



MR. RONALD WINTHERS – Chairman  
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## News Release

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**For Immediate Release**

### **NJ Council of County Colleges to Honor the State's Top Community College Student Scholars**

TRENTON, N.J.—The New Jersey Council of County Colleges will honor New Jersey's 31 best and brightest community college students and their families at its 16<sup>th</sup> annual Phi Theta Kappa Day celebration on Thursday, May 6, at the Lafayette Yard Marriott Hotel, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“Each year, the New Jersey Council of County Colleges hosts this program to recognize the members of the New Jersey All-State Academic Team, sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for community colleges, and the Coca-Cola Foundation,” said NJCCC President Dr. Lawrence Nespoli. “These students are recognized for their outstanding academic achievement and exceptional service to their communities as members of Phi Theta Kappa at their local community colleges.”

In addition to statewide recognition, Phi Theta Kappa International and the Coca-Cola Foundation have awarded scholarships to five outstanding New Jersey students as part of the All-USA Academic Team competition.

Raritan Valley Community College student Rudolph Powser of Neshanic Station received a \$2,000 New Century Scholarship from the Coca-Cola Foundation for being New

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## **Top community college students / page two**

Jersey's top community college student, awarded during the American Association of Community Colleges Convention in Seattle from April 17 to 19. The Coca-Cola Foundation established the New Century Scholars Program in 2001 to provide additional scholarships and national recognition to the top honors student from each state.

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) student Isabel Nieto Canon of North Bergen received a \$1,250 scholarship for being named a Coca-Cola Foundation All-USA Silver Medalist Scholar. HCCC student Jennifer Cruz-Marulanda of North Bergen, Passaic County Community College student Mercci Gonzalez of Paterson, and Union County College student Sheila Casey of Roselle each received \$1,000 scholarships for being named Coca-Cola Foundation All-USA Medallion Finalists.

The 2010 New Jersey All-State Academic Team members are:

- 1 Atlantic Cape Community College students Russell Mulford of Tuckahoe and Tannette Medica of Egg Harbor Twp.;
- 1 Bergen Community College student Katerina Dimitrova of Clifton;
- 1 Brookdale Community College student John Eagan of Freehold and Cassandra Fenkel of Point Pleasant;
- 1 Burlington County College students Kaitlin Fitzsimmons of Mount Laurel and Ashley Stewart of Willingboro;
- 1 Camden County College students Julianne Janocha of Sicklerville and Lauren Serebransky of Sewell;

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## **Top community college students / page three**

- 1 Cumberland County College students Andrew Benfer of Bridgeton and Toya Edmeads of Vineland;
- 1 Essex County College student Che Abonghatou of East Orange;
- 1 Gloucester County College students Demaris McManus of Deptford and Katie Walsh of Mantua;
- 1 Hudson County Community College students Isabel Nieto-Canon and Jennifer Cruz-Marulanda both of North Bergen;
- 1 Mercer County Community College student Kristen Vincent of Ewing;
- 1 Middlesex County College students Christopher Ghanem of Middlesex and Cathleen Speranza of Monroe Township;
- 1 Ocean County College students Marion Burke of Brick and Charis Chambers of Jackson;
- 1 Passaic County Community College students Mercci Gonzalez and Vince Pinero both of Paterson;
- 1 Raritan Valley Community College students Rudolph Powser of Neshanic Station and Nicole Singer of Hillsborough;
- 1 Salem Community College student Megan Grazias of Elmer;
- 1 Sussex County Community College students Thomas Alger of Newton and Kristen Sullivan of Sparta;
- 1 Union County College student Sheila Casey of Roselle; and
- 1 Warren County Community College students Heather Caldwell of Washington and Tawanda Washington of Glen Gardner.

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## **Top community college students / page four**

The New Jersey Phi Theta Kappa Day Celebration is sponsored by PSE&G. Also, 20 of New Jersey's four-year colleges and universities have offered over \$1 million in scholarships to Phi Theta Kappa students transferring to their institutions.

Phi Theta Kappa has recognized and encouraged scholarship among community college students for 92 years while promoting the academic integrity of the associate degree program. Students with grade point averages of 3.5 or higher are invited to join Phi Theta Kappa.

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.