



# NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Fruteland Jackson  
879 Joliet St. #221  
Dyer IN 46311 USA

February 16, 2009

Dear friend and supporter of the Blues in the Schools,

On February 3, 4, and 5 Fruteland Jackson brought his aural history of the Blues to the music and theatre majors at Niagara County Community College. During his three day residency Fruteland explained Blues history beginning with its roots in Africa, the importance of country blues men like Robert Johnson through modern day Rap styles. He worked with NCCC guitar players demonstrating some unfamiliar tuning, and the art of storytelling with NCCC theatre majors. Fruteland encouraged students to compose their own material saying, "Don't be a copy of another man's genius". He suggested building a website and posting original material. He said, "You may be rewarded, you never know".

Fruteland also presented a Thursday afternoon performance for approximately 200 local middle school and high school students. In addition to this podcast, he recorded a television interview which will be seen on the local access program "N Triple Scene".

Mr. Jackson's residency concluded with a Thursday evening concert featuring himself and local musicians, "The Patti Parks Band" and "The Blues Hounds". Many members of the Western New York Blues community attended the concert. The event made a lot of new friends for Niagara County Community College.

Sincerely,

Lois Hall, Professor and Coordinator of Music  
Niagara County Community College