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News Release

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For Immediate Release

Assemblyman Gary Schaer Honored with Community College Legislative Excellence Award

TRENTON, N.J. — On June 15, as part of its annual Trustee Conference at the Trenton Marriott at Lafayette Yard, the New Jersey Council of County Colleges presented its 2009 Legislative Excellence Award to Assemblyman Gary Schaer for his exemplary support of New Jersey’s 19 community colleges during these difficult economic times for the State of New Jersey.

“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 Assemblyman Schaer’s passion and commitment to our community colleges and our students.”

“I am honored to have been selected by the NJ Council of County Colleges to be the recipient of the 2009 Legislative Excellent Award and thank the Council for the privilege of working with them,” said Assemblyman Schaer. “In these tough times, NJ’s community colleges, joined by those that attend them, are leading the way towards our shared economic recovery with both career guidance for displaced workers and affordable education and training

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for Garden State students. As the father of a recent community college nursing graduate, I have seen first hand how the critical mission of these institutions affect all New Jerseyans and I will continue to advocate on their behalf.”

Schaer represents the 36th Legislative District of New Jersey. The district includes parts of Bergen, Essex and Passaic Counties. He serves as chairman of the Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee, vice chairman of the Assembly Budget Committee and vice chairman of the Assembly State Government Committee.

Schaer is an investment consultant with a financial services company in New York City, and serves as a vice president for Private Client Group. He has worked in the finance industry for over 20 years, and has served as a Passaic City Councilman since 1995. He was first elected to the New Jersey General Assembly in 2005.

In May 1995, Schaer was elected Councilman in the City of Passaic and was subsequently reelected in 1999, 2003 and 2007. He is currently serving as Council President, a leadership position he has held for 10 years.

Schaer has been a trustee and member of the Budget Committee of St. Mary’s Hospital in Passaic since 1994. He is also a member of the City of Passaic Urban Enterprise Zone Board of Directors. Additionally, he has served as a Commissioner of the City of Passaic Housing Authority, and Passaic County Vocational Technical Institute. He is a past president of YBH-Hillel Academy of Passaic and past member of the Jewish Federation of Clifton-Passaic Board of Directors.

Schaer is a graduate of American University. He resides in Passaic with his wife of 32

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years, Donna. They have three children, Jonathan, Jessica and Emanuelle.

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.