

VANGUARD

Official Newsletter of the Adjunct Faculty Association at Nassau Community College
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*WE CARE
About Our Students,
Our Members,
Our College*

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

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From the President's Desk



Stefan Krompier

We, the AFA, do not endorse candidates running for elected office, however, we do take statements/essays from candidates who have demonstrated their support for us and the college. As such, the AFA has reached out to both party leaders inviting them to solicit statements from their candidates for publication in our *Vanguard*. Please consider the content of each of the submissions you find below as you determine the individuals for whom you will cast your vote on Tuesday, November 5th.

Stefan Krompier
President
Adjunct Faculty Association

Don Clavin Candidate For Town of Hempstead Supervisor

I AM RUNNING FOR THE SUPERVISOR FOR THE TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD, WHICH IS SITUATED BY NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE. TO ME NCC HAS BEEN THE LIFEBLOOD FOR ALL THE RESIDENTS OF THIS GREAT TOWN AND COUNTY. I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE A GREAT SUPPORTER OF NCC.

IF ELECTED AS TOWN SUPERVISOR MY TEAM WILL LOOK FOR BETTER WAYS TO ENGAGE THE COLLEGE THROUGH INTERNSHIPS FOR STUDENTS AS WELL AS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES UPON GRADUATION.

As the Town Receiver of Taxes I have dutifully serving the residents of America's largest township since 2001, making the process of paying property taxes more convenient. Additionally, I have helped thousands of homeowners to lower their taxes by hosting seminars on challenging property tax assessments and filing for property tax exemptions.

As Receiver of Taxes, I was committed to enhancing service while being fiscally responsible. Under my leadership, two satellite tax offices were created in Lawrence and Hicksville, in addition to extending office hours from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the tax payment seasons for the convenience of taxpayers. I utilized Hempstead Town's Mobile Town Hall to collect taxes at various senior citizen centers and other convenient locations. I also implemented e-mail and text message reminder programs to help taxpayers make timely tax payments. These initiatives are just a few of the many ways I worked to make the tax office more accessible to the Town's residents. For my accomplishments, I was named one of "Long Island's 40 rising stars" by Long Island Business News.

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, I successfully urged former Gov. George Pataki to sign an executive order that extended time for tax payments for the affected families. In 2002, I proposed and obtained state legislation known as "The Clavin Law," that requires banks to be financially responsible for residents' tax penalties if they do not notify their mortgage customers of their legal rights and responsibilities upon approval of their mortgage.

Long a champion of the taxpayer, I recently crafted legislation to eliminate the 10-year "sunset" clause for Hempstead Town's veterans receiving the Cold War Veterans Property Tax Exemption. Approved by the Hempstead Town Board in March 2018, Hempstead Town's qualifying veterans will now be granted the exemption permanently as long as the veteran or un-remarried surviving spouse remains a homeowner.

Most recently, I lobbied for state and county support to increase income eligibility levels for the Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption and the Persons with Disabilities and Limited Incomes Exemption. The increased in-

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come eligibility levels would bring Nassau in line with New York City eligibility limits. The proposed legislation would provide Nassau homeowners with the same level of property tax relief that our neighbors in New York City currently enjoy. I am especially proud to say that I partnered with NYS Assemblywoman Missy Miller, to put forth a proposal to amend to the Home Improvement Tax Reduction for the Physically Disabled Exemption

I also earned valuable experience in local government while working in the Office of the Nassau County Attorney as Deputy County Attorney. There, I was responsible for defending various agencies of government ranging from the Department of General Services to the Nassau County Police Department.

Kate Murray Candidate For Hempstead Town Clerk

As one of seven children born to an FBI agent and a homemaker, NCC represented an excellent way to receive the best education at the lowest possible cost. After receiving their Associates Degrees two of my brothers moved on to the University of Massachusetts and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a sister of mine graduated from NCC and moved on to Cornell University. Lastly, and in an example of the broad spectrum of students that NCC attracts, my mother attended NCC in her middle years after having raised seven children. NCC was my mother's opportunity to experience college and receive the education that she had foregone before marriage.

After a wonderful experience at NCC, she continued onto Columbia University where she earned her BA in history, and my mother has said unequivocally that she received an excellent education at NCC and would match any NCC professor, whether full-time or adjunct, against any Columbia professor in terms of excellence and professionalism.

That is why I am so proud of NCC and the wonderful adjunct professors, support and professional staff it employs. Adjunct professors in particular are uniquely important to NCC because of the real life experiences they bring to the classroom, and the cutting edge knowledge they impart from their outside work life. An adjunct professor brings real-time experience to the NCC student, providing them with a sound foundation in their quest to move on to university or into the working world.

I believe that NCC is an excellent institution of higher learning which has been both the jewel in the crown of Nassau County, and the unsung hero to thousands of students who attend. It was that way in my own family. NCC has literally been the hand up to thousands of students, and the beacon of hope for those who would otherwise be shut out of the opportunity to pursue the dream of a college education.

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NCC must prosper as an institution because it has saved too many people--young, old and every age in between--and improved the lives of so many. It is in that spirit that I thank the adjunct professors and all of the professional and support staff represented by the fine leadership of the AFA for the life-saving work you do both in and out of the classroom.

My name is Kate Murray and I am running for election as Hempstead Town Clerk. My first stint as Town Clerk was 17 years ago, followed by 13 years as Hempstead Supervisor. I started my public life as an Assemblywoman, 19th District and, in each of those positions, I was the first woman elected to those positions. I was proud to call NCC my work home for three years and will always cherish my experience there.

In my elected life, I have been and will always remain a supporter of NCC and, having been part of the NCC family myself, I am that much more dedicated to supporting its mission, its adjunct faculty membership, and the tremendous contributions you make to the success of our own jewel in the crown!

Erin Guida Candidate for the Town of Oyster Bay Town Council

My name is Erin Guida and I am running for the Town of Oyster Bay Town Council and I would like to thank the Adjunct Faculty Association for reaching out to me and offering me the chance to introduce myself.

In the heart of Long Island we are grateful to Nassau Community College and all that it offers to our community. At 17 and 18 years of age, it can be tough to decide what you want to do for the rest of your life. By offering an excellent education and valuable life skills, students can begin to explore career options that suit them at NCC. While providing many course options that are available during the day, evening, weekends and online, any student is able to begin or continue their education at affordable prices while fitting it into life's busy schedule.

My mother was an elementary teacher for over 25 years and she taught me, from a young age, the value of an education. Currently, I am involved in my children's school district not only as a PTA mom but also sitting on district wide committees including the Policy Committee and Safety Committee. I work directly with Board of Education members and administrators as a parent liaison because I believe when we all work together it benefits the children to the fullest and we can shape the future of each student's education in the Hicksville Public schools.

As a school community advocate, I believe adding more voices to the table adds value to the conversation in a

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teaching community and could lead to a new kind of education that is more inclusive. Adjunct Professors bring much to the table in offering a quality, higher learning environment for students based on practice, work experience and intimate knowledge of the field. I believe we should be looking for ways to offer the same give back as colleagues to our co-workers. Continued academic professional development and curriculum development guidance opportunities are a couple of items I would like to see offered to Adjuncts which in turn would benefit the school community and our community, generally.

Lastly, I would like to see our newly graduated students and rising workforce have the opportunity to stay on Long Island. The affordability of Long Island is pricing many of our young professionals out. As we watch millennials finish up college and look for jobs, it must be a priority to ensure they can afford a place to live on the Island.

As a council person for the Town of Oyster Bay, I would see more transit oriented housing is built for our millennials who are entering the workforce. Transit oriented housing could also create a broader tax base which would lower taxes enabling others, including Seniors, the opportunity to continue to afford to live here on Long Island.

Again, I am Erin Guida and I thank you for this opportunity and encourage anyone to reach out to me with thoughts and or comments at electeringuida@gmail.com.

Melissa McCardle Candidate for Council in the Town of Oyster Bay

My name is Melissa McCardle and I am running for Town Council in the Town of Oyster Bay. I have been a full time Professor at Molloy College for the past twelve years and have spent my career as a social worker in service to my community, through direct practice, healthcare administration and now in the college classroom. I decided to run for local government office because I believe we need leaders who can work collaboratively on the challenges we face in our region and who are trained in creating partnerships in the community to assure all residents have a voice in the policy decisions that impact them most.

Nassau Community College is a very important part of our community, as the largest single-campus community college in New York State. This institution is responsible for graduating approximately 1 million students and therefore has a very significant impact on our current and future workforce. I know the value of a Nassau Commu-

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nity College education as I am the former Program Director of our Social Work Department. The majority of our students have transferred to Molloy after graduating from Nassau Community College. The skills and knowledge those students transfer in with is truly impressive. I am grateful for their level of preparedness when they begin social work courses at Molloy.

Nassau Community College is also responsible for employing many members of our community through faculty, staff and administrative positions. The contributions of adjunct faculty cannot be overstated. Adjunct faculty contribute to student development in so many ways in and out of the classroom. It is essential that there are partners at the local government level who recognize the value these contributions to both the college and to the community as a whole. As a partner in higher education, I will consistently support policies that assure good pay and benefits as well as equitable workloads for all adjunct faculty. Although as a Councilwoman, I will not directly legislate these types of benefits, I will be a supportive voice to my County and State legislative partners to assure we have policies in place to protect adjunct faculty. My track record demonstrates my commitment to adjunct faculty in our program at Molloy, as I was the faculty member who developed and coordinated the adjunct faculty programming and mentoring program for many years. The primary goal of this program has been to assure that our adjunct faculty experience an inclusive environment and know that they are essential to all of the work we do our Department. As an elected leader, I will continue to support all efforts in public institutions to assure the same type of environment for all adjunct faculty.

I am grateful for this opportunity to share my experience in higher education and the important work that I hope to do when elected to Town Council in the Town of Oyster Bay. I look forward to partnering on ways we can work together to support our students and our community.

Eve Lupenko Ferrante Candidate for City Council in Glen Cove:

Without a doubt, I believe that education is a key factor in the future success of a child. As a physician, my education will never end because I need to continually keep abreast of all the latest information needed to properly care for my patients. Personally, I finished medical school at age 26, finished my medical studies and training at age 30, and have spent every day since then learning! I enjoy mentoring young adults who shadow me in my office, and am always available to give advice to young patients who want to discuss their future. By giving them guidance, academic advice and emotional support, I can encourage them to advance themselves so they can always be secure and independent. If at all possible for them, I encourage these people to continue their education at an

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institution of higher learning. Also, as a board member of the Glen Cove Community Scholarship Fund, we play a role in providing financial support to students so they can follow their dreams. Nassau Community College is an excellent resource that Nassau County residents can utilize to pursue their post-high school studies. NCC offers so many more resources than just classes alone. Not only does their teaching staff want the students to succeed, but there is a huge resource available in the form of adjunct staff. I encourage students to take advantage of all that NCC offers, including counselors, librarians, labs technicians, technical assistants, and more. There are even interpreters available if English is not the student's first language, and there are financial aid counselors who want to help, too. Nassau Community College offers such a valuable education at a very reasonable rate, and I will continue to advocate for its success in helping our young adults.

Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews
Candidate for Glen Cove City Council

I grew up in a working class family. While education was very much emphasized, it was not something that was taken for granted. My parents were able to help me pay for my first year of college, however, their economic situation was such that being financially supportive beyond the first year was not possible. Consequently, my journey in earning an associate degree, a bachelor's degree, and a master's degree was a journey with many starts and stops. The incremental breaks in my education were not due to choice, but rather due to finances.

With this background, I especially appreciate the value that Nassau Community College brings to our region in offering young students and returning students an opportunity to achieve a quality education at an affordable price. It affords flexibility to those who cannot afford the high and often out-of-reach prices of four-year colleges, and makes a place for those whose journey to a degree is not a "straight line" from high school to college, but who encounter the twists and turns of life.

The success of institutions such as Nassau Community College depend on quality faculty and staff as part of their full-time and part-time work force. This expanse of talent is essential to quality education and must be supported at every turn.

I vividly remember beginning my journey in higher education. I had to petition my high school twice to get permission, but was allowed to skip my senior year of high school via an early admissions program. I attended a two year college (Louisburg College NC), where in addition to my academics, I worked on the school newspaper,

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received several awards, and served as Student Body President.

After graduating, I had to work a year before entering Berea College (KY), one of a handful of “work schools” in our nation - serving high performing students from low-income families. This prepared me to enter a highly competitive master’s program, where I was awarded a full scholarship.

I know firsthand how important it is that all have access to affordable quality education and that we must support the staff, full-time and part-time, that make dreams of a better life a reality. We must always work to make sure residents have the opportunity to achieve their fullest potential in life.

My appreciation to AFA for inviting me to submit this statement.

Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews
Candidate for Glen Cove City Council.

