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### Three Questions with Dr. Mary Ellen Caro —

#### Invest in Peirce

There are many ways to share your time, talent and treasure.

#### Get involved –

Volunteer at Peirce events

#### Be a mentor –

Share your experience

#### Give –

Become a donor

PEIRCE  
is the college  
that really works  
for working  
adults.  
*Even after  
graduation.*



*Dr. Mary Ellen Caro,  
President & CEO*

#### **What is it about Peirce College that excites you?**

So many exciting things are happening at Peirce right now, but what really attracted me to the College is our ability to make a significant impact in such a vibrant city through our work with students, alumni, employers and partners. I am extremely excited about expanding collaborations with our existing partners and developing new partnerships that drive growth at Peirce and support workforce development and economic growth in Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley. When it comes to serving working adults, one size does not fit all. That is also true in developing partnerships. We must work with our partners to understand what is needed in today's workforce and then provide programs that are career-relevant, flexible and accessible. We must also meet the needs of our students and partners and remain focused on those needs. I am thrilled about helping our students and partners achieve their goals, and helping to strengthen the economy of the city and region.

#### **What are your priorities for this year and into the future?**

We need to increase access and affordability for working adults and create new pathways that leverage a student's prior learning, including

professional training. This can help drive down cost, reduce student debt and shorten time to degree completion. We are currently speaking with students and partners to gain a deeper understanding of their needs, and assessing the market to see what changes we should consider. These efforts are preparing us for our next strategic plan and may lead to new programs that can better position the College in an increasingly competitive market. Longer term, I think it is about re-establishing Peirce as *the* leading institution focused on serving working adults and employers in Philadelphia, and as a national leader in higher education focused on adults and workforce development.



*Dr. Caro with Kenya Dixon, current student in the Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Studies program.*

#### **Why are you passionate about lifelong learning?**

It is probably because I am a lifelong learner. Throughout my career, I have continued my education while juggling many responsibilities that our students know well: being a parent and a spouse, having a demanding career, caring for children and elderly parents. It is not easy, but being a lifelong learner is critical to staying relevant in today's workforce.

Learn more about Dr. Caro at:  
[www.peirce.edu/MECaro](http://www.peirce.edu/MECaro).

# A Note from Noel Abejo, President, Alumni Association



**Noel Abejo '85**  
**President, Peirce College**  
**Alumni Association**

**H**ello! My name is Noel Abejo and I am the newly elected President of the Peirce College Alumni Association. I earned my associate degree in computer data processing from Peirce in 1985. I also earned a Bachelor of Science from Widener University in 1996 and a Master of Science in computer information science from La Salle University in 2005. I had been away from Peirce for years, and like many of you, recently realized it was time to return, get involved, and help others do the same.

As President of the Alumni Association, I fully support the College's mission to help working adult learners further their education and advance their careers. The current employment landscape is competitive and a degree can be a deciding factor in advancing careers or landing that dream job. During my time as president, I plan to encourage our growing alumni group to become more engaged with Peirce and to help the college deliver on its mission. I also plan to help each of you leverage the Alumni Association in support of your own goals. Whether you plan to return to school for that next degree or credential, could use some support in looking for that promotion or next job, if you simply want to network with fellow friends or you want to give back—time, talent, or treasure, I hope the Alumni Association can be your partner.

While Steven Rodriguez (Vice President), Shandai Moore-Jenkins (Secretary), and I will work diligently with our board of energized alumni to achieve our Alumni Association goals, we cannot do this without you. I invite you to join us in this important work! Please reach out to me if you have any thoughts or ideas on how to continue growing the Alumni Association or if you are interested in getting involved.

And remember that involvement with Peirce can manifest in many ways. You can volunteer your time by working directly with students or participating in Peirce events; you can share your industry expertise with our faculty and staff through our advisory boards and special panels; and you can also invest in the College's mission by contributing to the Alumni Scholarship Fund. Any amount you give will be deeply appreciated. For your convenience, a postage-paid business reply envelope is included in this publication.

Whatever your interest and capacity may be, we can find a way for you to connect and participate. As part of our alumni community, you are both valued and appreciated.

I look forward to working with all of you and thank you in advance for the work we will do together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Noel Abejo". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Noel Abejo '85

*President, Peirce College Alumni Association Board of Directors*

## Spread The News: Peirce's Free CBE Trial Is Here!

Do you know an IT professional looking to earn their bachelor's degree? Now is the perfect time to refer them to Peirce's competency-based education (CBE) program. Thanks to our new free trial offer, interested CBE students can access the system and complete their first competency for FREE to get a better understanding of how it works. After they enroll in the program, this competency will count as credit toward their first class. It's simple to sign up:

1. Visit [peirce.edu/CBE-Free-Trial](http://peirce.edu/CBE-Free-Trial)
2. Click the "Sign Up Here" button
3. Create an account to access the CBE Free Trial portal

This portal provides direct access to the FREE CBE introduction course. Read the instructions at the top and start completing course activities.

If your friends or family enroll, we'll send you a gift for referring them. Contact our Admissions Office at 215.670.9214 to learn more.



# 2018 Commencement – A Provost’s Perspective

By Dr. Rita Toliver-Roberts, Vice President, Academic Affairs & Provost

The most exciting time of the year is being present and in the moment to watch graduates walk across the stage of the Kimmel Center to receive their diplomas. Each year, this experience puts me *in the clouds* because I deeply understand the journey Peirce students take to enter college and graduate. Commencement day is especially rewarding because it marks a day of celebration and new beginnings for graduates.

The 2018 Commencement Ceremony was held on Monday, June 11, at the Kimmel Center for Performing Arts. With 285 graduates, the Peirce community and extended families celebrated students’ achievements and most cherished moments of receiving their degrees. That evening, Peirce also demonstrated the advancement of its graduates and the College at large, as Peirce’s first woman president and CEO, Dr. Mary Ellen Caro, addressed the audience. Other highlights included:



*Dr. Mary Ellen Caro addresses the Class of 2018.*

- Ms. Sondra Allen was our student speaker and recipient of the Dr. Patricia A. Rucker Graduate Studies Award for Academic Excellence. Sondra delivered a heartfelt and powerful commencement address that moved the audience by sharing her triumphant journey of earning three degrees at Peirce College over the span of 32 years.
- Mr. Harold T. Epps, Director of Commerce, City of Philadelphia, served as keynote speaker and was awarded an honorary doctorate degree.
- Dr. Cathy Littlefield, was the recipient of the Hamilton Award. The Hamilton Award is a service award established in memory of William J. Hamilton, former Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs.
- Ms. Hilda Rivera was the first graduate of Peirce’s Master of Science in Healthcare Administration program. (See Hilda’s story on page 5.)



We heard so many great student success stories that evening but we were blown away by Health Information Administration Graduate Ms. Tara Brodie, who was the first



*Dr. Mary Ellen Caro, President & CEO (right), celebrates her first Peirce Commencement with Dr. Rita Toliver-Roberts, Vice President, Academic Affairs & Provost.*

Peirce student to successfully pass the RHIA certification exam and is now employed as a coding manager at Johns Hopkins Hospital located in Baltimore, MD. (See Tara’s story on page 4.)

Congratulations to the Class of 2018!



## When Experience Encounters Education – Meet Tara Broadie

After more than 20 years in the healthcare industry, Tara Broadie felt knowledgeable and experienced enough to continue tackling her career without a glitch. But one day, she had an epiphany. She had started interviewing and hiring team members who had master's degrees and, at this point in her life, Tara only held a few medical coding certifications. That was when she knew it was time to head back to school.

Tara decided to find a college that could cater to her needs as a working adult. That's when she found Peirce College. "I was in search of a program that was flexible and which would allow me to have the credentials necessary to progress," explained Tara. "Peirce had it all – catered to working adults, accelerated classes and CAHIIM-accredited, so I was eligible to sit for both the RHIT and RHIA certification exams after obtaining my degrees."

Tara started her Peirce journey in May 2015 with her Associate in Science in Health Information Technology (HIT). In June 2017, Tara proudly took her first walk across the commencement stage. But she wasn't done yet.

After experiencing career growth, she found a management position that was exactly what she had been looking for – but there was one catch. "I qualified for the supervisor role with my associate degree, but I knew I was overqualified and I really wanted the managerial position offered. But in order to obtain my dream career, I needed my bachelor's degree," said Tara.

So next she enrolled in the Health Information Administration (HIA) program at Peirce. About her time in the program, Tara said, "I gained a lot more confidence

in my current role and for my future role. I developed necessary skills, knowledge and resources I never would have obtained without Peirce." Even after all her experience in the healthcare industry prior to coming to Peirce, Tara explained, "I am grateful for the opportunity to learn and

grow. I have been in this profession for so long and I started to think I knew everything and there was nothing else to learn, but then I came to Peirce and learned and gained more than I could have imagined."

Tara completed her Bachelor of Science in Health Information Administration in December 2017. In January 2018, she received a call about the job she wanted. Tara said, "I would not have been able to qualify for this role if it weren't for my degree. As soon as my degree was set, I got the job!"

Tara is now the Coding Manager for the Emergency Department, Outpatient Surgery and Observation at Johns Hopkins Health System in Baltimore, MD.

In addition to successfully completing two degrees and landing her dream position, Tara was also the first Peirce College graduate to successfully pass the RHIA exam.

Reflecting back on all of her astounding accomplishments and achievements over the past few years, Tara believes the Peirce community is what helped get her here. "Peirce is a family. You spend so much time with your classmates, professors, advisor and staff members that you become a family. When you have things happen in your life, they support you and help to keep you going. You are not just a number at Peirce; you are an individual with people surrounding you who want to see you succeed."



*Tara Broadie, Class of 2018.*

### GOOD NEWS:

Do you have a success story to share like Tara? "Good News" focuses on our graduates' personal and professional accomplishments. To submit your Good News, email [alumni@peirce.edu](mailto:alumni@peirce.edu) or mail it to the Office of Institutional Advancement, Peirce College, 1420 Pine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102. You can also post news anytime on the Peirce College Alumni Association Facebook page.

## MSHCA Trailblazer—Meet Hilda Rivera

In 2014, Hilda Rivera started her academic journey with Peirce College in hopes of gaining the degree she needed for the career she deserved. By June of 2016, Hilda proudly accomplished this goal when she earned her bachelor's degree in Healthcare Administration. But her story didn't end there – Hilda decided to continue on with her education and was the first student to enroll in Peirce's new Master of Science in Healthcare Administration (MSHCA) program! Dr. Stephanie Donovan, Professor and Faculty Chair, Health Programs reflected on Hilda's decision to transition from bachelor's to master's was a natural progression. "Hilda exemplifies the student who enters the undergraduate program with extensive work experience and is highly motivated to excel."

In June 2018, Hilda had reason again to celebrate reaching her academic goals, but this time, it was for earning her master's degree in Healthcare Administration. After earning two degrees at Peirce College, Hilda wanted to share what brought her to Peirce four years ago. She said, "Education has always been a priority for me. Knowing that I still have more than twenty-five years until retirement and working for an organization where there are many opportunities for advancement, I was inspired to go back to school.

However, I decided to return to school for my bachelor's degree only after my son completed his degree. Being a single parent was difficult and I could not afford to complete my degree because I had to care for him."

Peirce College was a top choice for Hilda when deciding to return to school not only because of the corporate partnership with her employer, but she was also impressed with Peirce's unwavering commitment to working adult learners. "My experience was different from a traditional-age student. I was able to integrate what I learned in class with my experience at work," Hilda remarked.

In addition to the tuition discount she received thanks to the corporate partnership and Peirce's dedication to working adults, the College's non-clinical healthcare degrees also

drew Hilda in as they were a perfect fit with her work background. "I chose this degree because healthcare is my passion. My entire career has been in healthcare and, at this point, I would love to retire from my current employer. With a master's degree, I know that I will have the ability to advance within this field."

As Hilda reflects back on her time with Peirce, she said, "Returning to Peirce for my education was one of the best decisions I have ever made. Peirce professors and staff were with me all the way. I am truly grateful for Dr. DeVida Rembert. I honestly could not have done this without her support." And Dr. Rembert, Associate Professor of Healthcare Administration, felt similarly about Hilda as she reflected on Hilda's dedication as a student, "Hilda made quite an impression," Dr. Rembert remarked. "She was able to find personal, work, and school-life balance, even when there were unceasing demands on her time, always able to rise to the top! I have much admiration for Hilda's courage as she continues to follow her passion as a seasoned healthcare provider."

In addition to the internal support received, Hilda also is grateful for

her financial relief following graduation, "I completed both my bachelor's and master's degrees debt free. At Peirce, I was able to take advantage of the corporate partner discount provided to my employer and was given the opportunity to go on a payment plan for the remainder of my balance per session."

Since returning to school at Peirce, Hilda has gone from a part-time position to a full-time position and a promotion. She is currently a Senior Concierge in a large health system in Philadelphia. Hilda said, "I am in a good place and love my job. My master's degree has provided me confidence to have the ability to rise when an opportunity comes along."

We are so very proud of Hilda's accomplishments and congratulate her on the completion of the MSHCA program.



*Hilda Rivera '18, first student to enroll and graduate from the Master of Science in Healthcare Administration program.*

# Alumni Awards Reception

On Monday, May 14, Peirce College was honored to host the 2018 Spring Alumni Reception where our alumni community came together in celebration. During the event, we also recognized the two 2018 Alumni Award Recipients: Janet Taylor, Distinguished Service Award recipient, and Shandai Moore-Jenkins, Distinguished Alumna Award recipient. Learn more about them below.

## ***From Peirce College to Rachael Ray – Meet Janet Taylor***

Janet is a 1986 Peirce graduate and the Founder and President of Totally Organized, LLC where she provides expert tips and tricks on managing one's life and space in a stress-free way.

Before Janet was a career superstar, she went through her own unique educational journey where she built her tenacity and determination. Starting at a larger institution, Janet was less than inspired when a professor told her she would never be a success. Janet knew this wasn't true, but she also knew that wasn't the school for her. "I knew I was smart, but I needed a school that fit me. I needed something more intimate," Janet said. So she headed closer to home and started to search for her new path. "I wanted a college with a great reputation and that was Peirce," she remembers.



***Janet Taylor '86***

After discovering Peirce, everything fell into place. Janet graduated with a 3.7 GPA and headed into the workforce to further discover all her capabilities.

In 1994, Janet found her calling as an entrepreneur and opened her own business, Totally Organized, LLC. At first, the business was just a part-time commitment, but as demand grew and her services became more well-known, Janet took on owning and running her business full-time. Soon enough, she was being recognized all over the world.

Janet recently had the opportunity to go on the Rachael Ray show where she competed against another top organizer for the title of Clutter-Free Queen. The best part? Janet won!

After all of the excitement of Rachael Ray began to calm down, Peirce College had a surprise for Janet. As a dedicated alumna who has served on an advisory board, participated in multiple panels at student events, and given back time and energy to the College, she was awarded the 2018 Distinguished Service Award. As Janet put it, "I have to pinch myself at times. I have such a special place in my heart for Peirce. They gave me the second chance I needed. And now they have allowed me to be a part of the advisory board where I can give back to the next generation of Peirce graduates."

## ***A Heart for the Less Fortunate – Meet Shandai Moore-Jenkins***

Just like many Peirce students, Shandai dreamed of attending college, but after graduating from high school, she wasn't financially able to pursue that path. Instead, Shandai entered the workforce and found herself immersed in building a homeless outreach non-profit – Chosen 300. After launching this incredible business, she found herself re-thinking the possibility of returning to school.



***Shandai Moore-Jenkins '11***

"I was really passionate about taking the organization to the next level. I knew, in order to be successful, I needed to gain the business skill-set to make this happen. Although, it was a challenging decision for me to make (due to my busy lifestyle), it was more important for me to learn all about policies and economic development while building effective business strategies," Shandai reflected. With a dedicated mindset, she

searched for the right place to earn her degree. Thanks to a fellow staff member and Peirce graduate, Peirce College came up fairly quickly in conversation.

As Shandai pursued her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree, she was pleased with how Peirce fit her lifestyle and how Peirce continued to update its curriculum to align with workforce needs.

In June 2011, Shandai Moore-Jenkins was the student commencement speaker, beautifully leading the audience through her speech, inspiring others to never give up and to always reach for their goals.

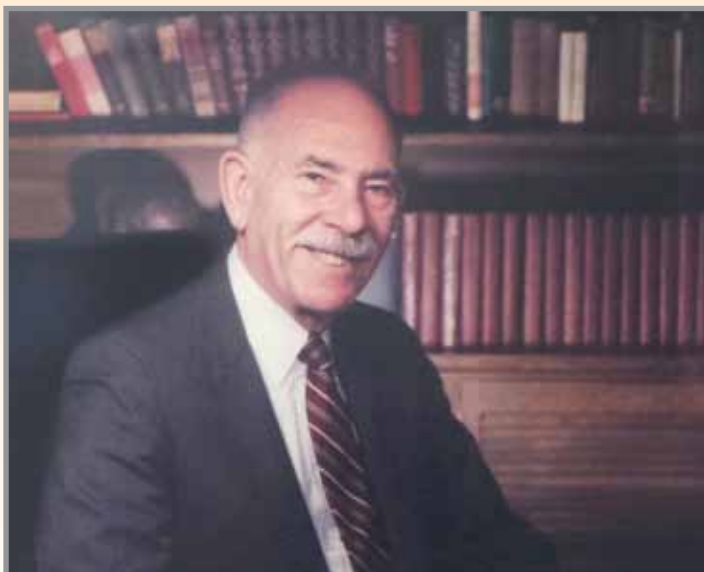
Now as co-founder and senior vice president of Chosen 300 and a proud alumna, Shandai continues to give back to the Peirce community. Her hard work and diligence earned her the 2018 Peirce Distinguished Alumna Award. After receiving the award, Shandai shared her heartfelt gratitude, "It took me a moment to realize what it all meant. I am so humbled by the selection made, knowing there are so many great stories to be told from Peirce alumni. I am still in awe of the selection and feel totally blessed to represent Peirce College."

Shandai is currently the Secretary of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.



# Departed Friends...

## A Presidential Farewell



*Dr. Raymond C. Lewin  
President of Peirce College (1981-1991)*

It is with deepest sympathies that we share news of the passing of previous Peirce College President Dr. Raymond C. Lewin, on Friday, June 8, 2018, at the age of 93.

Dr. Lewin was born in Newark, New Jersey. He served in the Navy during World War II on the USS Lexington and was the recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross.

After receiving degrees from Montclair State College, he continued his studies and earned a Doctorate of Education from Columbia University.

Dr. Lewin was Dean of Edward Williams College – Teaneck Campus, and Acting Provost – Rutherford Campus at Fairleigh Dickinson University before culminating his career as President of Peirce College for ten years, retiring in 1991.

During his tenure at Peirce, Dr. Lewin reinforced Peirce College's alignment of academic programs with business needs and established computer courses to better prepare students for the increasingly computerized workforce. As the data processing field rose in popularity, Dr. Lewin wanted to evolve the College to better serve this new workforce need by instilling students with the skills and knowledge needed to work in the field.

Dr. Lewin established the College's first American Bar Association-approved paralegal studies program in 1985, still operating today as a signature Peirce program that prepares students for careers within the legal field.

The Peirce community will hold Dr. Lewin's contributions to Peirce in the highest regard and will always warmly consider the Lewin family as welcomed guests and friends.

## A Testament of Resolve

Faith E. McArthur '01 was married for 40 years and leaves a legacy that embodies perseverance, resolve and faith. She was a role model for her family when she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Peirce College at the age of 52 and fulfilled a lifetime dream of being a college graduate.

Faith promoted the ideals of a strong work ethic through her work in the mortgage and financial industry until her health prevented her from continuing to work. In 2004, she received a lung transplant and surprised the doctors as she lived an additional 12 years, far surpassing the five to seven years she was projected to live. She never complained and never gave up.

As a woman of compassion and giving, her gift of life did not end – she became an organ donor and enabled another to receive the gift of sight.

Faith will be remembered for the great strength of character she exhibited in the face of adversity and her charity.

## A Life of Persistence and Determination



Brian Eric Webb, a U.S. Air Force veteran, started his educational journey at the Community College of Philadelphia (CCP) where he earned his associate degree. His family proudly watched him transition from CCP to Peirce College to complete his Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration.

Brian completed his degree in April 2018 and was scheduled to participate in Commencement this past June. Unfortunately, he passed away in May. Although his death was a devastating tragedy to all who knew him, his life was a gift to those who called him relative, colleague, and friend.

### Other Friends of Peirce College who have passed away include:

Rosemary T. (Vanderpool) Fadden, Class of 1969

Eileen A. (McGowen) Cook, Class of 2003

Linda Rios-Neuby, Class of 2001

**The Peirce College Community offers condolences to all who loved them and called them friends.**



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## Don't forget!

Don't forget! You can make a donation to Peirce while you shop online! Visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), select Peirce College as your charity of choice, and a percentage of your Amazon purchase will be donated to Peirce.

Know someone who would make a great Peirce student? Refer them to the College and you could receive a free Peirce gift, if they enroll!



# PEIRCE PERSPECTIVES

*The alumni newsletter  
from Peirce College*



## Using LinkedIn to advance your career

Most people know that LinkedIn is a great tool for managing a professional network. But did you know that LinkedIn is also an important tool in job searching and career planning?

LinkedIn makes it easy to connect with more than 7,100 Peirce alumni throughout the Philadelphia region and across the globe. You can reach out directly to people with whom you'd like to connect, or use LinkedIn's alumni tool to quickly see who is working in your target industry. According to LinkedIn, 70% of people are hired at a company where they already have a first- or second-degree connection, so these connections become an important way to move your career forward. Reviewing the profiles of senior executives (or someone who recently changed careers) is also an important way to inform your own career moves. You can see what types of jobs helped these individuals advance, and think about what types of jobs you should pursue in the next 3-5 years that will help you reach your longer term goals.

In addition, LinkedIn continues to develop career-related resources, most recently launching a new job-searching tool that lets you search job postings by industry and region, as



well as a salary comparison tool so that job seekers can quickly see average pay rates for candidates with similar levels of experience in their industries.

These tools are important because most workers today will need to develop their own career pathways. The more you know about opportunities that are available, the pay rates you can expect – and, of course, the pathways of others – the more you will be able to map out your strategic moves.

All of this work builds on a strong LinkedIn profile that includes:

- A clear photo of you, smiling, in front of a neutral background
- A snappy headline that captures your core professional skills
- A brief summary of your experience to date (think: personal commercial or elevator pitch)
- Your complete work, educational and volunteer histories

But you don't have to do this alone! Your network starts at Peirce. Not only will Career Development Services (CDS) help you amp up your LinkedIn profile, you can also get a new headshot taken right in the CDS office. Contact us at 215.670.9202 or [cds@peirce.edu](mailto:cds@peirce.edu) to make an appointment today.