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News Release

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For Immediate Release

Senate Majority Leader Stephen Sweeney 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 Senate Majority Leader Stephen Sweeney for his exemplary support of New Jersey's 19 community colleges.

“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 Council Chairman Ronald Winthers. “We truly appreciate Senator Sweeney’s passion and commitment to our community colleges and our students.”

Sweeney represents the Third Legislative District of New Jersey. The district includes all of Salem County and portions of Gloucester and Cumberland Counties. He was first elected to the New Jersey State Senate in 2001 and was re-elected to a third term in 2007. He currently serves as Majority Leader, the second-highest ranking position in the Senate, and also serves on the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and the Joint Budget Oversight Committee.

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Sweeney Legislative Excellence Award / page two

Sweeney is a graduate of Pennsauken High School. He is currently the general organizer for the International Association of Ironworkers. He and his wife, Patti, were married in 1986. They live in West Deptford with their two children, Stephen and Lauren.

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.