

Letter from
KELLY L. MEOLA
Executive Director of
Institutional Advancement



Kelly L. Meola

County College of Morris (CCM) is experiencing a truly historic moment, one that reflects the power of partnership and the promise of education.

In recent weeks, the CCM Foundation has

received two extraordinary corporate gifts in support of our new Center for Health Professions (CHP). Most notably, the Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation has awarded a \$1 million grant, the largest corporate gift in CCM's history, to support the launch of our Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting programs. This transformational investment strengthens our ability to meet the growing need for dental professionals in Morris County and beyond.

We are also grateful to the Gilead Sciences Foundation for its generous \$150,000 contribution, which helps to position the CHP as a state-of-the-art facility serving students pursuing careers in healthcare.

These gifts exemplify how philanthropy transforms lives, expands access to education, and fuels innovation. They build momentum not only for the CHP, but for all pathway programs at CCM, from workforce development to entrepreneurship and high school-to-college.

Together with our partners and supporters, we are building a healthier, stronger community and investing in the future of our students. Join us in shaping the next generation of healthcare professionals. When we invest together, our students, our workforce, and our community all thrive.

Kelly L. Meola

Kelly L. Meola
Executive Director of Institutional Advancement



WHERE INNOVATION MEETS OPPORTUNITY - New Center at CCM Prepares Students, Entrepreneurs and the Community for the Future

County College of Morris (CCM) recently celebrated the opening of its **Center for Entrepreneurship & Culinary Science (CECS)**, a dynamic new hub designed to inspire innovation, support entrepreneurs and prepare students for careers in many high-demand industries.

College leaders, community partners and supporters gathered on campus for a ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the launch of the center, which reflects a collaboration between CCM, the Morris County Chamber of Commerce and regional businesses.

"This is more than a building — it's an investment in the future of our students and our community," said Dr. Anthony Iacono, president of CCM. "By connecting education with industry, we are strengthening the region's entrepreneurial landscape and preparing our workforce for the opportunities ahead."

The center brings together two key initiatives. CCM's Center for Entrepreneurship will support aspiring business owners through certificate programs, associate degrees and workforce training, while connecting students and entrepreneurs with mentorship and industry expertise.

The facility also serves as the home of the **Culinary and Hospitality Arts Institute of New Jersey (CHAI-NJ)**, where students will train in a state-of-the-art baking kitchen designed to reflect professional culinary environments and gain hands-on experience with industry-grade equipment.

Internationally acclaimed chef David Burke, keynote speaker at the event, praised the college's investment in culinary education. "Twenty-five years from now, the best restaurants in the state will be in Morris County because of CCM. This center will be a

wonderful addition to feeding restaurants with young talent," he said.

With the launch of the CECS, CCM continues to expand opportunities for students while strengthening the connection between education, industry and community, ensuring that Morris County remains a vibrant place to learn, innovate and grow. If you are interested in partnering with CCM's Business or Culinary programs, contact the Foundation today.

Tom & Donna Pepe Pavilion Honors a Legacy of Support

The opening of the CECS also recognized the generosity of longtime CCM supporters, **Tom and Donna Pepe**. The late Tom Pepe, former chair of the CCM Board of Trustees, and his wife Donna, who currently serves as treasurer of the CCM Board of Trustees, dedicated many years of service to the college and are passionate advocates of CCM, its mission, and students.

"Nearly ten years ago, many of the buildings on this campus did not exist. This school, thanks to the vision and leadership of Dr. Iacono, his team, and the Board of Trustees, has transformed CCM into a powerhouse of learning opportunities," said Donna Pepe, at the dedication of the Tom & Donna Pepe Pavilion, a new event space within the CECS honoring a lasting legacy of leadership and generosity.



Donna Pepe pictured with her family and CCM leadership at the reveal of the Tom & Donna Pepe Pavilion at the new CECS.

MEET OUR DONORS

CELEBRATING OUR SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

Congratulations to the CCM Foundation recipients of the **Terry Ryan Memorial and Jack Martin Basketball Scholarships**, recognized during February's Sophomore Night. Thank you to the Ryan Family, Jack Martin and Rich Wilson for their continued generosity in supporting our students' success both on the court and in the classroom.



Kelly Meola, Terry Ryan Family, and Terry Ryan Scholarship recipient, Zander Anyanwa



Kelly Meola, Jack Martin Scholarship recipient, Ben Charles, and Jack Martin

CELEBRATING NEW PARTNERS

We are excited to welcome **Ion Bank Foundation and FirstBank Charitable Foundation** as new supporters of the CCM College Promise Program. Their support fuels opportunity by removing barriers and helping more students turn their potential into achievement.



WHY I GIVE: VOICE OF PHILANTHROPY

DR. KEVIN CHEN, RETIRED SUPERVISOR, CCM TESTING CENTER



Kevin Chen, center, enjoying his retirement

LOOKING BACK ON YOUR TIME AT CCM, WHAT MADE THE EXPERIENCE SO MEANINGFUL TO YOU?

During my more than 25 years at CCM, I had the privilege of serving the college in many roles, from teaching to administration. I was involved in numerous committees and fundraising events, and even when I could not participate in person, I always tried to support the college's efforts with a donation. Over time, CCM became much more than a workplace - it became a second family. The friendships and connections I built with colleagues and students are truly special to me and will stay with me throughout my retirement.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO SUPPORT THE CCM FOUNDATION?

The CCM Foundation has always been incredibly supportive of worthy fundraising efforts that help make the world a bit better, both within the CCM community and beyond.

FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, HOW DOES PHILANTHROPY IMPACT CCM STUDENTS?

When you give financially and give from the heart to help fund scholarships, you can truly make a difference in the lives of CCM students who need assistance.

WAS THERE A MOMENT OR EXPERIENCE THAT REINFORCED YOUR COMMITMENT TO GIVING?

Over the years, many students have come back to thank me not only for financial support through scholarships but also for helping them stay focused on their goals through encouragement. The combination of encouragement and commitment to giving is a dynamite combination.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE CONSIDERING MAKING A GIFT TO CCM?

Give for the right reasons. Do not give because others are watching — give from the heart to support a real need.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?

Staying connected with retirees and alumni helps build lasting relationships and supports the mission of the CCM Foundation.

PAYING IT FORWARD



DR. BASSELL NOUMI, ADJUNCT FACULTY MEMBER, RESPIRATORY THERAPY

For Dr. Bassell Noumi, giving back is deeply personal. An adjunct faculty member at County College of Morris, Dr. Noumi donates his teaching stipend to support a Respiratory Therapy student scholarship, an act rooted in gratitude and purpose. "Education changed the trajectory of my life," he shares.

Through his work with students, Dr. Noumi sees firsthand the realities many face, balancing coursework with jobs, family responsibilities and financial strain. "Supporting scholarships," he says, "helps turn abstract need into meaningful action and honors the mentors and institutions that once invested in him."

What Dr. Noumi enjoys most about teaching is witnessing transformation: confidence building, critical thinking sharpening and ambition taking shape. "That confidence," he notes, "can be just as powerful as the financial support itself."

To students who benefit from his generosity, Dr. Noumi offers simple but powerful advice: Your work matters. Use this support well, stay disciplined, and when you are able, pay it forward. Through his commitment, he is doing exactly that — **creating opportunity and opening doors for the next generation of healthcare professionals.**

CELEBRATING OUR STUDENTS



Fall 2025 Scholarship Society Welcome Luncheon

CELEBRATING PROMISE: FALL 2025 SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

Our **Fall 2025 CCM Foundation scholarship recipients** came together in October for a special welcome luncheon at the Learning Resource Center filled with conversation, connection and inspiration. Students representing a wide range of majors had the opportunity to meet one another, explore campus resources designed to support their success and hear words of encouragement directly from CCM leadership. More than a meal, the event was a celebration of achievement and a reminder that behind every scholarship is a story of determination, promise and possibility.

WHERE GENEROSITY MEETS GRATITUDE

At our annual **Scholarship Society Donor Reception** in March, handshakes turned into conversations and conversations turned into opportunity. For many students, the evening marked their first chance to personally thank the individuals who invested in their education. For donors, it offered a meaningful glimpse into the ambitions, resilience and talent of the students they support. The event created space for networking, mentorship, gratitude and encouragement, helping students build confidence and connections that extend far beyond the classroom. Together, donors and scholars shared a common purpose: fueling the journey ahead.



ALUMNI MAKING THEIR MARK



Karen Lee, '25

KAREN LEE, '25: A PRACTICAL CHOICE THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

When Karen Lee moved to Morris County, enrolling at CCM seemed like a simple, practical choice. It was close to home and offered a nursing program. What she did not expect was how transformative that decision would become.

CCM's nursing program challenged Karen in the best possible way. She remarks that its rigor and high standards rival any institution, and as a returning adult student, Karen quickly realized she was part of something truly special — a community committed to excellence.

Coming back to school later in life was both exciting and daunting for Karen. She received numerous scholarships including the **Somerset Hills Community Health Foundation** Scholarship which made all the difference, easing a financial burden and allowing full focus on her studies and future.

Karen feels grateful for the support she received, not only to have earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in Nursing this past December, but so she can build a meaningful career in nursing.

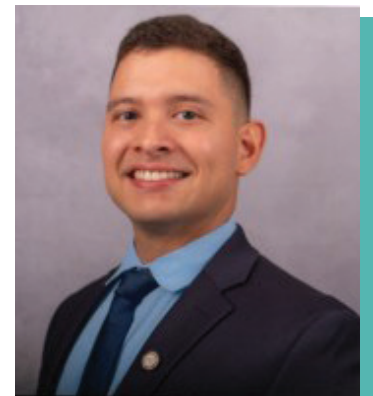
DR. MARIO TORRES, '17: FROM CCM TO RESIDENCY

When Dr. Mario Torres enrolled at CCM, he was not sure what direction to take, though he had always been drawn to the sciences. He began in Biotechnology, but after thoughtful guidance from his advisor, he switched to Biology, a decision that changed the course of his life. Professors like Dr. Kelly, Dr. Hudzik, and Dr. Isaza nurtured his curiosity and built the foundation that has supported every step of his academic and professional journey.

After CCM, Dr. Torres transferred to East Stroudsburg University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in biology with a concentration in laboratory medicine and a minor in chemistry. At the same time, he worked full-time at Newton Medical Center, starting as a patient transport and advancing to clinical laboratory scientist. This experience prepared him to pursue his Doctor of Medicine at St. George's University in Grenada, which he recently obtained.

Now a **first-year internal medicine resident at St. Joseph's Hospital in Paterson, NJ**, Dr. Torres is working toward a fellowship in gastroenterology or pulmonology/critical care. Inspired by the sacrifices of his parents, he hopes to serve communities like the one he grew up in — underserved, underrepresented and deeply in need of care.

"CCM gave me the confidence to believe I could achieve big things," Dr. Torres reflects



Dr. Mario Torres, '17

LIZ DECOURSEY, '88: LEADING WITH PURPOSE AT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

When Liz DeCoursey first enrolled at CCM in 1986, she was drawn by the college's prominence, even though she grew up just over the county line in Sussex County. "I chose CCM because it had such a great reputation," she recalls.

At CCM, Liz pursued a degree in Business Administration, a foundation that would shape her professional path. Liz says her time at the college was instrumental in her growth. "It helped me to begin establishing who I was and what I wanted to do after high school in a larger and more diverse population. It exposed me to new ideas and experiences."

After graduating in 1988, Liz continued her education at Centenary College in Hackettstown, further expanding her business knowledge and skills. Her career path has been anything but linear, spanning early roles in administrative and secretarial work through temporary agencies, to becoming a small business owner and entrepreneur, and ultimately rising to her current role as **CEO of Greater Middlesex & Morris Habitat for Humanity**, a nonprofit real estate developer. In January, Liz celebrated 20 years at the organization.



Liz DeCoursey, '88

In her leadership position, Liz oversees the Randolph based organization's efforts to build and scale affordable housing opportunities that strengthen individuals, families and communities, a mission that reflects her lifelong dedication to service and empowerment. "I look back fondly at my time at CCM and the real-life lessons I learned about the importance of networking and relationship building. Something I continue to embrace to this day," she adds.

Liz continues to support CCM by attending events and through community collaborations connected to her organization. Her story highlights how a strong foundation at CCM can serve as a springboard to leadership, impact and meaningful work that transforms lives.

THE POWER OF GIVING

A NEW ERA FOR HEALTHCARE EDUCATION

This past October, County College of Morris celebrated the dedication of its new 80,000-square-foot **Center for Health Professions (CHP)**, set to open in Winter 2027. Designed with advanced labs and simulation spaces modeled after today's leading medical centers, the CHP will prepare students for high-demand careers in Dental Hygiene, Dental Assisting, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Medical Assisting and more, while expanding the college's current programs in Nursing, Radiography, Respiratory Therapy, Emergency Services and Paramedic Science.

Built through strong state, county, and industry partnerships, Senators Anthony M. Bucco, Joseph Pennacchio, Paul A. Sarlo, and former Senator Steve V. Oroho each played an instrumental role in paving the path for this project to break ground. The center represents a promise to students: providing high-quality education without saddling students with debt and leading directly to meaningful careers. Jack Hermann, current CCM nursing student, shared his genuine excitement about the project, and how being the recipient of a scholarship has been instrumental in his academic and professional success: "It has helped me in more ways than I can explain and has allowed me to continue to pursue my dream of helping people...and is affordable for anyone pursuing their passion."

The center is slated to enroll an additional 1,500 students each year with graduates strengthening workforce development and addressing healthcare shortages. This project will enable CCM to invest in healthier communities and brighter futures for Morris County and beyond. If you are interested in partnering with CCM's Business or Culinary programs, contact the Foundation today.



Center for Health Professions Building Dedication Ceremony



Delta Dental of New Jersey awards one million dollars to CCM.

HISTORY MADE AT CCM

February marked a historic milestone for CCM with a **\$1 million gift from the Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation** to support the launch of two new programs, Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene, within the forthcoming Center for Health Professions. This gift represents the largest corporate foundation grant in County College of Morris history and builds on the \$100,000 SMILE grant awarded in August 2024 to help establish these programs. Together, this support creates transformative opportunities to prepare the next generation of dental professionals to meet the region's growing oral health needs and strengthen the future workforce.

ONE COLLEGE, ONE COMMUNITY, ONE SPECIAL NIGHT

On April 30, the CCM Foundation welcomed community leaders, alumni, sponsors and friends to its Annual Gala at the Park Avenue Club in Florham Park. The event celebrated the power of community and raised critical support for CCM students, programs, and initiatives shaping the future of education in Morris County. The Foundation also honored distinguished individuals and organizations whose contributions have made a profound and lasting impact on CCM:

- **Community Partner Award - Crum & Forster**
- **Philanthropy Award - Gilead Foundation**
- **Alumnus of the Year Award - Hurley Fox, '15**
- **Dr. Edward J. Yaw Leadership Award - Marcela I. Lenox**



Foundation Gala

Attendees were treated to the talents of our CCM student ambassadors; dazzled by a song and dance performance, chocolate treats created by our culinary students, and our visual arts students displayed impressive artwork in the evening's student showcase. The new CCM Foundation video sharing the impact of philanthropy was also debuted that evening.

The CCM Foundation extends heartfelt thanks to all who attended and contributed, as support helps fund scholarships, drives groundbreaking initiatives, and makes education more accessible and impactful for all.



COMMUNITY IMPACT



TITAN'S TABLE

ARE YOU HUNGRY?
Do you ever worry if you or your family will run out of food?
HELP IS AVAILABLE!

CCM
Interfaith Food Pantry Network
Morris County Vocational School District
Hope. Future. Success.

CCM CARES ABOUT FOOD INSECURITY

This past Thanksgiving, the CCM community was honored to partner with Table of Hope, helping to raise over \$1,500 and distribute holiday food and pantry staples to over 500 families facing food insecurity across Morris County.



Titan's Table is CCM's on-campus food pantry available to the entire campus community with fresh produce, dairy, canned goods, and more. Consider a donation to keep Titan's Table stocked so students do not have to choose between their next meal or their education.

FOOTPRINTS IN TIME: DOVER'S HISTORY THROUGH STUDENT EYES

Over 150 community members attended the opening of "Footprints in Time," a historical photography exhibit at CCM's Gallery featured nearly 100 images restored from glass negatives from late 1800s Dover using digitization techniques in CCM's photography studio. In collaboration with CCM, **College Promise Program** students and the Dover Historical Society, the project brought history and artifacts to life giving students a hands-on opportunity to demonstrate the power of community-based learning in action. CCM's College Promise Program expands access to post-secondary education and preparation for academic and career success for students in the Dover and Morristown communities.



"Footprints in Time" gallery opening

A HISTORIC HOME, A LASTING MISSION

The **CCM Foundation** is proud to call the historic **Dalrymple House** its new home. Built in the mid-1920s by John and Jennie Hedden Dalrymple, the home once sat at the heart of a thriving family ice delivery business that spanned three generations. In 1967, the Dalrymple family sold 118 acres of their property, including the house, to County College of Morris. Today, this space rich in tradition begins a new chapter as the CCM Foundation now houses its offices here. The Foundation will continue advancing scholarships, programs and initiatives that support our students and strengthen our community for generations to come.



CCM Foundation Staff

FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER LEADERSHIP CONTINUES TO GROW

Mari Marques-Thomas is Vice President, Impact & Belonging for **Crum & Forster** in Morristown, NJ, where she leads enterprise-wide efforts to strengthen culture, engagement, and social impact in support of C&F's values and objectives. She previously held executive leadership roles at Wyndham Hotel & Resorts, including Vice President of Social Responsibility & Talent Development. A recipient of the Tri-State Diversity Multi-Cultural Leadership Award and recognized as a 2021 Top 25 Leading Women in Entrepreneur of NJ for her inclusion efforts in a corporate environment, she has served on non-profit and professional boards and advisory councils.

Crum & Forster has long been an advocate in supporting CCM students, providing considerable financial support towards the College Promise Program.



Mari Marques-Thomas

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GOLF
CLASSIC
October 5, 2026
 Spring Brook Country Club



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