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News Release

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Date: June 21, 2011

For Immediate Release

Senator Christopher Bateman Honored with Community College Legislative Excellence Award

TRENTON, N.J. — On June 20, as part of its annual Trustee Conference at the Trenton Marriott Hotel, the New Jersey Council of County Colleges presented its 2011 Legislative Excellence Award to Senator Christopher “Kip” Bateman for his exemplary support of New Jersey’s 19 community colleges.

“The New Jersey Council of County Colleges’ Legislative Excellence Award is an honor bestowed each year on selected legislators who have served as exceptional advocates for the state’s 19 community colleges,” said NJCCC Chairman Ronald Winthers. “We truly appreciate Senator Bateman’s passion and commitment to our community colleges and our students.”

Bateman was especially recognized for his support of the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Rewards Scholarship (NJ STARS) program and his support for improving the transfer of community college students to four-year colleges and universities throughout the state.

Bateman has served the 16th Legislative District since January 1994, when he was elected to the New Jersey General Assembly where he served seven consecutive terms, ending in 2007.

In 2008, he was elected to the New Jersey State Senate and currently serves on the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Senate Environment Committee, the Joint Committee on Public

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Schools, and the Joint Committee on Housing Affordability. He is also the Deputy Conference Leader.

Bateman's other public service includes serving on the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders from 1988 to 1994. He also was a member of the Branchburg Township Committee from January 1983 to February 1988, and was mayor in 1986. He also served on the Branchburg Township Planning Board in 1985 and 1986.

In addition, Bateman is a member or has been a member of the following community organizations: the HomeSharing Program of Somerset County, Special Olympics New Jersey, Branchburg Rotary Club, Midland Foundation, Somerville Elks, Somerset Medical Center, Branchburg Historical Society, Washington Campgrounds Association, Somerset Public Employees Charitable Campaign, United Way Board of Trustees, The New Brunswick Theological Seminary Board of Trustees, and The Wellness Community Board of Trustees.

Bateman is a graduate of Seton Hall Law School, and in 1987, he was admitted to the bar. He graduated from Ithaca College with a B.A. in history and political science in 1980. Currently, he is a partner with the law firm of DiFrancesco, Bateman, Coley, Yospin, Kunzman, Davis and Lehrer, P.C.

Bateman and his wife, the former Susan Formichella, have four children, sons Christopher Jr. and Joseph, and daughters Stephanie and Kate. He is the son of former Assemblyman, Senator and 1977 gubernatorial candidate Raymond H. Bateman.

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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.