



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

EOC
DEC 2025



WHAT'S NEW THIS MONTH

UPWARD BOUND MIXER

Join us for a pre-Winter break mixer for Upward Bound alums on December 4! Come learn how EOC can help you continue on your educational journey!

2025 IN REVIEW

EOC did a lot this semester! See a recap on page 3!

CELEBRATE IN DECEMBER

Many cultures in America celebrate holidays in December! Find out what holidays are typically celebrated in December on page 4!

WINTER BREAK/END OF SEMESTER

The last day of the regular fall semester at CPCC is December 12!

GRADUATION

Congratulations graduates! Students who have completed their studies will graduate on December 16!



MESSAGE FROM EOC

A SEMESTER OF SUCCESS!

Congratulations! Many of you have finished your semester and some of you are moving on to bigger and brighter things! Keep working hard towards achieving your goals. You can accomplish what you put your mind to!

IN THIS ISSUE

HOLIDAY SEASON

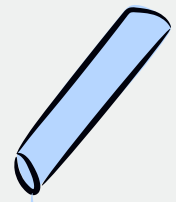
- December is a time for celebration! Read about Holiday traditions in the United States!
Winter Break is December 12th until the start of the spring semester, January 12th!

Contact Us!

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December



Fall 2025 in Review

EOC has had a wonderful fall semester with you, our participants! We resumed tutoring! We had a successful fall festival, and many workshops to help you on your journey! See all of our progress on page 3!



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

***"THAT CLOCK YOU HEAR IS THE SOUND
OF YOUR OWN HEART. SINK YOUR
TEETH INTO THIS LIFE, AND DON'T GET
LET GO."***

—LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA

Holiday Fun Facts



Christmas trees were once decorated with fruit, popcorn, and candles before electric lights were invented. 33 million real Christmas trees are sold in the U.S. each year.

Santa Claus has many different names around the world. In the UK, he is also known as Father Christmas. Other names he's called by include Kris Kringle, Sinterklaas, and Pere Noel!

Saint Nicholas was a 4th Century Christian Bishop from Turkey known for his generosity. He later became mythologized into the Santa Claus we know today!



The historic St. Nicholas heard about the plight of a local man who did not have enough dowry money to marry off his three daughters. The generous St. Nick tossed some money down the chimney that landed in the ladies' stockings that were drying by the fire. After that, the tradition stuck!



2025 in review



Fall Festival

EOC's first Fall Festival took place on October 19th at the AICC office in Quorum Business Park! Participants enjoyed fun experiences like face painting, games, fall treats, and pumpkin painting. We also hosted various vendors that serve the community, such as NACA (pictured), which aims to help underserved communities secure affordable housing, as well as colleges like Central Piedmont Community College and Johnson C. Smith University!



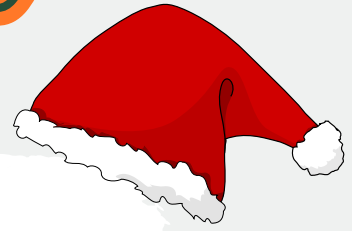
Mint Museum Uptown



On November 13, we took participants to the Mint Museum of Charlotte's Uptown location to explore different kinds of visual art! Students were able to learn about renaissance art, as well as modern art, and even see work made by local artists! Art can help expand horizons and helps us learn to think critically about what we see. It was some participants' first time visiting a museum!



Celebrate in DECEMBER



Christmas

Christmas is a holiday celebrated on December 25th to honor the birth of Jesus Christ, an important figure in Christianity. People celebrate in many ways, like decorating Christmas trees, exchanging gifts, singing carols, and spending time with family and friends. For some, it's a religious holiday with church services, while for others, it's a festive time filled with joy and traditions. Santa Claus, a cheerful figure who delivers presents, is also a big part of Christmas fun. It's a season of giving, kindness, and celebration.



Hanukkah

Hanukkah, also called the Festival of Lights, is an eight-day Jewish holiday that usually happens in December. It celebrates a miracle that happened long ago when a small amount of oil kept the menorah, a special lamp, burning for eight days in a temple. During Hanukkah, families light candles on a menorah each night, one for each day of the holiday. People also celebrate by playing games like dreidel, eating foods cooked in oil like latkes and doughnuts, and spending time with loved ones. It's a time to remember the importance of faith, hope, and staying strong.



Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is a holiday that celebrates African-American culture, history, and community. It lasts for seven days, from December 26th to January 1st. Each day focuses on a special value, like unity, self-determination, or creativity, called the Nguzo Saba (the Seven Principles). Families light candles on a special holder called a kinara to honor each principle. People celebrate with songs, dancing, storytelling, and a big feast called Karamu. Kwanzaa is a time to reflect on heritage, share traditions, and look forward to a bright future together.

