



PASSAIC COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WANAQUE ACADEMIC CENTER

500 Union Avenue, Haskell, NJ 07420

2026 NOVEMBER SYMPOSIUM ON DISORDERED GAMBLING

SHINE A LIGHT AND TAKE A STAND: UNMASKING THE HIDDEN EPIDEMIC

Friday, November 13, 2026

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BUFFET BREAKFAST AND REGISTRATION

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM

WELCOMING REMARKS

Luis Del Orbe, MPA, CSW, Executive Director

Alice Ostapiuk, Office Administrator

INVOCATION BY REV. WILLIAM O. HENRY

9:15AM – 10:30 AM

DOCUMENTARY SCREENING & PANEL

"THE HIDDEN ADDICTION: Gambling's Silent Grip"

Luis Del Orbe, MPA, CSW

9:15 AM – 10:30 AM

BREAK

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM

PLENARY SESSION I

"Breaking the Stigma – Why Military Service Members Don't Talk About Gambling"

David Yeager, IGRS, BARA, US Army Veteran

12:15 PM – 1:00 PM

LUNCH

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

PLENARY SESSION II

"The Masculinity Gap: Why Young Men Gamble, and How to Talk to Them"

Daniel Cassino, Professor of Government & Politics at Fairleigh Dickinson University

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM

BREAK

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

OPEN MIC & CLOSING REMARKS

LIVED EXPERIENCES. SHARED STRENGTH.

"Voices of Courage, Stories of Hope"

Our Audience: Shining a Light, and Taking a Stand

SILENT STRUGGLE

In shadows deep, where whispers creep,
A young man hides, his heart cut steep.

Chasing thrills with bets and screens,
Each fleeting win, a fading dream.

Promises made with every play,
But hope grows dim as he bets away.

The rush once bright now dims to gray,
In a spiral tight, he loses his way.

Behind the laughs, a heavy heart,
Feeling the weight of a world apart.

Thoughts of escape, a voice in his head,
"Is there a way out, or is hope dead?"

Yet in the silence, a flicker remains,
A spark of courage, breaking the chains.

As we **shine a light** and **take a stand**,
We unmask the truth, together hand in hand.

With every story shared, with each tear shed,
He finds the strength to choose life instead.

For every young soul who feels alone,
You're not just a bettor; you're more than your own.