' EVENT! I REALLY ENJOYED WORKING TOGETHER WITH MY FRIEND, TEACHING ABC'S, THE NUMBERS 1-10, AND COLORS THROUGH DIFFERENT SWIMMING GAMES RELATED TO ASL - THE KIDS REALLY ENJOYED AND LOVED IT."



Anthony Defranco
PROFESSIONAL TUTOR [ASL]

College Acceptances & Transfers

- **Charlotte King**, Evening Supervisor, has been accepted into the Psychological Counseling Master's program at Columbia University and the Special Education Master's Program at Penn State.
- **Lin Yan**, Peer Tutor who graduated from BCC in Spring 2020 has been accepted to the Ph.D. program in Learning, Literacy, and Technology at Arizona State University Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College.
- **HyeJin Kim**, Peer Tutor, is extremely happy to have been accepted into Columbia University. ("**The tutoring experience I wrote on my essay definitely helped me a lot in getting in!**")
- **Raymond Yoon**, Peer Tutor, has been accepted into Columbia University.
- **Fjolla Haxhiu**, Peer Tutor, as been accepted into New York University.
- **Laila Metwaly**, Peer Tutor, has been accepted to Rutgers University.



Helen Witte
PROFESSIONAL TUTOR, BCC
ALUMNUS

We Wish You Success!

"I HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED INTO AN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM CALLED THE WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP INSTITUTE, WHERE I WILL BE INTERNING AT THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION. IN ADDITION, I AM AN AGF SCHOLAR, WORKING ON VOTING RIGHTS FOR RAMAPO COLLEGE AND I APPLIED AS A TOUR GUIDE AT RAMAPO FOR THE FALL 2021.

I JUST WANTED TO SAY THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK AT THE ELRC OVER THE PAST 3 YEARS. WHEN I STARTED, I WAS VERY INSECURE AND GOING THROUGH A LOT OF PERSONAL ISSUES. TUTORING HELPED ME GAIN SELF-CONFIDENCE AND REGAIN MY IDENTITY AS AN INTELLECTUAL AND A SCHOLAR. I AM SO PROUD TO SAY 'I AM A TUTOR AT BCC!' KNOWING THAT IT WAS A CRITICAL STEP ON THE JOURNEY FOR ME TO BECOME AN ADULT. THE ELRC WILL ALWAYS HOLD A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART."



Graduations & Presentations

- **Dr. John Findura**, Writing Center Supervisor received his Ed.D in Educational Technology Leadership from New Jersey City University.
- **Dr. John Cichowski**, STEM Supervisor, received his Doctorate in Education (Ed.D.) with a concentration in Online Education - Digital Transformation from Capella University.
- **Kelli Hayes**, Title V Tutorial Supervisor received her Masters of Science in Library and Information Science (MSLIS) & Advanced Certificate in Digital Humanities from the Pratt Institute.
- **Carlos Sierra**, Professional Tutor/SI Leader, received his Bachelor's (B.A.) in Civic Engineering from NJIT.
- **Akunna Ihemaguba**, Professional Tutor/SI Leader will be graduating in May with her doctorate degree in Pharmacy from Marie Schwartz School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (Long Island College of Pharmacy) (Pharma.D).
- **John Findura & Kelli Hayes** presented *#OpheliaSays: Integrating Social Media Into Teaching Literature* at NJECC 2021.

Congratulations!

"I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW THAT I GOT MY FIRST JOB AS A CIVIL ENGINEER WITH A BIG MULTINATIONAL FIRM!!! THANK YOU MADHVI SHAH FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT AND CARE. I WOULD NOT BE THE PERSON/STUDENT OR PROFESSIONAL WITHOUT ALL YOUR HARDWORK AND THE DEDICATION YOU HAVE FOR US TUTORS."



Carlos Sierra
PROFESSIONAL TUTOR,
SI LEADER

Tutor Awards!

ON FRIDAY, JUNE 4, THE CLAC HELD ITS 30TH ANNUAL (AND SECOND VIRTUAL) TUTOR AWARDS CEREMONY TO HONOR THEIR TUTORS' HARD WORK AND DEDICATION THIS PAST YEAR. DR. ERIC L. FRIEDMAN, PRESIDENT OF BCC, AND DR. BROCK FISHER, VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS BOTH ADDRESSED THE ATTENDEES, WHICH INCLUDED THE CLAC TUTORS, STAFF, BCC FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATORS, AND SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE BCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES.



YARA ABAZAH



HYEJIN KIM

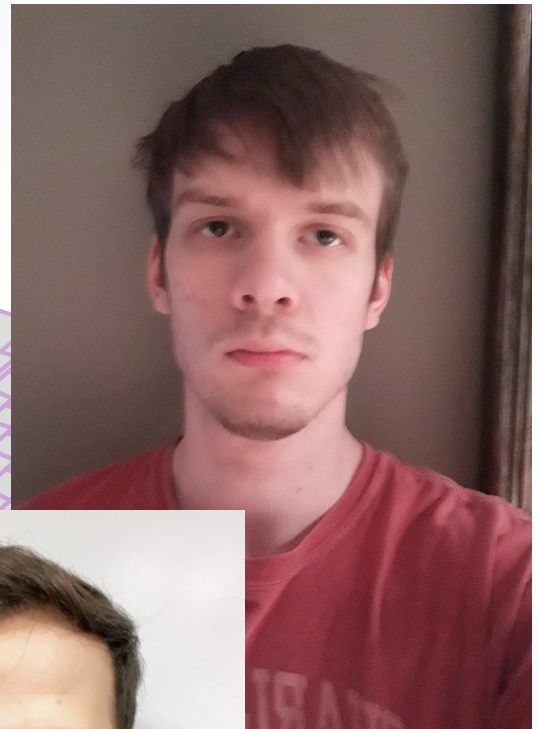


Best Newcomer
Award!



AISHE LITA

Students' Choice
Award (ELRC)!



**ANDREW
MICHEL**

Professor David
Scalcione Memorial
Tutoring Award!



LOUAY ALDAHER



Professor Neil Ender
Math Tutoring
Award!



YARA ABAZAH



**GEORGE
HARAMUNIZ**



NALBY KADKOU



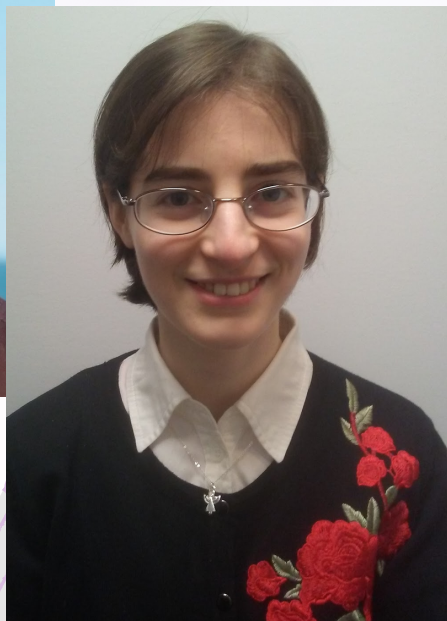
AMRIT PARMAR



**MICHAEL
HERNANDEZ**



**SHANTANU
CHAUD**



**JOSEPHINE
MARESCA**

Adam Feigenbaum
Math Tutoring
Award

Students' Choice
Award (Tutoring
Center)!



YMER DINOSHI

Robert A. Saldarini
(RAS) Technology
Mentor Award!



**HYEJIN
KIM**



MARCIN LOJTEK



LAILA METWALY

Peer Writing
Tutor Award!



STEPHEN DESROSIER

Professional
Writing Tutor
Award!



**FJOLLA
HAXHIU**

Writing &
Humanities
Tutoring
Award



KAREN SADOCK

Supplemental Instruction (SI) Leader Excellence Award!



**AKUNNA
IHEMAGUBA**



MARGARITA KULKO

Student Awards

- **CARLEY KULIGOSKI RECEIVED THE HENRY CERULLO MOST PROMISING STUDENT AWARD!**
- **FATIHA TOUZRI BT RECEIVED THE EDITH CERULLO MOST PROMISING ALP STUDENT AWARD!**

Pets of the CLAC!

AS MANY OF YOU PROBABLY KNOW, WORKING FROM HOME AND ATTENDING VIRTUAL CLASSES HAS BEEN A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE FOR US ALL WITH ITS CHALLENGES AND BENEFITS. ONE ADDED BENEFIT (OR CHALLENGE) FOR MANY OF US HAS BEEN WORKING WITH OUR PETS. FOR MANY, OUR PETS HAVE BEEN OUR ONLY "CO-WORKERS" DURING THIS TIME AND THEIR PRESENCE HAS BEEN A GREAT COMFORT. IF YOU HAVE ATTENDED VIRTUAL TUTORING, YOU MAY HAVE EVEN SEEN ONE OR TWO OF THESE HELPFUL CO-WORKERS! SO, WE THOUGHT WE WOULD INTRODUCE THEM TO YOU!

JOSEPHINE'S PALS!

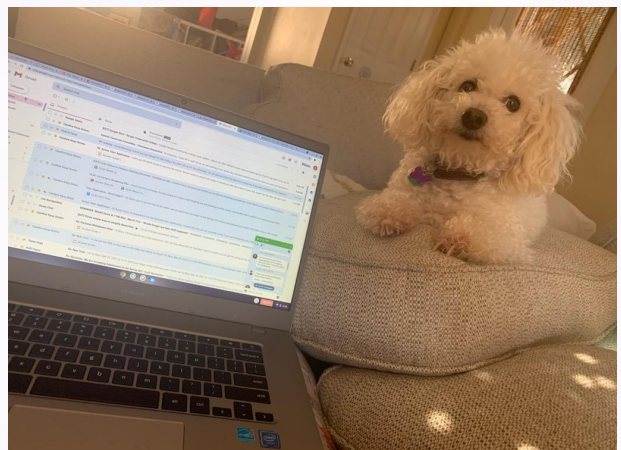
"**MAX** IS A TABBY CAT WE'VE HAD SINCE 2014. HE ENJOYS HANGING OUT ON THE WINDOW SILL (BOTH FOR NAPPING AND SURVEYING THE NEIGHBORHOOD!) HE CAN ALSO BE NOISY AT TIMES WITH HIS MEOWS."



"**FRODO** IS A FERRET WHO WAS RESCUED AFTER BEING FOUND IN A PARKING LOT. HE SLEEPS A LOT, BUT IS A SUPER BUNDLE OF ENERGY WHEN HE'S AWAKE! HE LOVES GETTING HIS NOSE INTO EVERY CORNER OF THE HOUSE."

ROSA'S PAWSOME HELPER!

"**SASHA** IS VERY PATIENT, AN AMAZING CUDDLER, AND VERY INTUITIVE! (HER SPECIAL SKILL? SHE CAN ALSO SMELL CHEESE FROM MILES AWAY!)"





DANEIAH'S UNIQUE CO-WORKERS!

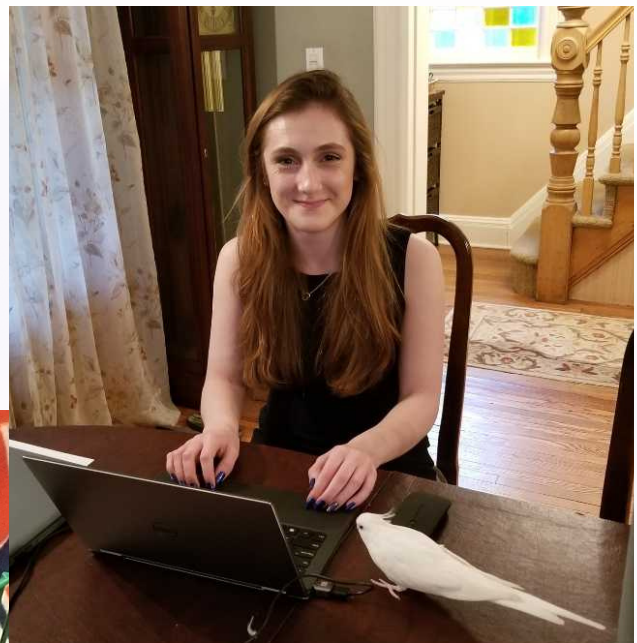
"HERE ARE MY CO-WORKERS
TWEETY AND DAFFY. THEIR
HOBBIES INCLUDE CHIRPING
LOUDER THAN AN ALARM CLOCK
EVERY MORNING TO WAKE UP
THE ENTIRE HOUSE FOR
WORKING FROM HOME."



"WE ALSO HAVE OUR WILD OUTDOOR
CO-WORKER **ROCCO** THE RACCOON
WHO LIKES TO MAKE HIS
APPEARANCES IN EARLY SPRING AND
REFUSES TO LEAVE THE DECK UNTIL
HE IS FED SOMETHING."

CAITLIN'S FURRIENDS!

"THIS IS **SNOWBALL**! AN 8 YR OLD FEMALE
COCKATIEL (DISCOVERED SHE WAS FEMALE
WHEN SHE LAID AN EGG ON ME)! SHE LIKES
TO TAKE OVER MY LAPTOP AND MATH NOTE
PAPER PADS TO SLEEP AND CHEW UP AND
POOP ON! HER TALENT IS CLOSING
WINDOWS THAT I'M USING ON MY LAPTOP!"



"**GINA AND GEMMA** AREN'T NEARLY AS
HELPFUL! THEY OCCASIONALLY
REMIND US TO EAT OUR VEGGIES!"

CARLOS'S HELPERS!

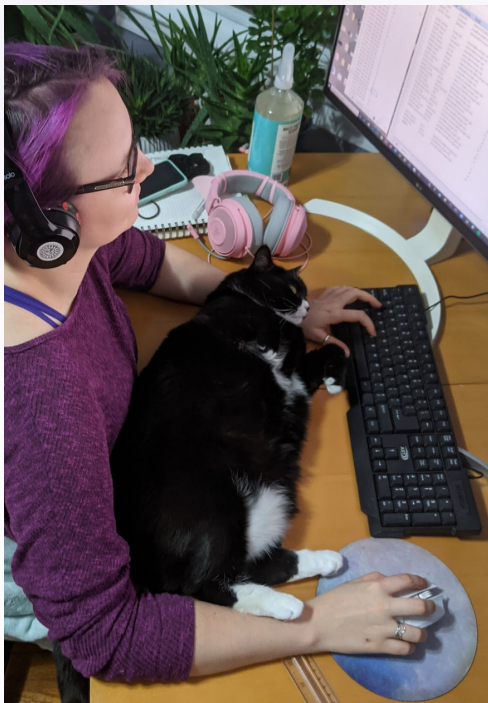
"THE DOG'S NAME IS **BETO** AND THE CAT'S NAME IS **TOKYO**. BETO KNOWS HOW TO SIT AND LOVES TO BE PET. TOKYO IS SUPER SMART AND IS THE COOLEST CAT ON THE BLOCK."



DALE'S TERRIFIC TRIO!

"**POPPY** AND HER SONS, **CLYDE** AND **PINKY**, ARE GOOD AT BEING AFFECTIONATE AND WATCHING BIRDS. CLYDE AND PINKY ARE BOTH ACCOMPLISHED AT DRINKING FROM THE BATHTUB FAUCET."





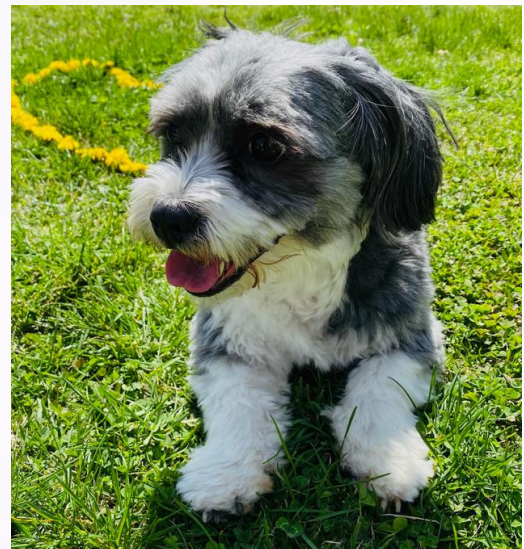
KATE'S TECH SUPPORT!

"HER NAME IS **JOSHKA**. HER SPECIAL TALENT IS ACTIVE VIDEO CONFERENCING PARTICIPATION."



LUZ'S BUDDY!

"HER NAME IS **CHLOE**. SHE IS REALLY LOVELY."



CHARLOTTE'S PALS!



"**MILO** IS DEAF AND DEBONAIR AND ENJOYS CLEARING EVERYTHING OFF OF ANY SURFACE AND WALKING ON MY KEYBOARD DURING ZOOM MEETINGS. **AMINA** ENJOYS EATING PAPER AND FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT RUBBER BANDS ARE THE STUFF OF LIFE."



KELLI'S SPICE GIRLS!

"I'VE BEEN FORTUNATE TO HAVE MY OWN SPICE GIRLS DURING THIS TIME. **OREGANO** LOVES TO MONITOR MY WORK. HER SKILLS INCLUDE: NAPPING, SNUDDLING, AND KEEPING SPOTS WARM. (WE'RE WORKING ON HER TYPING.) **CLOVE** IS MUCH BETTER AT SUPERVISING AND LOVES WATCHING THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND ME."



LEAH'S COLLABORATOR!

"THIS IS **PANCHO**. HE LOVES TO CRASH MY WEBEX SESSIONS."



A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

THE SPRING AND SUMMER SEMESTERS OF 2021 HAVE BEEN UNLIKE ANY OTHER NOT ONLY HERE AT BCC, BUT AROUND THE WORLD.

TO OUR STUDENTS, YOU STILL ATTENDED YOUR CLASSES, COMPLETED ASSIGNMENTS, HELPED OTHERS, AND CAME TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY. YOU HAVE DONE MORE THAN ANYONE COULD HAVE ASKED OF YOU.

TO OUR TUTORS, YOU WERE STILL THERE FOR THOSE WHO NEEDED ASSISTANCE AND FOR THOSE WHO WERE COUNTING ON YOU, JUST LIKE YOU HAVE BEEN DOING FOR OVER 20 YEARS.

WE THANK ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK, DEDICATION, AND YOUR ABILITY TO ADAPT. IN OUR EVER-CHANGING WORLD, THIS IS A CRUCIAL SKILL TO HAVE.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE GRADUATED, CONGRATULATIONS! AND FOR THOSE STILL ON THEIR ACADEMIC JOURNEY, WE WILL BE RIGHT HERE FOR YOU.

SINCERELY,

CLAC STAFF



**THE CERULLO LEARNING ASSISTANCE CENTER
OPERATES UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE
VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS,
DR. BROCK FISHER.**

**HENRY & EDITH
CERULLO LEARNING
ASSISTANCE CENTER**

**TUTORING CENTER &
WRITING CENTER**
PITKIN L-125

**MATH AND SCIENCE WALK-
IN CENTER**
PITKIN L-131

PHONE: 201-447-7489
FAX: 201-879-4619

**SUPPLEMENTAL
INSTRUCTION CENTER**
PITKIN S-119

PHONE: 201-879-3559

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE
RESOURCE CENTER**
PITKIN C-212

PHONE: 201-879-5292

**TUTORING CENTER
AT THE MEADOWLANDS
LYNDHURST CAMPUS**
LYN-202

PHONE: 201-879-7867

FOLLOW US ONLINE!
@BCCTUTORING



MISSION STATEMENT

THE CERULLO LEARNING ASSISTANCE CENTER (CLAC) IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING ACADEMIC SUPPORT AND FOSTERING INDEPENDENT LEARNING FOR ALL BCC STUDENTS IN A NURTURING ENVIRONMENT, WHILE GUIDING THEM THROUGH THEIR EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY.

VISION

THE CERULLO LEARNING ASSISTANCE CENTER COMMITS TO PROVIDING EXEMPLARY ACADEMIC SUPPORT UTILIZING A PURPOSEFUL, STUDENT-CENTERED APPROACH.

HOW TO MAKE A TUTORING APPOINTMENT

- GO TO THE BERGEN PORTAL (MY.BERGEN.EDU)
- CLICK ON BCC TUTORING (UNDER BERGEN LINKS)
- SIGN IN WITH YOUR BCC CREDENTIALS
- CLICK ON "SEARCH AVAILABILITY"

