Kimmeshia Rogers – Jones
Class 2015
Associate in Science Degree
in Human Services
Mental Health Option
• Phi Theta Kappa
• EOF Chi Epsilon Honors Society
• Student Ambassador

“From a Stressful Life, to a Succeeding One”

After graduating from Passaic County Community College (PCCC) in May 2015, Kimmeshia Rogers-Jones decided to continue her education toward a bachelor’s degree at Rutgers University.

It was not easy for her. When Kim graduated high school, she was scheduled to go to Fairleigh Dickinson University but became pregnant. She decided to come to PCCC for a semester, but quickly realized her mind was not into it. Kim had her first child when she was eighteen. At that time, she worked at a shopping center. When she turned twenty one, she had her second child. During those years Kim had different jobs. She was working for a lawyer then she started working for a bank. “Back then, about fifteen years ago, a high school diploma was good, now everything is different. The way society works today it is geared towards training,” she points out.

A few years later, Kim got married and had her third child. It was at this point of her life she decided to attend a medical training school in Paterson, New Jersey. “That was my first time going back to school again, and I got some training for a specific task.” Kim worked at St. Joseph’s Hospital Center for 5 years as a medical secretary and an office manager. Unfortunately, she was going through a divorce and had to find a job that offered more money. She got a job at the Post Office. “It was a hard job, good money, but it was very hard work,” she admitted. Kim worked seven years at that job.

After she received her divorce, she became a single parent. “The work was hard and I woke up crying literally every day. I hated it. One day while crying at work, I just remember thinking: there has to be something better for me. I’m going back to school!” So, Kim enrolled at PCCC again and this time she graduated with an A.S. Degree in Human Services, with a certificate in the Mental Health Option, and all with Honors.

Ever since her high school days, Kim knew she wanted a career helping others. Starting in 2012, Kim raised her three children, worked full time, and attended classes. It took her two years to accomplish the first step of her dreams. As an honor student, she served as a member and executive officer of the EOF/Chi Alpha Epsilon Phi Theta Kappa Honors Program. She also became a PCCC student ambassador. “Phi Theta Kappa and being a student ambassador have taught me that hard work pays off and it is not bad to strive for success,” she admits.

Looking back, Kim said she is very happy that she started her college education at PCCC. “The convenience of the school’s location allowed me to become a participant at school events.” When she decided to become a student at PCCC, according to her, it was the best thing she could have done. “I didn’t want to just be a student, I wanted to get involved, and so I worked in student activities. I was involved in the different student activities, went to the lunches, and was in the middle of the hallway working with other students. It was great!” she explained.

Her family members, her son, and two daughters always encouraged her to finish her education. In fact, the last semester, her son, Eric, ended up coming to PCCC also. “It sounds funny, right? Sometimes, when I was in the cafeteria and I saw my son, I would always say to him: Make sure you get to class Boo, and he would reply: Mom don’t call me Boo, just say hi Eric, or hi son!” Kimmeshia laughs, “Trust me, he will never forget those moments.”

Kim is in her second semester at Rutgers University and even though Rutgers has been a lot of work and more intense for her, she expresses that all her professors from PCCC helped her get prepared for Rutgers. “For example, Professor Gasparino always encouraged me to go forward and to not give up so easily. She told me that everyone has obstacles in everyday life. Today, I understanding all that she said, and I am following her words to the best of my ability so I can be successful in life. For sure, I liked all my professors in PCCC. They all gave me something to take away from them,” she admitted.

Kimmeshia’s ultimate goal is to be a Social Worker; to work with people who are mentally disabled and those who are addicted. She realizes that this field is very challenging, but is preparing herself to face each challenge. “I would like to have my own practice and open my own agency; I want to help people feel better,” she expressed. Her goal is high, but she will continue to successfully hit those targets, too.

From: Cherilynn Cora Brown & Sandra Rey

The Human Services Club
“Lending a Helping Hand”
Human Services Office: A321A Email: jgasparino@pccc.edu

Events:
Apr. 15th – “Bake Sale”
Broadway Lobby - Paterson Campus
12:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Apr. 15th – General Meeting
Paterson Campus
Center for Student Success Lounge
4:00 pm to 5:30 pm.

Apr. 21st – “On Furthering Education”
Speaker: Professor Gasparino
Paterson Campus
Center for Student Success Lounge
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm.

Apr. 23rd – “Wellness Day”
Yoga instruction, meditation, stress-reducing workouts, and more!
Paterson Campus
Center for Student Success Lounge
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm.

Vocabulary
Affect: expression of mood.
Euthymic: normal
(in relation to affect)
Congruent: matching, corresponding to (in relation to affect)
Incongruent: opposite, contrasting (in relation to affect)
Ambivalent: feeling equally strong about both sides, positive and negative.
"The Human Services Program is meant for students who want to save the world One Step at a Time"
Michael F. D'Arcangelo
MSW, LSSW, LCAOD, ICADC, SAP, SSW/SAC, C-CATODSW, CJIC, CCDP
Coordinator, Human Services Program
Passaic County Community College

Our Activities: Come and Enjoy with us!

“Weaving the Stories of Women’s Lives”
Opening ceremony: Professor Gasparino

“Healthy Relationship Day”
Speaker: Mechelle Du’Monde, M.S.

“Domestic Violence”
Speaker: Professor Gasparino
“The conversation is important, don’t assume, don’t judge, learn to listen, and be aware!”

“Drinking, Drugs & Driving don’t Mix”
Speaker: The Human Services Club

“APA Workshop”
APA (American Psychological Association) style is the main guide for writing in the social and behavioral sciences today.

Our winners!
Camila Ramirez
Abibatou Thiandoume
Miryam Alania