

# TrusteeNews

PUBLICATION OF THE NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF COUNTY COLLEGES

## Legislative Session Ends with Important Community College Victories



In April, the Association of Community College Trustees brought its Governance Institute for Student Success program to New Jersey. Please see the related story on page 11. To reinforce the theme of improving student success, NJCCC Chairman Emeritus Dr. Richard Wellbrock and current Chairman Bakari Lee, Esq. offered student success scholarships to the three colleges that brought the most attendees to this important statewide event. Union County College brought nine representatives to the event, winning the first place prize of a \$500 student success scholarship for the college's foundation. Pictured, from left, NJCCC President Dr. Lawrence Nespoli; NJCCC Chairman Bakari Lee, Esq.; NJCCC Chairman Emeritus Dr. Richard Wellbrock; Union County College President Dr. Margaret McMenemy; and UCC Board of Trustees Chairman Victor Richel.

**New Jersey's community colleges received some great news at the end of the recent legislative session.**

New Jersey's community colleges were successful in getting \$3 million in state funding restored in the FY 2014 State budget.

"Those of us who have worked in Trenton for years know that getting additions to the state budget in June is a very difficult thing to accomplish – one of the hardest really, with many groups competing for very limited funds," said NJCCC President Dr. Lawrence Nespoli. "Legislative leaders and the Governor's Office agreed to add only about \$55 million. So, for community colleges to get \$3 million of that \$55 million is good news indeed."

In addition to restored state funding, the Governor and legislature agreed on our bill to no longer require all full-time community college students to have health insurance. Community colleges are still required to offer health insurance plans to students, but students can enroll in college whether they have health insurance or not. Under the federal Affordable Care Act, the cost of student health insurance plans will likely increase from \$100 per year to over \$1,500 per year. Many students simply can not afford this higher premium.

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## From the Chairman's Desk

**Bakari G. Lee, Esq.**

As we reflect on the successes of the 2012-2013 academic year, I wanted to share with you some of my perspectives as Chairman of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges.

By all accounts, it has been an unprecedented year for the New Jersey Council of County Colleges. We have made tremendous progress on all of our student success initiatives that have come out of the Big Ideas Project. We have also launched our new statewide Center for Student Success. In less than one year, the Council and the Center for Student Success have held an unprecedented number of statewide events designed to engage community college trustees, presidents, administrators, faculty, and staff members in this dynamic statewide policy discussion, moving New Jersey's community colleges from "access" institutions to "access to student success" institutions. These include:

- **Two Student Success Summits that focused on transforming developmental education programs;**
- **Two Faculty Summits that developed common core learning outcomes for the top 10 highest enrolled general education courses at New Jersey's 19 community colleges;**
- **An English as Second Language Summit to strengthen ESL Programs;**
- **The Student Services Summit that focused on strengthening academic advising, career counseling, and student orientation;**
- **A statewide Best Practices Conference for faculty and staff to share the latest student success innovations happening at New Jersey's 19 community colleges; and**
- **The Governance Institute for Student Success (GISS), a partnership with the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), that offered trustee education on all things student success.**

It is especially critical that I reemphasize the important role of trustees in these student success efforts. Without a doubt, bringing GISS to New Jersey gave our student success efforts an added boost. Seventy-five New Jersey community college trustees and senior leaders attended. It featured several presentations that focused on providing attendees with the insight, guidance, endorsement, and engagement to promote policies and create accountability measures to increase student success and completion at their community colleges.

Dr. Byron McClenney, Director of Student Success Initiatives at the University of Texas at Austin, offered the following "Top Ten" ways that effective boards can support their

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## TrusteeNews

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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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## Chairman's Desk

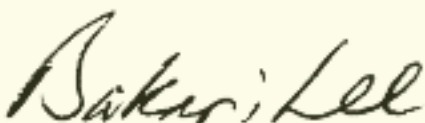
college's student success efforts. They are worth repeating here:

1. **Create the culture within which the president can engage in needed courageous conversations.**
2. **Ask the tough question about progress on student success.**
3. **Expect a relentless focus on the student success agenda.**
4. **Approve a strategic plan with student success at the core.**
5. **Approve goals for student success and equity.**
6. **Expect to receive a limited annual set (3 to 5) of clear priorities to improve student success.**
7. **Approve the allocation/reallocation of resources to support the student success agenda.**
8. **Support a culture of inquiry and evidence.**
9. **Consider evidence-based policies to support student success.**
10. **Monitor key performance indicators.**

Moving forward, the Council's Executive Committee and I will continue to support New Jersey's student success efforts. We have just published and will soon nationally distribute our Access to Student Success brochure, which summarizes all we have done in New Jersey to advance our statewide efforts on this front.

In the coming year, we will utilize our regular Trustee Education Seminar series to deliver student success themed seminars to trustees and presidents at NJ's 19 community colleges. In the coming year, we will be inviting leaders from other states where GISS has been delivered, including Arkansas, Michigan, Texas, and Washington, to build on our own GISS efforts.

I thank all of you for your continued commitment to student success and for your tireless advocacy for New Jersey's community colleges.



Bakari G. Lee, Esq.  
Chairman

## Nespoli Appointed to American Association of Community Colleges Board



Dr. Lawrence A. Nespoli  
President of the New Jersey  
Council of County Colleges

Dr. Lawrence A. Nespoli, president of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges, has been appointed to the Board of Directors for the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), a national organization representing the nation's almost 1,200 two-year colleges and their more than 13 million students.

The new board members took office July 1. Comprising 32 members, the AACC board governs association policy and helps guide strategic direction for national advocacy and other key functions of the Washington, D.C.-based organization.

"Community colleges provide access to higher education for all students who desire to learn," Nespoli said. "However, nationally and in New Jersey, community colleges are working diligently to transform themselves from 'access' institutions to 'access to student success' institutions. I am excited to be part of the AACC Board and contribute to this important mission shift as our country works to once again lead the world with the largest percentage of citizens holding college degrees."

The selection of new board members infuses new energy into the association's leadership and comes during a key time for community colleges, say its leaders. "America's community colleges represent the hope of brighter futures for millions of people today and are keeping the dream of postsecondary education affordable," said Dr. Walter G. Bumphus, president of AACC. "Our new board members are joining us during a pivotal time, as community colleges are being asked to double the number of students completing degrees and other postsecondary credentials and to train significantly more workers to meet the needs of employers throughout the nation."

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the American Association of Community Colleges is a national organization representing the nation's close to 1,200 community, junior, and technical colleges and their over 13 million students. Community colleges are the largest sector of higher education, enrolling almost half of all U.S. undergraduates. ■



## We're Committed! Engaging Students in the College Completion Agenda

by Louis Venturelli, Coordinator, Center for Student Success



The Center for Student Success is proudly working with New Jersey's 19 Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society chapters across the sector to program a series of campus-based activities as part of a statewide Community College Completion Challenge, commonly referred to as the NJ C4 Initiative.

Scheduled for October 14 to 19, 2013, Phi Theta Kappa leaders aim to engage their fellow peers in academically- and socially-based programs that strengthen campus connections at the colleges with the goal of keeping students focused on completing their degrees.

Included in the NJ C4 Initiative will be a host of speakers, events and campus activities such as the signing of student and faculty pledges to complete and obtain certificates and degrees. There will also be opportunities to engage students in peer-to-peer civic engagement programs including campus tutoring and organizational outreach. The Center is consulting with Phi Theta Kappa for this initiative.

Atlantic Cape Community College student and newly-elected New Jersey State Phi Theta Kappa President Felix Contreras believes that statewide initiatives such as the Community College Completion Challenge will motivate his fellow peers to take seriously the goals they set out for themselves upon enrolling in the college. "It's not just about making it into college, but graduating with a degree that symbolizes your accomplishments," Contreras said.

A pioneer on the national scene, New Jersey will be one of the first states to deliver a statewide Completion Challenge in partnership with the Community College Completion Corps., sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa, the American Association of Community Colleges, the Association of Community College Trustees, the League of Innovation, and the Center for Community College Student Engagement. ■

*(Continued from page 1)*

## Legislative Session Ends with Important Community College Victories

**New Jersey's community colleges received some great news at the end of the recent legislative session.**

"Assemblywoman Celeste Riley, the prime sponsor of our bill in the Assembly, was a remarkable champion for community colleges on this issue," Nespoli said. "She worked tirelessly throughout the closing days of the legislative session on our behalf."

And finally, another victory came our way in late June when Governor Christie visited Burlington County College to announce a new community college scholarship program, the Governor's Industry Vocations Scholarship (NJ-GIVS). This program will target \$500,000 each year to women and minorities who want to pursue careers in construction-related fields. NJ-GIVS will pay up to \$2,000 each year to women and minority students who reside in New Jersey for the cost of enrollment in a NJ-GIVS eligible certificate program at one of New Jersey's 19 community colleges. The scholarships are renewable for one year after initial award.

"We have a lot of people on our campuses to thank for these successes," NJCCC Chairman Bakari Lee, Esq. said. "Our Trustee Ambassadors and presidents delivered countless messages to legislators in the weeks leading up to the end of the legislative session. And we had numerous meetings with key legislators – both in Trenton and throughout the state – as well. And of course we can't forget our NJ STARS Student Ambassadors who joined us at Community College Ambassador Day to meet directly with their legislators." ■



## NJCCC Presents Annual Spirit Awards

On June 17, the NJ Council of County Colleges presented its 2013 Community College Spirit Awards to five outstanding individuals who have helped to advance New Jersey's 19 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 NJCCC Chairman Bakari Lee.

First, NJCCC recognized New Jersey Department of Labor Deputy Commissioner Dr. Aaron Fichtner and Gloucester County College Continuing Education Sales Manager Allen Magid.

Fichtner was recognized for his leadership in supporting the New Jersey Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development for various statewide workforce training projects, including: the New Jersey Business and Industry Association Basic Skills Training Program, the BioNJ Biotechnology Training Program, and the New Jersey Utilities Association Training Program.

Magid was recognized for his work promoting the Consortium and the NJBIA Basic Skills Workforce Training Program to businesses in Southern New Jersey.

"The Workforce Consortium is one of our greatest successes," Lee said. "It is because of Deputy Commissioner Fichtner's support and Allen's work that our Consortium has trained over 86,000 employees at over 4,200 New Jersey businesses since its inception in 2004."

Next, NJCCC honored Hudson County Community College Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Eric Friedman for his work in leading New Jersey's community colleges in transforming their English as a Second Language programs. Specifically, he co-authored a statewide white paper, "Transforming ESL Education at New Jersey Community Colleges," and coordinated the first-ever ESL Student Success Summit in April 2013, where over 100 community college ESL faculty members assembled to begin work on improving ESL programs.

Finally, Atlantic Cape Community College Executive Director of College Relations Kathleen Corbalis, APR and County College of Morris Executive Director of College Advancement and Planning and President of the Foundation Joseph Vitale were recognized for their work in helping to gain support for the \$750-million Building Our Future Bond Act, which will provide \$200 million for construction at the state's 19 community colleges. ■



From left: NJCCC Chairman Bakari Lee, Esq.; Kathy Corbalis; and Atlantic Cape Community College President Dr. Peter Mora.



From left, NJ Workforce Consortium COO Robert Rosa; NJCCC Chairman Bakari Lee, Esq.; Deputy Commissioner Fichtner; Mercer County Community College President Dr. Patricia Donohue; and NJ Workforce Consortium Executive Director Sivaraman Anbarasan.



From left: NJCCC Chairman Bakari Lee, Esq.; Barbara Friedman; Dr. Eric Friedman; their son, Daniel; and HCCC President Dr. Glen Gabert.



From left: NJ Workforce Consortium COO Robert Rosa; NJCCC Chairman Bakari Lee, Esq.; Allen Magid; Mercer County Community College President Dr. Patricia Donohue; and NJ Workforce Consortium Executive Director Sivaraman Anbarasan.



From Left: County College of Morris Trustee Thomas Pepe; CCM Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Dwight Smith; NJCCC Chairman Bakari Lee; Joe Vitale; CCM Trustee Cynthia Samuel; CCM President Dr. Ed Yaw; and CCM Trustee Paul Licitra.

# James Perry

## of Union County College Honored with Trustee Leadership Award



On Monday, June 17, the New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC) presented the Ronald D. Winthers Community College Trustee Leadership Award to Union County College Board of Trustees Vice Chairman James R. Perry for his dedicated service to New Jersey's 19 community colleges.

"This award is an honor bestowed on a single New Jersey community college trustee each year," said NJCCC Chairman Bakari G. Lee, Esq. "The award was established in honor of long-time Burlington County College Trustee Ronald D. Winthers, and it was created to recognize visionary leadership by a New Jersey community college trustee at the local, state and national levels."

Perry, of Plainfield, has served on the Union County College Board of Trustees since 1992 and has served as vice chairman since 1999. He served as the Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority chief financial officer prior to retiring in 2012.

"For over 20 years, James Perry has been a dynamic leader in advancing the mission of community colleges," Lee added. "Jim has been and continues to be the shining example of excellent community college trusteeship. He has served as a mentor to many community college trustees throughout the country, myself included."

Perry served as the Northeast Region Chair of the Association of Community College Trustees and as a member of its national board. In 2000, ACCT recognized his national contributions with the ACCT Northeast Region Trustee Leadership Award.

**"For over 20 years, James Perry has been a dynamic leader in advancing the mission of community colleges"**

In New Jersey, Perry served as Chairman of the NJCCC from 1999 to 2002, and a member of the NJCCC Executive Committee from 1995 to 2002. During this time, he led negotiations with state officials to increase the Chapter 12 community college building and renovation fund, which provided an additional \$170 million to renovate and construct new buildings. In recognition of his accomplishments, the NJCCC named its renovated conference room in his honor in 2002. He continues to serve as a member of the NJCCC and as a member of the statewide Community College Trustee Ambassadors Program.

In 2012, Perry was appointed to the ACCT Trust Fund Board, which was established by the ACCT Board of Directors for the purpose of financing projects pertaining to the education and training of community college and technical institution governing board members.

Perry holds an MBA in finance and BA in accounting/finance, both from Western Michigan University, and an associate degree from Henry Ford Community College. He also completed the Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program at the JFK School of Government at Harvard University in 2003.

In addition to his work with Union County College, he served as president and a board member of the King's Daughters Day School, founding member and director of the Plainfield Business Development Corporation, director and legislative vice president of the Central Jersey Chamber of Commerce, and chairman of the Plainfield Citizens School Budget Advisory Committee. ■



UCC Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Maris Lown; NJCCC Chairman Bakari Lee, Esq.; NJCCC Chairman Emeritus Dr. Richard Wellbrock; Jim Perry; Perry's wife Dona Bass, Esq.; UCC Vice President of Student Services Dr. Ralph Ford; UCC President Dr. Margaret McMeniman; and former NJCCC Chairman Ronald Winthers.





# NJ STARS

## Students Testify at Public Budget Hearings

**The Assembly Budget Committee and Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee held public hearings on the proposed FY 2014 State Budget throughout New Jersey during March and April.**

Burlington County College NJ STARS student Sarah Yannes testified to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee during its hearing on March 5, at the Statehouse in Trenton.

"I immediately felt welcomed by the Burlington County College community as a NJ STARS student when I began attending in Fall 2012. Burlington County College puts every effort into creating an authentic 'college experience' for the students with hundreds of on-campus events, Student Appreciation Days, clubs, athletics and service projects aimed to support both the campus and Burlington County communities," Sarah said. "I am a founding member of the NJ STARS Club at BCC, an organization focused on community and campus service projects. I have also received a great deal of support from professors, advisors and career counselors to help me determine a career field I would excel in and enjoy doing each day. With their support, I now plan to pursue a degree in Chemical Engineering at a NJ STARS II participating institution.

"Had it not been for the NJ STARS program, I honestly do not know how I would be able to afford a college degree," she added. "The NJ STARS program has made it possible for my family to financially support me and my siblings while attending college and I encourage students currently in high school to work hard so they too may benefit from the NJ STARS program."

On April 9, Bergen Community College NJ STARS alumna and current Rutgers University NJ STARS II student Stella Continanza and Bergen Community College NJ STARS student Luisa Toro testified to the Assembly Budget Committee at Rutgers – Newark.

"My family and I are incredibly grateful for all of the wonderful opportunities that NJ STARS has allowed me to experience," Stella said. "The financial assistance provided to me by the State of New Jersey allowed me to focus on my grades, extracurricular activities and internships by minimizing my education expenses. Although I still worked throughout the duration of my college education to help support my additional education costs, the burden of helping my parents put me through college was lessened.

"I attended Immaculate Conception High School in Lodi, New Jersey and graduated with one of the highest GPAs in my class. My family and I were so relieved when we found out about NJ STARS because, as the oldest of three children, my family was dealing with the expenses of multiple educations.



Burlington County College NJ STARS student Sarah Yannes with BCC NJ STARS Advisor Colleen Doran shortly after Sarah's testimony in the Statehouse.



Rutgers University – Newark NJ STARS II student Stella Continanza and Bergen Community College NJ STARS student Luisa Toro testifying to the Assembly Budget Committee.

"Bergen Community College provided an opportunity for me to get a great education, gave me time to find out what I wanted to do with my career, and at the same time – and most importantly – it allowed my parents to save money for my two younger brothers who would be starting college in a few years.

"As part of NJ Stars II, I transferred to Rutgers University-Newark's highly regarded Business School to pursue a double bachelor's degree in marketing and management. For the past six months I have been interning in the global corporate communications department at JWT, one of the largest advertising agencies in the world, with great prospects of a full-time position upon graduation."

"I was born in Colombia and came to the United States when I was nine," Luisa said. "I spoke absolutely no English. I struggled in school, but my wonderful mother once said to me, 'study and give your best, because education is the key to a successful life and no one can take what you learn away from you.' Thanks to those wise words I was able to excel in school to become an NJ STARS student and join Phi Theta Kappa. In May, I will be a proud Bergen Community College graduate with an associate degree in engineering science, and then start school this fall at New Jersey Institute of Technology. Thanks to the NJ STARS program the dream of having a higher education and becoming a civil engineer is becoming true. NJ STARS is helping my dreams come true." ■

# SCENES FROM COMMUNITY COLLEGE AMBASSADOR DAY

On Thursday, March 21, the New Jersey Council of County Colleges held its annual Community College Ambassador Day, where community college Trustee Ambassadors, NJ STARS Student Ambassadors and community college presidents met in the Statehouse with legislative leaders and policymakers to discuss community college legislative priorities.

Our delegation advocated throughout the halls of the Statehouse with numerous legislators, urging them to support restoring state funding and our student health insurance bill, as well as support the funding in the proposed FY 2014 State Budget for Tuition Aid Grants (TAG), TAG for part-time community college students and NJ STARS. ■



Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan with the Middlesex County College NJ STARS Student Ambassadors

Assemblywoman Mary Pat Angelini with the Brookdale Community College delegation



**Top Left:** Senator Steven Oroho with Sussex County Community College President Dr. Paul Mazur and the SCCC NJ STARS Student Ambassadors

**Top Right:** Assemblyman Thomas Giblin and Assemblywoman Celeste Riley addressed Ambassador Day attendees over lunch.



Senator Jeff Van Drew

Assemblywoman Linda Stender with the Union County College delegation

Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson-Coleman greeted Ambassador Day attendees over breakfast.

Assemblyman Timothy Eustace with the Bergen Community College NJ STARS Student Ambassadors





Assemblywoman Mila Jasey with the Essex County College delegation



Mercer County Community College NJ STARS Student Ambassador Anderson Monken with Governor Christie's Deputy Chief of Staff Lou Goetting in the Governor's Outer Office



Assemblyman David Wolfe with the Ocean County College delegation



**Top Left:** Assemblyman Gordon Johnson with Bergen Community College NJ STARS Student Ambassador Dayton Pierce



**Top Right:** Assemblyman Paul Moriarty with the Camden County College delegation



Assemblywoman Connie Wagner with the Bergen Community College NJ STARS Student Ambassadors



**Right:** Assemblyman Robert Clifton discusses community college priorities with the Brookdale Community College delegation



Assemblyman Parker Space with the County College of Morris delegation



Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly and NJCC Chairman Bakari Lee



Assemblywoman Pamela Lampitt with County College of Morris President Dr. Ed Yaw and the CCM NJ STARS Student Ambassadors





**Top Left:** Assemblyman Daniel Benson with the Mercer County Community College delegation

**Top Right:** Assemblyman Anthony Bucco with the County College of Morris NJ STARS Student Ambassadors



**Photo 1:** Senator Linda Greenstein with the Mercer County Community College delegation

**Photo 2:** Assemblywoman Annette Quijano with the Union County College delegation

**Photo 3:** Assemblywomen Angelica Jimenez and Marlene Caride with the Hudson County Community College delegation

**Photo 4:** Assemblyman Ralph Caputo with the Essex County College delegation

**Photo 5:** Assemblyman Upendra Chivukula

**Photo 6:** Assemblywoman Gabriela Mosquera and Gloucester County College Trustee Cody Miller

# SCENES FROM COMMUNITY COLLEGE AMBASSADOR DAY



**Top:** Senator Ronald Rice with the Essex County College delegation

**Bottom:** Senator Anthony Bucco with the County College of Morris delegation



## Governance Institute for Student Success Comes to New Jersey

The Association of Community College Trustees' (ACCT) Governance Institute for Student Success (GISS) Trustee Retreat took place at Middlesex County College on April 15, 2013. GISS is a nationally-recognized initiative focused on fostering community college student completion through effective governance. Seventy-five New Jersey community college trustees and senior leaders attended. It featured several presentations that focused on providing attendees with the insight, guidance, endorsement, and engagement to promote policies and create accountability measures to increase student success and completion at their community colleges.

Dr. Byron McClenney, Director of Student Success Initiatives at the University of Texas at Austin, teamed with ACCT Consultant Dr. Patricia Keir on a number of interactive sessions with trustees including:



Dr. Patricia Keir, ACCT Consultant



Dr. Byron McClenney, Director of Student Success Initiatives at the University of Texas at Austin

### GISS Overview

- Student Success in Community Colleges – Why Now?
- Why Trustees Need to Provide Leadership for Student Success
- Working Effectively as a Governance Team to Understand and Achieve Student Success
- Values That Trustees Bring to Their College and Community
- What is Student Success?
- What Does Student Success Mean for Your College?
- What Does Student Success Mean for the State?
- The Value of Data
- Insights on Student Success Data from Achieving the Dream Colleges
- How to Create a Culture of Evidence
- Moving the Needle: What Are We Learning About Transforming Community Colleges
- Conditions and Climate for Fostering a Student Success and Completion Agenda
- What Are We Learning About What Works and About Making Progress
- Strong Governance Practices for Student Success

(Rob) Myung-In Kim, Director of Testing at Middlesex County College, and Lorie Trachtenberg, Director of Testing at Ocean County College, facilitated a discussion of the complexities and status of placement tests at New Jersey's community colleges. Trustees and presidents then actually took portions of the math and English placement tests, and then participated in roundtable discussions about that personal experience with the test.

The program concluded with cross-college conversations, and then representatives from the various colleges reported out on their ongoing efforts to advance the mission of student success at their respective campuses.

ACCT Board members Bakari Lee, Esq., of the Hudson County Community College Board of Trustees, Rev. William Coleman of the Mercer County Community College Board of Trustees, and Cid Wilson of the Bergen Community College Board of Trustees will continue to lead New Jersey's GISS efforts. During the June 2013 Year-End New Jersey Council of County Colleges meeting, these three trustees shared excerpts from Dr. McClenney's GISS PowerPoint slides with other trustees. ACCT's new Student Success Policy Action Agenda was also distributed and discussed.

In addition, the Council has just published and nationally distributed its Access to Student Success brochure, which summarizes all we have done in New Jersey to advance our statewide efforts on improving student success. ■



# CENTER FOR UPDATES

## Center for Student Success Hosts First-ever English as a Second Language Summit

The English as a Second Language Summit gathered 100 faculty and staff members from across the sector at Mercer County Community College on April 5, 2013. The day featured presentations by prominent leaders in the area of ESL education including Dr. Mark Algren, former president of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages and current faculty member at the University of Kansas, and Dr. Cynthia Schuemann, faculty member at Miami Dade College.



Dr. Cynthia Schuemann



Dr. Mark Algren

Both Dr. Algren's keynote address, *Transforming for Excellence: Meeting the Assessed Needs of ESL Learners*, and Dr. Schuemann's presentation, *A Case Study ESL Initiative: Project ACE*, engaged the participants in robust discussion about best practices. Most importantly, this event gave faculty and staff members the opportunity to share strategies that could be implemented at their respective colleges and let their voices be heard in moving the ESL initiative forward.

Based on resoundingly positive feedback from the attendees, the day was a great success with one faculty member stating that the high point of the event was "sitting at a table with a mixed group of ESL professionals, addressing each other's concerns, offering possible solutions, talking openly about the challenges and successes and coming up with an action plan that is workable."

Another faculty member spoke to the effectiveness of the keynote speakers noting that they "pulled us participants out of our comfort zones and required that we think about ESL delivery systems at community colleges in a different way."

Comments such as these speak to the quality of our faculty and staff in the state and ensure that the momentum created by these events will lead to continued success in the future. ■

## Center for Student Success Organizes First-ever Statewide Student Services Summit

The Student Services Summit was held at Middlesex County College on April 15, 2013. One hundred student affairs professionals from across the state met to discuss the role student affairs plays in the success of community college students.



Dr. Paula Pando



Dr. Bette Simmons

In advancing this important message, the event featured presentations by County College of Morris Vice President of Student Development & Enrollment Management Dr. Bette M. Simmons and Hudson County Community College Vice President Vice President for North Hudson Center & Student Affairs Dr. Paula Pando, Raritan Valley Community College President Dr. Casey Crabill, Dr. Byron McClenney of the University of Texas at Austin, and Dr. Patricia Keir of the Association of Community College Trustees.

The participants completed the day by engaging in cross-college discussions where several ideas for future action emerged including transforming orientation, the significance of engaging new students, and the need for continuing collaboration with academic affairs at the various colleges.

Several student affairs professionals voiced their positive experiences at the Summit. One participant noted the "joy" of "being able to speak to similar professionals at other institutions." She continued, "Sharing similar barriers and coming up with future ideas to assist with those barriers was re-energizing." Another attendee further commented on the momentum created by this event stating, "It is always refreshing to work with and be around people who share my passion to make our field better for the students we serve."

The New Jersey Council of County Colleges and the Center for Student Success look forward to providing similar events in the near future that promote the importance of student services for the continued success of students in the state. ■

## Larson Named to HESAA Executive Committee



Dr. Jon Larson  
Ocean County College  
President

Ocean County College President Dr. Jon Larson has been named to the Executive Committee of the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) Board. This is the first time a community college president has ever been named to HESAA's Executive Committee.

The HESAA Board itself has 16 members, with six of them serving on the Executive Committee.

HESAA is the state authority that is responsible for providing students and families with financial and informational resources for students to pursue their education beyond high school. These include grants, scholarships, loans, loan redemption programs, a college savings plan, and comprehensive outreach programs. Of important interest to community colleges are NJ STARS, Tuition Aid Grants (TAG), TAG for part-time community college students, and the new Governor's Industry Vocations Scholarship for Women and Minorities (NJ-GIVS) scholarship.

NJ-GIVS is a program for women and minority students pursuing non-degree certificate programs in construction-related fields. NJ-GIVS will pay up to \$2,000 each year to women and minority students who reside in New Jersey for the cost of enrollment in a NJ-GIVS eligible certificate program at one of New Jersey's 19 community colleges. The scholarships are renewable for one year after initial award.

Larson has been president of Ocean County College since August 2000. He has been honored with many awards for his dedication to education and his community service. He has also had more than two dozen articles published and has given a number of professional presentations and speeches along the Eastern Seaboard and California. ■

## Center for Student Success Hosts Second Student Success Summit on Transforming Developmental Education

On April 12, 2013, the second Student Success Summit took place at Mercer County Community College. The event was attended by 150 developmental math and English faculty members who were treated to a number of presentations related to innovating developmental education in the community college sector.



Patti Levine-Brown



Brent Kendrick and  
Jane Serbousek



Lucille Davy

Patti Levine-Brown of the National Association for Developmental Education spoke about her experiences with this subject in an informative talk titled *Implementing Change in Developmental Education: No One Size Fits All*. Jane Serbousek of Northern Virginia Community College and Brent Kendrick of Lord Fairfax Community College highlighted the statewide efforts in Virginia to restructure developmental math and English in their presentation, *Redesigning Developmental Education: Scaling Up and Lessons Learned*.

During a working lunch session, Lucille Davy of James M. Davy Associates educated the participants on upcoming changes regarding statewide common core standards in New Jersey at the K-12 level and the importance of aligning these standards with developmental learning outcomes at the 19 community colleges.

The day concluded with spirited discussions among the representatives of the various colleges regarding such topics as acceleration through developmental education coursework, modularization, the significance of faculty professional development, and other strategies for improving the quality of developmental education across the sector.

Several participants commented on the success of the Summit in expanding their knowledge of best practices and in giving them the opportunity to collaborate with their colleagues to discover strategies that might be employed at their respective colleges. One faculty member mentioned that the strength of the event was "the opportunity to interact with faculty from other institutions since we could compare notes on how different colleges are attempting to improve student performance." Another faculty member highlighted the inspirational message of the day stating, "I enjoyed the positive 'moving forward' tone of the entire event." She continued, "We have joined forces to say it is not acceptable for students to fail developmental education courses repeatedly." ■



# National 2013 ACCT LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR

New Jersey's community college trustees and presidents attended the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Legislative Seminar in Washington, D.C., from February 11 to 14, 2013. They met with New Jersey's Congressional Delegation to discuss federal community college issues impacting the Garden State.

The most pressing national community college issue is the changes to the Pell Grant program. Pell Grants are by far the single largest source of federal funding

for NJ's community colleges. Last year nearly 90,000 community college students received \$279 million in Pell funding. While meeting with New Jersey's delegation, we asked for support in restoring Pell eligibility for new students lacking a GED or high school diploma but enroll in a career pathway program.



U.S. Department of Labor Assistant Secretary Jane Oates joined us during our annual ACCT Legislative Seminar breakfast. With her here are NJCCC President Dr. Lawrence Nespoli, Mercer County Community College Trustee Rev. William Coleman, NJCCC Chairman Bakari Lee, Esq., MCCC President Dr. Patricia Donohue, and Atlantic Cape Community College President Dr. Peter Mora.



Burlington County College President David Hespe, Esq., Raritan Valley Community College President Dr. Casey Crabill, Union County College Trustee Mary Zimmermann, and Congressman Leonard Lance in Washington, D.C. during the ACCT Legislative Seminar.



Essex County College Board of Trustees Chairman Calvin Souder, Esq. with Congressman Albio Sires in Washington, D.C. during the ACCT Legislative Seminar.



Burlington County College President David Hespe, Esq., Congressman Rob Andrews, Camden County College President Dr. Raymond Yannuzzi, and Camden County College Trustee Anthony Maressa in Washington, D.C. during the ACCT Legislative Seminar.



Union County College Trustees Lucio Barreto and Mary Zimmermann, Congressman Albio Sires, and UCC President Dr. Margaret McMenam in Washington, D.C. during the ACCT Legislative Seminar.





Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen met with the Passaic County Community College delegation. Joining him are PCCC Board of Trustees Chairman Harvey Nutter, Trustee Barbara Tanis, Trustee Yolanda Esquiche, PCCC President Dr. Steven Rose, Executive Director of College Advancement Todd Sorber, and College Counsel Michael Cerone, Esq.



During this year's New Jersey Delegation breakfast, Marissa Watkins, the assistant director of Governor Christie's Washington, D.C. office, addressed our trustees and presidents. With her here are NJCCC President Dr. Lawrence Nespoli, Atlantic Cape Community College President Dr. Peter Mora and NJCCC Chairman Bakari Lee, Esq.



Hudson County Community College President Dr. Glen Gabert, Congressman Albio Sires, NJCCC Chairman Bakari Lee, Esq., and HCCC Vice President Dr. Eric Friedman in Washington, D.C. during the ACCT Legislative Seminar.

## Center for Student Success Facilitates Faculty Summit on Core Learning Outcomes



Raritan Valley Community College Associate Dean of Academic Assessment Soheila Kobler discusses writing measurable, clear and succinct learning outcomes with the faculty members in attendance.

On February 22, 2013, nearly 90 full-time faculty members from across the state gathered at Middlesex County College to develop a list of recommended core learning outcomes in five of the top 10 highest enrolled general education courses. Faculty gathered in groups by discipline, representing English Composition I, English Composition II, Introduction to Psychology, Introduction to Sociology, and Public Speaking.

The day started with a presentation from Raritan Valley Community College Associate Dean of Academic Assessment Soheila Kobler on how to write measurable, clear and succinct learning outcomes. With this knowledge in mind, faculty diligently worked with members of their disciplines to create a recommended set of outcomes.

One faculty member found the high point of the Summit to be "meeting colleagues from other colleges to hear about how they approach the course content, what they emphasize and how our students are similar or different." Another faculty member noted the benefits of "sharing ideas and experiences and concerns with fellow professors from our sister colleges."

Led by Dr. Jacqueline Kineavy of Passaic County Community College and Dr. Margaret Hamilton of Camden County College, Big Idea #8: Establishing Core Learning Outcomes for the Top 10 Highest Enrolled General Education Courses continues to develop with another event planned for the fall 2013 semester. The next five courses to establish common core learning outcomes will include Introduction to Statistics, Computers, Global Civilization, Anatomy and Physiology, and Contemporary Mathematics.

# Phi Theta Kappa Day Honors New Jersey's Best College Students

New Jersey's 40 best and brightest community college students and their families were honored at the NJ Council of County Colleges' 19th annual Phi Theta Kappa Day celebration in early May.

"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, the Coca-Cola Foundation and the New Jersey Education Association," 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, Mercer County Community College student Anderson Monken received a \$2,000 New Century Scholarship from the Coca-Cola Foundation for being New Jersey's top community college student. 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.

Phi Theta Kappa International and the Coca-Cola Foundation awarded four more scholarships to outstanding New Jersey students as part of the All-USA Academic Team competition.

Sussex Community College student Derya Demirtas received a \$1,500 scholarship for being named Coca-Cola Foundation All-USA Gold Medalist Scholar. Bergen Community College student Shawn Brady and Union County College student Maria Del Cid each received \$1,250 scholarships for being named Coca-Cola Foundation All-USA Silver Medalist Scholars. Ocean County College student Mary Foley received a \$1,000 scholarship for being named a Coca-Cola Foundation All-USA Bronze Medalist Scholar.

In addition, 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. ■

Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver greeted the All-State Academic Team in the Assembly Chamber during Phi Theta Kappa Day.



2013 Coca-Cola Foundation  
New Century Scholar  
Anderson Monken



Union County College's  
Maria Del Cid



Ocean County College's  
Mary Foley



Bergen Community College's  
Shawn Brady



Passaic County Community  
College student Theodore  
Reinhardt III with Governor  
Christie's Senior Policy Advisor  
David Weinstein in the Governor's  
Outer Office



Sussex County Community  
College's Derya Demirtas



# NJCCC Chairman Bakari G. Lee, Esq. Atlantic Cape Community College Class of 2013 Commencement Speech

New Jersey Council of County Colleges Chairman Bakari G. Lee, Esq. delivered the keynote address during Atlantic Cape Community College's 46th commencement on May 23. Below is the transcript of the speech.



Bakari Lee, Esq., Atlantic Cape Community College's 2013 Commencement speaker, and Dr. Peter Mora, Atlantic Cape president.



Bakari Lee, Esq., chairperson of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges and a member of McManimon, Scotland & Baumann law firm in Roseland, delivered Atlantic Cape Community College's keynote address at the 2013 Commencement, May 23, at the Mays Landing Campus

Thank you, Dr. Mora. Being asked to be a commencement speaker is a first for me, and I am truly honored and humbled to be here with you all today. I'd like to begin by recognizing my friend and colleague, Dr. Pete Mora, and your leadership team, Pete, as well as Chairman (David) Evans, and the board of trustees, for the great leadership and stewardship that you have exhibited at Atlantic Cape Community College. You have been leaders in the paradigm shift from "access" to "access for success," highlighted by your recent admission to the Achieving the Dream initiative. And for that, on behalf of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges, I'd like to thank you, and commend you, for the great work you are doing here at Atlantic Cape.

And with that, I'd like to say good morning to all those here today, but of course, first and foremost, to the graduating Class of 2013! Now remember, for the rest of this commencement, any time you hear someone say "Class of 2013," it is your duty and obligation to erupt into wild and joyful cheers and applause, because you have earned it.

You know, we all know this but it's worth repeating, it is not an easy thing to pursue higher education these days. And yet, as we all equally know, higher education is the single, most immediate way that a person in our society can elevate him or herself from one station in life to another. And not just elevate yourself, but elevate your family, those for whom you are responsible. And whether you realize it or not, it also makes you an example for those close to you. And, achieving higher education also allows you to more greatly contribute to your community. So a higher education is a critical factor in self-improvement, meeting our responsibilities in life, and bettering the world around us. But despite this, with the ongoing difficulties in our economy, this "new normal" we all hear so much about, budget cuts, the difficulties in Washington to get things done that we hear about ad nauseum, reductions in Pell grants and the like, it is more and more difficult to realize a higher education in today's world. And yet, in the face of all this, here you are, Class of 2013. You have taken it upon yourselves, for whatever your various reasons may be, to pursue this goal, and you have succeeded. Well done.

In talking with Dr. Mora and his staff about this great day for all of you, and your family and friends, I was told of Zuleika Delgado, 20 years old, and the first person in her family to graduate from college. Zuleika's words hit a special note for me. Zuleika said, "Graduating means that my dreams are becoming a reality, and it gives me happiness to know that my

family is proud of me." I understand that Zuleika is graduating with an associate degree in general studies and will continue her education at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, where she will earn a bachelor's degree in biology. Zuleika summed up her feelings by saying that as long as you are happy with what you are doing and where you are in life, you are successful. Zuleika, I couldn't agree more. Congratulations to you. Good job.

And then I was told about Bobby Speirs, a journalism major here at Atlantic Cape, who at 27 is still paying off loans for the year he attended a four year college. Bobby is a member of the Atlantic Cape Review, which has given him the experience of filing stories on deadline and being held to professional standards as a journalist, all while being a full-time student and while working a full-time job. Bobby, I want you to know that what you have done is not run of the mill, this day is a special accomplishment that not everyone is able to achieve. But you have remained steadfast, and here you are. You are to be commended. And as a matter of fact, Bobby, I am considering journalism as a later-in-life career, so if you're up for it, I could use a mentor.

And finally I had the chance to learn about Indira Pearce, your 2013 High Honor Speaker. Indira, the mother of a beautiful son, is graduating summa cum laude with a perfect 4.0. That is especially impressive to me, because the only distinction I graduated with was "Thank you, Lordy." Indira will go on to attend Rutgers at Atlantic Cape to pursue her bachelor's degree in psychology, with a goal to conduct neurological research in the field of psychology. From Indira: "Graduating





From left: Bryan Dufresne, Atlantic Cape Community College's Student Government Association president; Bakari Lee, Esq., Atlantic Cape's 2013 Commencement speaker; Indira Pearce, high honor speaker; and Dr. Peter Mora, Atlantic Cape president



From left: Bakari Lee, Atlantic Cape Community College's 2013 Commencement speaker; Valerie Travis-Reese, Atlantic Cape's President's Distinguished Alumni Award recipient; and Dr. Peter Mora, Atlantic Cape president

from Atlantic Cape means everything to me. It means I have succeeded when I was so scared I would fail; it means that I have what it takes to continue working toward my dream; it means that I am a positive role model for my son; and it means that all of my family's sacrifices have not been in vain." High honors indeed.

As I thought and reflected on your successes, not just those graduates I mentioned, but all of you here today, it brought to mind for me an excerpt I learned from a speech given by Theodore Roosevelt called the Man in the Arena. I am a member of a fraternity, and there were many dark days my line brothers and I endured while seeking to become men of this great brotherhood. And this set of words, kept us afloat and sustained us on my difficult nights when we didn't think we could continue the difficult path we had chosen for ourselves: "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

You, Class of 2013, have chosen to be the Men and Women in the Arena. You have taken to dare greatly, and in so doing, here you sit, on this day, having accomplished a great task, a noble work, that will open doors for you, sustain you and your family, and elevate your community and those around you, for the rest of your lives. And for that I salute you.

But remember, inasmuch as your achievement today is a fantastic accomplishment, always be reminded to reach back and help those who come behind you. Be community-oriented. Volunteer. Give of your time and resources where you can. Help those close to you, especially those who will look to you as an example of strength that will allow them to dare greatly.

You know, I lost my father in 2007, and while the pain of losing him has never left me, I can say that I got more in 36 years from my father than many have gotten in twice that time. And for that I am eternally thankful. And among many lessons that I hold close to my heart, one lesson that I learned from him stands above the rest, and that is to give back to others: family, community, and friends. I eulogized my father with a poem that spoke to the man he was, and I'd like to leave this poem with you today, and admonish you to heed its words, as you move forward through your lives. It is called *The Bridge Builder*, by Will Allen Dromgoole:

## The Bridge Builder

by Will Allen Dromgoole:

"An old man, going a lone highway,  
Came at the evening cold and gray,  
To a chasm, vast and deep and wide,  
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.  
The old man crossed in the twilight dim-  
That sullen stream had no fears for him;  
But he turned, when he reached the other side,  
And built a bridge to span the tide.

'Old man,' said a fellow pilgrim near,  
'You are wasting strength in building here.  
Your journey will end with the ending day;  
You never again must pass this way.  
You have crossed the chasm, deep and wide,  
Why build you the bridge at the eventide?'

The builder lifted his old gray head.  
'Good friend, in the path I have come,' he said,  
'There followeth after me today  
A youth whose feet must pass this way.  
This chasm that has been naught to me  
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.  
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;  
Good friend, I am building the bridge for him.'"

Class of 2013: advance, move ahead, continue to be the Men and Women in the Arena. Lead. Step forward. Push yourselves. But always remember, build bridges for those following behind you. Create the imprints in the snow that will make the path easier for those walking in your footsteps, and when necessary, be the footprints in the sand that carry them through when they cannot carry themselves.

*Thank you, and Congratulations  
to the Atlantic Cape  
Class of 2013!*



From left: Bakari Lee, Esq., Atlantic Cape Community College's 2013 Commencement speaker; David Evans, Atlantic Cape's Board of Trustees chairperson; and Dr. Peter Mora, Atlantic Cape president.