

# CLIFTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

[www.clifton.k12.nj.us](http://www.clifton.k12.nj.us)

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## NEWS RELEASE

May 19, 2020 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Clifton High School Students Graduate with Associate Degrees

Clifton High School students have been attending college for the last two years, taking concurrent classes starting their junior year at both CHS and Bergen Community College. Students attended Clifton High School in the morning and headed to Bergen Community College for afternoon courses. This cohort of 15 students, who began classes in the 2018-2019 school year during their junior year of high school, will graduate from Clifton High School with a high school diploma and an Associate degree.

Jennifer Bergmann, Supervisor of Counseling, said, "This unique program allowed each of these students the opportunity to earn an Associate degree while at the same time completing both their junior and senior years of high school. We are so proud of all their accomplishments and wish them luck for all their future endeavors."

Kenneth Gerena, a senior at Clifton High School, received his Associate degree on May 19, 2020. Gerena said that he heard about the program from his mother before entering his junior year in high school.

Kenneth noted, "My mother first read about the program in the Clifton Journal." He said that he was initially reluctant to take part in the program because he was not sure how an Associate degree in liberal arts would benefit him with his intended major in computer science.

"However," he reflected, "the program has helped me in multiple ways, teaching me time management and organizational skills that I will take with me for the rest of my life. Clifton's been so helpful with us. Ms. Sarduy, Ms. Bergmann, Ms. Conti, and Mr. Ros consistently helped to guide us throughout our experience as the first people in the program."

Kenneth said that he feels great graduating with an Associate degree. He said that he would benefit from the hard work he put forth in all of his college classes, noting his statistics class in particular, when it comes to pursuing his major, computer science, at Rutgers, and applying for any future jobs.

Clifton High School principal, Michael Doktor, also noted that Clifton High School offers several college-options programs in addition to the Bergen Community College Program. CHS has a partnership with Passaic County Community College.

According to Mr. Doktor, "Students can attend PCCC on campus during their senior year for 30 college credits or take concurrent classes at Clifton High School during the regular school day or after school at CHS." Students can also participate in the Students at Montclair State (SAMS) program in which they take classes at Clifton High School and several courses on campus at Montclair State University.

"I am so proud of the hard work and effort that these dedicated young men and women demonstrated during their junior and senior years of high school," said Dr. Robertozzi, Superintendent of Clifton Public Schools. "The positive effects of these important partnerships that our district builds with surrounding colleges help both our students and the community. From giving students an edge both academically and financially, to the early preparation that we give our students for life after high school, to supporting our local colleges, it's a win-win. I am so happy that Clifton Public Schools takes advantage of forward-thinking programs such as this. Congratulations, graduates!"

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Video link: [Clifton High School Bergen Community College Graduates:](https://youtu.be/YMmce37T8A8)  
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