

New Jersey Council of County Colleges
2010 Best Practices Conference
Presentation Summaries



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Concurrent Sessions

Big Ideas for NJ's Community Colleges (Featured Session)

Like public colleges and universities across the US, New Jersey's community colleges are under pressure to meet increased capacity demands, to meet expanded public expectations, to contribute to the rebuilding of a strong workforce and a vibrant economy, to help individuals meet their life goals, and to do all this with what looks for the long-term to be diminished resources. Big challenges call for big ideas. This discussion session will focus on some emerging thinking across our sector about the kinds of big ideas that will help us meet these challenges and ensure that our colleges remain vibrant, community-focused, learning centered institutions. Come prepared to talk and share your big ideas.

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A Career Pathway Initiative for Multiple Industries and Multiple Worker Populations

Effective career pathway projects require careful selection of learners, well-designed curricula, well-prepared and supported staff, connections to employers and jobs, well-equipped and accessible facilities, adequate funding, and other ingredients. Learn about how one community college has developed career pathway initiatives for various populations (e.g., U.S.-born adults, English language learners, ex-offenders) and industries (e.g., eldercare, transportation/logistics/distribution).

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Building Connections and Understanding Through Intercollegiate Leadership Training

Student Life personnel from County College of Morris, Raritan Valley Community College and Sussex County Community College will highlight their innovative approach to leadership training. The Collaborative Leadership Development Project has taken place for over 10 years. Planning, implementation, goal setting, and outcomes of the project will be presented. The presenters will also offer an opportunity for attendees to discuss leadership development practices at their respective institutions.

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Getting the Most from Your Student Clearinghouse Membership

All 19 New Jersey community colleges have joined the National Student Clearinghouse and use Student Tracker to identify their transfers to other institutions. Not all use the full analytical possibilities of the data they receive. In this session, basic information will be presented explaining what can be requested from the Clearinghouse and how the return files can be used to identify prior attendance, concurrent enrollment, persistence at different institutions, and graduation success.

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Leadership & the Evolution of Branch Campuses: Planning, Opening and Expanding

With growing enrollments and changing demographics, many community colleges are spreading their reach beyond the main campus with the establishment of satellite and branch campuses. Three senior administrators at various stages of campus expansion projects will discuss challenges and opportunities inherent in expansion. Some issues to be addressed include academic planning, staffing, budgeting, marketing plans, and reporting structures.

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Need a Life? Energize Your Classroom Through Second Life

Have you ever wanted your students to time travel to events of historical significance? View the world through the eyes of a schizophrenic? Walk into a Van Gogh painting? Investigate a crime scene? Presenters will demonstrate how all this—and more—is possible in your Second Life. Come and experience in your Second Life what you can only imagine in your first.

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Using Logic Models for Program Planning and Evaluation

The presenters will discuss how logic models can help provide a clear and graphic description of the way a project works on campus. Used in grant writing, strategic planning and evaluation, logic models provide an effective way to build support and communicate the planning of new projects as well as evaluation of ongoing projects. Participants will build their own logic model and be able to discuss the linkage between project development and expected outcomes using the five primary components of the logic model.

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**New Jersey's Developmental Education Initiative: Focusing on Student Success
(Featured Session)**

Some have called remediation the “black hole” of American higher education. Whatever we call it, the point is the same—large numbers of students enroll in remediation programs, but too few ever come out. The numbers in New Jersey, much like in other states, are daunting. Nearly 1 in 6 of our degree-seeking students (full- and part-time) never earn a single college credit. In response to this challenge, NJ's community college presidents recently created the NJ Developmental Education Initiative (DEI), a statewide student success project that will especially focus on strengthening English and math remediation programs on our campuses. This session will feature presentations from several DEI members on the major activities they have undertaken and the progress they have achieved to date.

Members of Developmental Education Initiative 2010 Task Force

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Best Practices Panel—Carl D. Perkins Grant

This session is designed to highlight a variety of Perkins grant best practice projects that are offered by community colleges throughout New Jersey. A statewide survey of post-secondary Perkins grant recipients provides a list of distinctive best practice programs; services and activities that may be replicated by other community colleges in the quest for perfect achievement of Perkins grant performance measures.

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Bridging the Gap Between High School and College: A Collaborative Innovation

In an effort to assist college-bound high school students and improve college readiness, the Basic Skills Committee of Brookdale Community College invites Monmouth County high school administrators, teachers and counselors to a one day Outreach Conference each Spring. The conference was a collaborative effort from its inception. The presentation will describe how an Outreach Conference can help build bridges, not only for transitioning students, but for the teachers committed to their success.

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Developing a Climate of Inclusion and Mutual Respect through Effective Staff and Faculty Development

Raritan Valley Community College, to better prepare faculty and staff for our increasingly diverse service communities, developed and implemented a partnership with the Tolerance Center in NYC. All faculty and staff at the college engaged in a two-day program designed to enhance an environment of mutual respect while reducing harassment and prejudice. The program began with an orientation, was followed by group trips to the Tolerance Center in NYC, and was followed by a review and reflection upon the experience.

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From the Campus to the Cloud – Complimenting Your College Resources

Cloud computing is the “buzzword” in information technology services today. Find out what cloud computing is and how using these technologies can enhance the services you currently offer to students, faculty and staff. Examples of cloud computing currently being used at Mercer County Community College will be discussed, along the advantages and disadvantages of these services. Methods for evaluating cloud computing services for your campus will be outlined.

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MENTORING FOR SUCCESS: Cumberland's V-P Fellow's Program

The presentation examines the current poor retention rate of black, latino and native american community college male students. During this presentation the presenters will discuss how a mentoring program created at Cumberland County College has been instrumental in improving the retention rate and cultivating leadership amongst these at-risk populations.

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NJ PLACE: Creating a Pathway from Apprenticeship to College

New Jersey Pathways Leading Apprentices to a College Education (NJ PLACE) is a statewide collaboration among a number of partners, including NJ's 19 community colleges, organized labor, employer associations, federally registered apprenticeship programs, educational institutions, and several state agencies. Together, our stakeholders developed a statewide model to award college credit for graduates of participating registered apprenticeship programs. Our presentation will demonstrate that apprenticeship and college are not divergent paths; rather they are both excellent post-secondary educational pursuits that can go hand-in-hand for students.

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Services for Students with Disabilities: Ahead of the Curve

This presentation will provide an overview of the progressive approach at Bergen Community College to providing disability services and accommodations to students attending the College. The presenters will share the successes, challenges, and lessons learned from working with postsecondary students and families

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Taking Experiential Training to the Next Level: How credit/non-credit collaboration changed a workforce training model

Leveraging training grant dollars allowed an innovative and productive collaboration between the academic and continuing education departments. This career forward initiative created a win-win solution for articulation opportunities.

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Test Anxiety: What We Know and What We Can Do About It

Research supports that test anxiety has a negative impact on students' academic success. Our educational system continues to place great significance on standardized testing. Educators are witnessing an increase in students' self report of test anxiety particularly in high stakes testing environments. This presentation will discuss test anxiety and include strategies to decrease test anxiety. Participants will participate in a guided imagery pod cast to decrease test anxiety and learn how to design a program relevant to meet the needs of their students.

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The Brookdale MUG: Building and Sustaining a College-Wide Marketing Users' Group

The purpose is to share "best practice" information about Brookdale's efforts over the past eight years to improve the College wide marketing efforts through a collaborative, client-based organizational approach.

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The Educator Appointment: A Model to Motivate and Improve Learning

A model to motivate and improve the learning of disadvantaged students and answer the questions: Are you stuck? Will the “Educator Appointment” help improve class attendance, learner confidence and interaction/ engagement with the instructor and help achieve a comfortable familiarity with e-learning responsibilities and technology? Do you have 45 minutes to help a learner improve?

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Transitions to Postsecondary Education

In these turbulent times, there needs to be constant streamlining in finding efficient and successful ways to transition out of school youth to postsecondary education. In working with 18-24-year-old underrepresented youth, College-Yes (C-Yes) has developed a method to transition a larger number of disconnected youth to college without remediation, or at a higher level of remediation, to make a better prepared student “ready for college” in a shorter period of time.

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Final Session: Presidential Roundtable

This final general session will take a look at the highlights of the day and engage the audience in a conversation on how to implement the best of the best practices throughout the sector and will initiate discussion on next steps forward. Join two of our presidents at this lively interactive session.

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