

Dr. Harris bids farewell to a strong legacy at NCC

By: Kalei Pietraszkiewicz, Editor



Dr. Sedgwick Harris, the Vice President of Administrative Affairs at NCC and a highly influential member of our community, will soon depart to embark on a new chapter as the President of Bristol Community College in Fall River, MA. In his eight years at NCC, Dr. Harris has worked closely with students, faculty, and the broader community to achieve remarkable goals.

"No day is the same or typical," Dr. Harris shared, "but what is common is taking steps to increase access to post-secondary education, workforce development, and lifelong learning for our community."

Dr. Harris's educational journey began at Southwestern Michigan Community College, where he earned an Associate's Degree in General Studies. He transferred to Northwestern Oklahoma State University, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communications, and then pursued a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership at Western Michigan University. He ultimately

achieved a Doctor of Education in Community College Leadership at Ferris State University.

Reflecting on his own experience as a first-generation college student, Dr. Harris explained, "It was tough finding my way," but luckily, he found the support he needed to succeed. He credits Carol Churchill, who mentored him throughout the process: "She taught me the college process, terminology, time management, and where to find student support resources when no clear answers were available. Because of her unwavering support, I wanted to repay her—but she only asked that I pay it forward. Twenty-eight years later, I continue the work she once did for me: providing access to education and increasing student success and outcomes."

To gain valuable teaching experience, Dr. Harris worked as an adjunct professor and continued to pursue his career in higher education, serving as Vice President of Student Services at previous colleges. His work was marked by notable achievements, including the publication of "Ferris Student University Doctoral in Community College Leadership," in the *Perspectives Journal* in 2016.

Also in 2016, Dr. Harris joined Northampton Community College as Vice President of Student Affairs & Enrollment. His role evolved in 2022 when he was appointed Vice President of Administrative Affairs, a position he holds today. During his tenure, he taught Introduction to Communications and Skills for Academic Success, all while making significant contributions to improving student success, campus security, and the overall daily experience of the NCC community.

Dr. Harris highlights two key

accomplishments that have had a significant impact on the student body. Before his arrival, NCC provided academic advising only to full-time students. Recognizing the need for change to better support student success, Dr. Harris helped the redesign of the academic advising framework to ensure that all students, regardless of their status, had access to advising. This change has contributed to improved student retention, persistence rates, and degree completion.

Secondly, Dr. Harris, with the support of the Board of Trustees and former President Mark Erickson, played a pivotal role in enhancing campus safety by implementing a new approach to public safety. One significant change was transitioning campus public safety officers from unarmed to armed positions. "It was a challenging process," Dr. Harris noted, "as the college community had never experienced firearms on campus." To ensure a careful and responsible transition, a systemic approach was developed, where firearms were only allocated to officers who passed an intensive series of tests and interviews. "Since implementing this policy, we have been able to maintain a safe and secure campus over the last seven years," Dr. Harris added.

A program that Dr. Harris is particularly proud of being a part of implementing at NCC is the wrestling program. This year, both men's and women's wrestling teams were established. Dr. Harris said, "With the support of the college, I foresee this program becoming a national powerhouse in the near future." He also expressed his appreciation for Mr. Troy Tucker, Director of Athletics, for his crucial role in bringing this sport to the college.

Dr. Harris was honored to be nominated by the Bethlehem chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and named one of 15 Administrator of the Year award recipients. Another accomplishment he's particularly proud of is his work with the Presidential Ambassadors Scholarship Program. "It was rewarding to watch students come in as freshmen and then see them either transition to a four-year university or enter the workforce," he reflected.

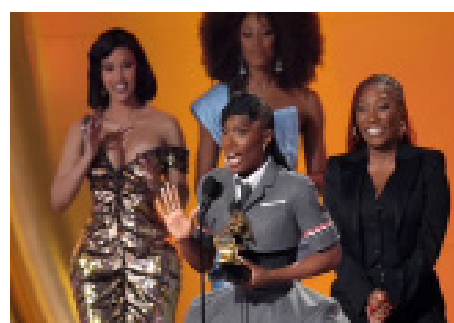
There have been many challenges over the years, but one that stands out to Dr. Harris was during the Covid-19 pandemic. His staff was understandably scared, as the virus had taken the lives of so many. However, when the college closed on March 16th, 2020, the Student Affairs Division continued to serve students remotely. New processes and procedures were quickly set up, to ensure the safety of both students and staff. As well as organized regular meetings to keep everyone informed of their roles, and implemented new student safety protocols for student housing, the return of employees to campus, and athletics.

Not only will Dr. Harris's contributions leave a lasting legacy at NCC, but his efforts have also positively impacted the lives of both students and staff—as he will continue to do so in his new role. For those aspiring to reach a position as significant as his, Dr. Harris advises, "You need to be ready to roll up your sleeves and get your hands dirty, as the work requires effort, creative thinking, a humble and growth-oriented mindset, and a servant leader's heart." As he embarks on this new chapter, Dr. Harris is wished the best of luck in all his future endeavors.



First-ever home wrestling meet!

See pg. 5



Black artists sweep the Grammys!

See pg. 6



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By: Amelia Nagle, Writer

Squid – Cowards (Experimental Rock) - 4/5

Squid have consistently performed in the shadows of the larger, more heavily awarded peers in UK-based experimental music, but their third studio album, *Cowards*, sees them finally reach the same heights as bands like Black Country, New Road, and English Teacher without sacrificing their own identity. A jazz-y rhythm section and a mid-to-late-1970s New York style of post-punk, combined with some psychedelic tendencies that feel just as rooted in European electronic music as they do in the genre's modern form make this one of the more exciting releases Britain has given the world so far this year.

FKA Twigs – *Eusexua* (Art Pop) - 3/5

FKA Twigs' latest effort has wound up being her most highly charted album to date, and it isn't hard to see why. *Eusexua* is still the same glitchy, experimental pop music that has made Twigs such a beloved and esoteric figure, but it also features some of the most danceable rhythms and accessible instrumentals of her career. While the quality of the record fluctuates from one song to the next ("Drums of Death" is excellent, "Room of Fools" is mediocre at best), the overall listening experience is enjoyable.

The Weeknd – *Hurry Up Tomorrow* (Pop/R&B) - 2.5/5

Abel Tesfaye's supposed final studio album as The Weeknd is a serviceable finale to the trilogy that began with *After Hours* in 2020 and continued in 2022 with *Dawn FM*, but it winds up being a relatively unremarkable finish for the persona he has been building for years. With technically impressive vocal work and production standards high as ever, *Hurry Up Tomorrow* feels too repetitive and self-indulgent to warrant a bloated track list of 22 songs, for a little less than an hour-and-a-half run-time.

Dream Theater – *Parasomnia* (Progressive Metal) - 2/5

As structurally impressive and sonically boring as they've ever been, Dream Theater's latest effort does admittedly attempt to wade into some new waters and deliver some symphonic metal influences that they've only recently started introducing to their sound. Beyond that, *Parasomnia* is just another Dream Theater album that feels like an excuse to show off their technical abilities without much rhyme, reason, or purpose behind it.

Boldy James – *Permanent Ink* (Pop/Rap) - 1.5/5

Boldy James has put out some of the best records that the entire genre of rap has had to offer in recent years. 2020's *Manger on McNichols* stands as one of the greatest rap albums of the decade thus far and an essential for anyone remotely interested in the non-mainstream side of the genre. Therefore, it's a shame to see him relegating himself to an artist that just throws projects into the world effortlessly and hopes that it sticks. His seventh album since January of last year, *Permanent Ink* is a mess of trap instrumentals that don't suit his flow and the same songwriting style he's been bringing to the table for years.

NoMeansNo – *Wrong* (Art Punk) - 5/5

NoMeansNo deserve to be brought up in the average "greatest punk band of all time" conversation much more than the Sex Pistols or Ramones. Manic vocals, bizarre time signature switch-ups, and some of the heaviest basslines I've ever had the privilege of hearing make *Wrong*, their latest, a record for the history books. Just listen to "It's Catching Up" to experience how downright distressing this record can be at times. Don't let the fact that this is their only studio album available on streaming sway you away from giving them a listen!

A hidden gem for Japanese cuisine lovers

By: Jailyn Rodriguez, Writer

Are you a fan of Japanese culture and cuisine? Are you looking for a new place to go while eating out? Well, look no further than just 20 minutes away from campus. Tucked away in the shopping plaza of 281 Town Center Blvd in Easton lies Naruto: Ramen and Bubble Tea.

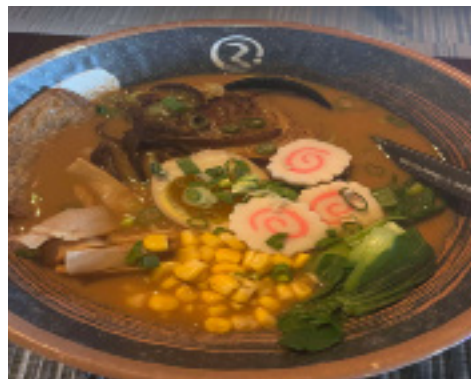
This restaurant features a variety of Japanese dishes such as pork gyoza, Takoyaki, and, of course, ramen. Aside from dishes, they also sell a plethora of different bubble teas suited for individual tastes.

I thankfully came across this restaurant on a whim and tried out their Naruto miso ramen, which was by far the best ramen I've had to date. The flavor was incredibly rich and everything was plated with intent.

To wash down my food, I ordered peach oolong tea, which was so sweet and light. These two things paired greatly together and I was amazed that I didn't feel bloated afterwards.

Not only was the food great, the hospitality was top tier as well. The servers and owner were so considerate and kind. I actually received a complimentary dessert upon finishing my meal: a matcha cheesecake. It was smooth and not too over-bearing, tasting even better with the whipped cream and popping boba pearls it was plated with.

Overall, it was a pleasant experience. If you're a fan of Japanese culture or a foodie, Naruto: Ramen and Bubble Tea is the place for you. Bring some friends and enjoy some delicious cuisine.



Naruto: Ramen and Bubble Tea, located at 281 Town Center Blvd in Easton, PA
Photo by: Jailyn Rodriguez



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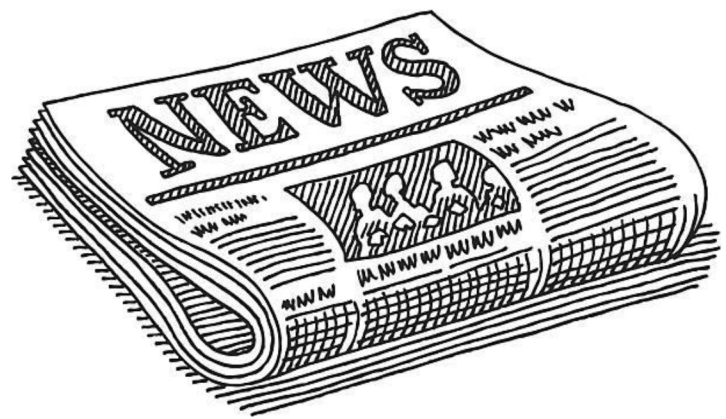
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Meetings every Tuesday: 11:00 AM in CC 135

Spartans defeat Lackawanna in program's inaugural home meet

By: Jacob Sweitzer, Editor

The first-ever wrestling meet hosted by Northampton Community College ended with a Spartan victory as they took down Lackawanna College 30-21 on Feb. 3. Freshman Derek Cruz scored the first win for Northampton at Spartan Center, pinning John Almonte in round one at 157 lbs.

"I was more hyped than ever," said Cruz after his victory. "...You know it's like a conscience that I have to put on a show here for [my family]. My goal was to push the pace and come out with a win."

It took a few rounds to see that first Spartan win, as Lackawanna's Edward Lauritsen and Matt Gashi-Brito won at 125 and 141 lbs by TF (technical fall) and MD (major decision), respectively. Additionally, Connor Ondek scored a pin for the Falcons at 165 lbs. However, Northampton took the win thanks to several forfeits on both sides. A handful of exhibitions were held in place of the forfeited bouts, and the Spartans largely dominated.

Tony Morello (Fr.) secured a quick pin in a 141 lbs exhibition, as did Cesar Acosta (Fr.) and Luke Velekei (Fr.) at 149 and 197 lbs., respectively.

The Spartans' women's wrestlers contributed in their exhibitions as well, with Kaylee Simmons, Sydnei Jones-Proctor, and Hannah Oliver all securing victories by pinfall.

The win puts the Spartans at 2-2 on the year, which is where they

will finish in their inaugural season.

The first win in program history came against Bergen Community College on Jan. 22nd, where they took down the Bulldogs 39-11. Despite competing in only four meets, the program is trending in a positive direction, thanks in part to head coach Shaun Lally.

"I got hired in late April and we missed that whole recruiting cycle [in the off-season]," Coach Lally said. "So, we have just been hyper recruiting, finding anybody that had already been attending [the college] and coming in already in the second semester, [as well as students] who were coming in as traditional true freshmen."

Lally managed to put together a largely homegrown roster, with wrestlers from Bethlehem, Easton, Stroudsburg, and Pen Argyl. "We just started working with everything we have had and everybody that is in this program has picked up a hammer, has gotten to work, and we can't ask for any more from these kids. Everyone has bought in."

Lally is no stranger to building collegiate wrestling programs, nor is he a stranger to NCC. He headed the first-ever wrestling program at Stony Brook University before leading a wrestling resurgence at Muhlenberg College in 2014. On the mat, he qualified for the PIAA state championship at Parkland High School and went on to wrestle

at the University of Pittsburgh for three years. He also wrestled here at Northampton, when wrestling only existed as a club sport competing in the NCWA. Lally was ranked as high as number two in the country at 141 lbs.

Although this first season is near its end, Coach Lally is confident about the position of the program and where it may go. The team fields ten wrestlers, a greater number than most other programs in the NJCAA's Division III.

As for the remainder of the season, the women's wrestlers will face Nassau Community College in

an exhibition on Feb. 15th at Spartan Center. The men's wrestlers will wrap up their season on Feb. 22nd when they travel to Lackawanna to compete in the NJCAA District Championship. Cruz, Morello, and Xavier Arner (who did not compete vs. Lackawanna due to a forfeit) will be looking to add milestone victories to this first-year program that certainly looks ahead of schedule.

Derek Cruz (Orange) pins John Almonte (Blue) during Northampton's dual vs. Lackawanna on Feb. 3 (Photo by: Jacob Sweitzer)



Two ranked wins, late game heroics highlight Spartans' start to 2025

By: Jacob Sweitzer, Editor

The Northampton Community College men's basketball team hadn't faced a lot of trouble since the winter break; however, their chances were looking bleak against Atlantic Cape Community College on Feb. 8.

The Spartans found themselves down seven points with just over four minutes to play in the game. Then, the Spartans methodically led a comeback effort, thanks to a crucial block and free throw from Josh Washington (Fr.), as well as a go-ahead 3 from Nate Rivera (Fr.). Northampton took the win 89-88,

moving them to 20-4 on the season, and 9-2 since the break.

Despite the small hiccup versus Atlantic Cape, the Spartans have been dominant in January and February, posting an average margin of victory of 16 points. Their only losses came on Jan. 25 and 28, with single digit losses to Salem and Brookdale Community Colleges.

Northampton's most impressive win of 2025 came on Feb. 6, when they took down then #5 Montgomery County Community College, 69-54. The Spartans played suffocating defense in the second half, holding

the Mustangs to just 10% from the field. Washington and Abdul Jackson (Fr.) posted double-doubles, while Nasir Ruhani (So.) added 22 points and 8 rebounds.

"Just a tremendous second half effort on the defensive end," remarked Assistant Coach Ray Edwards. "The guys were locked in and really did a great job communicating and closing the gaps."

The win over Montgomery earned Head Coach Brennan McCarthy his 200th career win at NCC, adding to a resume that already includes being the winningest coach in program

history, as well as three Coach of the Year awards and a 4th place finish in the NJCAA National Tournament in 2023.

Northampton picked up another quality win on Jan. 14, when the Spartans took down then #11 Community College of Philadelphia. Northampton outscored the Lions 45-34 in the second half to secure the ranked win on the road.

"Really good team effort tonight on the road against a top-15 opponent," remarked McCarthy.

continued on page 6

"I thought our focus was good. Even when we were down, we continued to fight each possession and were able to make enough plays down the stretch to get a big win."

The heroics in that game came from Nasir Ruhani, who drilled two free throws to seal the win with just three seconds left. Big moments are nothing new for Ruhani, who has been outstanding for the Spartans this season. The 6'5" sophomore is averaging 21 PPG (points per game), as well as 7 RPG (rebounds

per game), almost 3 APG (assists per game), and 2 SPG (steals per game).

Plenty of Spartans have contributed in their own right, as well. Nate Rivera is also averaging double figures and is the team's second-leading scorer. On the defensive end, Washington and Jackson have been causing havoc, each averaging a block and a steal per game. Washington is also among the team's leaders in rebounding, with him, Ruhani, and Ameer Herran (Fr.)

each averaging seven per game.

With the team sitting at 20-4, there are postseason aspirations. The Spartans previously sat as high as #13 in the NJCAA D3 poll before their losses to Salem and Brookdale. They will have their chance to prove themselves on Feb. 15, when they travel to play Union County College, who are currently undefeated in Region XIX and ranked #11 in the country. If the Spartans can pull off a win and put together a great performance in the Region

XIX playoffs next week, they'll certainly be invited to the national tournament.

Coach McCarthy has been there before, and he certainly has the scoring talent and defense needed to make a deep run in the tournament. He's also proven to be able to knock off ranked teams and win in big atmospheres. Regardless of their seeding in both the conference and national tournament, the Northampton Spartans are a threat to make noise in late February-early March.



Nasir Ruhani takes a jumper against Brookdale Community College on Jan. 28
Photo: Tymes Vision

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Black excellence at the Grammys

By: Mae-Lyn Hankerson, Contributing Writer

Many historical moments for Black culture were made during the 67th Annual Grammy Awards held on Sunday, Feb. 2, at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles, California. The Grammys were filled with Black excellence all around the board.

Beyonce made multiple impacts that night. First, Beyonce won Album of the Year with her eighth studio album, *Cowboy Carter*. She is the first Black woman to win a Grammy in this category since Lauryn Hill's debut solo album, *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill* in 1999.

Cowboy Carter did not stop there. This album also won Best Country Album, making Beyonce the first Black woman to ever win in this category. This came as a shock to numerous people because when *Cowboy Carter* was first released in March of 2024, many argued it was not a country album.

"I don't see any issues with it," East Stroudsburg student, Aliyah, said. "I feel most people have a problem with it because she's not only new to the category but also being a Black artist. The album is a piece of art that tells a story from beginning to end. It is easy for someone to formulate an opinion like that just by briefly listening, without considering her intentions with the album."

Cowboy Carter was in creation for over five years, after an incident happened where the artist stated she did not feel welcomed. The importance of *Cowboy Carter* was to highlight the contributions of Black artists to the genre, as well as highlight the racist roots and historical inaccuracies of country music, which it exactly did.

Ending the night for Beyonce, she became the most nominated artist in history. *Cowboy Carter* collected 11 nominations, bring-

ing her 99 nominations overall.

Rapper and singer, Doechii, also made history on Grammy's night. She won Best Rap Album with her mixtape *Alligator Bites Never Heal*. She is only the third woman to ever win in this category, following artists Lauryn Hill and Cardi B.

This milestone had everyone stoked for Doechii's win, even the people who are just now becoming familiar with her. "I don't know too much about her," Penn State student Makayla said. "I have only seen her [Grammy's] performance and videos of her at the start of her career, saying how she got fired from her job and that everything is going to be alright. Now she just won a Grammy, so I think it's cool."

While accepting her award, Doechii made an incredible impact on not just the audience, but on the rest of the world. During her speech, she directly addressed all the young Black women out there watching: "Don't allow anybody to project any stereotypes on you that tell you that you can't be here, that you're too dark, or you're not smart enough, or that you're too dramatic, or you're too loud." She then ended on a high with informing them that "you are exactly who you need to be to be where you are, and I am a testimony."

The award Doechii received was her first, as well as her first ever nomination. She ended her night with an incredible performance of her two songs "Catfish" and "Denial is a River." "I think she deserved it," Aliyah stated. "I don't listen to her personally, but from what I've seen from her performance, she has been putting the work in."

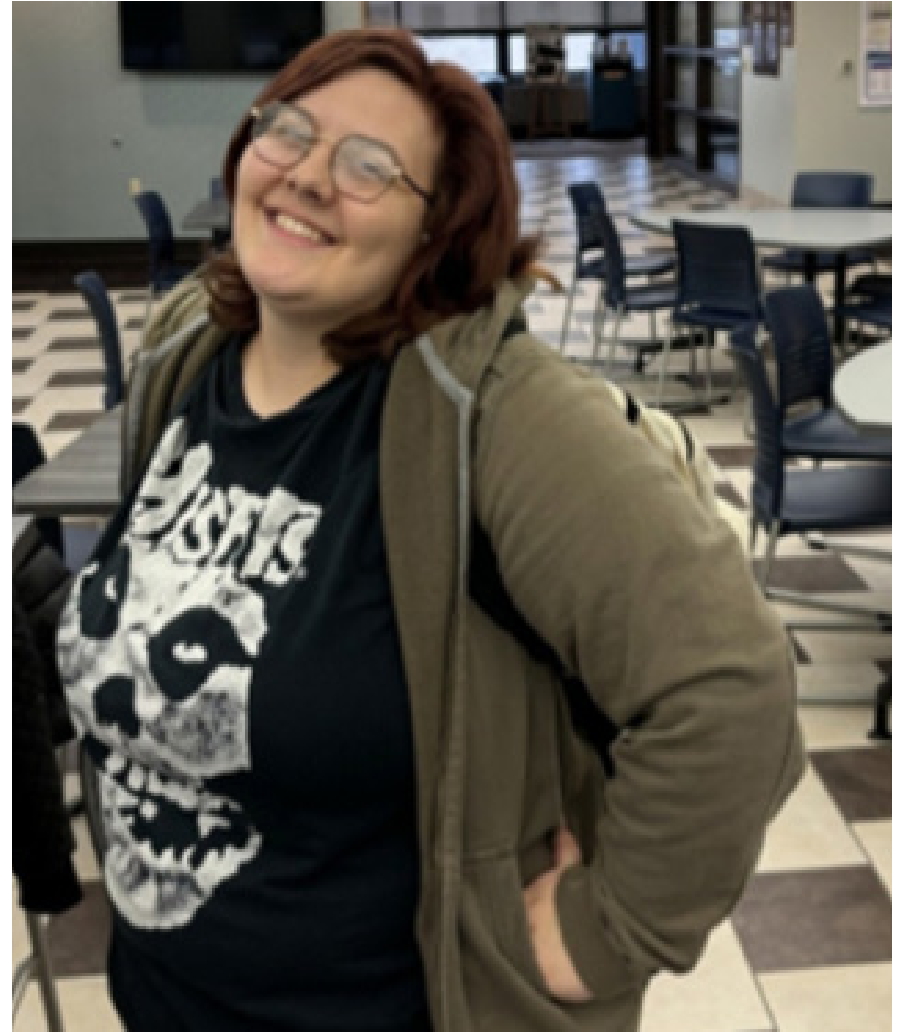
continued on page 7

Question of the Month: What are you looking forward to this semester?

By: Adam Shiekh, Writer



Christopher Vorel: "Web design, coding, and drawing class."



Anna Hartman: "Reconnecting with clubs and friends."



Nahiomy Runzer: "Socializing and locking in."



Adriano Maguina: "Meeting a lot of new people and interacting."

The night only further progressed with Compton rapper Kendrick Lamar walked away with five Grammy's, making him amongst the most awarded artists in history, with 57 nominations and 22 awards. Lamar's single "Not Like Us," has been a huge success. It took over the charts, the radio, streaming platforms, everything. This hit single won him an award for Record of the Year, Song of the Year, Best Rap Performance, Best Rap Song, and last but not least, Best Music Video.

Grammy's night showed that Lamar was nothing but deserving of the awards he received. Just a week after winning, the multi-talented and deco-

rated artist performed in the Super Bowl halftime show on Feb. 9. Lamar's 13-minute performance included celebrated hits, "Humble," "DNA," and "Not Like Us," as well as newer tracks from his latest album, GNX. Joining Lamar for a performance of their songs, "Luther" and "All the Stars," was five-time Grammy winner, SZA, who won an award on Grammy's night for Best R&B Song with her hit single, "Saturn."

Dean, doughnuts, and discussion!

By: Sasha Petruccelli, Writer

Movies may shape our expectations of what a college dean is like, but on Feb. 5, Dr. Eric Rosenthal, Associate Vice Provost and Dean of Students, was here among the students—not just to chat and hear our feedback, but also to share some doughnuts!

When Dr. Rosenthal entered the Student Life Zone, he headed towards the stage...before defying expectations, pulling up a chair, and sitting down with the students rather than addressing them from a podium. It was a pleasure to sit with Dr. Rosenthal as a peer and hear him talk about his passion for pickleball—which, despite the name, has nothing to do with pickles!

Dr. Rosenthal was eager to hear what students had to say, actively taking notes on event ideas, concerns, and suggestions. He asked thoughtful

questions to refine ideas and ensure he fully understood them.

Some students voiced concerns about the current political climate and suggested ways to foster unity during these uncertain times.

To that, Dr. Rosenthal assured everyone that—regardless of political affiliation, race, gender, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation—students remain the top priority. NCC is committed to supporting all students, ensuring that everyone feels heard and valued.

It was truly a positive experience for all!



The calm before the conversation with fresh donuts, setting the stage for shared ideas and community connection with Dean Dr. Eric Rosenthal (Photos by Sasha Petruccelli)



Pure joy in a moment—A student's bright smile says it all as they grab a donut, marking the start of a friendly and open dialogue.



Bridging ideas over coffee and treats— Dean Dr. Eric Rosenthal (Left) sits down with students, attentively listening and exchanging feedback to shape the future of NCC.



With genuine reassurance, the Dean assures the students' concerns are a top priority, highlighting a commitment to listening and acting on your ideas.



After an engaging session, only two donuts remain—a sweet reminder that great conversations, like these treats, are savored by all.