



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

## News Release

Contact: Jacob C. Farbman, APR, 609-392-3434, 856-802-0129 or [jfarbman@njccc.org](mailto:jfarbman@njccc.org)

Date: June 17, 2008

**For Immediate Release**

### **Bergen Vice President Honored with Community College Spirit Award**

TRENTON, N.J.—At its annual Trustee Conference on June 16, the New Jersey Council of County Colleges presented the 2008 Community College Spirit Award to Bergen Community College Academic Vice President Dr. Gary Porter 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.

Porter was recognized for his leadership and service as a chairman of the New Jersey Community College Academic Officers Association and the General Education Coordinating Committee, a group of academic officers and faculty who have worked to develop a uniform general education model for New Jersey’s 19 community colleges.

In September 2007, Gov. Jon Corzine signed A3968/S2535, a new law that promotes the seamless transfer of New Jersey community college associate degree graduates into baccalaureate degree programs at public four-year colleges and universities throughout the state.

-more-

## **Porter Community College Award / page two**

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.

“The General Education Coordinating Committee’s work will ensure that community college students throughout the state take the right general education courses to smoothly transfer to four-year colleges and universities,” Wellbrock added.

Porter was appointed Academic Vice President of Bergen Community College in Paramus in the summer of 2005. As the chief academic officer, he plays a leading role in program and faculty development, facilities and academic planning, and collegiate collaborative programming.

Before coming to Bergen Community College, Porter was dean of academic affairs at Jamestown Community College in western New York. Prior to that position, he was dean of academic services at Warren County Community College. Before these administrative positions, he was a chemistry professor at Passaic County Community College and at Upsala College in East Orange. At Passaic, Porter served as chairman of the science and engineering department and director of the Passaic County Health Department Environmental Lab.

Porter currently serves on the board of the Buehler Challenger and Science Center and the Boy Scouts of America where he has been on the executive board of local councils for the past six years. He also serves on the executive board of the Patriot’s Path Council of the Boy Scouts and is vice president of programs.

-more-

## **Porter Community College Award / page three**

Porter earned a Ph.D. in chemistry and his master's in science degree in chemistry from Seton Hall University. He earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Saint Peter's College.

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.