



The Voice

ROWAN COLLEGE OF SOUTH JERSEY'S
AWARD-WINNING NEWSPAPER



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RCSJ Ranked No. 1 Community College in New Jersey by Schools.com

RCSJ PR DEPT.

Rowan College of South Jersey (RCSJ) is pleased to announce that it is ranked as the No. 1 community college in the state of New Jersey by Schools.com.

This latest achievement comes on the heels of the historic merger, on July 1, 2019, of Rowan College at Gloucester County and Cumberland County College to create a comprehensive, dual-campus regional community college—the first of its kind in New Jersey.

The merger, in conjunction with a premier partnership with Rowan University, leads the way to a future filled with diverse, one-of-a-kind educational opportunities.

“It is impressive to be ranked the No. 1 community college in New Jersey by Schools.com, but it does not surprise me,” said Rowan College of South Jersey President Frederick Keating. “The recent merger of the Cumberland and Gloucester campuses has grown and strengthened our innovative programs, providing even more educational opportunities for students to succeed.

Students have the advantage of two community college campuses with online programs, offering even more choices and flexibility at an affordable cost.”

In ranking the state’s top community colleges, Schools.com uses the most recent, publicly available government data from the U.S. Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics, and College Scorecard. Data used in the analysis includes multiple key factors such as educational opportunity, affordability, flexibility and student success.



RCSJ.edu

To keep pace with the changing collegiate landscape, RCSJ is reimagining opportunities, offering more choices and enhancing learning experiences that benefit students, businesses and industries in the community.

an University’s School of Osteopathic Medicine, plus additional affiliations with Inspira Health and Cooper University Health Care, Rowan College of South Jersey is becoming a medical destination for students,” noted Keating.

“We are the only community college in the country to have a medical school on its campus.”

An innovative “3+1” option, in partnership with Rowan University, enables students to attend RCSJ for three years, and then complete the final year of their baccalaureate

at Rowan University, thus saving families thousands of dollars.

“Rowan Choice” offers students the experience of living on the campus of Rowan University while taking classes at RCSJ during their freshman and sophomore years.

Committed to unifying higher education with real-life employment options, RCSJ defines a new generation of community colleges that focuses on personal career advancement while providing knowledgeable and experienced employees for the future.

Rowan College of South Jersey is a comprehensive, two-year regional college serving more than 10,000 full- and part-time students with degree and workforce development programs, on campuses in Gloucester and Cumberland Counties. Rowan College of South Jersey is fully accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

Ribbon-cutting marks expansion of RCSJ-Cumberland’s Division

RCSJ PR DEPT.

Rowan College of South Jersey-Cumberland Campus celebrated the opening of the new home of its Business Studies Division, within the George P. Luciano Family Center for Public Service and Leadership, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and introduction of the Program Partner Wall, on January 31.

Seventeen program partners were recognized for their commitment to Rowan College of South Jersey (RCSJ) students. They are: Andrea Trattoria Italiano, Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce, Century Savings Bank, Cumberland Insurance Group, Greater Millville Chamber of Commerce, Greater Vineland Chamber of Commerce, Inspira Health Foundation, Newfield National Bank, Nipro Pharma Packaging, OceanFirst Bank, Print Solutions Plus, Rossi Honda, SNJ Today, South Jersey Federal Credit Union, South Jersey Film Alliance, South Jersey Gas, and Tower Hospitality.

“The repurposing of a building on Cumberland’s campus that is dedicated to business studies, reflects our commitment to meeting the needs of the local

businesses that are our valued partners,” said RCSJ President Frederick Keating. “By providing educational resources and opportunities, these businesses are helping to prepare students for

the building’s classrooms as the “OceanFirst Bank Business Studies Forum Room.”

“Our business partners are the foundation of our programs,” said Patricia Claghorn,

and hire our interns and graduates.” Also on view was “Duke’s Cabinet,” a permanent display containing mementos honoring the life of the late George P. Luciano Family CenterGeorge “Duke”

family will always be connected to the Cumberland campus.

When stepping into the George P. Luciano Family Center for Public Service and Leadership, one can be reminded of Duke’s philosophy for success: “Work hard, help others, and expect only friendship in return.”

The Luciano family’s generous pledge of \$1 million, in April 2000, made it possible to create a hub for the enhancement of leadership, economic development and institutional advancement. A fervent patron of the arts, Luciano donated \$500,000 to the college in 1995 to enhance the operations of the Fine and Performing Arts Center’s theatre that is named for him. In 1993, Luciano was awarded an honorary associate in arts degree for “demonstrating the spirit of the American entrepreneur.”

“The placement of the Business Studies Division in the Luciano Center will continue to enhance the central role RCSJ’s Cumberland campus has played in empowering business education and economic development in our region,” said Cumberland County Freeholder Director, Joseph Derella.

For more information visit: RCSJ.edu/business.



RCSJ.edu

successful careers.”

During Friday’s ceremony, Dr. Keating presented a plaque to Vincent D’Alessandro, Southern Region President, OceanFirst Bank, which designates one of

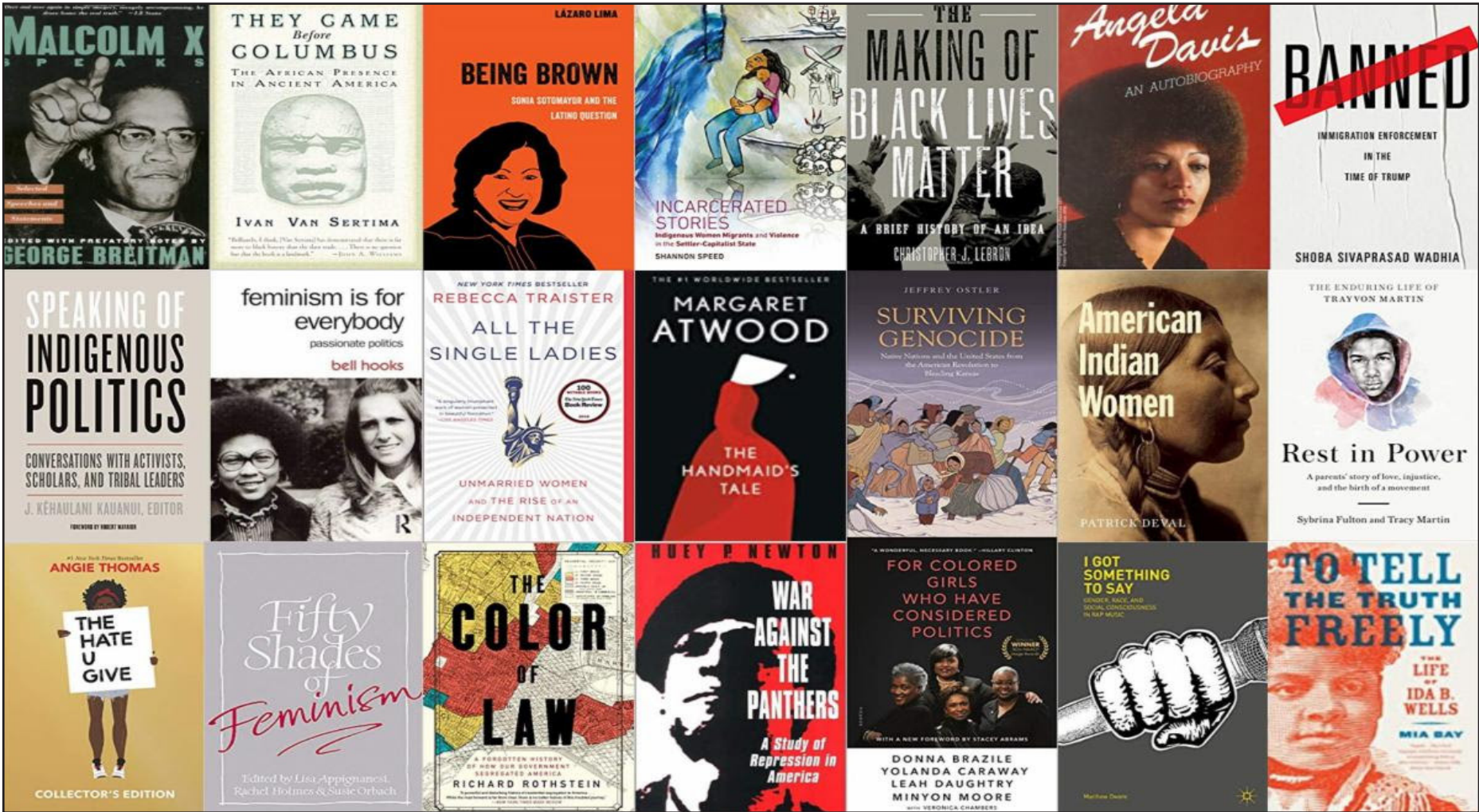
Dean of Business Studies. “This event has provided us with an opportunity to recognize our relationships with the business partners who advise us on our curriculum, participate as mentors,

Luciano, after whom the building is named, was an advocate for the college since its inception in the mid-1960s. His name and that of the Luciano

LIBRARY LIFE

Explore RCSJ-Cumberland’s Eclectic Collection

By KATHERINE GIVENS
Library Staff



Works from Brittney Cooper, Angela Davis, Chris Mato Nunpa, Jeffrey Ostler, Michael Eric Dyson, Cutcha Risling Baldy, Frantz Fanon, Lazaro Lima, Victor M. Rios, belle hooks, Zora Neale Hurston, Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche, H.P. Newton, Ivan Van Sertima, and many, many others give diversity to this collection.

Topics covered range from the genocide of the Native Americans at the Trail of Tears to arguments for diversity in feminism to the writings of Black Panther Party leaders.

Strides have been made

in the last century for social justice and equality, not just in America, but around the world. Women have gained the right to vote in many Western societies and hold political offices around the world, such as German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. The Civil Rights Movement in America and the end of Apartheid in South Africa spurred measures towards equal rights.

However, despite many triumphant steps toward social justice in countries across the world, the balance still remains

unfair and unequal. The Dakota Access Pipeline protests saw Native American communities fighting against threats toward their native lands.

Women are still unequal across the globe with some countries still barring their female population from political participation, such as Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Nigeria. In America, white women are privileged compared to women of color or trans-women. African Americans still face discrimination and economic inequality in the Post-Civil Rights Era.

Despite the progress, there's still setbacks, push backs, and oppression from those who are privileged by their gender, race, sexual orientation, or socio-economic status.

This collection attempts to capture the progression towards equality and the oppression to prevent it.

If instructors would like a complete bibliography of the collection's holdings or suggest materials to add, please contact the library.

Social
Justice
and
Inclusion
Collection

Kindred by Octavia E. Butler

By KATHERINE GIVENS
Library Staff

Every so often, you'll read a work of fiction that sticks in your head. Octavia E. Butler's *Kindred* is such a book for its exploration of sexism and racism in the past and present.

Kindred follows Dana, a young and budding African American writer in California in 1976. She lives a rather normal life working for a temp agency, plugging away at her writing at night, and settling in with her new husband, Kevin.

However, while celebrating her twenty-sixth birthday with Kevin, Dana is stolen back in time to the antebellum South. She saves a young white boy, Rufus, from drowning in a nearby river, but instead of being thanked by his parents, she's met with scorn and derision.

So starts one of many traveling episodes for Dana. Dana works to solve why this is happening to her, and after laying her hands on a family Bible, learns Rufus is her ancestor. Because of this, they're connected. They're kindred. But why does she keep getting pulled back into time?

Dana watches Rufus grow from a boy into a slave owner during her time-traveling episodes. Each time she stays longer and longer, and each time she learns more about her family's history. At one point, even her husband, Kevin, is pulled back in time and ends up staying for years before reuniting with Dana.

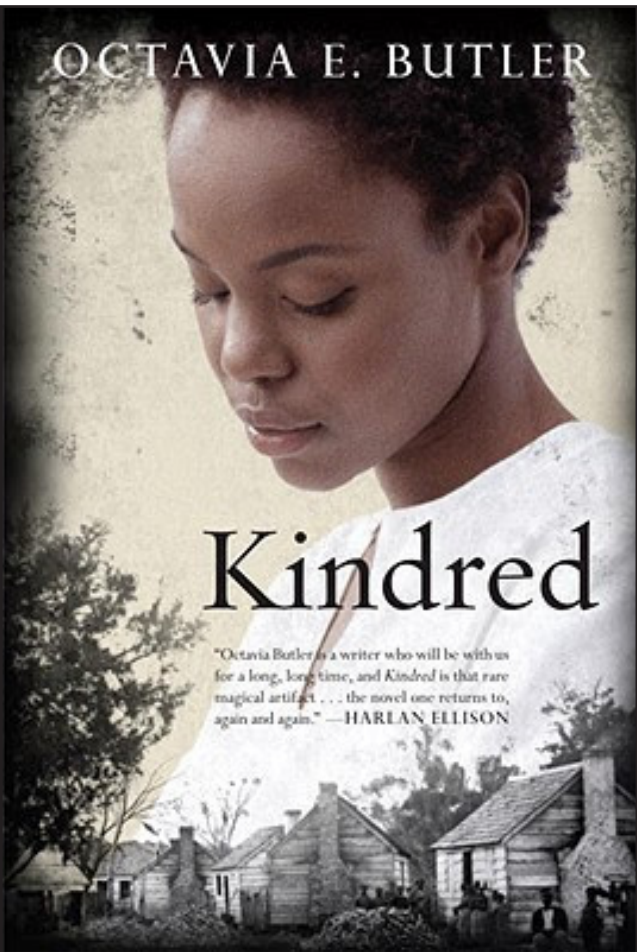
Through intense scenes and dynamic relationships between her characters (i.e. Dana and Rufus), Butler paints a horrific picture of slavery and gender roles in the antebellum South.

Oftentimes, her writing feels less like fiction and more like a slave narrative. This compelling book deserves a read.

“Her [Butler’s] genius lies in her exploration of violence, power, and relationships between unequal partners,”

Faith L. Justice.

IMAGES PROVIDED BY GOOGLE



SPORTS & HEALTH

DUKES Phil Cisrow Makes History

By RCSJ PR Dept.

Phil Cisrow added to his illustrious career by scoring his 1,000 career point in February 2020.

Tuesday night was a historic night for RCSJ-Cumberland Athletics, but more importantly, it was a special night for sophomore guard Phil Cisrow. The Business Studies major from Bridgeton, NJ scored his 1,000 career point on Tuesday evening at Brookdale CC to add another highlight to his incredible career in Navy and Gold.

“Earning this milestone was just a relief for me,” Cisrow said. “It wasn’t my initial goal, but when I realized this was a possibility, I worked harder for it and glad I finally did it.”

Cisrow has been a force since arriving on Cumberland’s campus. The 6’3 guard was a crucial piece to the start of the Darrin Stalling era as Coach Stalling took the helm in late July 2018, leaving him just weeks to recruit for the upcoming season.

When Cisrow agreed to come onboard, Coach Stalling knew he had his centerpiece. “Best part about Phil is that he is a model student-athlete. You can always count on Phil.” During his freshman season, Cisrow was one-third of the famed “Law Firm” where he teamed up with sophomore guards Kevin Clark and Taylor Clarke.

The trio led Cumberland back to the postseason and a berth in the Region XIX Final Four before falling to eventual champion, Middlesex County. Cisrow would average a double double in his first year as a Duke, scoring 17 points

per game while reeling in 11 rebounds per game. He certainly had a large act to follow heading into the 2019-2020 season.

Knowing Cisrow, he was

well prepared and was drives to exceed expectations. The Dukes entered the season with a young roster as they only returned 3 sophomores, the rest of the roster being true freshmen. Not only did he have to lead on the court, but Coach Stalling tasked Cisrow to lead the freshmen off the court as well. As the regular season winds down and the Dukes primed to return to the postseason, one could assess that Cisrow has fulfilled his duties as the team’s leader. Despite a midseason slump, the Dukes entered Tuesday evening with a 15-8 record, 13-8 in Region XIX play, and 11-7 in GSAC play. Cisrow on the year is on right track averaging 22 points per game and pulling down

8 rebounds per game. With just a few games to go and the expectation of a strong playoff run to the National Tournament, there is still a ton of work to do.

tors, it is easy to see why Tuesday evening was celebrated by everyone in the Cumberland community and not just the team. “Everyone had a hand in this achievement.

Coach Stalling for sure, but also my teammates, past and present, and the college. They are so supportive here and I am glad I was able to accomplish for us,” Cisrow

said. “He is by far the best student-athlete that I have coached in my 25 year career. From his performance on the court

to his character off the court, he is by far the best,” Coach Stalling proudly shared. “If you look at who he played with last year (Clark and Clarke) and still be able to accomplish this in 2 years is absolutely incredible.” Cisrow added, “Coach Stalling and the staff have been great these past 2 years. They certainly helped me become a better basketball player, but they definitely helped me mature as a young man and helped



Cumberland’s Phil Cisrow, scores his 1000th career point in February 2020.

RCSJ PR DEPT

“He is by far the best student-athlete that I have coached in my 25-year career. From his performance on the court to his character off the court, he is by far the best,” Coach Stalling proudly shared.

However, Cisrow’s impact, has already been felt throughout the campus.

Cisrow is on track to graduate and currently holds a 3.1 GPA. Additionally he is quick to volunteer for any on-campus events. “Phil, to me, is the picture perfect student-athlete,” Director of Athletics, Jonathan Dijamco said. The 1,000 point milestone is special, but after speaking with teammates, coaches, and campus administra-

RCSJ Nursing Program Ranked #1 Again

By RCSJ PR Dept.

RCSJ Nursing Program Ranked #1 in State Four Consecutive Years.

For the fourth consecutive year, Rowan College of South Jersey’s (RCSJ) Associate in Nursing program is ranked the #1 Nursing program in the state of New Jersey by RegisteredNursing.org.

The state-wide study examined 46 N.J. Nursing programs, which included Associate in Nursing, Bachelors in Nursing and Direct-Entry Masters in Nursing programs. Programs were rated based on the number of graduates produced who are able to pass the NCLEX-RN exam, which is the licensure exam used by all state boards of nursing across the United States to help assess a student’s competency. RCSJ was awarded the highest score, with 97.03 percent of graduating students able to pass the licensure exam on their first attempt – a pass rate consider-

ably higher than the national pass rate of 88 percent.

“The success of the RCSJ Nursing program is due to many components,” remarked Dean of Nursing and Health Professions Susan Hall, Ed.D, MSN, RN.” The ongoing support from the College Board of Trustees, the College administration and the dedicated faculty, staff and students here demonstrate that there is no single factor that leads to the success of our graduates. We look forward to maintaining the high standards that have been set in place to educate safe, effective and competent caregivers.”

Health-care providers across the region rely on RCSJ to prepare exemplary practitioners for employment in the nursing and allied-health fields. An aging population coupled with a rise in obesity and chronic disease have increased the demand for nurses and health-care professionals. According to the American Nurses Association website, there is a “nursing shortage” with registered nurses near the top of the

list when it comes to employment growth.

RCSJ’s Division of Nursing and Health Professions offers programs in nursing, diagnostic medical sonography (ultra



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sound), nuclear medicine technology, exercise science, health science, alcohol and drug counseling, health care administration, LPN-RN, physical therapy assistant, medical technology, psychology, certified clinical medical assistant, medical coding, and healthcare risk management. The College’s faculty and staff, state-of-the-art nursing and

health-care facilities, and dedicated skills and tutoring center, along with their strong relationship with clinical partners including Inspira, Jefferson, Cooper and Virtua, produce graduates as comfortable in a health-care environment as they are in the classroom.

Partnership opportunities with four-year universities offer RCSJ students even more career options. RNs can earn a Rowan University Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree on the RCSJ campus thanks to a seamless “pathway” with the College’s premier partner. A unique 3+1 partnership program provides students with the opportunity to earn a four-year degree for less than \$30,000. Nursing students save on tuition and fees, paying the community college cost for three years, with the final year at the university rate.

“For the fourth consecutive year, Rowan College of South Jersey nursing graduates are the best of the best in

prepare me for the real world.” The relationship between coach and player is a special one, that description is certainly personified between Cisrow and Stalling. At the time of Stalling’s hire, he needed a foundational piece and he found that in Cisrow.

So when that free throw went through the hoop for Cisrow’s 1,000 point, it was an accomplishment for Phil Cisrow and RCSJ-Cumberland. “Cumberland means a lot to me,” Cisrow stated. “It allowed me to work on my game, offered me a lot of resources to strengthen my academics, and most importantly, I grew up on this campus.”

Dijamco shared his thoughts on what Cisrow’s accomplishment means to Cumberland Athletics and the campus community. “He is our Derek Jeter, Tom Brady, and Kobe Bryant. You can always count on Phil to perform on the court and in the classroom, and to be quite honest, I do not think we have ever had to worry about him in any situation. He conducts himself with extremely high character, he is extremely competitive, and always puts forth his absolute best effort. He is by far one of my all-time favorite athletes”. Dijamco then joked, “Plus, I think I’ve seem him complain to a game official maybe three times in his entire career. So add in extreme patience to that list.” Coach Stalling concluded, “He is a special person.”

You can stay up to date on all things Dukes Athletics on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, just search the username GoRCDukes.

New Jersey,” stated College President Frederick Keating. “To have our nursing students standout and be recognized in such a noble profession says much about the quality of our College’s program, faculty and students. This College could not be prouder.”

For more information about RCSJ’s Nursing program, visit RCSJ.edu/Nursing. Rowan College of South Jersey is a comprehensive, two-year regional college serving more than 10,000 full- and part-time students with degree and workforce development programs, on campuses in Gloucester and Cumberland Counties. The main campus in Gloucester County is located on 250-acres on Tanyard Road in Deptford, just off Exit 56 of Route 55.

OPINION

Whether You’re Right or Left this Election Year Let’s All Agree to Keep It Secular in 2020

By BRANDON BISCHER
Staff Writer

America is very unique, especially when compared with our contemporaries over in Europe. An example of this would be differences in political spectrums. “Left wingers” such as Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton are left only by American standards. In fact, a majority of our government officials fall into the right wing sphere everywhere else in the world.

An even better example of the astronomical differences between the U. S. and our brothers and sisters across the pond; secularism, or the lack there-of. Compared to countries like England, the U.S is borderline theocratic, and while Europeans are far from

having a perfect society, I think it would benefit us to adopt some of their attitudes regarding religion in the public sphere.

Even the most atheistic of you out there may hold the opinion that “Religion is harmless” and perhaps I’m over dramatic or even intolerant of others’ beliefs. I would argue there’s actually ample evidence that religion is harmful to rational political discourse; we can see this with our current president.

Now, this is not an attack on Trump. He doesn’t have control (well not complete control) of what his supporters think, but it should be mentioned that approximately 40% of Trump supporters polled believed he is God-sent to save us. Crazy right?

Even more dangerous

than this, is the very real phenomena that there are people in the country and even in our government, who believe the biblical end times, or the Rapture, is near and that Israel reclaiming the Holy Land from the Palestinians is the key to making the Rapture happen. These Americans, therefore, vote for candidates who’s foreign policies (they think) will hasten the arrival of the biblical end times. They believe this despite the Book of Revelations (which barely made it into the Bible in the first place)



saying that humanity will never know when the end times will come. Now you may read these and think; “What do these people have to do with me?” Well, nothing, but they should provide a lesson. If a layman were to get on stage and try to explain to a crowd the details and complex conclusions of some breakthrough scientific study, I don’t think anyone would take them seriously. Why? Because they would be trying to interpret a message that is not clearly discernible to

them. Many people believe God speaks to them, and a majority of these people interpret a message that is contradictory to another’s interpretation. I’m not asking you to abandon your faith, I’m asking you to exercise that sweet, sweet free will your Lord gave you, and make an informed decision this election season. Vote on who YOU believe is the rational, logical candidate, not who you think God wants you to vote for. Removing religion from our politics is beneficial to believers and atheists alike, and it starts with the individual effort, so let’s work together in 2020 to make rationality the standard of our politics.

Why Colleges Should Stop Over Charging Students for Textbooks

By CHEYENNE NEWMAN
Staff Writer

I like many college students have just returned to school and are looking forward to building our futures. There are so many fresh minds coming straight out of high school and jumping into the deep end of college not knowing what to expect.

Also, many people go to college because they want to have a better life for themselves or their children. Some people have not been to school in years but they go back to prove that they can do it.

No matter the reason anyone has for going to school, we all have a reason for doing it. It means so much to us all and unfortunately, many of us go into debt for school. One of the major contributing factors to people wasting their money is books.

No matter which way you look at it trying to find a way to pay for school is stressful for anyone. There are a small number of cases where people get full rides to their dream school but for most people that is not the reality.

Some people get financial aid but even then that does not cover everything. Some people need to use it for transportation or food but they might not be able to because they need to purchase books. Then there are many cases in which people receive no financial aid at all. Most people have kids, bills and

so many other things to worry about paying for. According to the College Board based on trends from 2018 - 2019, the average student spends around \$415 on course materials(College Board). Many times when shopping in the book store that most of the times one book can cost around \$100 to \$200. The school should not expect people to pay that much for one book.

In many cases, most people buy books because the teachers will tell them that it is required for the course. While that is true for a class that has a heavy workload it is not the case for a lot of classes. It is unfair to tell students to pur-

found that book prices rose 88 percent between 2006 and 2016, and the College Board — which administers the SAT exam — reported that students budget more than \$1,200 each year for textbooks and other class supplies, including technology.”

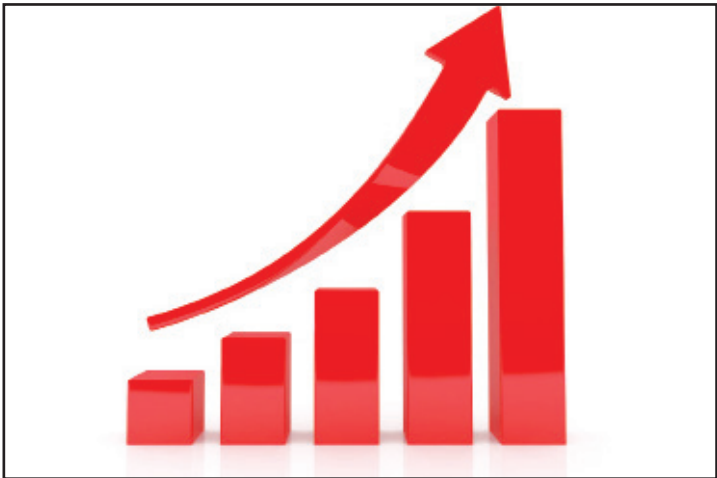
There are also classes in which you have to buy an access code in order to take the class. Many students either pay the outrageous amount for the access code or they drop the class. Textbook prices have gotten astronomically bigger and it is destroying the pockets of college students everywhere.

As of right now, there are not many solutions for students to cut down on the costs of textbooks. Many of the companies that make them are creating digital versions of textbooks which is better, but when buying multiple textbooks it can still lead to spending too much on books.

Also instead of buying books, you can rent them but even then it depends on what books you are renting because some books can cost more than others. In the same Washington Post article “Lawmakers

have taken notice, and Congress recently increased funding, from \$5 million to \$7 million, for a federal program that provides grants to colleges and universities to implement initiatives to reduce textbook costs(Washington Post).” Steps are being taken to reduce the price of textbooks for students. The textbooks do not have to be free but it should not feel like students are throwing away their money to get an education.

“There are a small number of cases where people get full rides to their dream school but for most people that is not the reality.”
Cheyenne Newman
The Voice Staff Writer



Rising textbook costs create another barrier to education.

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THE VOICE

The Voice is the student newspaper of Cumberland County College and opinions expressed therein are not the opinions of Cumberland County College.

The Voice welcomes responses to our editorial pages and strives to present its readers with accurate and fair reporting. If you should wish to submit a letter to the editor, request a correction or contribute a story idea, please email the faculty advisor directly. All articles and letters submitted to *The Voice* may be edited for clarity, professional standards, correctness and space restrictions.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

RCSJ Co-Op at Landis Theater

By RCSJ PR Dept.

Award-winning screenwriter, director, actor and producer Ray Mamrak wants to bring the lights, camera and action to his alma mater, and he is focused on doing it through the Rowan College of South Jersey (RCSJ) Cooperative Education program.

Mamrak, a graduate of Gloucester County College (now RCSJ), always wanted to be a film-

maker. With 33 years invested in the film industry, he has returned to the South Jersey area to share his behind-the-camera knowledge and movie-making experiences

With the Co-Op program, it gets you into the career field you want and gives you the necessary training.

with student interns eager to follow in his footsteps.

"I always wanted to be a filmmaker. There was never a day in my life when I didn't want to be," said Mamrak, who owned his first camera at age 10. "When I was a student at Rancocas Valley High School, I got a small part in the movie 'Eddie and the Cruisers.' I was laying with Tom Berenger on the grass under a tree talking about an upcoming scene. He said, 'It all starts with the script, buddy' and that's when I decided that I wanted to focus on screen writing."

A union affiliated film and television script doctor and director, Mamrak has written, directed and edited many feature

movies and shows, working for big studios and networks, as well as independent films. Having also worked on Broadway as an actor and a consultant, his fondness for

the stage led him to recently purchase the historic Landis Theater in Vineland, a 650-seat Art Deco style movie theater built in 1937. It is at the theater where Mamrak holds class and provides hands-on instruction to the four interns participating in RCSJ's Co-Op program.

"I think the hands-on Co-Op is something that needs to come into education so that the kids graduating now don't have to wait 10 years to work on a set. They can get there faster because they actually touch and understand what it is like to make a film instead of only learning from books and being taught on a board," explained Mamrak, who after graduating from Gloucester

County College, attended Georgia Tech and NYU, in addition to serving in the military as a U.S. Army Ranger. "This is an industry with a ladder. You start at the bottom and work your way up. I want to put the students on a set, have them actually work on something in film so that they really learn. I want to give them something different than I had years ago as a Co-Op getting coffee and buying batteries, not just being a gofer."

As president of the Landis Studios, Holly City Studios and the South Jersey Film Alliance, Mamrak, along with his partner and fellow creative writer Kaycee Zelkovsky, seeks to bring jobs and economic growth to the area by using their personal experi-

ence and Hollywood connections to take advantage of New Jersey's revived \$75 million per year film tax credit—along with other incentives available to filmmakers shooting in South Jersey locations. A key component to making New Jersey attractive to television and movie producers is having trained and qualified local employees to fill crew job positions. Mamrak and Zelkovsky plan to have RCSJ's Co-Op students who are interested in breaking into the film and television business ready for action.

"The film industry looks for local hires. You need hands on for this type of education," said Mamrak. "Co-Op offers the chance to stand behind the camera and know what you are in for."

The 3+1 program is a big money saver and this internship has been one of the coolest experiences that I have ever had.

Anthony Hairston, Blessing Ike, Timarco Brown and George Guy, the first group of RCSJ's Co-Op students to be mentored by Mamrak, found out what they were in for this summer—and loved it. On Fridays, classes were held upstairs in the Landis Theater. Understanding film editing, color, scripting and visual effects took on a new meaning as the students watched movies Mamrak had worked on, seeing the process from rough cuts to the final film. The rest of the week they hit the ground running, mocking up TV commercials, learning stage lighting and working on industrial sets with multiple-angled cam-

thought," agreed Hairston, an aspiring film director from Camden with plans to transfer to NYU. "I have learned the 'ins and outs' of what to do behind the camera and everything that is needed in a production team. This experience will lead to more opportunities in my field and is getting me prepared. I've shot a commercial, done film comparisons, learned terminology, been on legit production sets and got the hands-on experience and feel for it."

Ike, who will be transferring to Pace University in New York City, prefers to be in front of the camera, but appreciates the knowledge she has learned about

to change his major from computer graphic arts to radio, television and film. Always interested in television but not the kind of person to be in front of a camera, the Logan Township resident now aspires to become a professional video editor and film director.

"Having Mr. Ray tell us about the different job positions available behind the camera and how successful you can be opened my eyes and made me become interested in joining this industry," explained Brown. "I'm learning so much. Going to a two-year school, people sometimes look down on you. With the Co-Op program, it gets you into the career field you want and gives you the necessary training. It helps with networking and meeting other people who will help me to grow. Honestly, it puts you a step ahead of the four-year students."

Guy, a Radio, Television and Film major at RCSJ, has an eye for the camera, and also for value. With plans to become a cinematographer and head for the bright lights of Hollywood, he is taking advantage of the College's unique 3+1 program. Guy will complete three years of coursework at RCSJ, then transfer to Rowan University for his senior year—earning a bachelor's degree for less than \$30,000. The cooperative education internship and working hands-on with Mamrak, is an added bonus.

"The 3+1 program is a big money saver and this internship has been one of the coolest experiences that I have ever had," admitted Guy. "I just love that we get to be up close and personal with someone who knows the game. It's really an eyeopener how

Mr. Mamrak, an accomplished actor, director and producer who has received multiple Emmy Awards.

era shots. The favorite assignment by far though, was being a preliminary location scout for a multi-million-dollar film slated to come to the South Jersey area. Schooled on what they needed to do and how to do it, the students explored Cumberland County taking photos of potential filming locations.

"When they see the movie come out and see the building or property they found, think of the difference it makes. It creates something in them to want to be better at what they do, and to move up the industry ladder," said Mamrak.

"This internship is teaching me what I need to know for my future and that there is more to film production than I

set lighting and working behind the lens.

"This is really fun. I have learned the difference between a good film and a bad film. The scouting was one of my favorite projects," said Ike who, like her Co-Op peers Hairston and Brown, is also an active member in the College's Minority Initiative on Leadership and Excellence (MILE) program. "I never thought about how things are put together on film, but seeing how you take a picture and then what the end product is, was interesting to me. I would have missed a great experience by only sitting in a classroom."

After only a few weeks of participating in the Co-Op internship with Mamrak, Brown decided



Pictured above: South Jersey Film Alliance President Ray Mamrak (center) poses outside of the Landis Theater in Vineland with RCSJ Co-Op interns George Guy, Timarco Brown, Blessing Ike and Anthony Hairston.

RCSJ.EDU

much you learn when you're with someone who has the experience versus reading from a textbook or off of a PowerPoint. It's a really crazy experience getting to learn all of the stuff that goes into making movies and how there are so many jobs on a film set. I would definitely recommend this internship to people, inside and outside of the major."

Mamrak, now successful in his craft and a recognized name, returns to the South Jersey area still awestruck after all these years by the television and film industry and all that it has to offer. With a desire to encourage and guide others as they begin to follow their dreams, he offers the knowledge one can only gather from living the experience.

"We were extremely fortunate to have connected with one of RCSJ's most famous alumni, Ray Mamrak, who sponsored four of our cooperative education students last summer," said Dr. Candice Racite, assistant dean of the

Cooperative Education Program. "Mr. Mamrak, an accomplished actor, director and producer who has received multiple Emmy Awards, shared his knowledge with our students to provide an unparalleled, real-world experience."

"Co-Op is amazing. It gives students a chance to stand in that position, see if it is what they want, work it a little bit. The film business is not all about making movies. There are music videos, commercials, TV shows, feature and industrial films," explained Mamrak. "How great is it going to be when students graduate and know what they are doing, outside of reading a book."

For more information about Rowan College of South Jersey's Cooperative Education program, visit [RCSJ.edu/CoOp](https://www.rcsj.edu/CoOp). To view the video of the Co-Op students with Ray Mamrak at the Landis Theater, visit RCSJ's YouTube page at <https://www.rcsj.edu/CoOpVideo>.

NATION & YOU

RCSNJ Open to Socialism, But Not Embracing It?

By: BRANDON BISCHER

Staff Writer

With the rise of progressive politicians in government such as Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ilhan Omar and Presidential Candidate Bernie Sanders far left ideologies are once again making their way into American politics. The USA as a whole is considered largely if not completely a right wing country, even Democrats here are far to the right compared to European politicians. Despite this, the creeping of the far left into the modern discourse has reopened an old American boogeyman for the new age: Socialism.

Socialism, an economic system and ideology pioneered by Karl Marx in the 1800s, it has a deep history throughout the world, being embraced in some countries and completely shunned in other. As far as the great US of A is concerned, socialism has deep roots here as well. A lot of the original movements to win basic worker rights such as the weekend and 8 hour workdays, overtime pay, etc have connections to socialist movements. Socialism has historically been very popular

among the youth and working class because of its emphasis on building an economy that prioritizes people over profits, and that hasn't appeared to change much in 2020 with the youth being the demographic overwhelmingly associated with the modern Socialist movement. With that being said, how are RCSNJ students taking to the idea of a more egalitarian economy?

A small survey sample shows that RCSNJ might not totally align with the socialist movement but it isn't willing to shun it either. An overwhelming majority of those surveyed identified themselves somewhere on the right wing or center left, and yet they were almost completely in agreement that

if a socialist ran with policies they largely agreed with, they wouldn't hesitate to vote for them. It seems the old school fear mongering of socialism has not carried over into the new generation. Almost everyone sur-

veyed the law allowing corporations to lobby politicians. This is where the socialist mentality ends according to the survey.

A majority of those surveyed also expressed capitalistic opinions on almost all other questions. About 70% were against wealth redistribution and around 80% favored profitability over higher wages for workers. An overwhelming 95% believe that government regulations on the economy should be decreased or, at best, left how they are currently.

So despite RCSNJ largely fitting the bill of modern socialists, being working class college students, it seems that students aren't yet too enamored with the ideology. If you've lived here for a long time, this probably doesn't surprise you because while New Jersey is historically (and

currently) a blue state, the Cumberland County area has always appeared to be a more right wing leaning community.

This could explain the hesitation towards socialism, or it could just be that the students at RCSNJ aren't sold on an idea through words. Perhaps they want to see the policies in action before they risk dramatic change, perhaps they are comfortable with the system as it is.

Whatever the reason being, socialism continues to be a force in modern politics, and if Bernie Sanders wins the nomination, its influence will only grow from there.

Whether or not RCSNJ will join its growth is up in the air, the surveyors were split over if they believe they understand socialism, precisely 50/50.

Maybe a deeper understanding of the ideology will push these students closer to it as time goes on, or maybe it will make them distance themselves from it even further.

Only time will tell.



Bernie Sanders speaking in Iowa City, Iowa, January 14, 2020.

SCOTT MORGAN / NATIONAL REVIEW

Innovative Approach to “Flipping Chemistry” Makes Headlines

By: RCSJ PR DEPT.

Staff Writer

Rowan College of South Jersey (RCSJ) students have been “flipping” over chemistry since 2012, when Dr. Robert Rossi first introduced the concept to his organic chemistry class.

The first instructor at the College to turn the traditional style of teaching upside down for a more innovative approach, Rossi has now teamed up with chemistry educators from other institutions to bring these active learning methods into more classrooms.

“I understood that the way I was teaching, through the use of what you would describe as a passive learning environment—I lectured, assigned homework and the students would go home and do it themselves, wasn't working for most students,” said Rossi. “I began researching and introducing active learning methods into my classes to help students use what they had learned and worked on it in class. I thought, there has to be a better way of teaching so that the students can actually learn and implement these lessons.”

Published in the Journal of Chemical Education in 2019,

Rossi is one of the seven co-authors of “OrganicERs: Building a Community of Practice for Organic Chemistry Instructors through Workshops and Web-Based Resources.” The article provides guidance on how to apply active learning techniques in the organic chemistry classroom. Additional academic support is also available through the OrganicERs' own website, organicers.org, which offers workshops and other resources to organic chemistry instructors across the country. The website, created to be a community hub for professors, serves as a student-centered environment where ideas, questions, exams, syllabi and lab experiments can all be shared.

When Rossi decided to flip his Organic Chemistry 201 and 202 classes eight years ago, it transformed the way he teaches his students. It also made a big change to his lesson plans. Unlike the typical learning environment

with lectures held in front of the classroom and problems related to the content learned and solved at home, Rossi's chem students watch instructional videos at their convenience for homework and work on problems during class.

problems and practicing what is being learned. Over the years, he has monitored the effectiveness of “flipping” his courses and has noticed a dramatic increase in grades, and student enjoyment of the course material. Rossi attributes this to students being engaged and actively learning through collaboration.

Since the article's publication, Rossi has witnessed many of his fellow faculty members implementing the

active learning methods into their own classrooms, including the dean of the College's

STEM division. The response from students has been positive as well. Even in advanced courses like organic chemistry, students are engaged and enjoying the learning experience.

“I like that with having all of his videos readily available, you can hit different areas

and tackle different parts to help solve problems in class through a visual way of learning,” remarked Isabella Inastroza, a Gloucester County Institute of Technology High School student taking advanced college classes at RCSJ. “If you are struggling with a certain part, someone else can step in and help too.”

“The videos help to speed up the learning process so when we are in class working, we are able to get through more,” added Erin O'Donnell of Gloucester City, who enjoys the online lectures. “If we need to, we can always go back and re-watch a lecture.”

Rossi, who for 25 years worked with specialty/polymer chemicals in private industry, began teaching after his retirement. Today, after almost 20 years in the classroom, chemistry remains close to his heart. He continues to share his passion with students by offering interesting learning techniques to help make chemistry comprehensible and exciting.

“From when I was very young I always had an interest in chemistry, but growing up during the era of science-fiction, JFK and the space race, it only helped to drive it further,” said Rossi. “I mean, what kid didn't grow up during that time wanting to be a scientist working for NASA? I love what I do. It is the best job I've ever had.”

For more information about RCSJ's chemistry program, visit RCSJ.edu/STEM.



Pictured: Dr. Robert Rossi assists organic chemistry students gathered around a “huddle board” seeking the answer to a chemical problem. Rossi, the first instructor at the College to “flip” his classroom, recently co-authored an article published in the Journal of Chemical Education with six other chemistry educators nationwide.

RCSJ PR DEPT

Preparing for these web-enhanced courses required a personal investment of about 96 hours to create 350, 10–15-minute videos. This new format allows students the flexibility to watch videos at their leisure, with the option to pause and restart if more study is required. Class time is reserved for solving the more advanced

CAMPUS LIFE

Deciding Your Future - Transfer Day

BY CHEYENNE NEWMAN
Staff Writer

One of the many big decisions that high school seniors have to do is to pick what college they are going to attend. Countless students either go straight to a four-year college or test the waters by going to community college. Once a student finishes at community college they have to decide if they will continue with their college career. Following through with the process of transferring can seem like a big task so Rowan College of South Jersey found a way to combat that. I interviewed Rowan College of South Jersey student named Jose Aparicio to get his take on Transfer Day.

CN: What do you know about Transfer Day?

Aparicio: It helps students who are already in college transfer into a four-year college. I think they let you know whether you get in or not that day.

Transfer Day is when students meet with representatives from the colleges they want to get into. They let you ask questions and they let you know if you got into the school or schools you applied to.

CN: How did you hear about the Transfer Day Event?

Aparicio: I got emails from my advisor and I heard people talking about it like my friends.

Most students like Jose and myself heard about transfer day through our advisors and our personal friend circles.

I speak for many students when I say that going to college is stressful but it gets even more stressful when you are trying to transition into a four-year college.

When Jose was asked if transfer day would be helpful he responded: “Yes because I feel like it’s not as stressful as doing it by yourself and you can do multiple

schools. You also get to speak to an advisor from the schools that you are applying to. This event is very helpful to all students because, if they did not have it most would not even know where to start. When it came to me starting my transfer process I felt lost and did not know what to do.”

CN: Do you feel like you would be struggling to transfer to a four-year college without Transfer Day?

Aparicio: It would be harder and more stressful because I am a first-generation college student. It’s a new experience so it’s not like my parents can help me.

Many students go through this process with no one to help them which can make it very confusing. Colleges having an event like this helps to eliminate the frustration that comes with transferring.

In the interview, I asked if he had any concerns about transfer day he responded: “There

are some things like if I don’t get accepted or that they may not like me.”

This is a common concern not just with people new to college but people going to community college.

CN: What are you hoping to accomplish on Transfer Day?

Aparicio: I’m hoping to get into at least one school and ask a lot of questions about schools and dorming. Most of the schools I picked are far away so I really can not commute.

The point of transfer day is to ask all the questions that your current advisor might not have the answers to. The beauty of speaking to the representatives from each college is that they have a lot of knowledge about that school. So if a student is interested in a particular school that representative will be able to answer if not all but most of their questions.

CN: What are you looking forward to most about transferring to a four-year college?

Aparicio: I am really excited to experience real college life and looking forward to advancing in my career and having fun while doing it.

His last answer perfectly captures what every college student craves to get out of college. The college experience is to be your own and trying to find your way in the world. At the end of the day, the point of college is to love what you are doing and that all starts when you find the right college for you.



ADOBE STOCK

Activities and clubs at Rowan College of South Jersey

BY JENNY PEW
Staff Writer

How could one person handle four to five classes on campus in one semester, while participating in activities/clubs? This makes an individual think of how one person can do all of this in one semester. Some people have to work full time, while also committing to school and activities. Why do colleges care about students taking activities or clubs?

Activities and clubs are a great thing to look into while taking classes for your major. Certain

activities and clubs could help you with your major. For example, a student could take a business class while majoring in business, so they will learn a little more before getting their degree in business. Activities and clubs look really outstanding on your college application. Activities and clubs are a great way to meet new people and participate in any activity or clubs you enjoy. When you participate in activities or clubs while you’re in college many jobs will look at the ones you participated in which could lead to a potential first job or a promotion at the job that you are already employed at.

So partaking in activities and clubs, many students are more likely to have higher ambitions than uninvolved students. Activities and clubs accomplish common goals and provide a place for students to come together to interact with other students. Being

part of an activity or club makes you have patience and discipline, but also time management. You can also develop leadership skills that will also come in handy when needed outside of school one day. To get more information about activities and clubs I interviewed Trinee Parson, Student Development Advisor at Rowan College of South Jersey. We had a conversation about activities and clubs that are available to students on the Rowan campus of South Jersey.

Q: Hi, Good Afternoon! Can you tell me your name, age (if your comfortable telling me) and your job title?

A: My name is Trinee Parson. I am 33 years old. My job title is a Student Development Advisor.

Q: What are some examples of clubs and activities available to the

students here at Rowan College?

A: The ones that come to mind are business club, engineering club and multi-culture club, but there are so many other ones that students can participate in and join.

Q: Do students attend sporting events, theater events and social events on campus?

A: Yes, majority of them are on campus and majority of them are off campus. Some are also fundraisers to help college students with their activities or clubs.

Q: What activities do you find most rewarding for students? (If any)

A: Activities are rewarding for students because of the interaction with other students with similar interests. There are different dy-

namics that come along with every different activity and club.

Q: If I or other students wanted to join activities and clubs on campus where would it be posted? Where could I find the information at?

A: The student life center would be the best possible place to go to find that information out.

So as previously said, participating in activities and clubs when you are a student on campus can benefit you as the college student in many aspects. It might seem challenging at first but as time goes on students learn to adjust to their own schedule every day. Many different students have different likes so with so many activities and clubs that Rowan College has to offer the students are sure to find something that they like and are interested in.



GOOGLE IMAGES

Parent Going Back to School? Join the Parents’ Club

BY JENNY PEW
Staff Writer

How do parents have the time to go back to school, participate in clubs, and take care of their children? Going back to school as a parent can be very challenging but rewarding. I know from experience because I’m a single mother in college. When the parent is also attending a club at their college that has something that the parent likes that will help them succeed.

Rowan College of South Jersey offers a Parents club. Parents club is a community of support-

to enhance success through the facilitation of community events, volunteer opportunities and parental support. When parents join this club, they will have support from other parents in college, too.

When parents are going to college, whether they are single or married, it can get complicated with such a busy lifestyle. It might feel like the parent never comes up for air. The parent has to make time to study, go to class, do homework, work and take care of their kids. It may seem impossible and extremely hard but it’s definitely worth it in the end. Parents will have a degree that will help further

their education and make more money to support their children more. It’s not easy but it’s worth all the stress because you will learn patience and determination, also how to multi-task more. Parents also can apply for scholarships to continue their education by getting information from the college they attend or other sources that are available.

According to <https://www.affordablecollegesonline.org/student-parents-guide/>, there are over more than 12 million single parent families in the U.S. In 2014, the Census Bureau reported that 83 percent are headed by

single mothers. In contrast, the number of single parent families headed by a single father stands only at 17 percent. Since 2014 that number has changed and has now become larger.

Online courses are a definite option for single parents looking to earn their degree. Online courses can be taken any time



ADOBE STOCK

of the day as long as there is an Internet connection. Financial aid and scholarships are available to pay for classes. When single parents are earning a degree, it can be a major hardship, but once they complete their degrees, the salary benefits are excellent.

If college had on campus child-care it would benefit the single parent. The benefits could be not having the hassle of finding a sitter; their children are close to them, and many more. So, with the support of the Parents club at RCSJ, many single parents are going back to school and benefit from this support in many ways.

THE LAST WORD

What Is It Like Being a Student at RCSJ?

By ADRIANNA RUSSO
Staff Writer

Recently, Rowan County College was ranked the number one community college in New Jersey by Schools.com.

I am currently a student at RCSJ, currently in my second year, and I have noticed the wonderful things this school has to offer and would love to share the amazing things with others considering attending. RCSJ has a lot of great opportunities available to its students. Various clubs offer social and academic experiences for students and events held at the campus really help to bring peers together and raise the school spirit.

Student McKenzie Williams attended RCSJ when it was formally known as Cumberland County College and now attends

the Indiana University of Pennsylvania as a Natural Science major. She was excited to hear about the merge and thinks it will be beneficial for all students. I conducted an interview with her to allow other fellow peers who are thinking of attending RCSJ to get a better insight into a past student's experience with the school and what outlets she participated in that really make the school great.

Q: What clubs/organizations were you involved in at RCSJ and how did it help you academically and socially?

A: I was apart of the STEM club. Being apart of the STEM club made me feel included in a group of people who had the same interests as me. My major was biomedical science, so I got to learn more outside of the classroom and make new friends.

Q: How would you describe your experience inside RCSJ classrooms?

A: I felt very welcome in the classrooms. I felt that the teachers really cared about my personal education, as well as my classmates. I never left feeling that I didn't learn something new.

Q: What are some opportunities that attending RCSJ has given you?

A: I was homeschooled the majority of my high school education, being able to go to RCSJ has given me the opportunity to advance my social skills and the ability to create confidence in my academic abilities.

Q: What are some things you think RCSJ could do to help benefit its students?

A: I recently saw that the campus had service animals available to students for the day to help reduce stress. I think that is something that could be very helpful to many and would really help them in school. This is something that the school I attend now has implemented and I've seen a drastic change in my friends and myself as we have gone and spent time with these animals.

RCSJ does its part in ensuring every student feels they are special and that they are in the right place to jumpstart their college careers. McKenzie is among many of my friends and peers who have benefited greatly by attending RCSJ and have made it a point to let others know they are right where they belong. The



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school also makes it a point to let students know mental health is important and even have a Wellness Center easily accessible on the RCSJ website under the Student Services tab.

Along with the Wellness Center under the student services tab, you can access career services, learn more about campus life, and even access the school's online library database that will be helpful with your classes. RCSJ puts students first and makes the things that really matter easy and accessible to all attending.

If you would like to learn more about RCSJ and what this college has to offer you check it out here: www.rscj.edu/.

Why You Should Consider Taking an Online Class

By JENNY PEW
Staff Writer

Sitting in your pajamas in the comfort of your own home

sounds really enjoyable right now, Right? Well, when you consider taking online classes, they offer students many advantages. Online courses allow you to learn wherever, whenever, and however works best for the individual taking the class. It makes it easier for parents to go back to school in addition to still working full time. Online classes are also convenient for parents to take classes at home by not having to travel or commute, also by not having the hassle of trying

to find a babysitter.

Online classes can be extremely hard if you're not ready or prepared. If you treat the class like a "real" course by having the discipline to sit down and do the work, you will succeed in the classes. Practicing time management will depend on your personality, schedule or learning style. You have to hold yourself accountable for your assignments that are due every week, by meeting your deadlines

for when the work is due. Setting up a committed studying space for learning that works best for you will help you focus better.

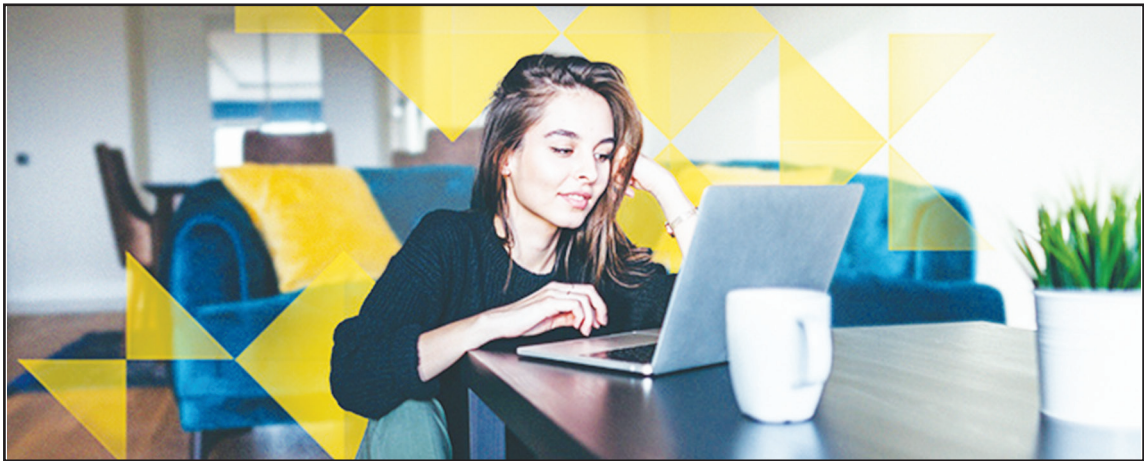
There are so many reasons that online classes could be beneficial to your life. Some people can't learn by only taking online courses because they might be a visual learner, so they will learn better in a classroom setting. With so many distractions inside or outside your home, you have

to be able to block everything out, which is not pertained to your schoolwork. Many distractions could include your phone, social media, housework, or your children, along with many other things.

Many students find a different way to block out distractions by either studying at home with music on, while others find a quiet coffee shop or a local library, everyone's study patterns are dif-

ferent. There are many different apps that you could use to block out a text or a notification every time it pops up on your phone. You could also put your phone on silent or do not disturb. Also, by turning off your phone could be beneficial for you to study and work on your assignments.

In my personal experience from taking online classes, I would say so far it's definitely more challenging than taking a class on campus. I would have rather taken a class on campus because I am a visual learner, but unfortunately, the two classes I need for my major were not offered at the campus this semester. So I had no choice but to take two online classes. I now have had the experience to take both online and on campus classes, however on campus works better for me. Everyone learns different so it's up to each individual person to decide what classes to take to better fit their learning style.



BRANDMAN.EDU