

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Rowan College
at
BURLINGTON COUNTY

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- **THE APPRENTICES**, *Workforce Development Institute & Culinary Students*
- **THE ARTIST**, *Lavett Ballard*
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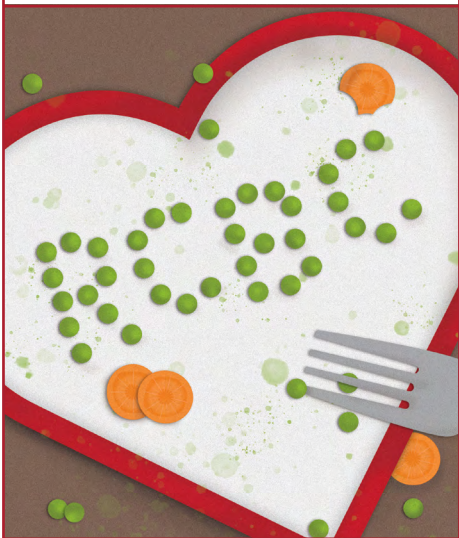
THE ANALYST



Jeff Anderson,
Alum and Former Instructor

Discover your strengths. Can your experiences at a community college lead to a fulfilling career with the FBI? At RCBC, the answer is yes. Jeff Anderson secured a position as an FBI intelligence analyst in 2004. He's delved into international terrorism, healthcare fraud, public corruption and more. His work has gone before Congress, the President and the director of the FBI to help inform policymakers.

THE APPRENTICES



Workforce Development Institute & Culinary Students

Gain wisdom from others. We launched new apprenticeships, including HealthWorks, which gives participants a free opportunity to advance in their healthcare careers. We also cooked up a culinary internship with Deborah Heart and Lung Center's Food and Nutritional Services Department.

THE ARTIST



Lavett Ballard,

Arts Alum & Nationally-Acclaimed Artist

Empower others through your work. Lavett Ballard has stories to tell. These stories, capturing the African American experience within a historical framework, upend familiar narratives with regal accessories, royal color palettes and symbolic imagery. The result? The oppressed regain a power previously lost to enslavement. Ballard's Rosa Parks piece was featured on the cover of a TIME magazine 100 Women of the Year issue.

THE ATHLETE



Priscilla Frederick-Loomis,
Olympic Athlete

Aim high. As an Olympic athlete, nonprofit founder, female activist icon, podcaster and business owner, Priscilla Frederick-Loomis has accomplished more than most of us will in a lifetime. Her broad message to students? Maintain focus while pursuing your dreams. Frederick-Loomis is a frequent client at our Dental Hygiene Clinic, where she receives x-rays, cleanings and more.

THE COVID COMBATANTS



Nursing Students

Take action for the greater good. Our healthcare heroes stepped up in a big way since the onset of the pandemic, including heeding the call to administer vaccines at Rowan University's site. Among them was eighth grade Biology teacher Lee Cohen, an RCBC student who decided to retire from teaching after 26 years and begin a new career as a nurse.

THE CREATORS



Film & Fashion Students

Find your focus. RCBC film students produced documentaries covering pandemic-related themes, among others, and even worked on a feature film set at our Mount Laurel Campus. Throughout filming, student Alyssa Morgen gained firsthand experience as a production assistant and an extra. Our fashion students produced another successful fashion show, including collections paying homage to the women's suffrage movement, anime and more.

THE ENTREPRENEUR



Nicholas Klahn,
Biochemistry Alum

Brighten your space. That's the tagline for Nicholas Klahn's laser engraving business Etchistry. During COVID 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.

THE GIVERS



Dental Hygiene Students, Give Kids a Smile

Use your skills to lift others up. 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.

THE GRADUATES



Classes of 2020 & 2021

Make success your greatest talking point.

Five on-campus ceremonies. Six keynote speakers. Over 200 graduates. Speakers highlighted themes of the past year, including COVID, social, racial and political unrest and maintaining education through uncertainty. Valedictorian Nicole Ceballos Gonzalez went from ESL to top of her graduating class; triplets Christopher, Gregory and Nicholas Zacharko graduated with perfect 4.0 GPAs; and President's Award winners Jazzrein Robinson and Rebekah Feinberg spoke about their hopes to teach and save lives.

THE PRIDE OF PANAMA



Nicole Ceballos Gonzalez,
2021 Valedictorian

Find your place, and don't be afraid to travel to get there. Nicole Ceballos Gonzalez, of Panama, made international headlines when she became RCBC's 2021 valedictorian. Ceballos Gonzalez enrolled at RCBC knowing very little English, but she quickly took off in her studies. She earned Dean's List after her first semester and received the RCBC Education Award, International Students Award, Music Award and the "I am a Promise" Award.

THE IVY LEAGUER



D’Jana Wyllis,
Chemical Engineering Alum

If you’re going to dream, dream big. RCBC prepared D’Jana Wyllis, a top community college scholar, for her transition to Columbia University, where she excelled in her studies and completed her bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering. Wyllis looks forward to pursuing her PhD in chemical and biomolecular engineering in the hopes of pursuing a pharmaceutical career.

THE LEADER



Stephanie Berdugo-Hernandez,
Alumni Trustee

Speak up about what matters. RCBC's newest alumni trustee has represented students at the state capitol, served multiple terms on the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) Student Advisory Committee and was a prominent member of RCBC's Student Government Association. A former EOF scholar, Stephanie has used her voice to advocate for low-income students and increase awareness of various financial aid opportunities.

THE MOBILIZER



Jamie Judge,
History Professor

Find a way to inspire. Prior to the highly-anticipated 2020 presidential election, history professor Jamie Judge created a tutorial on how to complete the mail-in ballot. With over 1,500 views, it helped many who still had questions about ballot completion and ensured that they made their votes count.

THE POET



Malik Abdul-Jabbaar,
English Instructor

Turn your story into art. 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. Malik edits the college's "Baron Anthology." His debut collection "All the Stars Aflame" is forthcoming with Get Fresh Books Publishing.

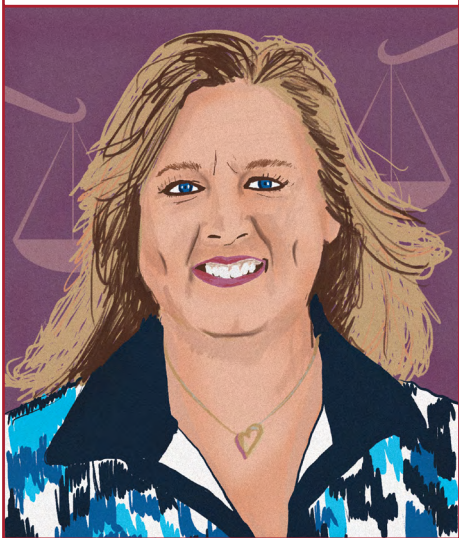
THE PROFESSOR



Dr. Shannon Williams,
2021 Professor of the Year

Be the best version of yourself. 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

Be the change. 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.

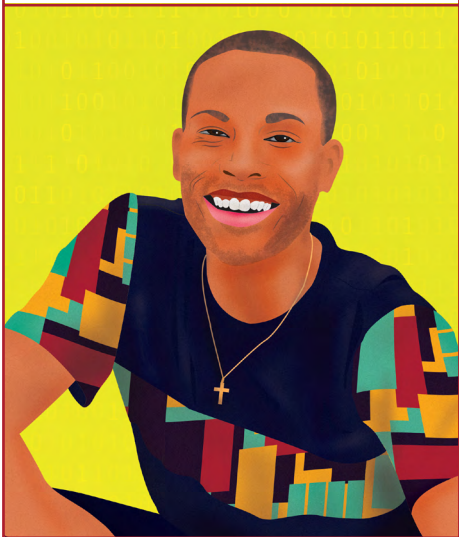
THE RESILIENT



Lula Wilson,
Business Alum

Weaponize your trauma. When Lula Wilson 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**

Take a chance on yourself. With three degrees, two job offers and a Top Secret security clearance under his belt, it's safe to say that Timothy Scott Koger Jr.'s RCBC education paid off in spades. Before earning his bachelor's degree, he received his first full-time job offer and now works as a system engineer at Gnostech Headquarters, a Top Secret Department of Defense facility.

THE SOLDIERS



VA-Approved Programs & Alum Joshua Redlich

Go beyond what's expected. We geared up for Veterans Day by announcing 26 new VA-Approved programs in high-demand fields. We also profiled RCBC alum Joshua Redlich, who was named Rutgers' 2020 student veteran of the year and is studying to become a nurse.

THE TRUSTEES



Rowan College
at
BURLINGTON COUNTY



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

Build relationships. We welcomed three new members to our Board of Trustees. Robin A. Walton comes equipped with almost two decades of experience in government and community relations. Dr. Wright, a demonstrated and committed public servant, boasts over two decades of experience as an academian, supervisor, administrator, policymaker and policy advisor. Marini brings a wealth of knowledge as Burlington County Executive Superintendent of Schools and former principal of several local high schools.

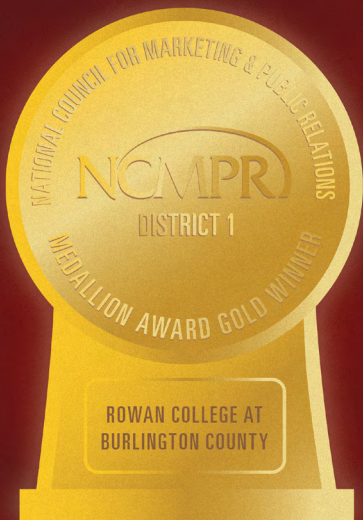
THE VOICE



President Dr. Michael A. Cioco,
Facebook Town Halls

Lead with purpose. Dr. Cioco led RCBC through the COVID-19 pandemic with increased transparency and access to the college community -- without increasing costs to students or laying off staff. During this time, he hosted an award-winning series of Facebook Town Halls (garnering 30K+ views) to keep the community informed, engaged and laughing.

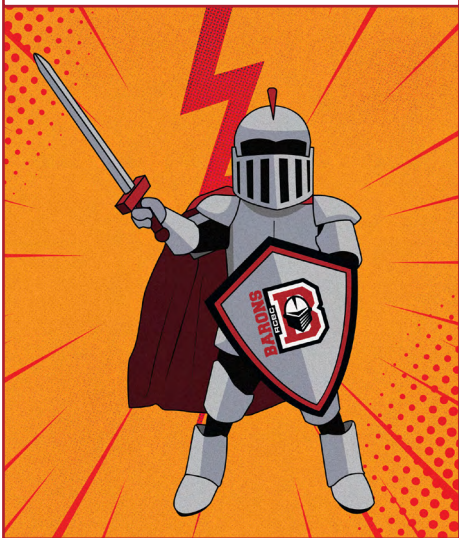
THE ADVOCATES



Marketing Department

Take your win, but give others their moment too. Partnering with students to promote the college paid off! We earned seven marketing awards from the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations, including two gold medallions. Only three colleges in District 1 earned as many medallions as RCBC, which earned more than all other New Jersey colleges combined.

THE BATTLE



Battle of the Barons Virtual Fundraiser

Give back. 160 donors and 30+ fundraisers set an RCBC record with over \$100K raised in this unique competition. The battle, which pitted various college departments against one another, included the Liberal Arts Allies, STEM Soldiers, Healthcare Heroes, Student Services Superstars and the Administration Aces. In the end, the STEM Soldiers took the overall lead with over \$25K raised!

THE BRAVE SPACE



Mental Health in the Black Community

Harness the power of healing. 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 mental health experts to discuss ways they have tried to increase access to services within underrepresented communities.

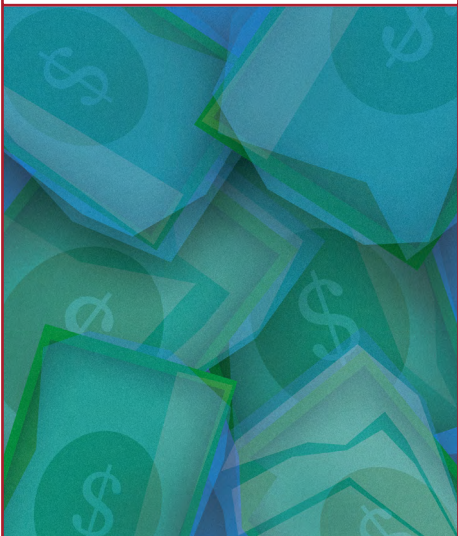
THE EQUALIZER



Free Community College & 3+1

Be the solution. We continue to rank among the most affordable colleges in the region. Thanks to initiatives like our 3+1 pathways and free community college grant, more students can earn college degrees, leveling the playing field for all.

THE FREEZE



Tuition Freeze & New Baron Benefits

Be willing to pivot when needed. 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

Don't be afraid to ask for help. 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

Fill a need. 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



THE STRATEGIC PLAN

- Culture
- Access & Affordability
- Student Success & Quality
- Effectiveness

Strategic Plan 2025

Work with a vision. Behind every well-oiled machine is a plan. Our latest strategic plan includes four core pillars: culture, access and affordability, student success and quality and effectiveness. It will help guide institutional priorities, budgeting decisions and individual offices' annual goals.

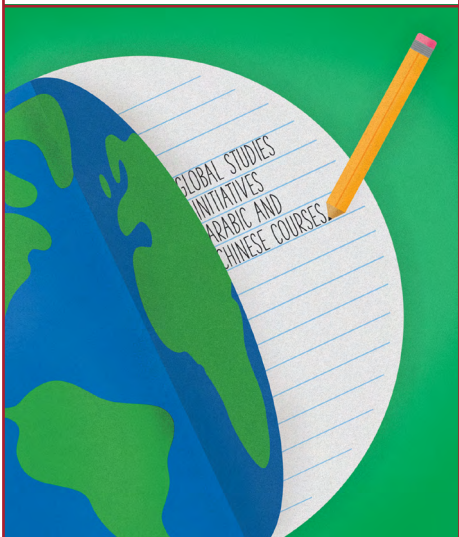
THE WALK



Out of Darkness New Jersey Chapter

Find the light. 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 WORLDLY ONES



Global Studies Initiatives

Step out of your comfort zone. 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



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