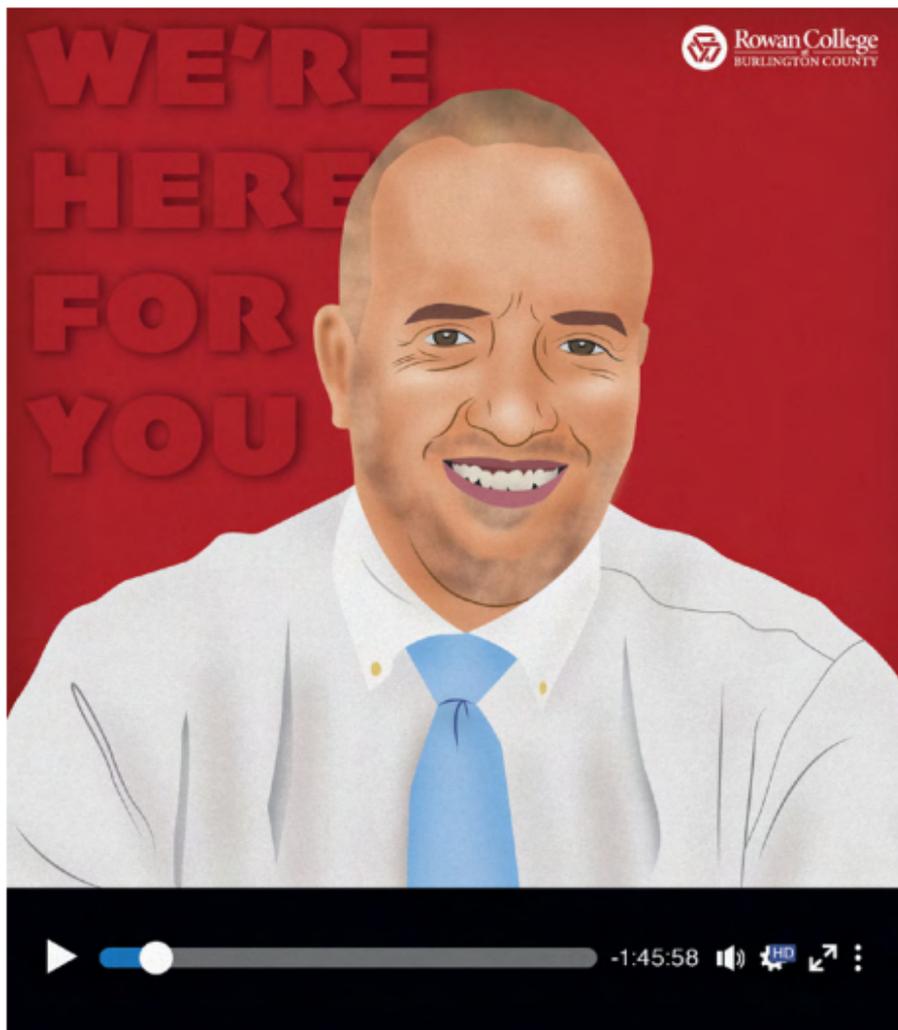


ANNUAL REPORT 2021

GUIDE TO THE RCBC DECK



Rowan College
at
BURLINGTON COUNTY



Stay connected with us at rcbc.edu/social-media.

This report covers events from the 2020–2021 academic year and reflects the state of the college through June 2021.
Designed at Rowan College at Burlington County

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Michael A. Cioce

What comes to mind when you think of tarot cards?

Cheesy neon signs peddling a “free reading”?
A mysterious woman draped in flowing robes?
A candlelit room signaling your impending doom?

Despite these dated associations, the tarot business is currently booming and, dare I say, trendy? You may have seen the Philly Tarot Deck, designed by artist James Boyle, or decks chronicling the lives of musicians, artists and themes, such as Black power. This influx of modern, artist-created tarot decks is even being documented by MIT Libraries in a collection of more than 400 examples. Perhaps the RCBC deck will be added next.

So, why did we create an RCBC deck?

Tarot cards don't predict your future. They're not meant to tell your fortune. And they shouldn't be used to make decisions. What they can reveal, however, is the possibilities you have depending upon the path you take. We created the RCBC deck to illuminate those possibilities.

At RCBC, we're in the business of growth. This deck showcases the myriad ways people from varying backgrounds come together on our campuses to learn, evolve and grow. It also highlights some standout events and milestones from the past year. Take the time to look through them and find out where you may fit in. Or, simply find inspiration.

The Burlington County Freeholders

- Felicia Hopson, *Director*
- Daniel J. O'Connell, *Deputy*
- Linda A. Hynes
- Tom Pullion
- Balvir Singh

The RCBC Board of Trustees

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- Dr. Michael A. Cioce, *Board Secretary*
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- Danielle Lucas
- Janice Lovequist
- Tony Mahon
- Colin McDonald

The Mission

Rowan College at Burlington County transforms lives by delivering innovative, high-quality and affordable educational experiences in an accessible and diverse environment.



Rowan College
at
BURLINGTON COUNTY

BY THE NUMBERS

Gender

- Male 39.4%
- Female 60.6%

Age Range

- 24 and younger: 71.6%
- 25–34: 18.0%
- 35–44: 6.5%
- 45 and Older: 3.9%

Race

- White: 61.2%
- Black: 18.8%
- Multiracial: 4.6%
- Asian 5.8%
- Unknown: 9.0%
- American Indian/Alaskan: 0.3%
- Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 0.2%

Ethnicity

- Hispanic 13%
- Non Hispanic 87%

Attendance

- Full Time: 53.9%
- Part Time: 46.1%

TOP Hometowns

- Marlton
- Burlington
- Willingboro
- Mount Laurel
- Medford

TOP Program Majors

- Health Sciences
- Business Administration
- Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Nursing
- Psychology

TOP County

- Burlington
- Camden
- Mercer

THE CARDS

Click each name to go directly to that page.

THE BARONS

- **THE ANALYST**, *Jeff Anderson*
- **THE APPRENTICES**, *Workforce Development Institute & Culinary Students*
- **THE ARTIST**, *Lavett Ballard*
- **THE ATHLETE**, *Priscilla Frederick-Loomis*
- **THE COVID COMBATANTS**, *Nursing Students*
- **THE CREATORS**, *Film & Fashion Students*
- **THE ENTREPRENEUR**, *Nicholas Klahn*
- **THE GIVERS**, *Dental Hygiene Students*
- **THE GRADUATES**, *Class of 2020 & 2021*
- **THE PRIDE OF PANAMA**, *Nicole Ceballos Gonzalez*
- **THE IVY LEAGUER**, *D'Jana Wyllis*
- **THE LEADER**, *Stephanie Berdugo-Hernandez*
- **THE MOBILIZER**, *Jamie Judge*
- **THE POET**, *Malik Abdul-Jabbarr*
- **THE PROFESSOR**, *Dr. Shannon Williams*
- **THE PROTECTOR**, *Dr. Amber Ciccanti*
- **THE RESILIENT**, *Lula Wilson*
- **THE SELF-STARTER**, *Timothy Scott Koger, Jr.*
- **THE SOLDIERS**, *VA-Approved Programs & Alum Joshua Redlich*
- **THE TRUSTEES**, *Robin A. Walton, Dr. Anthony C. Wright & Ray Marini*
- **THE VOICE**, *President Dr. Michael A. Cioce*

THE EVENTS, INITIATIVES & MILESTONES

- **THE ADVOCATES**, *Marketing Department*
- **THE BATTLE**, *Battle of the Barons Virtual Fundraiser*
- **THE BRAVE SPACE**, *Mental Health in the Black Community*
- **THE EQUALIZER**, *Free Community College & 3+1*
- **THE FREEZE**, *Tuition Freeze & New Baron Benefits*
- **THE MAINSTAY**, *Federal Grants*
- **THE NOURISHER**, *Food Pantry*
- **THE PLAN**, *Strategic Plan 2025*
- **THE WALK**, *Out of Darkness New Jersey Chapter*
- **THE WORLDLY ONES**, *Global Studies Initiatives*

THE BARONS

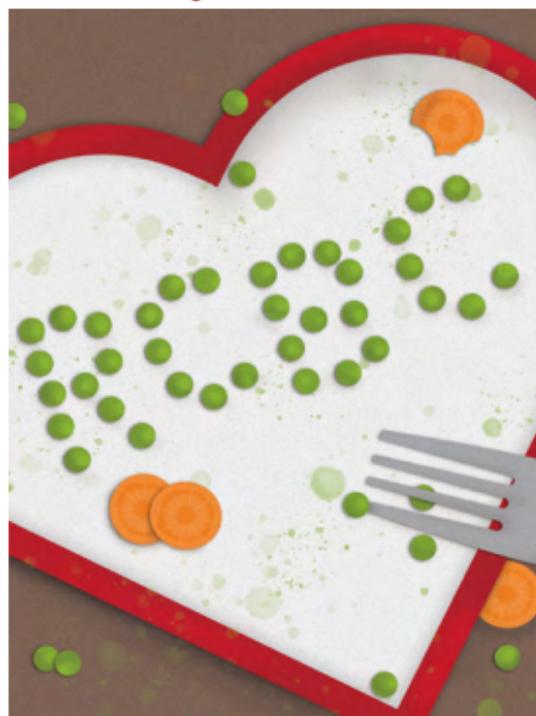
THE ANALYST, **Jeff Anderson**



A first-generation college student, Jeff Anderson found himself without direction upon graduating from high school in 1988. The son of a UPS driver and homemaker, he grew up within eyeshot of the campus and finally decided to give RCBC a try. What came next was an awakening. Jeff flourished, and his experiences at RCBC shaped his life for years to come. He's now an FBI analyst.

"There's no way I could have made a career at the FBI without RCBC."

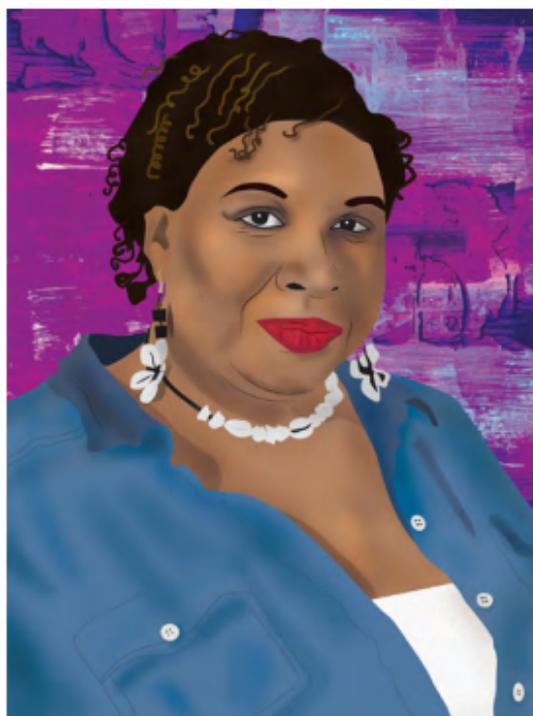
THE APPRENTICES,
Workforce Development Institute
& Culinary Students



"The program is a great experience. I like the fact that I'm getting licensed, and I love the fact that it's free."
-HealthWorks apprentice Melody DeJesus Garcia

At RCBC, we offer more than your typical degrees and pathways. Our Workforce Development Institute partners with regional employers to address growing needs in the workforce. Through our newly-launched HealthWorks initiative, participants can advance their healthcare career training for FREE. This program encompasses a number of our healthcare training pathways, including Medical Assistant, Certified Nursing Assistant, Central Services Technician and more. For our culinary students, we've cooked up an internship with Deborah Heart and Lung Center's Food and Nutritional Services Department, where students learn about meal planning, food purchasing and safe handling and product storage. As the internship advances, they add additional skills, such as cooking and preparing food to exacting standards and nutritional quality, budgeting, tracking finances and more.

THE ARTIST,
Lavett Ballard



"I do like the fact that a lot of my firsts were at RCBC, and the opportunities, field trips and book recommendations from my professors helped me to develop a passion for art."

Lavett Ballard experienced many firsts at RCBC. It was at RCBC where she exhibited her first solo show, won her first art prize, first dabbled in teaching and cut her professional curation teeth. Many of her original works are now part of the college's collection. In January 2020, just before COVID-19 turned the world upside-down, Ballard received an email that would change her life. It was from D.W. Pine, creative director of TIME magazine. Pine was in the process of curating a series of covers for TIME's 100 Women of the Year, a project selecting a woman or group to represent each year from 1920 to 2019. He requested to feature Ballard's artwork in a piece including Rosa Parks and the bus boycotters. Since then, she's become nationally-acclaimed and has sold her works to prominent celebrities.

THE BARONS

THE ATHLETE, **Priscilla Frederick-Loomis**



Where do Olympians get their teeth cleaned? For women's high jump competitor Priscilla Frederick-Loomis, the answer is RCBC. Frederick-Loomis lauds RCBC's Dental Hygiene Clinic so much that she drives all the way from her home in Wildwood to Mount Laurel to get her cleanings and other services.

"The experience (at RCBC's Dental Hygiene Clinic) has been incredible! Everyone has been an absolute pleasure. They have been very helpful and informative, and they have taught me better ways to take care of my teeth."

THE COVID COMBATANTS,
Nursing Students



"It's almost indescribable. It's a feeling that I'm part of history and making people safe. It's just a really good feeling."

In the COVID-era of caution and uncertainty, RCBC Nursing students personify action and selflessness. It wasn't long before they volunteered on the frontlines at both the COVID testing and vaccination sites. Through it all, they remained level-headed while gaining unequivocal experience in their field of study. These experiences solidified RCBC nursing student Lee Cohen's decision to switch careers from 8th-grade biology teacher (with 26 years under her belt) to nurse. She feels a renewed sense of purpose in this new calling.

THE CREATORS,
Film & Fashion Students



Our film and fashion students perfectly marry artistic integrity with individual expression. This past year, our film students produced numerous documentaries about love, loss and COVID, among other topics. They also assisted with the production of the feature film “The Life of Peter Gottlieb,” which took place on our Mount Laurel Campus. Our fashion students once again brought their A-game to the annual fashion show producing collections inspired by the women’s suffrage movement, anime and more.

THE ENTREPRENEUR,
Nicholas Klahn,
Biochemistry Alum

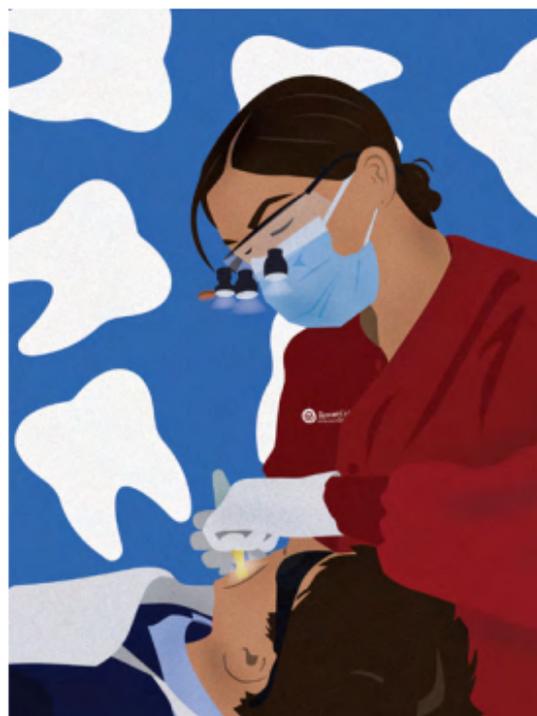


When Nicholas Klahn's curiosity got the best of him, it led to a business idea that would grow into Etchistry. During quarantine, Klahn had been hard at work designing and developing new products combining pop culture, astrology, chemistry and iconic locations with LED light technology. His

engraved acrylic and glass pieces bring customers' favorite imagery into a new light. He earned his associate degree from RCBC in 2019 and currently studies biochemistry at Rowan University. In addition to his ready-to-ship offerings, Klahn provides custom design options to fit a variety of customer preferences. View his full array of retail products at etchistry.square.site.

"Most of the memorable experiences at RCBC were through my classes. I found that it was really easy to form a relationship with my teachers since the classes weren't that big. They really do try to help you both inside of their class and outside. I also liked how diverse the school was. Unlike a four-year school, quite a few people in my classes were coming back to school and trying to get a higher education for the first time after already being out in the workforce. It brought many broad and differing experiences that you can't really find anywhere else."

THE GIVERS,
Dental Hygiene Students
Give Kids a Smile



Each year, our Dental Hygiene students participate in Give Kids a Smile Day, offering an invaluable service to children ages 13 and under: FREE dental care. In 2021, we extended this offer for several months during a time of critical need. Give Kids a Smile aims to draw attention to the number one childhood disease: tooth decay.

“Rowan College at Burlington County’s Dental Hygiene Clinic continued to provide critical health services throughout the pandemic and we’re proud to be able to offer more children in need access to dental care.”

-RCBC President Dr. Michael A. Cioce

THE GRADUATES & THE PRIDE OF PANAMA
Classes of 2020 & 2021,
Nicole Ceballos Gonzalez



Nicole Ceballos Gonzalez

Valedictorian Nicole Ceballos Gonzalez, of Panama, went from ESL to top of her graduating class. She earned a spot on the Dean's List after her first semester and received the RCBC Education Award, the RCBC International Students Award, the RCBC Music Award and the Promise and Possibilities Foundation's "I am a Promise" Award.

"I want to give back. To all those children who perhaps think

they cannot do it, for those children who live in places where education is unattainable, for those children in my community that go to school without breakfast, those children that have to walk more than two hours to get to the nearest school and children who are denied opportunities just because they look different. This is why I chose to be an educator."

Triplets Christopher, Gregory and Nicholas Zacharko graduated RCBC with perfect 4.0 GPAs. Their educations will take them in three different directions, as Christopher studies environmental and biological sciences, Gregory studies computer science and Nicholas studies interactive media.

"I truly did have a good time at RCBC. I liked walking around campus, sitting outside and in the lounges. It was honestly a very good experience." - Nicholas Zacharko

THE BARONS

As a women's soccer recruit, President's Award recipient **Jazzrein Robinson** earned a full scholarship to attend RCBC in fall 2019. She made Dean's List in 2019, 2020 and 2021. She also made the NJCAA All-Academic First Team with a 4.0 GPA for her 2019/2020 school year, and she's a member of the Honor Society. She hopes to teach fifth grade and take part in creating a curriculum that emphasizes life skills, such as holistic health, emotional intelligence, mindfulness and financial planning.

"Essentially, the main goal of my life is to plant trees under whose shade I do not plan to sit."

Curious about how to sustain life on Mars? How to rehabilitate injured wildlife? Or how to maintain a 4.0 GPA through each of your college years? Just ask 3+1 Biology student and President's Award recipient **Rebekah Feinberg**. She earned the college's prestigious Vincent J. Sollimo scholarship for chemistry after participating in a research project in which she focused on sanitation efforts on Mars.

She's clocked in over 300 community service hours at Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge. And she even spoke with RCBC's President Dr. Michael A. Cioce and faculty members at a Facebook Town Hall.

"The cap and gown does not signify our graduation; our determination, motivation and hard work is what embodies our graduation and exemplifies our accomplishments."



Classes of 2020 & 2021

THE IVY LEAGUER,

D'Jana Wyllis

Chemical Engineering Alum



"RCBC was that big step I took where I was exposed to materials and inspiration from faculty which allowed my interests to develop over time. I was really reserved when I had just entered RCBC, but getting involved with Phi Theta Kappa and doing research with Professor Sherlock were major stepping stones for me."

During her time at Rowan College at Burlington County, D'Jana Wyllis served as club officer of both the Math Club and Phi Theta Kappa honor society, participated in RCBC's undergraduate research program, earned recognition as valedictorian of her class and was named among the top community college scholars in the country. Now, a graduate of Columbia University, she's set her sights on earning a PhD in chemical and biomolecular engineering at the University of Delaware in the hopes of pursuing a pharmaceutical career.

THE LEADER,
Stephanie Berdugo-Hernandez
Alumni Trustee



"I decided to become an alumni trustee because I love RCBC and wanted to give back. I love to be involved and believe that this will be a great opportunity to allow for the students' voices to be heard. RCBC is an incredible school, and I want to be able to help make every student have an amazing college experience just like I did."

When considering an alumni trustee, it's important to find someone who understands the student experience. Finding someone who's represented students at the state capitol; who's served multiple terms on the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) Student Advisory Committee and who was a prominent member of the Student Government Association, seems too good to be true. For Rowan College at Burlington County, that triple threat is Stephanie Berdugo-Hernandez. As a former Educational Opportunity Fund scholar, Stephanie has used her voice to advocate for low-income students and increase awareness of various financial aid programs and opportunities.

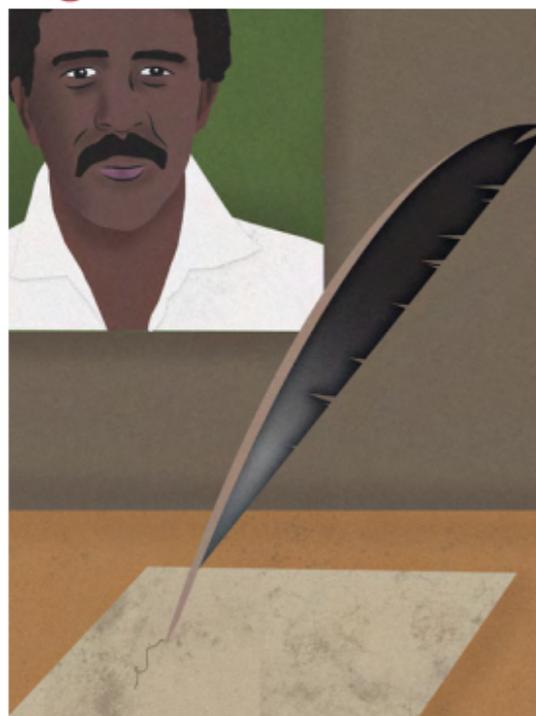
THE MOBILIZER,
Jamie Judge
History Professor



When RCBC history professor Jamie Judge noticed that many students and community members still had questions about mail-in ballot completion, he took matters into his own hands. He created a simple, effective tutorial on the step-by-step process of completing the ballot. With over 1,500 views, it helped to ensure that many made their votes count!

"RCBC has a commitment to helping students and developing students into becoming leaders within the community."

THE POET,
Malik Abdul-Jabbarr
English Instructor



English instructor Malik Abdul-Jabbaar's poetry was featured in Platform Review, an online literary journal. His prose pays homage to Richard Pryor, touches upon being a student and a teacher and explores identity. He earned an MFA in Creative Writing from Rutgers University-Camden, where he received the 2008 Rutgers University Alumni Association Creative Writing Award. Malik edits RCBC's "Baron Anthology." His debut collection "All the Stars Aflame" is forthcoming with Get Fresh Books Publishing.

THE BARONS

THE PROFESSOR, Dr. Shannon Williams **2021 Professor of the Year**



Aptly dubbed the year of the nurse, 2021 follows an equally challenging year for medical professionals. RCBC nursing professor Dr. Shannon Williams knows this well. She received the distinction of RCBC's Professor of the Year, and days before RCBC's commencement ceremony, she earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice from Sacred Heart University.

THE PROTECTOR,
Dr. Amber Ciccanti
Criminal Justice Professor



Initially a police sergeant, Dr. Ciccanti brings firsthand field experience to the students in her criminal justice classroom at RCBC. Her passions for people and law enforcement inspired her to serve the greater community by training officers on best practices regarding incidents with those with special needs. She hopes this initiative will serve as a regional training model.

"I was delighted to provide training to the City of Burlington Police Department while wearing three 'hats': the hat of a special needs mom, the hat of a retired police sergeant and the hat of a college professor at a community-minded institution!"

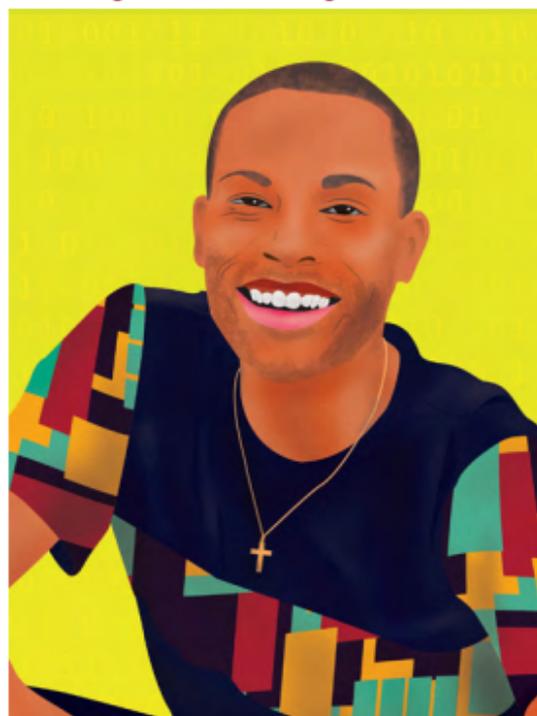
THE RESILIENT,
Lula Wilson
Business Alum



"You just have to want it, and don't let anything stop you. We all go through things in life, and don't let the things that you go through stop you from getting your education."

One can learn a lot in six decades. As time passes and experiences accumulate, our biggest hope, however, is to grow. It's no different for Lula Wilson. At 60 years old, Wilson, who walked in Rowan College at Burlington County's Liberal Arts commencement ceremony, has undergone an extraordinary evolution, propelled by many circumstances beyond her control. When she decided to pursue her college education, she decided that nothing would stand in her way. Domestic assault didn't stop her. The untimely passing of her son didn't stop her. Even cancer didn't stop her. She's now proud to add an associate degree in business to her resume, and she looks forward to pursuing a 3+1 degree in Criminal Justice.

THE SELF-STARTER,
Timothy Scott Koger, Jr.
3+1 Cybersecurity Alum



A self-proclaimed tinkerer, Timothy Koger's wheels are always spinning. Koger took off in his studies as a 3+1 cybersecurity student at RCBC and was offered his dream job before earning his bachelor's degree. He now works as a systems engineer at Gnostech Headquarters, a Top Secret Department of Defense facility. He hopes to pass on his knowledge someday as a teacher to future leaders and innovators in a high school setting.

"During my time here, you would not believe how many classes I've taken at RCBC that correspond directly to my job, so I found myself using my golden phrase 'I did this in class; let me use it as a reference.' So, seeing this all in action only made me more driven and increased my tenacity toward learning, which has brought me to where I am today."

**THE SOLDIERS,
VA-Approved Programs &
Alum Joshua Redlich**



What does it take to jump out of a moving plane? Spend countless nights sleeping in the mud? Seek out enemy combatants? Just ask RCBC alum and U.S. Army veteran Joshua Redlich. Redlich earned recognition as Rutgers-Camden's veteran of the year. For him, starting a degree was one of the most difficult and stressful things he's done. Luckily, he had RCBC's veterans

services guru Michael Gentry to help him along the way.

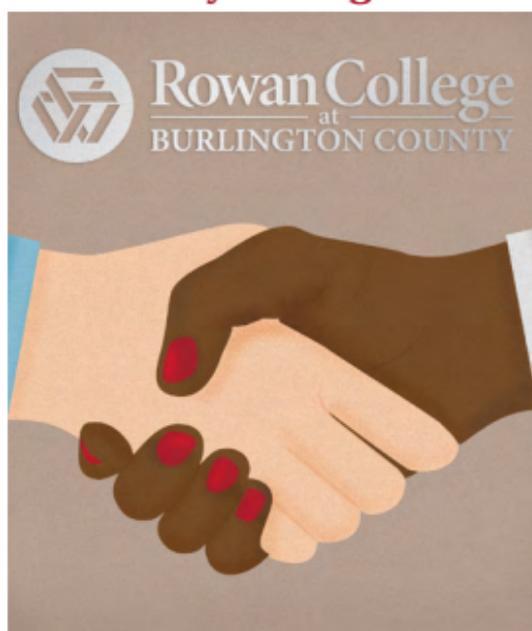
Read his story at rcbc.edu/behind-the-baron.

"My time at RCBC was great! It's hard to pick specific memories that stand out, but one thing I remember is the huge diversity of friends I made while I was there. I had my normal 'clique' that I studied with every day, but there were also many times when I was studying alone and a group of students playing video games in the break area would invite me over to play. The friendly atmosphere and inclusiveness is definitely what I remember most."

In celebration of Veterans Day, we announced 26 new VA-Approved programs in high-demand fields including IT, healthcare, manufacturing, supply chain management and business. Many of these programs are credit-bearing and can segue into degree programs. In addition to these 26 career certifications, most of the college's associate degrees qualify for military education benefits.

THE TRUSTEES,

**Ray Marini, Robin A. Walton, &
Dr. Anthony C. Wright**



The newest members of our Board of Trustees bring experience, commitment and an abundance of knowledge. Robin A. Walton comes equipped with almost two decades of experience in government and community relations within the higher education, healthcare and library services realms.

"I look forward to supporting the mission of

Rowan College at Burlington County and to working with President Cioce and the board to help advance policies and priorities that support the needs of RCBC students who are working to improve their lives and communities."

Dr. Anthony C. Wright, a demonstrated and committed public servant, boasts over two decades of experience as a P-20 scholar practitioner, academian, supervisor, administrator, policymaker and policy advisor.

"I'm thrilled for the opportunity to serve the community as a trustee of Rowan College at Burlington County. RCBC is a valuable resource for our community, and I look forward to working with the trustees, administration, faculty and students to increase access to college and workforce training in Burlington County."

Ray Marini brings a wealth of knowledge as Burlington County Executive Superintendent of Schools and former principal of several local high schools.

"My focus is to provide every student the opportunity to succeed in their learning environment, including all aspects of the educational spectrum. I am honored to be on the Board and look forward to being a productive member."

To learn more about our Board of Trustees, visit rcbc.edu/board-of-trustees.

THE VOICE,
President Dr. Michael A. Cioce
Facebook Town Halls



"Our job should be to look at higher ed differently."

If you were to tell Dr. Michael A. Cioce 15 years ago that he would become president of one of New Jersey's top community colleges, he would've believed you. This is true for two reasons. One -- he is confident. And two -- he set into motion a series of initiatives that propelled RCBC to its current standing as one of the most affordable, high-quality colleges in the state. As a first-generation student, Dr. Cioce feels that success hinges upon work ethic, creativity and a refusal to accept the status quo. As RCBC's sixth president, he dedicates his energy toward expanding opportunities for all students. He is forward-thinking, open to new ideas and will not shy away from the occasional challenge, from introducing the valedictorian in her native language (Spanish) to taking a pie to the face to raise funds for scholarships.

THE ADVOCATES,
Marketing Department



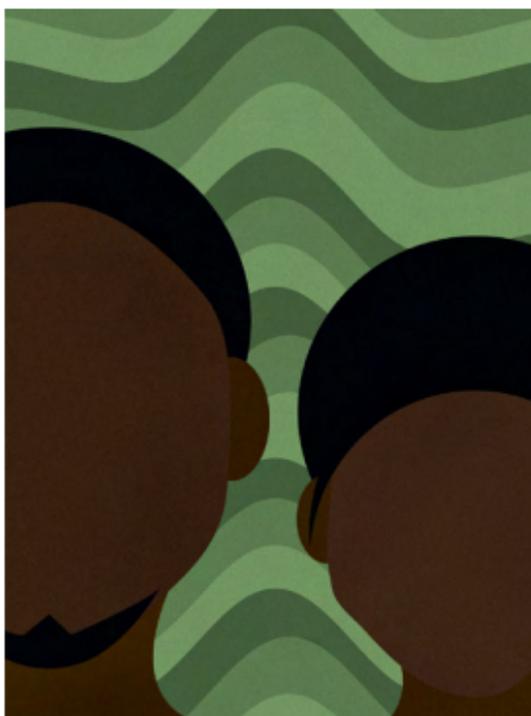
We earned seven regional marketing awards from the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) District 1 largely because of the college's effort to partner with students to promote the college. The college earned two gold, three silver and two bronze medallions.

THE BATTLE,
Battle of the Barons Virtual Fundraiser



What was traditionally a themed, in-person banquet, complete with food, guest speakers and live interaction turned into a virtual campaign due to pandemic restrictions. The challenge? Keep participants engaged. The idea? A college-wide Battle of the Barons pitting various departments against one another in a friendly competition to see who could raise the most money for students. Thanks to generous donations from individuals and sponsors, the Battle of the Barons campaign raised over \$100,000, making it the most successful virtual fundraiser in the college's history, with little to no administrative expenses that in-person events required.

THE BRAVE SPACE,
Mental Health in the Black Community



As part of our lineup of Black History Month events, we hosted a special Healing our Communities Town Hall dedicated to the topic of mental health in the Black community. RCBC Board of Trustees member Dorion Morgan hosted and spoke with Medical Director of Adolescent Services at Friends Hospital in Philadelphia Dr. Karriem Salaam, Clinical Director/Lead Therapist from Oasis Wellness Group Chanel McCord and RCBC Student Support Counselor Wendy Moluf.

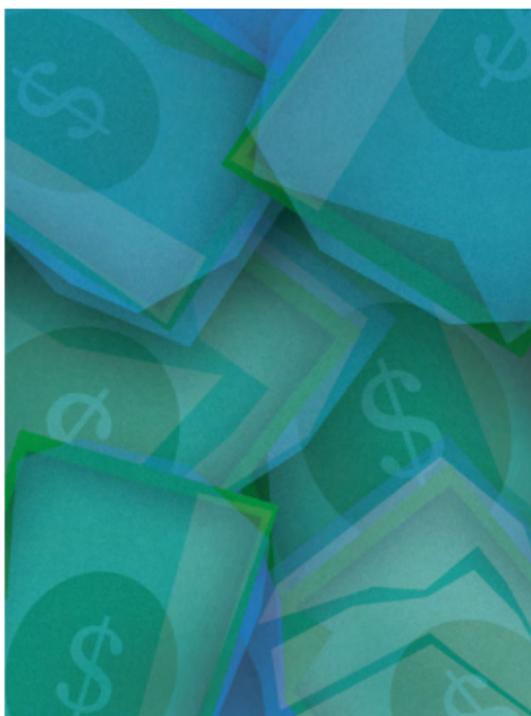
THE EQUALIZER,
Free Community College & 3+1



Many students at RCBC will qualify for free tuition and fees because of the state's Community College Opportunity Grant. Generally, students from New Jersey whose families earned less than \$65,000 last year and take at least six credits per term may be eligible for free tuition.

Through our 3+1 program, students can save around \$75,000 while earning an associate and bachelor's degree without ever leaving our Mount Laurel Campus. As home to New Jersey's original 3+1 program, we offer a solution to student debt, so our students can focus on what matters.

THE FREEZE,
Tuition Freeze & New Baron Benefits



After a year of turmoil and financial instability for many families, we prioritized access to a high-quality education by freezing tuition and launching a trio of benefits to help students save. Baron Benefits include a grant offering free tuition on a 3-credit course, a benefit granting a free 3-credit course to students who return after completing 45 credits and 50% off books for a 15-week term.

THE MAINSTAY,
Federal Grants



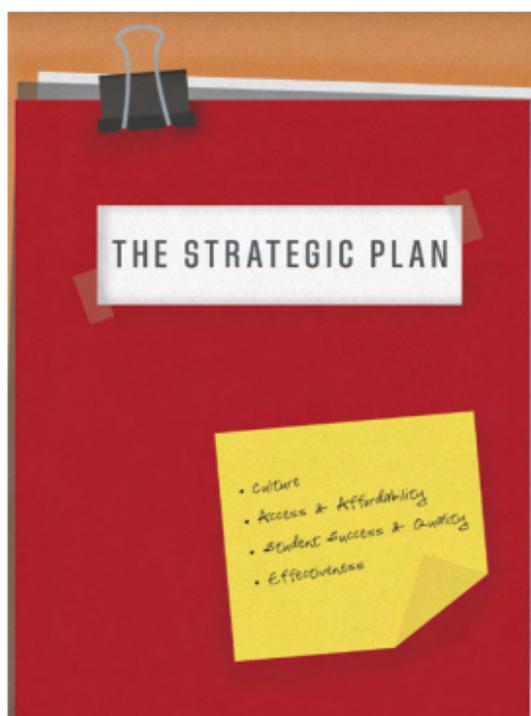
We earned a \$2.2 million Strengthening Institutions grant to improve student outcomes and \$34.7 million in COVID relief funds, allowing us to avert layoffs and tuition increases, while continuing to educate through the pandemic.

THE NOURISHER,
Food Pantry



Our food pantry committed to staying open throughout the pandemic, distributing 431 bags of food from March 2020 to June 2021. This provided a much-needed service to our community during a critical time of need. The pantry is available to any student with a current semester sticker on their RCBC ID.

THE PLAN, **Strategic Plan 2025**



Our new strategic plan, which took effect on January 1, 2021, had its origins two years ago when Dr. Michael A. Cioce unveiled a Vision for Success in his first college-wide address. Since then, the college held numerous planning sessions to transform the broad vision into an action plan that reflects the entire scope of the college and included input from students, faculty, staff and the public. The plan is based upon four core pillars: Culture, Access and Affordability, Student Success and Quality, and Effectiveness.

THE EVENTS, INITIATIVES & MILESTONES

THE WALK,

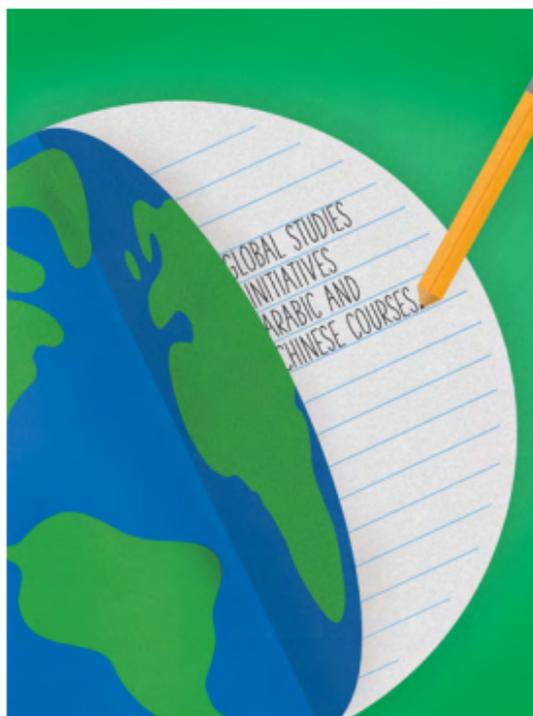
Out of Darkness New Jersey Chapter



RCBC joined thousands across the country to fight suicide in the Out of Darkness New Jersey Chapter Campus Walk. This initiative supports the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's mission to save lives and bring hope to those affected by suicide. It also marked our first on-campus event in several months since the pandemic lockdowns.

THE EVENTS, INITIATIVES & MILESTONES

THE WORLDLY ONES, **Global Studies Initiatives**



We went global this past year by securing a three-year, \$286,412 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to help establish a global studies degree designation focused on health, environment and emergency response. We've added Arabic and Chinese courses, as well as a Global Studies Lecture and Film Series to our rotation.

RCBC.EDU



Rowan College
at
BURLINGTON COUNTY