With 1,516 Grads, Largest Class in School History!
At our 46th Commencement in May, the most popular majors for our largest class were in the STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) and Nursing & Allied Health. More than 40% earned their Associate degrees in these majors.

Graduation Rate Doubles from 5% to 10%
This was accomplished through aggressive techniques such as intentional intervention implementation with students to ensure they stayed on track to graduate. Essex has in place the Completion Project, in which students sign a pledge to complete their Associate degree within three years of enrolling.

2015 Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Transfer Scholars
Two of our 2015 graduates, Jessica Bennett and Dayana Arrue, were named Jack Kent Cooke Scholars and are eligible to receive up to $120,000 each to attend the college of their choice. This brings to 13 the number of Essex students who have received this most prestigious award. It maintains our Number One position in New Jersey in producing the most Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Transfer Scholarship recipients and our Number Two position in America as the College with the most students to receive this prestigious award in the last four years.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS
Valedictorian Ernest Dimbo
Salutatorian Emmanuel Arhewoh and Biology Professor Dr. Jeffrey Lee

This Year’s Top Two Graduates
This year’s Valedictorian and Salutatorian share more than a love of education. Both Valedictorian Ernest Dimbo and Salutatorian Emmanuel Arhewoh hail from Nigeria and whose families immigrated to the United States for educational opportunities. After graduating from high school in Lagos, Nigeria at 14, Ernest faced an uncertain future due to severe economic restraints. When his family decided to make the move to the United States, settling in Essex County, Ernest was able to refocus on his education, starting at Essex his local community college, with a medical career in his future. Emmanuel faced similar obstacles in Nigeria, noting his education “stagnated due to financial difficulties.” Once enrolled at Essex, he quickly immersed himself in student life as he was able to “continue my scientific growth.”

Ernest graduated top of the Class of 2015 (4.0 grade point average) and an Associate degree in Biology, Pre-Medicine. Also earning a perfect grade point average, Emmanuel received his Associate degree in General Science. He is planning to transfer to Rice University this fall.
Receiving hard-earned promotions were six faculty members. These are effective for the 2015-2016 academic year. Faculty receiving promotions from Associate Professor to Professor include:

- Jose Chestnut – Biology & Chemistry
- Dr. Gale Gage – Nursing & Allied Health
- Dr. Eunice Kamunge – Biology & Chemistry
- Dr. Chengwen Wang – Mathematics & Physics

Promotions from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor include:

- Dr. Eman Aboelhanga – Mathematics & Physics
- Martin Asobayire – Biology & Chemistry

The College also welcomes a new chair of the Humanities Division and three new full-time faculty members to the Nursing Department. They are:

- Humanities Chair
  Dr. Christopher Rivera
- Associate Professor
  Joseph Boney
- Instructor
  Jennifer Nash
- Instructor
  Joy Omokaro

**Tyrone Wheeler**

Our Essex alumnus, Tyrone Wheeler, was featured in a recent Wall Street Journal article following his graduation from Seton Hall University’s Stillman School of Business, with a near-perfect 3.9 grade-point average. Mr. Wheeler overcame a life of crime and found the help he needed through our Educational Opportunity Fund program (EOF).

The article on May 18, 2015, is titled, “Big Change Leads to New Life for College Grad.” He is now a procurement analyst at Wakefern Food Corp., a Keasbey, N.J.-based retail cooperative that distributes for ShopRite grocery stores.

**Spring Nursing Students Excel in National Exam**

All of our Nursing Department students who took the National Licensure exam earlier this year scored 100 percent on the test. The students took the exam in the first three months of 2015.

All nursing school graduates are required to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) in order to become Registered Nurses (RNs).

Hospitals and medical facilities in the United States and Canada require the exam for their nurses, is required an examination for the licensing of nurses in the Dr. Evadne A. Harrison-Madu, chair of Nursing & Allied Health, thanked the Essex Nursing faculty who “relentlessly worked with our students week after week” in preparing them for the comprehensive exam.

**EOF Program Helps Student Success**

Our Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Program is designed to provide higher education opportunities to disadvantaged residents who would not be able to attend and/or succeed academically in college without the financial assistance and special services the program provides. Our highly successful program serves approximately 1,500 students annually. High achieving EOF students can be eligible to join the Chi Alpha Epsilon Academic Honor Society.
Essex Receives 10-year ACBSP Accreditation

Our Business Division was awarded a 10-year accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP), the only second two-year college in New Jersey to receive the recognition. The accreditation was announced in June following an ACBSP site visit in April.

Also, Dr. Augustine Bokye, Chairperson of the Business Division, was elected and recognized at the conference in Philadelphia as the President (Chair) of ACBSP’s Region 1. He and Dr. Nathan Himelstein, Business Division professor, completed the required training to be certified as Accreditation Mentors and Site Evaluators.

Regional Involvement

Dr. Gale E. Gibson was recently named to the Board of Directors of four area organizations. They include the Boys and Girls Club of Newark, Newark Symphony Hall, Campus Compact and the American Association of Community Colleges - Northeast Region of the National Council on Black American Affairs.

Newark Regional Business Partnership Forum (NRBP)

Dr. Gibson made a presentation before Essex County business and community leaders and partners at the recent Newark Regional Business Partnership forum (NRBP). The topic was “ECC and NJIT: Where Excellence and Opportunity Converge Featuring Joel Bloom, President, New Jersey Institute of Technology and Gale Gibson, President, Essex County College.”

Exemplified Leader

North Carolina State University, the Doctoral Alma Mater of Dr. Gale E. Gibson informed her that she was featured as a “leader who exemplifies the best of NC State’s College of Education.” She also received District 1199J National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees - AFSCME’s Aberdeen S. David Memorial Scholarship Fund Education Award.

East Orange Caribbean Economic Summit

Dr. Gibson moderated the East Orange Caribbean Economic Summit roundtable recently. Leading industry professionals and innovators in tourism, restaurant development and bilateral trade were among those in attendance. The summit was sponsored by East Orange Mayor Lester E. Taylor III, the East Orange City Council, and the city’s Department of Policy, Planning and Development. The event featured keynote speaker Dr. Beverly Smith, Founder, Leadership Development and Innovation Foundation and Dr. Roy Hastic, Founder and CEO, Caribbean Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Newark Youth Summer Work Enrichment Program

Essex County College played host in July to the Newark Youth Summer Work Enrichment Program, which attracted 2,600 city youngsters to the College for the annual kickoff. While the young men and women, ages 14 to 24, will work throughout the city this summer in paid positions, 800 of them will attend Monday classes at Essex receiving financial literacy and job readiness training along with college preparedness classes.

Newark City of Learning Collaborative (NCLC)

The program this summer is funded in part through the Foundation for Newark’s Future (FNF), which was set up by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg. The FNF awarded a $1.5 million grant to the Newark City of Learning Collaborative (NCLC), of which Essex County College is a member. The NCLC is a new citywide postsecondary collective impact network, committed to increasing the percentage of Newark residents with postsecondary degrees, certificates, and high quality credentials from the current 17 percent to 25 percent by 2025.
First Year Success

Construction on the College’s largest capital project - “First Year Success – Specialized Classrooms for Rapid Completion of Developmental Coursework” - is expected to begin soon. The project, funded through the state’s “Building Our Future Bond Act,” is anticipated to be completed by summer of 2017.

Campus Banners

The Newark campus has a new, smart look, as dozens of College promotional banners are flying around the campus of Essex County College. The vinyl banners are installed on light poles bordering the campus and in the parking lots as a part of our branding effort announcing our new logo and facts about the College.

Emblazoned with the College slogan “Exceed Expectations,” the banners help people identify with the campus and improve the overall aesthetics of the College, said Senior Graphic Designer Kiana Fitz.

New Wolverine

There’s a new Wolverine on campus after students this spring overwhelmingly approved the contemporary mascot design. In a vote conducted by the Essex County College Urban Issues Institute, the new Wolverine was approved over the old mascot, collecting 85 percent of the 456 votes cast.

The new Wolverine was designed by David James, Essex County College Class of 2002, who works in the College’s Graphics Department.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS Continues

Essex students frequently earn both paid and unpaid internships. Natalie DeBello and Israel Vieruel may have two of the more diverse opportunities among the Class of 2015. Natalie (A.A. in Art) can truthfully say, “I’m going to Disney World!” after securing a paid internship at the Disney College Program in Orlando. Israel (A.S. in Engineering) is spending his summer, also a paid position, interning with the Railroad Construction Co. in Paterson.

“Photography has always been a hobby of mine,” said Natalie, whose vintage camera collection is up to 20. She was sitting through internship opportunities when she saw information about Disney. While she still plans to pursue a Bachelor in Fine Arts degree, the fall internship was just too good an opportunity to pass up.

After he completes his 16 week internship, Israel is transferring to New Jersey Institute of Technology, where he will continue his engineering studies. The internship was secured after the Division of Engineering Technologies & Computer Sciences referred him to the Construction Industry Advancement Program (CIAP) of New Jersey internship program. “I will be gaining experience in my field,” Railroad specializes in civil, track and building construction in the Northeast United States.