

# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT CONFERENCE

2023 Annual Conference

**Friday, October 27, 2023**

Brookdale Community College | 765 Newman Springs Road | Lincroft, NJ 07738

Student Life Center | Parking Lot 7

Conference Location: Navesink Rooms I, II, and II (Upper level of the Student Life Center)

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9:30AM-9:55AM                      Registration

10:00AM-10:15AM                  *Welcome!*

**Jonathan Moschberger**            Professor, Department of Political Science, Brookdale Community College  
Chair, Department of Political Science, Brookdale Community College

**David Stout, PhD**                    President, Brookdale Community College

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10:15AM-10:30AM                  *The Honorable Bonnie Watson Coleman*  
Congresswoman, United States House of Representatives

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10:30AM-11:00AM                  KEYNOTE ADDRESS

*The Honorable Christine Todd Whitman*  
President, Whitman Strategy Group  
Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (2001-2003)  
Governor of New Jersey (1994-2001)

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11:00AM-12:00PM                  *Panel I:*

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*Civic Engagement: Empowering Young Voters*

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Moderator:

**Ed Johnson**, Executive Director, Governmental Affairs & Community Relations, Brookdale  
Honorary Member, Global Parliament of Mayors, The Hague  
Adjunct Professor, Political Science, Brookdale Community College

Discussants:

**The Honorable Christine Giordano Hanlon, Esq.**, Monmouth County Clerk

**Nausheen Ansari**, Development Officer, Brennan Center for Justice  
Adjunct Professor, Political Science, Brookdale Community College  
**Gilda Rogers**, Executive Director, T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center  
Adjunct Professor, History, Brookdale Community College  
**Jessica Ronan-Frisch**, Program Manager, Center for Youth Political Participation, Rutgers University  
Communications and Public Relations Manager, Eagleton Institute of Politics  
**Pat Supplee**, EdD, Director, Energizing Young Voters, League of Women Voters

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12:00PM-12:10PM      *Sojourner Truth*  
*Played by Lorraine Stone*  
*Actor, Poet, Storyteller*

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12:10PM-1:00PM      *Panel II:*

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*Civility in an Uncivil Time*

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Moderator:

**Micah Rasmussen**, Director, Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics, Rider University  
Adjunct Professor, Political Science, Brookdale Community College

Discussants:

**The Honorable Victoria A. Flynn**, Assemblywoman, New Jersey General Assembly  
**The Honorable Danielle M. Jones**, Councilwoman, Borough of Eatontown  
**The Honorable John Francis Roman**, Councilman, City of Linden  
**Samantha Roman**, President & CEO, Associated Builders and Contractors of New Jersey  
**Derel Stroud**, Political & Engagement Director, Bonnie Watson Coleman for Congress  
State Leader, Our Revolution New Jersey  
Alternate Member, Zoning Board of Adjustments, Neptune, NJ

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1:00PM-1:45PM      *Break for Lunch / Explore Information Tables / Sign Petitions*

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1:45PM-2:00PM      *The Honorable Paul Crupi*  
Chair, Board of Trustees, Brookdale Community College  
Senior Vice President, Capital Impact Group (CIG)

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2:00PM-3:00PM

***Panel III:***

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***Our Precious Environment in Crisis***

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Moderator:

**Thomas Cioppa**, PhD, Professor, Political Science, Brookdale Community College

Discussants:

**Sarah Fischell**, Co-Leader, Citizens' Climate Lobby Lincroft Chapter

**Doug O'Malley**, Director, Environment New Jersey

**Ed Potosnak**, Executive Director, New Jersey League of Conservation Voters

**Rachael Shwom**, PhD, Professor, Department of Human Ecology, Rutgers University

Chair, Department of Human Ecology, Rutgers University

Human Dimensions of Climate Mitigation, Adaptation, and Resilience Lead, Rutgers

Climate and Energy Institute

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3:00PM-3:15PM

***The Honorable Vin Gopal***

Senator, New Jersey State Senate

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3:15PM-3:25PM

***The Honorable Rebekah Fischhoff***

Trustee, Board of Trustees, Brookdale Community College

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3:25PM-4:15PM

***Panel IV:***

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***Young Professionals Panel: Engagement in Action***

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Moderator:

**Timothy Awojobi**, Grants Mitigation Manager, FEMA, US Department of Homeland Security

Chair, Military and Veterans Caucus, New Jersey Young Democrats

Adjunct Professor, Political Science, Brookdale Community College

Discussants:

**Payge Hardy**, Managing Director, guides.vote

**Assatta Mann**, Senior Organizer, League of Women Voters of New Jersey

**Samantha Minchello**, Director of Government Affairs, New Jersey State Funeral Directors Association

President & CEO, Maidenstone Strategies

National Committeewoman, Young Democrats of America

**Theresa Velardi**, Executive Director, New Jersey Republican Party  
Chair, Monmouth County Young Republicans

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4:15PM

Closing Comments

**Jonathan Moschberger**

Professor, Department of Political Science, Brookdale Community College  
Chair, Department of Political Science, Brookdale Community College