



DR. RICHARD D. WELBBROCK – Chairman  
DR. LAWRENCE A. NESPOLI – President

## News Release

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**For Immediate Release**

### **SCC President Honored with Community College Spirit Award**

Monroe Twp., N.J.—At its meeting on Sept. 24, the New Jersey Council of County Colleges presented the 2007 Community College Spirit Award to Salem Community College President Dr. Peter B. Contini for his 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 Dr. Richard Wellbrock, Council chairman.

Contini was recognized for his leadership and service as a co-chairman of the New Jersey Presidents’ Council’s Transfer and Articulation Coordinating Committee. The New Jersey Presidents’ Council is the statewide organization for the presidents of New Jersey’s colleges and universities.

“Dr. Contini’s leadership was instrumental in creating the transfer legislation that Gov. Jon S. Corzine signed into law last week,” Wellbrock said.

Gov. Corzine signed A3968/S2535 into law on Sept. 13. The law promotes the seamless transfer of New Jersey community college associate degree graduates into baccalaureate degree

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programs at public four-year colleges and universities throughout the state. Under the new law, each public higher education institution will enter into a collective statewide transfer agreement in consultation with the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education and the New Jersey Presidents' Council.

Salem Community College appointed Contini as its sixth president in June 1997. He is the College's longest-serving president. Under his leadership, the College has been guided by comprehensive strategic planning that has led to new degree programs in glass art, computer graphic art and nursing; the expansion of instructional technology; and the completion of over \$6 million in facility renovations and new construction.

At the state-level, Contini has served as a member of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges' executive committee and as chairman of the New Jersey Community College Presidents in 2002-03. Presently, he chairs the Council's finance committee. In 2000, he was elected to the executive committee of the 57-member New Jersey Presidents' Council. He also co-chaired its Task Force on Higher Education in Southern New Jersey. He served on the Commission on Job Growth and Economic Development and was appointed in 2005 to the State Employment Training Commission. In September 2006, Gov. Corzine appointed Contini to the New Jersey Economic Growth Council.

Prior to joining SCC, the Pitman, N.J. resident served for three years as the assistant commissioner for the Division of Field Services in the N.J. Department of Education and was Gloucester County Superintendent of Schools from 1980 to 1994.

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From 1966 to 1980, Contini held teaching and administrative positions in several southern New Jersey school districts, including the Salem County Vocational-Technical School District.

In 2004, Contini received the Calvary Community Development Corporation Educational Leader Award and the Salem County Chamber of Commerce recognized him as the Distinguished Citizen of the Year. In 2006, he received the Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction from the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society of Two-Year Colleges. The Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders recognized Contini at this year's Commencement for his 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as president.

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.