

TrusteeNews

PUBLICATION OF THE NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF COUNTY COLLEGES



Salem Community College President Dr. Peter Contini introduces Senate President Stephen Sweeney and Senator Jeff Van Drew at Community College Ambassador Day. Senators Sweeney and Van Drew greeted our Trustee Ambassadors and NJ STARS Student Ambassadors, and especially thanked our students for getting involved and advocating for NJ STARS.

NJ's Community Colleges Host Successful Ambassador Day in the Statehouse

On Thursday, March 3, 2011, the New Jersey Council of County Colleges held its annual Community College Ambassador Day, where community college Trustee Ambassadors and NJ STARS Student Ambassadors met in the Statehouse with legislative leaders and policy-makers to discuss community college legislative priorities.

During the event, several members of the New Jersey Legislature visited with our Trustee Ambassadors and NJ STARS Student Ambassadors.

Specifically, we asked legislators to:

- Support level operating aid for community colleges, as recommended in the proposed FY 2012 budget;
- Support the next cycle of Chapter 12 funding, as recommended in the Governor's budget;
- Approve the language in the Governor's budget to continue NJ STARS as a tuition scholarship for community college freshmen and sophomores and restructure NJ STARS II to a state-funded \$2,500 annual scholarship that community college graduates can earn in their junior and senior years at any New Jersey public or private college or university;
- Support increased funding for the Tuition Aid Grant (TAG) program, especially TAG awards for needy part-time community college students; and
- Support pension and health benefits reform for public employees, including community college employees, as recommended by the Governor and legislative leaders.

(Continued on page 2)

NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF
County Colleges

In This Issue:

- **Cover**
Ambassador Day
- **Page 6**
2011 ACCT National Legislative Seminar
- **Page 7**
NJ STARS Students Testify at Public Budget Hearings



*(Continued from page 1)***NJ's Community Colleges Host Successful Ambassador Day in the Statehouse**

Sussex County Community College President Dr. Paul Mazur (left) welcomes Assemblyman Gary Chiusano to Community College Ambassador Day.



Senator Kip Bateman (right) joins Assemblyman Fuentes and Senator Beach during Ambassador Day.



Raritan Valley Community College President and Chair of the New Jersey Community College Presidents Dr. Casey Crabill welcomes Trustee Ambassadors and NJ STARS Student Ambassadors to the event.



NJCCC President Dr. Lawrence Nespoli introduces Senator Ron Rice.

Support level operating aid for community colleges

as recommended in the Governor Christie's proposed FY 2012 budget.

Ambassador
DAY
2011



Warren County Community College Foundation Executive Director Samir Elbassiouny, Trustee Ambassador Annette Munley, Assemblyman John DiMaio, NJ STARS Student Ambassador Kelly Ignaut, and Assemblyman Erik Peterson in the Senate Chamber.

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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(Continued from page 2)

NJ's Community Colleges Host Successful Ambassador Day in the Statehouse



Brookdale NJ STARS Ambassadors Mike Chemris, Brenda Ryan and Kelley Shann with Assemblywoman Caroline Casagrande and Assemblywoman Amy Handlin.



Assemblyman Jason O'Donnell greets our delegation in the Senate Chamber.



Ocean County College NJ STARS Advisor Elaine Schardien, NJ STARS Student Ambassador Brian Van Nortwick, Assemblyman David Wolfe and NJ STARS Student Ambassador Kaely Prior in the Senate Chamber.



Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan addresses our attendees in the Senate Chamber.



Assemblywoman Joan Voss with Salem Community College President Dr. Peter Contini and Brookdale NJ STARS Student Ambassadors Kelley Shann and Brenda Ryan.



Assemblyman Upendra Chivukula outside of the Assembly Democrats' Caucus Room.



Assemblywoman Mila Jasey outside of the Assembly Democrats' Caucus Room.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)
**NJ's Community Colleges
Host Successful
Ambassador Day in the
Statehouse**



Salem Community College NJ STARS Student Ambassador Sarah Stout



Ocean County College NJ STARS Student Ambassador Kaely Prior



Bergen Community College NJ STARS Student Ambassador Eugene Williams

Approve the language in the Governor's budget to continue NJ STARS

as a tuition scholarship for community college freshmen and sophomores and restructure NJ STARS II to a state-funded \$2,500 annual scholarship that community college graduates can earn in their junior and senior years at any New Jersey public or private college or university.



Assemblyman Albert Coutinho with Lynn Nowak, Dr. Contini and Kelley Shann.



Brookdale NJ STARS Ambassadors Mike Chemris, Brenda Ryan and Kelley Shann with Assemblyman David Rible.



Camden County College NJ STARS Student Ambassadors Amanda Braddock and Dominick Casey with Assemblywoman Pamela Lampitt and Camden County College President Dr. Raymond Yannuzzi.



Senator Jim Whelan meets with NJ STARS Student Ambassador Dominic Casey, his parents JoAnn and Dominic, and Dr. Contini.

Support the next cycle of Chapter 12 funding

as recommended in the Governor's budget.



Sussex County Community College President Dr. Paul Mazur welcomes Assemblywoman Alison Little McHose to Ambassador Day.



Senator Diane Allen



Assemblyman Paul Moriarty



Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman

Support increased funding for the Tuition Aid Grant (TAG)

as recommended in the Governor's budget.



The Governor's Intergovernmental Affairs Director of Constituent Outreach Frank Luna and Director of Education & African American Affairs Brandon Brice spoke with NJ STARS students about the inner-workings of the Governor's Office.



Camden County College NJ STARS Ambassadors Dominic Casey and Amanda Braddock with Assemblyman Herb Conaway.



Bergen Community College's NJ STARS Student Ambassadors caught up with Senator Paul Sarlo in the Statehouse. Pictured, from left: Eugene Williams, Krystyn Croney, Brian Perez, Senator Sarlo, Danielle Bruno, Ashley Cruz, and NJ STARS Advisor Lisa Castellano.



(Continued on page 8)

National 2011 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 13 to 16, 2011. They met with New Jersey's Congressional Delegation to discuss federal community college issues impacting the Garden State, including:

■ **Pell Grants** – Pell grants are the single largest source of federal funding for New Jersey's community colleges. Nearly 50,000 community colleges students receive more than \$140 million in Pell funding each year. We recommend that Congress make Pell grants a top priority. The White House's budget proposal recommends maintaining a maximum Pell grant of \$5,550, while accomplishing savings through program eligibility requirements. House Republicans have recommended cutting the maximum Pell grant to \$4,705.

■ **Perkins Vocational Education Program** – The Perkins Program provided \$9 million to New Jersey's community colleges last year. This program funded equipment and other support for our workforce development programs. We recommend that Congress continue its support for this important program.

■ **Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)** – Included in TAA is the Community College and Career Training Grant (CCCTG) program, one of the most significant federal community college initiatives since the Truman Commission called for the creation of public community colleges over 60 years ago. TAA, created in 1974, assists workers and companies who lost jobs because of increased competition from foreign trade. CCCTG, added in 2009, provides \$2 billion to community colleges over the next four years to create important training programs for these affected workers and businesses that employ them. We recommend that Congress reauthorize TAA and preserve the \$2 billion for the CCCTG program. ■



The Cumberland County College delegation during the New Jersey reception. Pictured, from left: Cumberland County College Trustee Charles Brett, CCC President Dr. Thomas Isekenegebe, CCC Trustees Dr. Elizabeth Riley-Wasserman, Pamela Sjogren, Charles Thomas, and Ginger Chase.



Congressman Leonard Lance delivered the keynote speech during the Tuesday morning breakfast for New Jersey community college trustees and presidents. Pictured, from left: Union County College Trustee James Perry, UCC President Dr. Margaret McMenamin, Congressman Lance, Raritan Valley Community College President Dr. Casey Crabill, RVCC Trustee Dr. Catherine McVicker, and NJCCC Chairman Ron Winthers.



Donna DeLeon, the director of New Jersey's Washington, D.C. office, spoke to our delegation during the Tuesday morning breakfast for New Jersey community college trustees and presidents. Pictured, from left: NJCCC Chairman Ron Winthers, Mercer County Community College Trustees Mark Matzen and Pamela Hersh, MCCC President Dr. Patricia Donohue, Donna DeLeon, MCCC Trustees Dr. Gwendolyn Harris and Robert De Falco.



David Gregory, host of NBC's Meet The Press, delivered the keynote address during the ACCT General Session Luncheon.



Dr. Jill Biden spoke to ACCT attendees during the Capital Awards Banquet.



Union County College Trustee James Perry with NJCCC Research Assistant Ishara Casellas-Katz.



Atlantic Cape Community College President Dr. Peter Mora found a minute to re-connect with Harper College President Dr. Kenneth Ender, the former president of Cumberland County College.



American Association of Community Colleges President and CEO Dr. Walter Bumphus with NJCCC Chairman Ron Winthers during the New Jersey reception.



Hudson County Community College Trustee Bakari Lee, Congressman Albio Sires and HCCC President Dr. Glen Gabert during a visit to Capitol Hill.



Passaic County Community College Board of Trustees Chairman and NJCCC Vice Chairman Kenneth Sumter with Hudson County Community College President Dr. Glen Gabert and Trustee Bakari Lee during the New Jersey reception.



Chairman Winthers with Camden County College Trustee and NJCCC Executive Committee Member Helen Albright and Camden Trustee Ambassador Anthony Meresa during the New Jersey reception.

NJ STARS Students Testify at Public Budget Hearings



Members of Bergen Community College's NJ STARS student club, the NJ STARS Syndicate, attended the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee public hearing on March 7 to support fellow student Serafina Riccobono and alumna Gigi Barragan.



Ramapo College NJ STARS II student and Bergen Community College alumna Gigi Barragan (left) joins Bergen NJ STARS Student Ambassador Serafina Riccobono as they testify to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee during a public budget hearing held at Bergen Community College on March 7.



Bergen Community College NJ STARS Student Ambassador Eugene Williams and Ramapo College NJ STARS II student and Bergen Community College alumna Janelle Talingdan testify to the Assembly Budget Committee during its public budget hearing at Montclair State University on March 16.

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and the Assembly Budget Committee held public hearings on the proposed FY 2012 State Budget throughout New Jersey during the month of March.

Bergen Community College NJ STARS student Serafina Riccobono and Ramapo College NJ STARS II student and Bergen Community College NJ STARS alumna Gigi Barragan testified to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee during its hearing on March 7, at Bergen Community College.

"NJ STARS has showed me the benefits of focusing on my education and being a brighter and actively engaged student on campus," Serafina said to the members of the Committee. "My parents weren't able to attain their high school or college degrees and I am among the first generation in my family that has been able to do so. Had I not considered taking advantage of NJ STARS, I would have missed out on so many opportunities, including being given the chance to talk directly to the people who have granted me such a significant privilege."

"NJ STARS is necessary for my future, along with thousands of other worthy young adults who are trying their best to accomplish their dreams," Gigi explained to the Committee. "Please understand how grateful we are for NJ STARS, and how grateful we are that you support us. Your decisions to support community colleges impact our lives in ways that are greater than you probably understand. We owe our successes to you."

The following week, on March 16, at Montclair State University, Bergen Community College NJ STARS student Eugene Williams and Ramapo College NJ STARS II student and Bergen Community College NJ STARS alumna Janelle Talingdan testified to the Assembly Budget Committee during its hearing.

"My decision to join NJ STARS was made almost immediately after my guidance counselor said I was eligible for it towards the end of my junior year in high school," Eugene said to the Committee. "My professors have proven to be helpful and challenging. As an NJ STAR, I am saving myself thousands of dollars that will be put to furthering my education. I have met amazing people that have the same mindset that I have attending Bergen Community College."

"When I enrolled at Bergen as a NJ STAR, my parents were sending three kids to college at the time," Janelle said to the Committee. "Because of NJ STARS II, I am closer to realizing my dream of working as a clinical psychologist. NJ STARS has helped me far beyond my expectations. It has given me hope for my future and given me bigger dreams to fulfill." ■

(Continued from page 5)

NJ's Community Colleges Host Successful Ambassador Day in the Statehouse



Beth Schermerhorn from the Governor's Office discussed the State Budget process.



Support pension and health benefits reform

for public employees, including community college employees, as recommended by the Governor and legislative leaders.



Passaic County Community College President Dr. Steve Rose introduces Gov. Christie's Cabinet Secretary Lou Goetting in the Governor's Outer Office.



Outside the Governor's Office, Cumberland County College NJ STARS Advisor Lucy Ojeda, NJ STARS Ambassadors Jessica Haaf and Guillermo Martinez, and NJ STARS Advisor Christopher Rodriguez met with Assemblyman Nelson Albano.



Assemblyman Reed Gusciora, Assemblywoman Connie Wagner and Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttel greeted Trustee Ambassadors and NJ STARS Student Ambassadors.



Brookdale NJ STARS Ambassadors Kelley Shann, Mike Chemris and Brenda Ryan with Assemblyman Samuel Thompson.



Assemblyman Daniel Benson and Middlesex County College President Dr. Joann La Perla-Morales connect during the Ambassador Day's first session.