



MR. RONALD D. WINTHERS – Chairman  
DR. LAWRENCE A. NESPOLI – President

## News Release

Contact: Jacob C. Farbman, APR, 609-392-3434, 267-446-2468 or [jfarbman@njccc.org](mailto:jfarbman@njccc.org)

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**For Immediate Release**

### **Brick Twp. Resident Receives Statewide Community College Spirit Award**

TRENTON, N.J.—At its annual Trustee Conference on June 15, the New Jersey Council of County Colleges presented the 2009 Community College Spirit Award to Marie Barry, director, Office of Career and Technical Education, New Jersey Department of Education, for her exemplary service to New Jersey’s community colleges.

“Since its inauguration in 1993, the Community College Spirit Award has been an honor bestowed to those who embody the community college spirit – perseverance, dedication and excellence,” said NJCCC Chairman Ronald Winthers.

Barry was recognized for her leadership in collaborating with New Jersey’s 19 community colleges in meeting the requirements of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act.

“New Jersey’s community colleges have greatly benefited from the significant Perkins funds that support our students and sustain important academic programs at our colleges,” Winthers added.

As director of the NJ DOE’s Office of Career and Technical Education, Barry administers all activities and plans related to the Carl D. Perkins Education Career and Technical

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Improvement Act and serves as the state director for career and technical education for secondary and postsecondary career technical education programs. She also is responsible for the administration of GED programs, Advanced Placement Programs and curriculum review for private vocational schools.

Barry has served in various capacities at the NJ Department of Education since 1999. She has coordinated the *High Schools That Work* Initiative, administered initiatives related to career development and school counseling and coordinates with workforce development entities to promote articulation between education, the business and labor communities and other stakeholders. During her tenure in the NJ DOE, she has also administered programs related to career and technical student organizations. She served as the liaison with the office of Special Education on issues related to developing plans and policies to promote the successful transition of special education students under the School-to-Work initiative.

Barry currently serves on the Board of Directors for the National Association for State Directors in Career and Technical Education Consortium and serves as a member of the Career Cluster Taskforce Committee. In the past she has also served on the executive committee of the National Association for Workforce Improvement and the New Jersey School Counselors Association. She represents the Commissioner on the State Employment and Training Commission and the Governors School Board of Overseers.

Prior to joining the department, Barry worked as a career counselor and specialist where she served youth and adults in the community. She designed workshops and programs to address the varied career development needs of students, the entering workforce, displaced workers and

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incumbent workers. She is a certified school counselor, a national certified counselor and a certified rehabilitation counselor.

Barry holds a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University and a master's degree in education from Seton Hall University. She resides in Brick Township with her husband, Tom, and three children.

The New Jersey Council of County Colleges is the state association representing New Jersey's 19 community colleges. As an independent, trustee-headed organization that joins the leadership of trustees and presidents, the Council is the voice of the community college sector before the state legislature and other branches of government. The Council is also the state coordinating organization for all community colleges in New Jersey.