



2020 Election: Democrats show powerful performance in Morris County races

BY ADAM GENTILE
 Editor-in-Chief

The 2020 election was another event that further solidifies 2020 as an unparalleled year. Turnout for this election has been [projected](#) to reach its highest rate since 1908 with an expected 66.3% of the voting-age population participated in this election; compared to 2016 this is about a 6% increase in turnout. The president-elect Joe Biden received the most votes in the history of America and Donald Trump received the second-highest amount of votes.

Morris County has a chance of making history this year as the outcome of the special elections in the 25th legislative district for assembly could yield a victory for the Democratic candidate which would be the first time any Democrat has won in the district's history.

PRESIDENCY

In 2016 Morris county voted for Donald Trump who had a 4% lead over Hilary Clinton. In 2020 Joe Biden overcame this deficit as he holds a [10%](#) lead over Donald Trump with 72% of precincts re-

porting.

It was announced on Nov. 7 that former Vice President Joe Biden is projected to win the nomination for president by winning a majority in the electoral college with 279 electoral votes at the moment, according to the Associated Press. The nail-biting announcement followed after days of waiting for mail-in ballots in the states of Arizona, Pennsylvania, and Georgia was coming in.

Arizona was called for Biden on election night by Fox News. However, outlets like the New York Times and the AP as of Nov. 8 have not called the state yet, as Joe Biden's five-point lead on election night has been reduced to .59%.

Alternatively, on election night Pennsylvania favored Trump by about five points, but as absentee ballots began to be counted the lead diminished to what is now a .64% lead favoring Biden. When Pennsylvania was called for Biden, he was considered to have secured the Presidential nomination.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF JOEBIDEN.COM

President-elect Joe Biden (right) and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris.

CCM honors heroes and healers

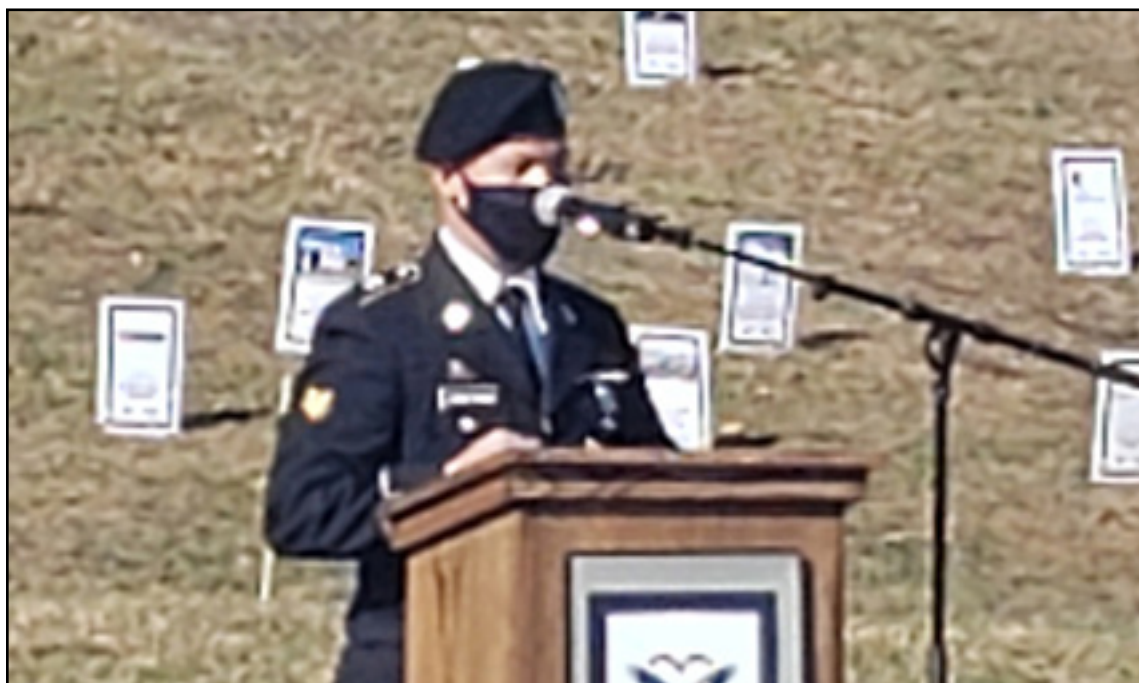


PHOTO BY ADAM GENTILE

Mark Zimmerman, President of the Veterans Support Organization of CCM, speaking at the podium on Veterans Day.

BY ADAM GENTILE
 Editor-in-Chief

For Veterans Day this year, the Veterans club at CCM decided to put on a ceremony in CCM's Parking Lot 1 to honor not only veterans but also those who are providing essential care and services during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The event showed support from across Morris county including: the Morris County Sheriff's department, local elected officials, and members from the CCM community.

According to a study from [The Lancet Public Health Journal](#), health care workers in the United States are four times as likely to be infected with COVID-19 compared to the general community as a whole.

Mark Zimmerman, President

of the Veterans Support Organization of CCM, mentioned that the event was first conceived when his advisor Frank Mehtzle came to him with the idea.

"This past spring semester my advisor Frank said to me wouldn't it be nice if for veterans day this year we showed tribute to our military community but also to our first responders as well," Zimmerman said. "The idea for the heroes and healers was to show the ultimate tribute we can ever give to those who gave their lives on saving others; families, friends, and others we never met. This COVID pandemic took a lot from us but at the same time brought us closer together. On behalf of the County College of Morris and the Veterans support organization of CCM we would like

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Opinion: Are you incapable or are you just lazy?

BY JARED BRODSKY
Copy Editor

The year is in full swing. Students are being hit with a familiar workload, and find themselves asking a familiar question: "Do I have the ability to thrive in this academic environment?" Students often feel overwhelmed by homework and exams, especially as the semester progresses and they begin to fall behind in their studies. Discouragement sets in, grades drop, the question is seemingly answered: "I'm incapable." There is, however, a more realistic question to ask here, namely, "Am I willing to do what's necessary to succeed?" Excuses abound in high-pressure situations, and college is no exception. It's easy to blame poor performance on external circumstances. It's easy to abandon responsibility when failure seems imminent. Instead of surrendering in the face of great difficulty, we should examine the ways our difficulties can be overcome. Before assuming that you've done all that is necessary to succeed in school, here are some things to consider.

Don't just memorize. Study to

understand.

Too often we hear students complaining that they won't be able to memorize everything that might show up on an exam. Even if we ignore the fact that a degree is worthless if a student doesn't come away with a comprehensive understanding of his or her area of study, it is still counterproductive to attempt to simply memorize material. Contextual understanding of the ideas covered during a semester of courses doesn't only serve to improve test scores, but also serves to improve performance in subsequent semesters. Classes, at least within a certain major, do not behave as individual entities, but rather set the foundation for later courses. For example, English Composition I provides students with the knowledge of grammar required for English Composition II and beyond. If a student crams for an exam this semester, only to forget the information immediately afterward, how will they fare on their exams next semester? Surely not well. Students should always seek a deep understanding of their studies, not only for the sake of their grades, but also for the sake

of their own intellect.

BE PROACTIVE.

The average student takes on a very passive role in their education: they show up to class on time, sit quietly at their desk, and do the work that's required of them—but this is all they do. They don't participate in class discussions, and they don't seek extra help when things confuse them. Students tend to avoid participating in discussions with classmates, or even with professors. However, avoiding these things is a huge mistake. Engaging with classmates and professors is an incredible way to clear up any confusion regarding class material. Holes in reasoning can be patched up, and misunderstandings can be corrected. Rather than giving up on a chance to excel, students should remain as active as possible in their pursuit of education. Participate in class discussions, see your professors for extra help, do all you can to make sure you extract every possible ounce of information from your classes.

BUDGET TIME

By attending school, you are agreeing to set aside an adequate amount of time for study. CCM's

website states that for every hour spent in the classroom, students should expect to study on their own for an additional two hours. This means that a student enrolled for fifteen credits should be spending about twenty hours per week on 'outside of the classroom' work. This is where most students make their biggest mistake—they don't budget their time effectively.

Twenty hours per week equates to just five hours each weekday, or less than three hours per day if weekends are included. This might still seem like an impossible amount of time to spend on schoolwork, but there are many things a student can do to fit three hours of study time into his or her day.

The easiest way to make time for studying is to spend less time engaging with electronic media. According to Nielson's media report, people between the ages of eighteen and thirty-four spend about six hours per week on social media, still only a small fraction of the time spent watching television, which comes in at a whopping

four hours per day. Putting down the phone and shutting off the T.V. is a surefire way to free up enough time to get your required schoolwork done.

AIM TO LEARN AND THE DEGREE WILL FOLLOW.

Everything stated so far is probably for naught if you're only in school to earn a cheap diploma. A diploma is quite useful, but if it serves as your sole motivation for getting through college, then you're fighting a losing battle. The best way to improve your chances of success in school is to find enjoyment in your studies. If you develop a sincere interest in your classes, then your schoolwork will become less tedious and more fun. Have a chat with the most active members of your classes, or ask your professors what drew them to their areas of study. You'd be amazed at the interesting things you can pick up in courses that seemed boring at first glance. Degrees take time and effort. You may as well make things a little bit easier on yourself. Find your motivation, have some fun. You're more than capable.

Virtual learning exceeds expectations

BY MICHAEL ROVETTO
Contributor

Students attending County College of Morris were not thrilled to hear the campus would be at limited capacity for the fall 2020 semester due to the coronavirus. However, those same students feel the transition to online classes has been going well thus far.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, in 2018, 35.3% of students enrolled in at least one distance education course. Online learning has increased over the years as universities continue to expand online courses and degree opportunities.

In 2020, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, nearly 93% of people in households with school-age children reported their children engaged in some form of distance learning from home. Coronavirus has transformed the way students learn on a national level.

CCM student Manav Patel, an engineering science major, was excited to be back on campus for the fall semester. He was disappointed to hear the semester would remain online, but he is making the best out of his experience with distance learning.

"The transition to online classes has been pretty seamless considering the circumstances," Patel said. "Professors have been doing a great job trying to make online learning as close to in class as possible."

Professors have been understanding and willing to work with students during this tough time. The workload is manageable, and many professors have supplied students with supplemental readings and videos to help further explain course material.

Professors have also been staying in contact with students. Many emails have been sent back

and forth as students seek clarity on course material. In online classes, where students do not meet virtually, communication is a key factor in relaying information.

"It is actually pretty easy to contact my professors if I have a question," said Shannon Quigley, a nursing major at CCM. "They usually answer pretty fast and seem to be on top of all the online stuff."

CCM offered three types of classes this fall semester. Those classes included online, remote and hybrid. Many students preferred remote classes out of the three because of the ability to communicate with their professors and classmates at a given time every week.

Online classes have no meeting time, which allows students to work at their own pace. Work is

usually assigned at the beginning of each week, giving students a full week to complete the assignments.

Remote classes are conducted via Zoom or another online video system like Cisco Webex Meetings. These classes allow students to communicate with one another about the course material.

Hybrid classes are a combination of remote and in-person classes. Many classes that are held in a lab are offered as a hybrid course. This minimizes the number of students on campus at the same time.

"I take one remote and three online classes," said Andrew Frank, a communication major. "I feel that the class I actually have to meet with is my favorite because I can actually engage with my professor and classmates."

THE YOUNGTOWN EDITION

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All students are welcome to contribute articles to The Youngtown Edition either in person or via e-mail. However, students cannot receive a byline if they belong to the organization on which they are reporting. The deadline for articles is the Monday prior to a production.



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Students struggle with motivation in online classes

BY SKYE FRAWLEY

Contributor

In the past nine months not only has the education system changed, but the challenges and workloads of those within the system have changed as well. “The entire education system as a whole — college, elementary, high school, every level — had to change completely,” said Leann Benny, a political science major at County College of Morris.

In a 2019 George Mason University study, Spiros Protopsaltis and Sandy Baum discussed the negative results of online schooling. “On average, fully online coursework has

contributed to increasing gaps in educational success across socioeconomic groups while failing to improve affordability,” they stated. “Even when overall outcomes are similar for classroom and online courses, students with weak academic preparation and those from low-income and underrepresented backgrounds consistently underperform in fully-online environments.”

In an environment fraught with anxiety and a sense of disconnect, students lack self-motivation and the capacity to make deadlines. “I am so behind on my schoolwork because I feel unmotivated and stuck with artist’s block,” said Gee Koby-

larz, a graphic design major at CCM. “I am also doing all of my schooling in my bedroom, and it is not a productive space. Right now I am not making deadlines, and I am very behind.”

With an online learning format, students are finding it challenging to make connections with classmates and professors. “In person, I can get better feedback on how I am doing on projects from professors and classmates,” Koby larz said. “I also have a way more positive and motivated working space.”

The longing for in-person classes, or at least improvements in the current system, is clear among students.

“There’s nothing better than

being in class,” said a source who spoke on the condition of anonymity. “I feel like you gain more and you learn more, especially if you have questions or concerns; it’s hard to get a hold of the professor.”

Professors are experiencing similar issues with student connections and motivation. Dr. Rita Heller, who has been teaching history for 33 years at CCM, stated that “everyone’s lives, including mine, are so upended, so many different things are happening. There are so many complications and distractions and issues in their lives. I know that they are not really doing all they should be doing.”

Heller discussed how she

must find new ways to combat the ongoing struggle of getting students to be fully present and engaged online.

Despite the circumstances, students and faculty remain optimistic in the face of these challenges. “I value the help and the guidance and the patience that the students provide,” Heller stated. “[Zoom] has made a huge difference in the ability of people to interact during this crisis.”

Students expressed mutual understanding and gratitude toward the CCM faculty for the adaptations they had made in order to continue the educational process despite difficult circumstances.

ELECTIONS

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Georgia, which is typically a safe state for the GOP, was surprisingly in play this election season as polling consistently showed either Biden or Trump having slight advantages over one another. Biden currently leads the state with a .2% advantage over Trump, however, the results of the election will most likely trigger an automatic recount.

President-Elect Biden ran on a platform of expanding the [Affordable Care Act](#) to include a public option that would expand Medicaid and Medicare and would allow individuals to buy into Medicare. Biden also promised that his administration will be more competent in handling the [COVID-19 Pandemic](#) by offering stronger federal guidelines for states to follow and sending out consistent expert informed messaging to the American People.

Biden also ran on one of the most aggressive [climate plans](#) of any general election candidate in history. Biden’s plan pushes for 100% clean energy by the year 2050 by investing in clean energy research and investing in clean energy infrastructure. Biden has also promised to reenter the Paris Climate Accords.

CONGRESSIONAL RACES

Tom Malinowski, the Democratic incumbent, was able to defend his seat against Republican Thomas Kean Jr. with 73.6% reporting according to [Politico](#). Malinowski received 52.8% votes compared to Kean’s 47.2% votes. Malinowski first won his seat back during the 2018 midterm elections.

Malinowski served as a Senior Director on President Bill Clinton’s National Security Council. After that Malinowski was a chief advocate for Human Rights Watch and fought against the Bush Administration’s use of torture. Malinowski now serves on the Committee on Foreign

Affairs and Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Malinowski ran on a platform of ending Corporate PAC money, supporting small business, and affordable healthcare.

During his time in the House Malinowski Sponsored [35](#) pieces of legislation and cosponsored [508](#) pieces of legislation. Notable legislation that Malinowski cosponsored was [The Never Again Education Act](#) that tasked the U.S Holocaust Memorial Museum with the duty to improve awareness and understanding of the Holocaust.

Like Malinowski, Mikie Sherrill, Democratic Representative of New Jersey’s 11th district, successfully defended her seat for the first time against Republican Rosemary Becchi. According to [Politico](#) With 71.9% of precincts reporting Sherrill received 57% of voters in the district.

Sherrill is a veteran of the Navy and a former Assistant U.S. Attorney, who now serves on the House Armed Service Committee and House Science, Space, and Technology Committee. Sherrill is also the freshman whip of the New Democrat Coalition, which is a caucus inside the democratic party which wishes to promote economic growth, innovation, and fiscal responsibility. The group is known for its non-partisan style of politics and focuses on “bridging together” the left-right partisan divide in the country.

During her time in the house, Sherrill sponsored [24](#) pieces of legislation and cosponsored [365](#), Notable policy that has become law includes the [Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture Act](#).

U.S. SENATE

Democrat Cory Booker won re-election with 58.4% of the vote defeating Republican challenger Rikin Mehta. Booker is a former Mayor from Newark and has been in the Senate since 2013 after winning a special election.

Booker sits on the Senate committees on Foreign Relations, the Judiciary, U.S.

the country.

“When look behind me and you see a number of photos on their recognizing veterans recognizing first responders we envision a day where we recognize and celebrate our veterans, our first responders in healthcare on a day like today and every day,” Iacono said. “Thank you for taking the time to recognize those men and women who make Morris county great, who make New Jersey great, and who make the United States great.”

Iacono mentioned that he believes that the United states will make it past this pandemic and be stronger than ever.

The pictures will remain on the hill overlooking Parking Lot 1 until the day after Veteran’s Day so members of the community can drive through and look at the memorials.

Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Environment and Public Works. One of Booker’s most notable contributions this last term was adding sentencing reform into the [First Step Act](#), like changes to mandatory minimums for drug charges.

STATE ASSEMBLY

The N.J Assembly district 25 had a special election in order to fill in the vacancy left by now State Senator Anthony M. Bucco after being appointed to replace his late father in the Senate. The seat was appointed to Republican Aura Dunn.

[As of Nov. 6](#) with 52.6% of precincts reporting the special election for assembly district 25, Democrat Darcy Draeger has a 2% lead over Republican Aura Dunn. Throughout its history, no democrat has been able to win the district, and if Draeger’s lead holds she will be the first Democrat to win in the district.

STATE SENATE

The special election for the District 25 state Senate seat is between Republican Anthony M. Bucco and Democrat Rupande Mehta. [As of Nov. 6](#), the candidates are within a percentage point of one another with Bucco having 50.39% of the vote and Mehta having 48.88% of the vote.

FREEHOLDER

The Morris County Freeholder race was between incumbent Tayfun Selen and his Democratic opponent Cary Amaro. [As of Nov. 9](#) Amaro is beating Selen by 8000 votes. If Amaro wins she will be the first Democrat elected as a Morris County freeholder since 1978.

Editors note: In New Jersey, final election results will be certified by county clerks on Nov. 23 and sent to the New Jersey Secretary of State. Outcomes of state elections may change.

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VETERANS

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to thank you all for your service dedication and all that you sacrificed for your community.”

On the hill overlooking Parking Lot 1 pictures were set up in order to honor veterans and first responders, both living and dead, from across Morris County. At 4:30 p.m. on Nov. 7, there was a candle light vigil to commemorate those who have served and sacrificed. CCM President Dr. Anthony J. Iacono mentioned that he hopes that one day the hill will be filled with those who have given to the Morris County community and