

## **Above and Beyond ... MCCC Financial Aid staff member receives heartfelt thanks from student**

"Thank you for all that you do and have done over the years. From answering a quick question about financial aid to helping seek out scholarships to attend a 4-year institution after graduating, Rose, you have made things so much easier. Rose puts the "beyond" in the phrase "above and beyond," her passion to help others is always evident and I am grateful! "Many times, exceptional service goes without recognition because it is expected. My hope is that other students would get to see the unsung heroes, the ones behind the scenes, the ones that go the extra mile and have a passion for what they do here at Mercer.

"The financial aid department has been great!" --

**Vanessa Cruz, a business studies student from Hamilton made a special trip to the Financial Aid office to acknowledge the special attention to detail provided by Rose Del Valle. Cruz is currently applying to the MCCC Transfer program for Rutgers University to study Labor and Employee Relations.**



*Rose Del Valle, Administrative Specialist II, recently received flowers and high praise from MCCC student Vanessa Cruz.*

## **The FAFSA Deadline for Renewal of State Aid for Academic Year 2020-21 is Now June 1, 2020**

The New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) recently announced that the deadline for current students to renew State financial aid will be extended to June 1, 2020. Originally slated for an April 15, 2020 deadline, the timeline was extended to June 1 to meet the needs of students and families whose ability to complete financial aid forms has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Students have an additional six weeks to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application for NJ Dreamers if they are "renewal students" in the current academic year who are receiving a New Jersey Tuition Aid Grant (TAG), Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG), Governor's Urban Scholarship (GUS), and/or New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJSTARS and NJSTARS II). Renewal students who plan to re-enroll in the upcoming academic year at a New Jersey higher education institution are now eligible for a one-time filing extension to June 1, 2020.

All students are encouraged to complete the FAFSA well before the June 1 deadline. The sooner students apply, the earlier they can find out about available State financial aid and make informed decisions about the 2020-2021 academic year. While the April 15 deadline for renewal students is now extended to June 1, 2020, the State aid application deadline will remain September 15, 2020 for new students enrolling for the first time in the fall 2020 semester.

## **2019-2020 FAFSA Days and other financial aid workshops are well-received by the Mercer County community**

There are many forms of financial aid, including federal, state and institutional, and the members of Mercer's Financial Aid office are happy to explain the ins and outs of the options.

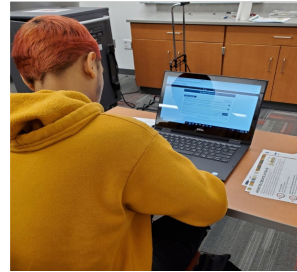
Members of the Financial Aid staff have been out in full force to help students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Staffers also make themselves available to provide general financial aid information to the public.





Some, such as administrative specialist II Rose Del Valle, led FAFSA workshops out in the community. Del Valle's presentation was made to a local church's youth group based in Trenton.

Others, including office manager Rashaun Jones (not pictured), were out in the community making FAFSA presentations at Nottingham and Trenton Central high schools. Many organizations, including HESAA, the EOF Program (MCCC, and Rider and Georgian Court universities), The Upward Bound Program, Educational Talent Search, and Urban Academic Academy are some of the participating entities that come together to service students during events such as FAFSA Days, requested Financial Aid Workshops, as well as the Annual EOF Fair.



**FAFSA applications can also be completed online at [StudentAid.ed.gov](http://StudentAid.ed.gov).**

**HELP IS AVAILABLE TO MCCC STUDENTS IN NEED**

Mercer County Community College has begun the process of distributing about \$1.9 million in direct aid to students, made available through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. In addition to potential help with tuition and fees, eligible expenses include any financial obligation that could prevent a student from completing his or her education, including housing, child care, transportation, or access to technology. Currently enrolled students, and those who will be enrolled for summer and fall semesters, are eligible to apply. **Students must complete both the 2019-20 and 2020-21 FAFSAs (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to be considered for this aid.** To expedite the distribution process, MCCC has created a simple online application for students, which is available at [www.mccc.edu/CARES](http://www.mccc.edu/CARES).

**TO BETTER SERVE YOU ... MCCC FINANCIAL AID STAFF IS MULTI-LINGUAL**

In addition to several who speak Spanish, some staff members also are familiar with other languages. Alice Chung, a Financial Aid Officer, is fluent in Mandarin and Taiwanese, and Eugenia Stoyanova, a Financial Aid Advisor, speaks Bulgarian, Russian, Serbian and Macedonian.

**HOW TO REACH US**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, you may still contact the Financial Aid office using its main phone numbers, 609.570.3242 and 609.570.3210. You may also contact us through the general office email: [fnaid@mccc.edu](mailto:fnaid@mccc.edu). Check the school's website for additional information. Students can also check their status daily through the MyMercer portal: [www.mccc.edu/mymercer](http://www.mccc.edu/mymercer).

The main phone numbers are 609.570.3242 and 609.570.3210.

Your feedback is important to us, please click the url from the website to complete a brief survey: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/BSLFGGP](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BSLFGGP)

Find us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/MCCCFinAid](http://www.facebook.com/MCCCFinAid)

Do you have questions about Financial Aid 24/7? Access FaTV through the following url: [mccc.financialaidtv.com](http://mccc.financialaidtv.com)

**Need help with Financial Aid?**

**WE HAVE VIDEO ANSWERS**  
[www.mccc.edu/finaid](http://www.mccc.edu/finaid)

**FaTV | get answers**

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