



TRUSTEE

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NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF COUNTY COLLEGES

FY2008 State Budget Increases Community College Funding

The FY2008 State Budget provides three important funding increases to New Jersey's 19 community colleges.

The budget increases direct operating aid to community colleges by 5 percent, or \$7.6 million, to \$163.4 million – the highest level of state funding ever provided to New Jersey's 19 community colleges.

Next, the budget increases the annual Chapter 12 community college building and renovation fund by \$6 million, to \$33.5 million, also the highest level ever.

Third, the budget includes a \$15.5 million increase to the Tuition Aid Grant (TAG) program for full-time students, a \$1 million increase to the TAG program for part-time community college students, and a \$5.8 million increase to New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Rewards Scholarship (NJ STARS), which covers tuition and approved fees at community colleges for students who graduate in the top 20 percent of their high school class.

“Community colleges expand

higher education opportunities by redeeming minds,” said Council Chairman Richard Wellbrock. “The FY2008 State Budget gives our colleges important new funding that will provide those opportunities in ways that are affordable to nearly 400,000 community college students throughout the state.”

Wellbrock added that the increased direct operating aid will help community colleges keep tuition increases moderate this year, while the increased Chapter 12 funding will help our colleges expand their classroom and laboratory facilities in response to recent record enrollment growth.

“In all, the FY2008 State Budget sends a strong message about the state's commitment to higher education and community colleges,” said Council President Larry Nespoli. “We are all grateful to Governor Corzine and the members of the State Legislature for making these special commitments to community college students in yet another tough state budget year.”

Historic Transfer Legislation Passes Assembly and Senate

The New Jersey General Assembly and State Senate unanimously passed legislation sponsored by Assemblywoman Pam Lampitt, Assemblymen Michael Doherty, Pat Diegnan and Craig Stanley, and Senators Ron Rice and Joe Doria that will help community college students transfer their credits to the state's four-year colleges and universities.

The bill (A-3968/S-2535) requires colleges to establish a

statewide transfer agreement that allows students to easily transfer most, if not all, academic credits from a two-year associate degree to a baccalaureate degree program.

This new seamless transfer system will encourage students to continue their educational goals without fear of losing credits for their hard work.

The bill now heads to the Governor's desk for his signature.

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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.

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From the Chairman's Desk

This spring, the New Jersey Legislature passed historic legislation that will allow our community college students to transfer their college credits from a completed associate degree program to a baccalaureate degree program at four-year state colleges and universities.

Under the legislation, each public higher education institution will enter into a collective statewide transfer agreement in consultation with the Commission on Higher Education and the New Jersey Presidents' Council.

The new agreement places a high value on an associate degree from our 19 community colleges. It will include a guarantee that an associate degree will be fully transferable and credited as the first two years of a baccalaureate degree program at the four-year public institution.

As trustees, too many times we've heard stories about our community college students who took college-level community college courses that weren't accepted at four-year schools once they transferred.

This ended up causing our students – most of whom are already on a tight budget as it is – to pay more money for a course they had already completed. In addition, the state funded the course twice – once at the community college and once at the four-year school.

Once the bill becomes law, this legislation will not only help our students, but it will also save the state money.

Assemblywoman Pam Lampitt, Assemblymen Michael Doherty, Pat Diegnan and Craig Stanley, and Senators Ron Rice and Joe Doria sponsored the legislation.

Now, our community college presidents are working to adopt a uniform general education program that will transfer as a core block to New Jersey's four-year state colleges and universities.

Our Trustee Ambassadors deserve a special thank you for this success. They spoke with and wrote to legislators to encourage them to support the bill. You can be sure that the Ambassadors will be called upon in the future for their support regarding the needs of our community college network. On behalf of our students, I thank each trustee and Ambassador for not only the past support, but for the support that will come from each of you in the future.

In addition, several of our NJ STARS Student Ambassadors testified to the Assembly Higher Education Committee and Senate Education Committee regarding the transfer legislation.

The transfer legislation is just one example of our accomplishments this year. Others include increased state funding and health benefits reform, which you can read about in this issue of *Trustee News*. In all, it was another successful year for New Jersey's community colleges.

Continued success to our students and community colleges!



Dr. Richard Wellbrock
Council Chairman

Noah Brown Joins Trustees at Annual Trustee Conference

The New Jersey Council of County Colleges hosted Board Leadership and Advocacy – A Winning Combination, this year’s annual Trustee Conference on June 21, at the Lafayette Yard Marriott Hotel in Trenton.

Association of Community College Trustees President and Chief Executive Officer Noah Brown gave the keynote address during the Conference.

Brown focused on the seven new rules of business for community college trustees, adapted from *The World is Flat* by *New York Times* reporter Thomas Friedman:

1. A Renewed Focus on Higher Education Accountability – Brown said that holding community colleges accountable by traditional measures is inappropriate. “We typically are talking about apples and oranges when it comes to measuring higher education outcomes.”
2. Continuing Anxiety Over College Affordability – Brown noted that average college tuition and fees have risen by more than 6 percent over the last several years, faster than the general rate of inflation. “Our best story about community college affordability is being lost day after day in the endless barrage of news stories about college tuition run amuck.”
3. Waning Public Support – Since public spending on higher education has diminished since the 1970s nationally, Brown believes that trustees need to invest more time and effort in educating policymak-



ACCT Northeast Region Chairman and NJ Community College Trustee Ambassador Jim Perry, Council Chairman Dick Wellbrock and Council President Larry Nespoli present a framed NJ Community College Lapel Pin set to Noah Brown after he gave the keynote address at the Trustee Conference.

- ers about the tremendous return on investment for community colleges.
 4. Growing Expectations– People now look to community colleges to address myriad programmatic needs and demands for specialized services. We have to do more with less.
 5. Increasing Competition – Proprietary institutions have grown tremendously. They are fighting to compete for federal and state dollars currently allocated to community colleges.
 6. Changing Demographics – Changing student demographics place new demands on community colleges. Also, the increase in the number of retirees and individuals on fixed incomes in local communities is beginning to exacerbate the growing scarcity of public resources.
 7. The Worsening Leadership Crisis – The ranks of the community college presidents are continuing to thin. The American Association of Community Colleges estimates 75 percent of CEOs will retire between now and the year 2011.
- In addition to Brown’s keynote address, the Council presented the 2007 Legislative Excellence Award to Assemblywoman Pam Lampitt (see story on page 5) and Community College Spirit Awards to Commission on Higher Education Executive Director Jane Oates, NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner David Socolow, and William Paterson University President Arnold Speert (see story on page 4).

2007 Community College Spirit Awards

At its annual Trustee Conference on June 21, the New Jersey Council of County Colleges presented Community College Spirit Awards to NJ Commission on Higher Education Executive Director Jane Oates, NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner David Socolow and William Paterson University (WPU) President Dr. Arnold Speert for their 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.

Oates was recognized for her leadership on this year's state budget that saw community college funding increase 5 percent (see story on page 1). She also supported Assembly Bill 3968/Senate Bill 2535, leg-

islation that ensures that community college students can transfer credits smoothly to New Jersey's state colleges and universities.

Socolow was recognized for his leadership and service to the state's customized training program and the NJ Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development.

Recently, Commissioner Socolow's department awarded the Consortium a \$1.9 million grant, in collaboration with the NJ Business & Industry Association, to launch basic skills training program to as many as 8,000 workers. (See related story on page 8.)

In addition, Oates and Socolow have championed the



NJ Commission on Higher Education Executive Director Jane Oates receives the 2007 Community College Spirit Award from Council Chairman Dr. Dick Wellbrock.

community colleges' role in Governor Corzine's Economic Growth Strategy.

Speert has long been a supporter of community colleges, and WPU has offered numerous transfer scholarships to community college graduates over the years. He also serves as co-chair of the NJ Presidents' Council Articulation Committee, which supported the new transfer legislation.



Commissioner David Socolow receives the Community College Spirit Award from Dr. Wellbrock.



Dr. Arnold Speert receives the Community College Spirit Award from Passaic Community College President Dr. Steve Rose and Dr. Wellbrock.

Assemblywoman Pamela Lampitt Honored with Community College Legislative Excellence Award

During its annual Trustee Conference on June 21, the NJ Council of County Colleges presented the 2007 Community College Legislative Excellence Award to Assemblywoman Pamela R. Lampitt for supporting New Jersey's community colleges.

Lampitt was honored for her leadership on Assembly Bill 3968, the landmark bill designed to ensure community college students can transfer their credits smoothly to NJ's four-year state colleges and universities. This legislation, critical to community college students, passed unanimously in both the Assembly and the Senate.

Lampitt serves as the vice chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee and also serves on the Assembly Commerce and Economic Development Committee. She was one of the first legislators to win election through New Jersey's Clean Elections Public Financing Program enacted in 2004.

"Assemblywoman Lampitt is a true friend to community colleges. We thank her for listening to our needs, acting upon them and working with other legislators to join forces to get the transfer bill passed by the Assembly," said Council Chairman Dr. Richard Wellbrock.

Assemblywoman Lampitt represents the 6th Legislative District, which includes the Camden County communities of Audubon Park, Berlin Borough, Berlin Township, Cherry Hill, Chesilhurst, Collingswood, Gibbsboro,



Council Chairman Dick Wellbrock, Camden County College President Dr. Ray Yannuzzi and the College's Board of Trustees present the 2007 Legislative Excellence Award to Assemblywoman Lampitt.

Haddon Township, Haddonfield, Oaklyn, Pine Hill, Pine Valley, Tavistock, Voorhees, Waterford, and Winslow.

A resident of Cherry Hill, she was elected to the Cherry Hill Township Council in 2003 after serving on the township Zoning Board.

As a councilwoman, Lampitt was an advocate for quality-of-life issues, leading the fight to preserve open space in Cherry Hill. Lampitt also worked to streamline town management and led the effort to better coordinate economic development, encouraging better communication among township businesses.

Lampitt was born in Natick, Mass., and graduated from Johnson and Wales College with a degree in Culinary Arts and Management. She has worked at the University of Pennsylvania for 25 years and

currently is the school's General Manager for Conference Services. She has served on several university steering committees, including the Committee for Manufacturer Responsibility, which ensures university products are manufactured under fair labor standards.



Assemblywoman Lampitt at the June 21 Trustee Conference.

Phi Theta Kappa Day 2007

In May, the NJ Council of County Colleges honored 36 of the state's best and brightest community college students and their families at its 13th annual Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Day at the Trenton Marriott at Lafayette Yard Hotel.



PTK International Executive Director Rod Risley welcomes students to the medallion ceremony.

“These students named to the All-State Academic Team are recognized for their outstanding academic achievement and exceptional service to their communities as members of PTK at their local community colleges,” said Dr.

Richard Wellbrock, Council chairman.

As part of the celebration, the All-State Academic Team members visited the Statehouse and met with several legislators.

This year PTK International named two NJ students to its All-USA Community College Academic Team.

As members of the 20-member All-USA First Team, Essex County College student Bertheleau Ngakam and Gloucester County College student Lisa Charon received a \$2,500 cash stipend at the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Convention in Tampa, Fla. For being the top ranking PTK student in our state, Charon was



New Century Scholar and All-USA First Team member Lisa Charon

named the 2007 New Jersey New Century Scholar.

PSE&G sponsored PTK Day for the 11th consecutive year. Also, 19 of New Jersey's four-year colleges and universities have offered over \$1 million in scholarships to PTK students transferring to their institutions.

Phi Theta Kappa has recognized and encouraged scholarship among community college students for 88 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.



All-USA First Team member Bertheleau Ngakam



Assemblyman Lou Greenwald congratulates the All-State Academic Team at the end of the medallion ceremony.



Senator Leonard Lance greets the All-State Academic Team in the Statehouse.



Assemblyman Pat Diegnan greets the All-State Academic Team in the Statehouse.

Students' Project Becomes Latest Council Advocacy Piece

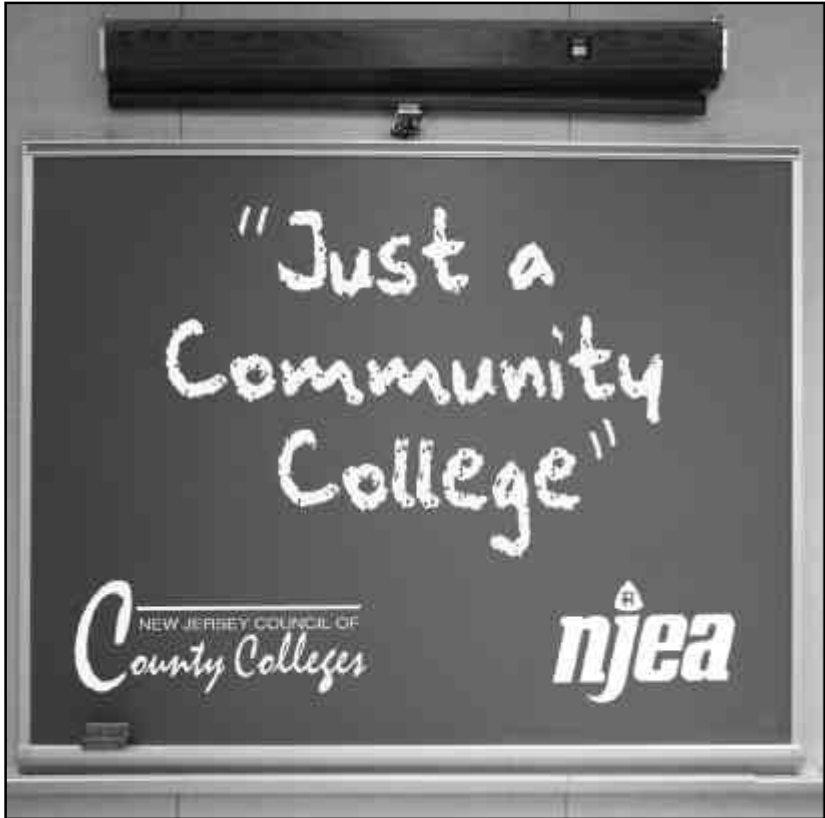
During the fall 2006 semester, Mercer County Community College TV production students created a 20-minute documentary – “Just a Community College” – for their class project.

The students traveled all over the state to interview community college students, faculty and staff members, as well as community residents. The DVD showcases the high quality educational programs and services community colleges provide.

After completing the class project, five students produced a 6-minute version of the film and created a DVD that includes both the 20-minute and 6-minute versions of the students' project.

The Council and the New Jersey Education Association sent DVDs to the Governor, legislators and other officials earlier this summer, and will send it to all NJEA-member guidance counselors and community college faculty and staff this fall.

If you'd like a copy of “Just a Community College,” please call Jake Farbman at the Council office, (609) 392-3434.



Mercer County Community College students Andrew Froening, John Geier, Renny Peralta, Rob Westenhiser, and Jake Wiley produced “Just a Community College,” a documentary that showcases programs and services at New Jersey’s community colleges.

For the latest news about New Jersey's community colleges, please visit www.njccc.org.

The NJ Council of County Colleges is accepting donations for the NJCCC Chair Scholarship, established by Richard and Ann Wellbrock of Watchung, NJ. To donate, call 1-800-334-NJCC.

Business & Industry Association and Workforce Consortium Receive \$1.88 Million Training Grant

The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development recently awarded a \$1.88 million grant to the NJ Business & Industry Association (NJBIA) and the NJ Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development.

With this grant, NJBIA-member businesses can help their employees get the training they need in English as a second language, basic communications skills, basic computer skills, and basic mathematics skills.

“This grant may revolutionize the way workforce training takes place in New Jersey,” said Council President Dr. Larry Nespoli.

Over the next year, NJBIA members can have their employees sign up for classes at any of the 63 community college campuses in New Jersey or possibly at their own facilities.

“One of the best things about this exciting program is that these classes will be provided at no charge to NJBIA members,” said Christopher Emigholz, NJBIA director of

education policy. “Our members will also not be required to fill out any paperwork. However, it is required that our members’ employees be ‘on the clock’ while they attend the training.”

NJBIA’s 2007 Business Outlook Survey reports that only one-third of employers found entry-level employees with high school diplomas to be satisfactory in their performance. This new training program, a benefit of NJBIA membership, can help improve employees’ basic skills.

Grants for individual employers were previously available by the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development for training, but it was difficult for many businesses, especially small businesses, to obtain this money. Under the new program, employers no longer have to provide a minimum number of employees, pay for class tuition, or fill out complicated paperwork.

The new training program could be useful to companies in a variety of situations: a manufacturer that employs many non-English-speaking workers,

a retailer with many employees that need to improve their mathematics and measurement skills, a utility company that needs their employees to develop their communications skills with customers, or a healthcare provider that is trying to upgrade its employees use of computers.

This initial grant program will be available over the next 12 months only, so NJBIA members are encouraged to take advantage of it.

NJBIA-member businesses can get more information or sign their businesses and employees up for training by calling Christopher Emigholz at (609) 393-7707, ext. 201 or Bob Rosa at the Workforce Consortium at (609) 393-9009.

The NJBIA is the nation’s largest statewide employer association. It has more than 23,000 member companies in all industries and in every region of the State and is widely regarded as the most credible and effective advocate for business in New Jersey.

State Health Benefits Program Reform

Governor Corzine recently signed into law Chapter 62, P.L. 2007, legislation that reforms the State Health Benefits Program (SHBP).

This legislation was a Council priority, as health insurance costs continue to increase by double digits each year.

The legislation permits

local employers that participate in the SHBP to negotiate employee contributions to health insurance costs.

As one example, State employees recently ratified new contracts that require all employees to pay 1.5 percent of their annual salaries for health care costs.

If community colleges achieved similar contract provi-

sions, community colleges would save over \$10 million annually.

The Council will convene a workshop in the fall to help community colleges participating in the SHBP implement the new changes.

For more information, please call Linda Lam in the Council office at (609) 392-3434.