

The CCMemo

County College of Morris Employee Newsletter



CCM EVENTS

[Admissions Virtual Open Houses](#)

November 14

[Board of Trustees](#)

November 17

Public Session, 6:45 p.m.

College Council Meeting

November 19

12:30 p.m.

Via Zoom: <https://ccm-edu.zoom.us/j/91606424617>

Or by Phone: 646 876 9923

Meeting ID: 916 0642 4617

Passcode: 063037

[The Laramie Project](#)

Thursday, November 19

Friday, November 20

7:30 p.m.

ocelot™
FEATURING

Questions?

Ask Titus Talks!
24/7/365

www.ccm.edu/#bot

COUNTY COLLEGE OF MORRIS

Titus Talks Chatbot Will Be Returning to the CCM Website

When COVID-19 first struck New Jersey, CCM included a chatbot, Titus Talks, on its website to help answer questions about how the college was responding to the pandemic and what resources were being made available as it moved to a virtual teaching and learning format.

“CCM is dedicated to providing students with resources and services to improve their educational experience and journey,” notes Dr. Bette Simmons, vice president of Student Development and Enrollment Management. “In the current and every-changing environment, it’s imperative that students get answers quickly as they make decisions for their educational future. CCM recognizes, for students, questions can’t wait.”

As part of an effort to assist students with getting their questions answered quickly, Titus Talks will be returning to www.ccm.edu – but this time to provide answers to a broader range of questions, from the admissions and enrollment processes, to accessing available financial aid, to understanding tuition costs, to becoming familiar with various student support services and more. The chatbot will be available to answer questions, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year for students, prospective students, their families and other website visitors.

Chatbots use artificial intelligence (AI) to answers commonly asked questions. Answers to the questions will be immediate and include links to the relevant resources. Students will recognize the CCM Mascot, Titus, as they use the chatbot to navigate through the website. Additionally, there are links to CCM’s social media pages.

The college anticipates implementing the chatbot in early December in time for the heightened 2021 Spring Semester registration period. Titus Talks will give the college the means to respond quickly to students and their families, while allowing CCM staff to be more available to provide direct assistance to those individuals seeking support for a successful educational experience. CCM has contracted with [Ocelot](#) to provide the chatbot. Ocelot is the chatbot most used in higher education.

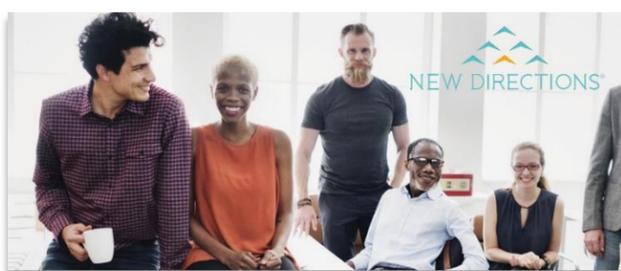
STUDENT SERVICES

The Library

[In-Person and Remote Service](#)

Online Tutoring Center

More information click [here](#).



Employee Assistance Program Offers Videos on a Range of Topics

New Directions, the college’s new Employee Assistance Program, offers webinars each month on a wide array of topics that can help you feel less stressed, more confident and think differently about life at home and work. Such strategies become especially important when work and home are the same place and seems to blend together. Sign up for one class or sign up for several. Each session is offered at two different times. Register for the one most convenient for you. Go to eap.ndbh.com and enter the company code: ccm. Once on the site, scroll down to the purple box “Check out our webinars” and sign up. You will receive an email confirmation.

Faculty and Staff Meetings

For those who were unable to attend our most recent staff and faculty meetings, the links listed below will take you to a video recording. One of the key takeaways of these meetings is our post-Thanksgiving campus arrangements. Please be familiar with campus operations for the two-week period after the holiday. This information was also shared in last week’s and this week’s CCMemo. These arrangements have been put in place to support our #1 priority of protecting the health and well-being of our campus community by minimizing risks associated with COVID-19. My thanks to each of you for upholding campus safety protocols and adhering to CDC guidelines. Happy Thanksgiving!

Tony

Faculty Zoom Meeting

<https://youtu.be/iwYVwbDFf0A>

Staff Zoom Meeting

<https://youtu.be/lZzRCCH8aAQ>



Faculty Spotlight

Sharing an Appreciation for the Universal Language that Is Math

Dr. Chung Wong, who teaches math from beginning algebra to upper-level calculus, has the

experience to reach both those who struggle with the subject and those who share his passion for mathematics.

When his family moved to the U.S. from Hong Kong so he and his brother could get a better education, he was 11, did not know much English and found school difficult at first. It is that sensitivity he brings to students who struggle with math. For those with an appreciation for the subject, he brings an enthusiasm for the field that is such an essential part of life and used by people around the world.

He notes that studying math is like learning a language. Instead of learning the alphabet, then how to form sentences and next how to write an essay, you learn numbers, then simple equations – such as addition, subtraction, multiplication and division – and next formulas.

“Math is not mysterious,” he says. “It’s like building a house. First, you set the foundation and move on from there. Math is cumulative. You learn the basics and you build upon that.”

He also likes to stress to his students that they do not need to be perfect, sharing that even the best 3-point shooters in basketball don’t make all their shots.

As an undergraduate at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ), Wong initially planned to earn an engineering degree. Then he took some math courses taught by “really good professors” and realized he wanted to go deeper than knowing formulas.

“I wanted to understand why formulas work,” he says. He also developed a profound appreciation for how math is central to so many aspects of life. Engineers, scientists, investors, data analysts, computer programmers, supply chain managers and professionals in numerous other fields use it. We also use it when we balance our budget, figure out the tip for the server at a restaurant and in many more aspects of our lives.

He decided he wanted to pursue a career as a professor while serving as a teaching assistant at Drexel University as he worked on his Ph.D. “I realized I wanted to show people how math is done and I really enjoy that moment when you can tell a student has figured out what you are teaching.”

He also is grateful for the opportunity he had after earning his Ph.D. to teach as a visiting professor at TCNJ. “The experience of being mentored by professors I knew made me more receptive to hearing their feedback on how I could be a better teacher.”

Learning to be a better teacher, he says, is something he experiences with every class he teaches. “Teaching is not a fixed thing. Every time you teach a class, you learn something new. I really enjoy that and the opportunity teaching provides to share knowledge.”



December Live Webinars

TIAA is offering live webinars - open to all employees - on various topics in December. These webinars are posted to the Live Webinar Lounge www.tiaa.org/webinars and are available for registration.

Topics include:

- Inside Money:** Managing Income and Debt
- Lifetime Income:** Market proof your retirement
- Postcards from the Future:** A woman's guide to financially ever after.

Remember to Register Your Campus Visitors with Public Safety

Managing visitors on campus is an important part of maintaining the safety and welfare of the CCM community. Please help Public Safety to streamline this process by using its visitor registration system:

- Register visitors in the Public Safety Employee and Visitor Registration system at <https://bit.ly/RegisterVisitor> -- you may want to bookmark that page. A link to the form also can be found on the Public Safety page on the CCM website at www.ccm.edu/public-safety/.
- Direct visitors to stop at Public Safety located near Parking Lot 10 for temperature screening and to receive a visitor’s pass.

Public Safety will confirm the identification of visitors, match them against the list generated from its system, provide temperature screening and help them get to their final destination.

This system is also used for employees who come to campus, who are not otherwise on a regular on-campus schedule.

Using this system provides CCM with a streamlined process to track the arrival and departure of visitors and share the location information with Plant and Maintenance for cleaning purposes.



Holiday Schedule

The college has set the following holiday schedule for employees with the goal of maximizing the safety of the campus community during the pandemic. Employees also are asked to continue adhering to the college’s [Infectious Disease Policy](#), CCM’s [Return to Campus Plan](#) and CDC guidelines.

Thanksgiving Break:

- Wednesday, November 24 – Sunday, November 29
- No classes. Offices are closed.
- Offices will operate remotely from Monday, November 30, to Friday, December 14.

Hybrid classes will operate at the discretion of faculty members. Faculty members should work with their deans if they need specific on-campus services during this period. All offices and classes will resume normal schedules after this period.

Winter Break:

Thursday, December 24 - Wednesday, January 6

- Campus is closed.
- Staff begin working on January 7.
- Two-Week Winterim classes begin January 4.



For Your Viewing Pleasure

Heroes and Healers – CCM’s Veterans Day Celebration

https://youtu.be/H4v_OGH6iL0

Eric Hates Games - Mystery and Wonder

In this episode, Eric and Andreas talk about games that are full of mystery and how games are one of the last places to experience wonder in the 21st Century.

<https://youtu.be/FecyOpoNNcc>

CCM All Access

Guest Jenna Curran discusses her role as Student Government President.

<https://youtu.be/9JBtoQ8mEEk>

HR CORNER

RETIREMENT CONSULTATIONS WITH NEW JERSEY STATE APPROVED VENDORS

Save for retirement – Receive free, no pressure retirement counseling sessions. Make your appointment today. You do not need to be a member to speak with the representatives.

Equitable representative Mark Sheridan is available at all 908-230-2042 or email marc.sheridan@axa-advisors.com.

MassMutual (formerly Hartford) representative Kenneth Quarnaccio is available at 848-248-4313 or email kquarnaccio@gittermanwealth.com.

MetLife/Brighthouse representative David Sharpe is available at 973-575-3254 or email dsharpe@financialguide.com.

Prudential

Call 732-428-2314 or email alicia.smith@prudential.com to make an individual appointment to discuss ABP or DCRP investments.

TIAA representative Tatiana Novozhilova is available at 800-732-8353 or visit www.TIAA.org/schedulenow to make an appointment.

TIAA is offering virtual meetings through Adobe Connect which allows employees to follow along as representatives work with them to navigate their investments. If you need to schedule or change an appointment, please go to

https://shared.tiaa.org/public/public_tools/events/virtualesessions?eventPlanID=1-9ZR044V/.

VALIC representative MaryAnn Bradford is available for individual appointments. Call 908-470-4114 or email Maryann.bradford@valic.com

VOYA representative John Murray is available for individual appointments.

To make an appointment email johnmurray@voyafa.com or call 609-234-3369.

**Diversity Committee
Brownbag Lunch Speaker Series**

PLAGIARISM

How to Approach Plagiarism in a Multicultural Classroom

Join the Diversity Committee for an informal brownbag lunch where they will discuss plagiarism and pose questions about approaching the topic with students from different cultural backgrounds.

Presenters: James Hart, Jill Schennum, Maryam Alikhani
Tuesday November 17, 12:30 - 1:45 p.m.

RSVP: diversitycommittee@ccm.edu



**WOMEN'S CENTER ANNOUNCES
ANNUAL "ANGELS" PROJECT**

The Women's Center at CCM is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit program that offers a variety of programs and services to assist individuals who need to become financially independent so they can support themselves and their children. Most have been out of the workforce for years, maintaining the household and raising their children. They have lost the financial support of a spouse often due to divorce, separation, domestic violence or a disability. They find themselves as single parents who want desperately to find a job and start their lives with a new beginning.

Since the pandemic began, The Women's Center has continued to provide services on a virtual basis. The stress of homeschooling and the pandemic has particularly impacted this population.

Please share in the spirit of the season by donating gift cards to help these women celebrate the holidays and provide for their families. All varieties of gift cards, in any amount, are greatly appreciated. Popular gift card donations are for department stores like Target, Walmart, Kohl's, supermarkets and Visa/MC gift cards. All donations are given directly to participants in need.

Donations must be received by December 11. Please include your name, department, and phone extension with your donation. Donations may be sent via inter-office mail, by dropping them off at SCC Room 115 between 9 - 3 p.m. on Tuesdays when Women's Center employees are on campus, or by mailing them to the Women's Center. Thank you for your generous contributions.

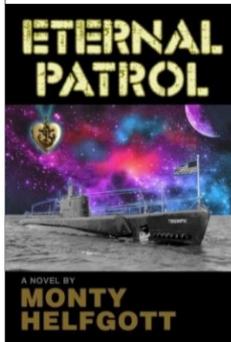


**Table of Hope to Conduct Thanksgiving
Food Distribution at CCM**

Table of Hope, with the support of local officials, businesses, agencies and volunteers, will be holding a Thanksgiving food distribution, including turkeys, fresh produce, can goods and dairy for a holiday meal, at CCM on Saturday, November 21.

The food distribution, open to Morris County residents, takes place from 10:30 a.m. to noon in Parking Lot 1 on the CCM campus. Visitors are asked to use CCM's Center Grove Road entrance. The distribution will operate as a no-questions asked, contactless drive-through event with cars stopping at different food stations categorized by food type. Visitors only need to open the trunk of their car to have boxes of food placed there by volunteers. Also to be distributed are hats and gloves for the colder months. [Read more.](#)

**Adjunct Professor Receives Two
National Awards**



Jon Weiman, an award-winning graphic designer and an adjunct professor at County College of Morris (CCM), now has two more national awards to add to his recognitions.

Weiman has received two 2020 American Graphic Design awards from Graphic Design USA for a book cover he designed for "Eternal Patrol," a book written by Floridian author Monty Helfgott, and a Bat Mitzvah invitation he created. This marks the seventh award he has received from Graphic Design USA during the course of his career and the 22nd award he has received overall. At CCM, he teaches Freelancing for Designers. [Read more.](#)



What new allied health program will CCM be launching in Spring 2021?

Email aognibene@ccm.edu with your answer. First three correct submissions will receive a CCM canvas bag. Please include your room number with your answer.

NOTICES FOR CCMEMO

Email material to both Kathleen Brunet at kbrunet@ccm.edu and Theresa Gehring at tgehring@ccm.edu.

Submissions must be received by 3 p.m. Wednesday.

Looking for past issues of the CCMemo? [Find them here.](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

Help us communicate all of the good things happening at CCM by liking, sharing or commenting on the college's social media posts and pages.

