

# TrusteeNews

PUBLICATION OF THE NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF COUNTY COLLEGES

## Louis Cappelli, Sr. Honored Posthumously with Ronald Winthers Community College Trustee Leadership Award



The NJCCC presented the Ronald Winthers Community College Trustee Leadership award posthumously to long-time Camden County College Trustee Louis Cappelli, Sr. Members of his family accepted the award. Pictured, from left: Camden County College President Dr. Raymond Yannuzzi; Former NJCCC Chairman Ronald Winthers; Mr. Cappelli's son, Louis, Jr.; Mr. Cappelli's wife, Patricia; Mr. Cappelli's son-in-law, Joe; Mr. Cappelli's daughter, Lynne Anne; NJCCC Chair Helen Albright; and Camden County College Trustee Anthony Meresa.

On June 22, the NJ Council of County Colleges honored longtime Camden County College Trustee Louis Cappelli and his family with the Ronald D. Winthers Community College Trustee Leadership Award.

"Camden County College Trustee Louis Cappelli was a lifelong champion of education," said NJCCC Chair Helen Albright. "He spent most of his career as the principal of Triton Regional High School in Runnemede. After retiring, he was appointed to the Camden County College Board of Trustees in the early 2000s, where he served as a statewide Trustee Ambassador until his untimely passing in February."

The Ronald D. Winthers Community College Trustee Leadership Award is an honor bestowed on a single New Jersey community college trustee each year. 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.

"Lou Cappelli set the example of outstanding trusteeship," Albright said. "He always came to our Council meetings full of ideas... ideas that put our students first. He was selfless with his time. When we needed a trustee to reach out to a legislator to discuss an issue, he was always the first to volunteer. When we hosted community college advocacy days in the Statehouse, he was always the first trustee to arrive, and the last to leave. He cared deeply about our colleges and our students. He was extremely proud of the opportunities a community college education provided for people."

Mr. Cappelli served on the NJCCC's Nominating Committee, which annually recommends the slate of officers for the Council's Executive Committee.

Mr. Cappelli's wife, Patricia, his son Louis, Jr., his daughter Lynne Anne, and his son-in-law Joe accepted the award.

"New Jersey's community colleges are grateful that Lou Cappelli dedicated his time and efforts to provide opportunities for community college students. And, without question, New Jersey's community colleges are better today because of Lou's contributions," Albright said. n

NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF  
*County Colleges*

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## From the Chair's Desk

**Helen Albright**  
NJCCC Chair

The 2014-2015 academic year was yet another success for the New Jersey Council of County Colleges. Working collectively as 19 community colleges in a very sobering fiscal climate, the Council succeeded in obtaining important priorities in the FY 2016 State Budget, including level operating aid for community colleges, full funding for fringe benefits for community college employees that the state has paid in the past, full funding for the Chapter 12 Community College Building and Renovation Fund, full funding for student financial aid programs, and full funding for the NJ STARS program.

The Council also coordinated several important statewide programs to the benefit of our 19 community colleges. Sixteen of our 19 community colleges will each receive \$3 million in Chapter 12 Building and Renovation Funding for construction projects on their campuses, and the 19 community colleges collectively will receive \$7.8 million in federal Perkins funding for vocational technical programs.

One of the most important causes I am committed to as the Council Chair is trustee education and professional development. This past year, we implemented regional Trustee Education Seminars hosted at community college campuses. The purpose of these seminars is to provide the latest information on topics that can help you in your roles as trustees. Our first seminar at Union County College on March 30, featured Matthew Giacobbe, Esq., who discussed community college negotiation strategies. The next regional seminar was held on April 23, at Camden County College. During this seminar, Chuck Underwood, one of the country's leading experts in generational study, joined us to give us ideas to better work with people who belong to the five living generations.

As we begin to gear up for the start of the 2015-2016 academic year, I'd like to encourage you to attend our Trustee Education Seminars that the Council will host. The first will be on Monday, September 21, at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor. The other two seminars will take place regionally, one in November 2015 and one in April 2016. We'll provide more details once we have them.

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer. Thank you for all that you do for our students!

Helen Albright  
NJCCC Chair

## 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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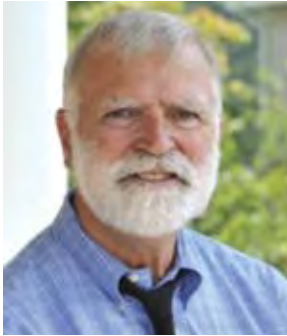
### New Jersey Council of County Colleges

330 West State Street  
Trenton, NJ 08618  
Phone: (609) 392-3434  
Fax: (609) 392-8158  
www.njccc.org

Send suggestions, comments  
or announcements to Jacob  
Farbman, jfarbman@njccc.org

## Warren County Community College Board Chair

# Peter Schmidt to Receive ACCT Northeast Region Trustee Leadership Award



Peter Schmidt  
Chairman  
Warren County  
Community College  
Board of Trustees

The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) will honor Warren County Community College Board of Trustees Chairman Peter Schmidt with the 2015 ACCT Northeast Region Trustee Leadership Award during its annual Leadership Congress in San Diego, from Oct. 14 to 17.

As the winner of the Northeast Region Trustee Leadership Award, Schmidt will contend for the ACCT National Trustee Leadership Award, the winner of which will be announced at the same event.

"We are exceedingly proud that Peter has been recognized with this honor," said WCCC President Dr. Will Austin. "This is truly a testament to his hard work and leadership at the college. Peter's innovative style and

commitment to the community at-large is second to none. The college is thrilled that he is being recognized nationally for his efforts. This award is not only a tribute to Peter, but in many ways, to all of our trustees, past and present, who give freely of their time as non-compensated volunteers."

ACCT's Regional Awards recognize the tremendous contributions made by trustees, equity programs, chief executive officers, faculty members, and professional board staff. "As the importance of community colleges has grown, it is more important than ever to recognize the outstanding leadership of those individuals for their contributions to the sector," said ACCT Chair and Lansing Community College Trustee Robin M. Smith.

Schmidt was appointed to the WCCC Board of Trustees in 2007 and immediately became an active participant. During his first year on the Board he quickly became involved in many statewide and regional professional development seminars and continues to do so both statewide and nationally. In the subsequent two years on the Board he assumed a leadership role on Board committees and was elected Board Secretary in 2010 and Vice Chair in 2011. He was unanimously selected as the Board Chair in 2013, a role in which he currently serves.

"I am deeply honored to have been nominated and now recognized with this award," said Schmidt, who had been an educator and administrator at Gil St. Bernard's School in Gladstone for 39 years before retiring in June. "I can only say that it was one of the great surprises of my life in education. It has been a privilege to serve the College and to work with such dedicated and principled people who make a difference. I owe a lot to my hard working colleagues on the WCCC Board of Trustees. I do believe that the best years for our college lie ahead of us and I will continue to dedicate myself to the best interests of our students for as long as I can. I look forward to receiving my award and enthusiastically to the year ahead."

"The New Jersey Council of County Colleges congratulates Warren County Community College Board of Trustees Chairman Peter Schmidt on winning the ACCT Northeast Region Trustee Leadership Award," said Dr. Lawrence A. Nespoli, president, New Jersey Council of County Colleges. "Since 2007, Peter has brought his visionary leadership and educational administrative experience to the Warren County Community College Board of Trustees to the benefit of the students, faculty, staff, and entire Warren County community. We have also been fortunate that Peter has lent his wisdom to us at the state level here in New Jersey. He is certainly deserving of this award." n

## Guided Pathways Pilot to Launch in Fall 2015



Community College Research Center's Dr. Davis Jenkins and National Center for Inquiry and Improvement Founder & President Dr. Rob Johnstone explain the benefits of Guided Pathways.

**In June, the New Jersey Center for Student Success hosted its first-ever Guided Pathways Summit with Dr. David Jenkins of the Community College Research Center, Dr. Rob Johnstone of the National Center for Inquiry and Improvement and Dr. Gretchen Schmidt of Jobs For the Future.**

Endorsed by the Community College Research Center, Guided Pathways is a national movement that engages colleges and universities in redesigning the academic programs and support services they offer. Students are provided clear roadmaps and support through their academic program to improve the rate that they enter and complete a program.

All 19 community colleges attended the event. As a result, 13 community colleges have joined the first Guided Pathways cohort to engage in this work to reform their academic pathways beginning fall 2015. These colleges will receive technical assistance during their work on guided pathways. The Center for Student Success will assist the colleges with the systematic redesign of the student experience from entry to completion.

(Continued on page 8)

# First Student Lobbying Day an Overwhelming Success

**Nearly 100 community college students traveled to the Statehouse in Trenton on March 9 to participate in the NJ Council of County Colleges' first Student Lobbying Day.**

Students met with over 40 members of the state legislature to discuss state funding to community colleges, funding for Tuition Aid Grants, and the NJ STARS and Equal Opportunity Fund programs. In addition, the students shared their personal community college success stories with their legislators.

"Student Lobbying Day was an overwhelming success for our students and our legislators due to the enthusiasm and professionalism our students displayed," said NJCCC President Dr. Lawrence Nespoli. "Whenever we have the opportunity to directly connect with our legislators and policymakers, it is a win-win for our sector. It was important for our students to see firsthand the type of support we receive among legislators and to share issues important to our colleges."

With the support of the community college presidents, each participating community college had team leaders of campus staff members who coordinated individual meetings with legislators. n



Assemblywoman Mila Jasey and Assemblyman John McKeon with the Essex County College delegation



Assemblyman David Wolfe with the Rowan College at Burlington County delegation



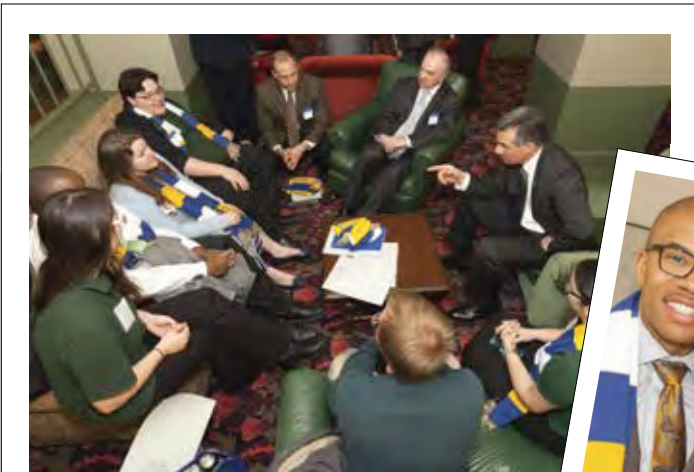
Senator Kevin O'Toole with the Bergen Community College delegation



Senator Samuel Thompson with the Ocean County College delegation



Senator Joseph Pennacchio with the County College of Morris delegation



Assemblyman Jack Ciattatelli meets with Raritan Valley Community College students.



Assemblymen Adam Taliaferro and Gilbert Wilson



Assemblyman John DiMaio with the Camden County College delegation



Senator Nilsa Cruz-Perez with the Camden County College delegation



Assemblywoman Maria Rodriguez-Gregg with the Rowan College at Burlington County delegation



Assemblyman Erik Peterson with the Warren County Community College delegation



Assemblywoman Pamela Lampitt with the County College of Morris delegation



Senator Sandra Cunningham



Assemblyman Benji Wimberly meets with Passaic County Community College students.



Senator Jennifer Beck with students from Hudson County Community College



Senator Nicholas Sacco with Hudson County Community College students



Assemblyman Louis Greenwald with the Camden County College delegation



Assemblywoman Caroline Casagrande with the Brookdale Community College delegation





Dr. Jianping Wang  
President  
Mercer County Community  
College

## Mercer County Community College Names New President

A veteran educator with 20 years of experience in community college administration has been selected by the Mercer County Community College (MCCC) Board of Trustees as the next college president.

Dr. Jianping Wang most recently served as the Vice President of Academic Affairs at Ocean County College. She began her duties at MCCC on July 1. She was named MCCC's sixth president after an exhaustive five-month nationwide search and selection process that included the entire college community. Wang succeeds Dr. Patricia C. Donohue, who retired on June 30 following a 49-year career, the past eight at MCCC.

"I am honored and excited to be selected as the next president at Mercer County Community College," Wang said. "Mercer has a nationwide reputation as one of the top community colleges, and I look forward to bringing my experiences to Mercer County, working with faculty, staff, local high schools and the community as a whole to provide a quality, affordable education that will enable students to reach their life goals."

Wang received her master's degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 1993, and her Ed.D. from Fielding Graduate University in Santa Barbara in 2007. She served as Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness at Roxbury Community College in Boston from 1995-1998; Dean of the Division of Arts and Humanities at SUNY Westchester Community College in Valhalla, N.Y. from 1998-2012; and at OCC since 2012. n



Dr. Michael R. Gorman  
President  
Salem Community College

## Salem Community College Names New President

The Salem Community College Board of Trustees unanimously selected Dr. Michael R. Gorman as its eighth president. Gorman most recently served as the superintendent of the

Pemberton Township Schools in Burlington County.

He succeeds Joan M. Baillie, who retired on August 1.

"The Board is thrilled that Dr. Gorman will become the next president," said Vice Chair Dorothy Hall, who chaired the search committee. "His educational leadership in several southern New Jersey school districts over the past 34 years will be a tremendous asset in working with College stakeholders to move the institution forward."

"Dot Hall and I appreciate the diligent work of the search committee and the Board of Trustees, as well as the input from the College community during this thorough process," said Board Chair John Ashcraft. "I'm proud of everyone's genuine commitment to SCC's future."

"This is an honor and a privilege to be selected to serve the Salem County learning community as the president of SCC," said Gorman. "The county and the College are truly the hidden gems of New Jersey."

A Pennsville resident, Gorman has served as the Pemberton superintendent since 2007. Under his leadership, the district became the first in the state to obtain Middle States Association of Schools district-wide accreditation. In addition, he has nurtured enrollment growth through school-choice programs and unique school options with the military communities from the Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst, which have boosted enrollment. He opened the Pemberton Early Childhood Center in 2011, now serving more than 600 students.

Previously, Gorman was superintendent of Glassboro Public Schools (2002-2007) and deputy superintendent at Salem County Vocational Technical Schools (2000-2002). While at SCVTS, working with the academy programs, he fostered an alignment with Salem Community College through the College Acceleration Program, facilitating several students obtaining an associate degree in tandem with their high school diplomas. Gorman started his administrative career as an assistant principal for four years at Woodstown High School and principal of Pennsville Memorial High School for 15 years.

He holds a doctorate in educational leadership from Widener University, a master's of education from Temple University, a bachelor's degree from Widener and an associate degree from Burlington County College. n

## Community College Spirit Awards

On June 22, the NJ Council of County Colleges presented its 2015 Community College Spirit Awards to outstanding individuals who have helped 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 Chair Helen Albright.

First, the NJCCC honored County Executive of Mercer County Brian Hughes for his advocacy work on behalf of New Jersey's 19 community colleges.

Next, the NJCCC honored Patricia Arcila-Cabrera, Linda Nelson and Jhoni Puerta-Lopez of the 32 BJ Service Employees International Union (SEIU) for their outstanding support of the NJ Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development.

The Consortium has partnered with 32 BJ to deliver classes in English as a Second Language, computer skills, and citizenship to members of the union. This year, the Consortium offered 129 classes serving 1,300 SEIU members. This year, 25 of the SEIU members who participated in the citizenship classes acquired their United States citizenship.

Finally, the NJCCC honored Dr. Lynn Coopersmith of Mercer County Community College and Dr. Jane Armstrong of County College of Morris for their leadership within the Workforce Consortium. Under Coopersmith's leadership, Mercer County Community College delivered 91 classes serving 53 businesses and over 1,000 employees in the NJBIA Basic Skills Training Program. Through the Consortium's partnership with the Civil Service Commission, Mercer delivered 96 classes serving 1,800 NJ public sector employees. The College served an additional 72 union members through the SEIU partnership.

Under Armstrong's leadership, County College of Morris delivered over 280 serving 240 businesses and over 3,000 employees in the NJBIA Basic Skills Training Program. She helped the College train 100 public sector employees through the partnership with the Civil Service Commission. The College trained 114 union members through the SEIU partnership. [n](#)



Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes received the Community College Spirit Award for his advocacy efforts on behalf of the state's 19 community colleges. Pictured, from left: NJCCC President Dr. Lawrence Nespoli, Mercer County Community College Trustee Robert Di Falco, County Executive Hughes, MCCC Trustee Dr. Gwendolyn Harris, recently retired MCCC President Dr. Patricia Donohue, and NJCCC Chair Helen Albright.



Representatives from the 32 BJ Service Employees International Union (SEIU) received Community College Spirit Awards for partnering with the Workforce Consortium to deliver training to SEIU members. Pictured, from left: CCM Vice President Dr. Dwight Smith, Workforce Consortium COO Robert Rosa, SEIU's Linda Nelson, SEIU's Kevin Brown (accepting the award for Patricia Arcila-Cabrera), SEIU's Jhoni Puerta-Lopez, CCM President Dr. Edward Yaw, and NJCCC Chair Helen Albright.



Dr. Lynn Coopersmith of Mercer County Community College and Dr. Jane Armstrong of County College of Morris received Community College Spirit Awards for their contributions to the Workforce Consortium. Pictured from left: CCM Vice President Dr. Dwight Smith, Workforce Consortium COO Robert Rosa, retired MCCC President Dr. Patricia Donohue, Coopersmith, Armstrong, CCM President Dr. Edward Yaw, and NJCCC Chair Helen Albright.

**Chuck Underwood,** one of the leading scholars of generational study in the United States, joined the NJCCC at this year's Best Practices Conference.



**Durign his presentations, he shared *Understanding Generational Differences In The Workplace, Marketplace, And Living Room.***

Chuck is the host of the television series America's Generations With Chuck Underwood, on PBS.

Having researched generational dynamics for more than a quarter-century and then worked side-by-side with hundreds of clients to execute a long list of generational strategies, he is considered one of the elite consultants in generational strategy.

His A-List clients operate in business, government, education, religion, politics, media and entertainment, philanthropy, and virtually every other industry-type.

Formally trained in qualitative research methodology and focus-group moderating by The Burke Institute, he conducts generational research for his clients and for his own proprietary generational research.

The Ohio University College of Business grad had spent his earlier career in the mass media of radio and television, first as an award-winning broadcast journalist and national sports play-by-play announcer, and then as a creator and producer of original programming. He has hosted and produced shows that have aired nationally and internationally.

He has taken his rightful place as an eminent authority in generational study. Traveling coast-to-coast and overseas for consulting assignments, seminars, research, and keynotes, he also authors newspaper and national-magazine columns on generational dynamics, guest-lectures at universities, and is regularly interviewed for generational news stories by the nation's – and world's – magazines, newspapers, radio, and television. [n](#)

# PHI THETA KAPPA Day 2015

The NJ Council of County Colleges honored New Jersey's 37 best and brightest community college students and their families at its 21st annual Phi Theta Kappa Day celebration on Thursday, May 7, at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Trenton.

"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 New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) and the Coca-Cola Foundation," said NJCCC President Dr. Lawrence Nespoli. "These students are recognized for their outstanding academic achievements and exceptional service to their communities as members of Phi Theta Kappa at their local community colleges."

"NJEA is proud to celebrate the achievements of our students in New Jersey's community colleges," said NJEA President Wendell Steinhauer. "These students took full advantage of the tremendous opportunities our community colleges offer. They are well along the path to achieving their dreams and we wish them continued success."

In addition to statewide recognition, Bergen Community College student Rhonda Richardsen of Paramus was one of 20 students nationally named to the Phi Theta Kappa All-USA Team. She received a \$2,500 scholarship as part of the honor. In addition, Richardsen received an additional \$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 and the Coca-Cola Foundation awarded three more scholarships to outstanding New Jersey students as part of the All-USA Academic Team competition.

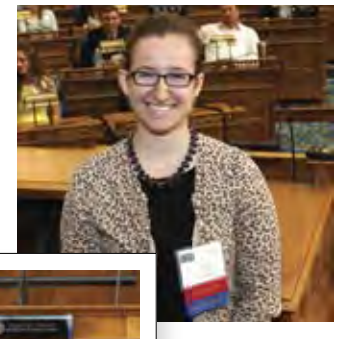
Atlantic Cape Community College student Thomas Branin of Hammonton, and Ocean County College Kayla Burciar of Toms River, each received \$1,250 scholarships for being named Coca-Cola Foundation All-USA Silver Medalist Scholars. County College of Morris student Angelique Onorati of Randolph, received a \$1,000 scholarship for being named a Coca-Cola Foundation All-USA Bronze Medalist Scholar.

In addition, 21 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. n



Bergen Community College President Dr. Kaye Walter and All-USA Team member and NJ New Century Scholar Rhonda Richardsen with Amy Cradic, Gov. Christie's Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy.

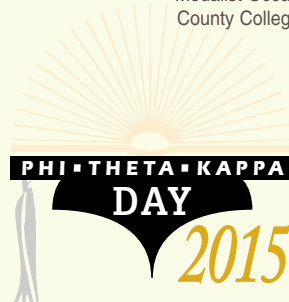
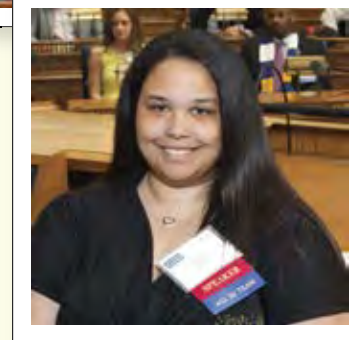
Angelique Onorati  
Coca-Cola  
Foundation Bronze  
Medalist County  
College of Morris



T.J. Branin  
Coca-Cola  
Foundation Silver  
Medalist Atlantic  
Cape Community  
College



Ms. Kayla Burciar  
Coca-Cola  
Foundation Silver  
Medalist Ocean  
County College



(Continued from page 3) **Guided Pathways Pilot**



Jobs for the Future's Program Director for Postsecondary State Policy Dr. Gretchen Schmidt discusses national trends in public financial support of community colleges.



Robert Grimmie, executive director, NJ Department of Labor & Workforce Development's Center for Occupational Employment Information, talks about the Labor Department's efforts to create training pathways for in-demand jobs in the workforce.



NJ Transfer Assistant Director Linda Tromp discusses the role of [www.njtransfer.org](http://www.njtransfer.org) in Guided Pathways.

"Guided Pathways is one of many tools our community colleges can utilize to improve student outcomes," said Center for Student Success Executive Director Dr. Yesenia Madas.

The Guided Pathways movement began in New Jersey when the Center for Student Success held a live steam presentation in March by Dr. Jenkins and Dr. Johnstone. Over 200 faculty and staff members from New Jersey's 19 community colleges participated. n