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News Release

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For Immediate Release

Rahway Resident Receives Statewide Community College Spirit Award

TRENTON, N.J.— During its regular bi-monthly meeting, the New Jersey Council of County Colleges presented the 2009 Community College Spirit Award to Dr. Patricia Biddar, executive director of assessment, planning and research at Union County College, 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.

Biddar was recognized for leading New Jersey’s community colleges’ efforts to enhance the Vocational Education Data System (VEDS). Community colleges use VEDS to meet Federal Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Funding reporting requirements. This year, the state’s community colleges are receiving over \$9.1 million in Perkins funding.

“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 Union County College’s executive director of assessment, planning and research,

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Biddar wrote the College's first institutional assessment plan, instituted a strategic planning process linked to budgeting and evaluation, chaired the College's Master Plan Committee, updated the College's facilities master plan, and conducted research studies that provided evidence of the accomplishment of the College's mission.

She is a member of the Association for Institutional Research, the National Community College Council for Research and Planning, and the Society for College and University Planning. She is also a member and former president of the New Jersey County College Association for Institutional Research and Planning.

Biddar holds a Ph.D. in research design, measurement and evaluation from New York University, a master's degree in education in statistics and measurement from Rutgers University, a master's degree in educational psychology from Montclair State University, and a bachelor's degree in English literature and psychology from the University of Pittsburgh. She and her husband reside in Rahway.

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.