
From Your President's Desk

COVID-19 is real, it is present, and it is impacting all of our lives. Thus far, we, as the SCC family, have lost one of our staff to COVID, Jayne Spino, last winter. As of this writing, we have had 12 confirmed cases, though we have yet to have a case that was a confirmed transmission on campus. Each has been an off campus interaction. While we have had only 12 cases, we receive multiple concerns on our Hotline 856-351-2840 when a student or staff member have had contact with an active COVID case. Many of these require no action due to the fact the individual reporting the contact is vaccinated. We can't say it enough, please get vaccinated. It is important as we strive to get back into our normal lives.

Finance and Facility Updates

Campus Ops - We have signed the contract for the upgrade/replacement of the main Davidow Chiller with Schneider Electric as an extension of our larger ESIP (Energy Savings Improvement Plan) project(s). If all goes as planned we should have this completed just in time for the coming 2022 cooling season. Our back-up redundant system which for nearly two years has been our primary will (if it lasts that long) revert to our back-up chiller which, with a new system, should be something we should not need. We are also in the early stages of working with Schneider Electric on the potential of expanding our solar capacity on campus - more to come. **PURCHASING/REQUISITIONS - - IMPORTANT !!** - All requisitions must include supporting documents that support pricing, etc.

Fall/Annual Exterior clean-up - Over the past two weekends we had our annual exterior pressure washing. You should notice that our exteriors are all cleaned up including windows, our parking area roadside signs, all of the picnic tables have been pressure washed along with other exterior attention. If you see anything that might still need attention, please let us know. Extra eyes appreciated.

I.T. - Fraud and Phishing reminder - We continue to experience an influx of malicious and fraudulent emails. Please remain vigilant when opening and responding to email. In a recent scenario, an employee's personal account was compromised. The malicious actor then used that personal account to email some employees here at SCC, asking them to purchase gift cards. Unfortunately, the malicious actor (i.e. "the bad guy") was successful in one case among us resulting in \$s lost to the bad guy. It is important to remember that malicious email CAN come from what appears to be a trusted source. Some key indicators in spotting malicious email is when they ask for credentials, gift cards or cryptocurrency. When reading email, it is also important to pay attention to the sentence structure and ask yourself, "does this sound like the person I know writing this?" If ever in doubt, verify verbally (or some other way other than email) with the person.

In light of this recent cyber incident, the I.T. Department **will be sending out a new security awareness** training module through KnowBe4. KnowBe4 is our anti-phishing and cybersecurity training platform that we have all seen. Please **keep an eye out on November 2nd** for an email with instructions.

The PowerCAMPUS/Self-Service upgrade has been postponed to late January. This was due to health issues within the I.T. Department the Friday before the scheduled upgrade date. With several unknowns over the weekend, it was determined best to err on the side of caution and postpone.

Enrollment

Academic Affairs Updates

The EOF team is excited to be back on campus to resume in-person programming! So far this semester, we have hosted a variety of workshops including Tackling Test Taking Anxiety, Communication Skills for Success, & Tips for Online Learning. We are also executing our new initiative to address mental health specifically depression and anxiety. Our goal is to create a safe space for our students to discuss mental illness symptoms, explore resources, and learn how to talk to peers who might be struggling in this area.

Last week, we transported a group of students to a campus visit at Rowan University. We have two additional campus visits upcoming at Stockton University and Rutgers University- Camden. On November 1st we will be hosting EOF Day on campus to raise awareness about our program and to get students excited about spring registration! Lastly, we will be hosting our fall Career Fair on November 17 in the Reggie Smith Student Union.

Associate Professor Jenna Lucente hosts the opening reception for her latest exhibition on Friday, November 5th, 5 to 9 p.m. at the Delaware Contemporary (decontemporary.org) in Wilmington. This event features her latest oil paintings examining household subjects and represents her most intimate work. Seven additional exhibits are also on display offering visitors the chance to spread out at this free event.

Kudos to faculty for using the Cengage Unlimited program to save students money on textbooks. This program is like Netflix, where students can pay one fee for the semester and get all of their textbooks from Cengage included. Faculty have been steadily converting courses over to Cengage when possible. Now Student Accounts is taking this program to the next level for the Spring 2022 semester by making it even easier for students to participate. The cost of textbooks will now be part of a student's bill when registering for a course that uses Cengage. This means the textbooks and other resources will be pre-loaded into the Canvas course, so students will not need to add these separately after the course begins. All of this adds up to more savings for students and fewer barriers to starting their courses. Thank you to everyone involved with this program! (Please note that a few courses still use a textbook from another publisher, so there are courses that do not yet fall under this program.)

Alumni Profile: Shameka Martin

Not only is Shameka Martin completing her final semester, she is also a mother of three SCC students. She considers the unique occurrence "mind blowing."

"I am still shocked and amazed and thankful at the same time," said the Liberal Arts major and 1999 Salem High School graduate. "I just can't believe we are making it happen. It's like I just had them and now I am pushing myself, showing them that I made the sacrifice to take care of them, showing them that it's not how you start it's how you finish."

Shameka did not need to apply parental pressure on daughters Abryonna, Aliyah or Jashanti to attend SCC.

"I didn't have to push my daughters at all," said Shameka, who also has two prospective SCC students at home. "Abryonna actually went to Widener University when she graduated from high school, and we had to make a decision to bring her back. It was disappointing for her, but we think it was the best decision ever. Aliyah and Jashanti are my girls that I never know what they are going to want to do next, but as their #1 support system, I will support whatever it is they decide to do, if it will be beneficial for them in the long run."



The Penns Grove resident said she chose SCC for several reasons, including convenience to both home and

work.

Her major influences at SCC are Dr. Isaiah White and Dana Collins-Moore. “Without them as my EOF dream team, I don’t know if I would’ve pushed through,” said Shameka, who also praised Associate Professor Karen Mattison as “truly amazing” who “understands everything about a hard-working mother” and encourages her to reach her goals.

After earning her associate degree, Shameka said she plans to enroll at either Rowan University or Wilmington University in business, marketing or business management.

Her advice to prospective SCC students is to meet with their academic advisor to stay on track, especially when changing majors. “Make sure your FAFSA is complete and you have a plan and what goals you want to meet each semester. Get to know what all SCC offers because the staff here at SCC truly care and want to see you be successful.”

As she approaches the end of her SCC student days, Shameka thanked her support system for “dealing with my late nights and early mornings. My mother, children and my soon- to-be-husband, I am truly grateful for. This past year has been a rollercoaster.”

Shameka also thanked her EOF family. “I am truly honored and humble to be where I am today,” she said.

Board of Trustees Actions / Contemplations

At its meeting of October 21st, the Board of Trustees appointed Dean of Academic Affairs Ken Robell, to chair the Search Committee for our next Dean of Student Services (formerly the Vice President and Dean of Enrollment Management and Student Services). In addition to the appointment of Dean Robell, the Board approved job description revisions for the position (no new additions to the job, but an update as to what had migrated into the position over the years), and the general timetable for the search. Essentially, the position is advertised for October and November, first interviews will be in December, and Second along with Third (if necessary) interviews in January. The target is to present a candidate to the Board of Trustees on January 20th. The new Dean can begin anywhere between January 21st and March 31st. We will keep you updated as we progress.

By action of the Board of Trustees, offices are closed on Thursday, November 4 and Friday, November 5. The Board expresses its sincere appreciation for employees going “the extra mile” to serve our students during the pandemic. Offices will reopen on Monday, November 8. We hope that everyone enjoys their well-deserved fall break.

Important Calendar Events

November 3 - College Assembly