

October 13, 2026

3rd Annual

Garden State Conference on Food Security



**Office of the
Food Security
Advocate**

Food Insecurity in Higher Education: Enhancing Campus & Community Ecosystems



Jacob Farbman

Moderator

**Executive Director, Economic Mobility
New Jersey Council of County Colleges**

Jacob C. Farbman, Ed.D., APR, serves as the executive director of Economic Mobility for the New Jersey Council of County Colleges, the statewide nonprofit enshrined in state law that strengthens and supports New Jersey's 18 community colleges.

He has been a member of the Council team since 1999 in numerous roles, including Public Relations Officer, Director of Communications, and Executive Director of the New Jersey Center for Student Success. An Aspen Institute Rising Presidential Fellow, Dr. Farbman leads statewide initiatives focused on expanding access, basic needs security, mental health support, and student success across New Jersey's 18 community colleges. He brings over two decades of leadership experience in higher education policy, student affairs, public relations, and advancement.

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In addition, Dr. Farbman has taught as an adjunct professor of communication studies at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) in Ewing since January 2001.

He also serves on the Advisory Board for Rowan University's Doctorate in Education Community College Leadership Initiative Program.

Prior to joining the Council, Dr. Farbman served as a Graduate Assistant at Rowan University, Public Relations Writer for South Jersey Hospital System (now Inspira Health), and Public Relations Assistant at Salem Community College.

Dr. Farbman holds a doctorate in educational leadership, a master's degree in corporate public relations and a bachelor's degree in communication all from Rowan University. He holds an associate degree in communications/journalism from Salem Community College.

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Maura Cavanagh Dick

Panelist

**Associate Dean of Academic Affairs
Salem Community College**

Maura Cavanagh Dick is the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at Salem Community College in Carneys Point, NJ.

A graduate of The College of William and Mary and Temple University, Maura has been an educator and administrator in the community college sector for over 25 years.

She currently serves on the executive leadership team at Salem Community College, and leads the science, health science, nuclear energy technology, and visual and performing art departments. Her administrative responsibilities also include overseeing academic support and student retention, as well as serving as deputy coordinator of Title IX and chair of the Caring Campus governance committee and the Hunger and Basic Needs Task Force at SCC. Prior to her appointment into administration, Maura served as Associate Professor of Biology, with the primary focus of teaching Anatomy and Physiology (A&P) courses.

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Her main scholarly interests involve community-based health interventions to reduce health disparities, and strategies to reduce barriers and improve the learning experience to best support student success and retention for community college students.

In both 2009 and 2016, she was awarded the Salem Community College Faculty Academic Excellence Award and in 2009 the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Faculty Excellence Award. Maura has presented at numerous statewide and national conferences and radio shows on topics related to Anatomy and Physiology, advising and retention, leadership and student belonging, and her most recent, "Beyond the Pantry: How SCC's Pop-Up Farm Stands are Cultivating Student Success & Community Connections." In 2025, Maura was selected by the New Jersey Council of County Colleges as a recipient of the New Jersey Community College Spirit Award. The Council honored Maura for the numerous initiatives she led that have made Salem Community College a caring campus that is invested in the wellbeing and of its students.

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Josefina Ewins

Panelist

**Acting Secretary
OSHE**

Josefina Manetta Ewins, MPA (she/her), is a social justice and education advocate. A South Jersey Native, she currently serves as a Policy Analyst at the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE).

In this capacity, she supports various policy team initiatives that address students' basic needs, transfer processes, and degree completion. Josefina centers equity within her work, ensuring that all students in New Jersey are provided with the necessary resources and opportunities to achieve, excel, and complete their higher education goals.

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Carla Vitola

Panelist

**Community Care Coordinator, Cougar Pantry
Kean University**

Carla Vitola, MA, LMFT currently serves as the Community Care Coordinator at Kean University, providing basic need services to students.

In her role, she manages the Cougar pantry; the pantry serves perishable and non perishable food, basic care and hygiene items, career ready clothing, and other necessary household items. She also has a secondary role at the University as an adjunct professor in the Marriage and Family Therapy Program.

Additionally, Carla co-founds a private practice in Montclair, NJ. She works with individuals, couples and families struggling with various stages of life, adjustment related issues, LGBTQ+ related issues, domestic violence, depression, anxiety, trauma, sexual assault, addiction, and relational conflicts.