

TrusteeNews

PUBLICATION OF THE NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF COUNTY COLLEGES

Kean University Joins NJEA and NJ's Community Colleges to Help More Students Complete College



Students at Rowan College at Gloucester County sign the Community College Completion Pledge as part of the New Jersey Community College Completion Challenge (NJC4). Now in its third year, Phi Theta Kappans at all 19 community colleges have used NJC4 to raise awareness about the importance of completing college.

Kean University joined the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) and the New Jersey Council of County Colleges' (NJCCC) Center for Student Success for the third annual New Jersey Community College Completion Challenge (NJC4), a statewide effort to increase awareness about the importance of completing associate degrees and certificates that took place the week of Oct. 19 to 23.

NJC4 is an effort to increase the number of students at community colleges completing their associate degrees and certificates so that they can successfully transfer to four-year colleges and universities to earn their bachelor's degrees, and enter careers that provide family-sustaining wages.

NJC4 events followed the theme of "Accomplishing Your Dreams," and were both informational and social in nature with an emphasis on college completion and tools available to assist students in reaching their goals. Student leaders in Phi Theta Kappa, the international community college honor society, organized these events at each of the 19 community colleges.

"We are excited about NJC4 at New Jersey's 19 community colleges," said NJCCC President Dr. Lawrence A. Nespoli. "Partnering with the New Jersey Education Association and Kean University as a part of NJC4 helps us to inform students about the importance of staying in school to earn a college credential. Earning an associate degree gives students a leg up when transferring to a four-year college or university to earn a bachelor's degree.

NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF
County Colleges

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From the Chair's Desk

Helen Albright
NJCCC Chair

Our community colleges continue to make great strides in improving student success. This fall, we were thrilled to welcome Dr. Thomas Bailey, executive director of the Community College Research Center at Columbia University to our New Jersey Center for Student Success Advisory Board. Dr. Bailey joins several trustees, presidents, policymakers, faculty, and staff who are helping to guide the work of the Center. And what work it has been! Since New Jersey's community colleges re-committed ourselves to student success, we have seen a 40 percent increase in the number of graduates.

In addition to coordinating statewide efforts to improve student success, the Council is also working diligently to provide trustee education programs. We have launched a New Trustee Academy that features orientation sessions for new trustees, regional trustee education seminars and dedicated time during scheduled Trustee Ambassador conference calls to discuss issues pertaining to trusteeship.

We have also launched a New Presidents Academy that features orientation sessions for new community college presidents in New Jersey, a mentor program and a question and answer session at each monthly community college presidents meeting.

Both of these new academies are an extension of the new *Trustees Information Manual* and *Presidents Information Manual* that the Council has produced. If you are a trustee or president and you have not yet received your respective *Manual*, please contact Jessica Britt at the Council office, jbritt@njccc.org. In addition, I invite you to view the Welcome New Trustees and the Welcome New Presidents videos on our YouTube channel, www.YouTube.com/NJCommColleges.

We are also ramping up our Trustee Education Seminars. In November, we held a well-attended New Trustee Orientation seminar at Hudson County Community College, the video to which can be found on our website, www.njccc.org. Later that same evening, we held a Trustee Education Seminar on Campus Safety and Security. Each community college president received a DVD with a recording of the session. These Trustee Education Seminars offer terrific wisdom and best practices to help you perform your duties as trustees. We are finalizing the details of our next Trustee Education Seminar, which will be in March at Ocean County College in Toms River. We will get you the exact details as soon as we have them.

As we start the New Year, I want to thank all of our trustees and presidents for your service to our students and our colleges. And I especially would like to welcome our newest presidents, Dr. Jianping Wang of Mercer County Community College, Mr. Paul Drayton of Rowan College at Burlington County, Dr. Michael Gorman of Salem Community College, and Dr. Jon Connolly of Sussex County Community College.

**Best wishes for a productive,
healthy New Year to you all!**

Helen Albright
NJCCC Chair

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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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Drs. Nespoli and Madas Named to Prominent National Posts



Dr. Lawrence A. Nespoli



Dr. Yesenia Madas

Jobs for the Future (JFF) has named NJ Council of County Colleges President Dr. Lawrence A. Nespoli and NJ Center for Student Success Executive Director Dr. Yesenia Madas to two of its Policy Leadership Trust task forces.

Drs. Nespoli and Madas join a collective of state community college system and association heads, leaders from state networks and support organizations, as well as campus leaders that make up each task force. JFF is committed to ensuring all lower-income young people and workers have the skills and credentials needed to succeed in our economy. The Policy Leadership Trust aims to accomplish this by solving state policy challenges that affect community colleges.

The Trust includes the following task force: building pathways to credentials, redesign of developmental education, credit transfer – community colleges to four-year institutions, and outcomes-based funding. The Trust is supported by a panel of national advisors and JFF staff members focused on student success.

In addition to joining the JFF Task Force, Dr. Nespoli has been named to the Center for Community College Student Engagement (CCSE) National Advisory Board Members Class of 2018. CCSE is a research and service initiative to strengthen student engagement and success at community and technical colleges in order to improve educational quality. CCSE provides assessment tools necessary to evaluate and distinguish effective solutions over time. Dr. Nespoli has worn many hats as President of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges. He is the chair of the College Board's Community College Advisory Panel, which assists the College Board in better serving community colleges and their students. The Panel promotes national recognition of the role of community colleges in providing access to higher education. He is also a member of the *Community College Journal of Research and Practice* Editorial Board and an adjunct professor in Rowan University's Doctorate in Education Community College Leadership Program.

As Executive Director of the New Jersey Center for Student Success, Dr. Madas continues to pursue her passion for education and its value through her many commitments. Throughout her career, she has been actively involved with the Education Opportunity Fund (EOF) program, established to provide financial assistance and support services to students from economically and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds attending colleges in New Jersey. ■

Community College Presidents Elect Dr. McMEnamin As Chair

Union County College President Dr. Margaret McMEnamin was recently elected Chair of the New Jersey Community College Presidents for the 2015-2016 academic year. In this capacity, she will lead all monthly New Jersey Community College Presidents meetings and also serve on the New Jersey Council of County Colleges' Executive Committee.



Dr. McMEnamin

As a part of the seven-member Executive Committee, which includes four community college trustees and three community college presidents, Dr. McMEnamin will help shape statewide community college policies and projects, including the implementation of the Strategic Goals for Student Success, the collective effort of all 19 community colleges to improve student success.

The Executive Committee is the leadership team of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges. The Chair of the Executive Committee, and Chair of the Council, is Helen Albright of the Camden County College Board of Trustees. Thomas Tighe of the Middlesex County College Board of Trustees serves as the Council's Vice Chair, Dr. Catherine McVicker of Raritan Valley Community College and Bakari G. Lee, Esq. of Hudson County Community College serve on the Executive Committee as members-at-large. Other presidents joining Dr. McMEnamin on the Executive Committee are Dr. William Austin of Warren County Community College and Dr. Maureen Murphy of Brookdale Community College. ■

Trustee Ambassador Spotlight: Mary Zimmermann

By: Rebecca Mamrosh, Fall 2015 Communications Intern



Mary Zimmermann

Mary Zimmermann did not become a Trustee Ambassador in the most traditional of ways. When a close friend of Mary's was contacted to become a member of the Union County College Foundation and declined, she said she knew someone perfect for the position – and suggested that Mary take on the role. In 2006, she joined the Union County College Board of Governors, and later joined the UCC Board of Trustees.

Mary was no stranger to Union County College. She had worked as a stay-at-home mom to her two sons, and volunteered in her free time. When it came time for her son to leave home to attend the University of Michigan in 1996, she made the decision to register for classes. She began with pre-college courses and worked her way up to calculus and business statistics, completing an associate degree in business at Union County College.

From Union she entered a business program at Rutgers University, but quickly realized that business was not her true passion. "My husband went to Harvard Business School, and I used to type all of his papers. I had done so much of what the business school kids were doing, and it just didn't excite me...all I wanted to do was read, and I love art history." In 2004, Mary graduated from Rutgers with a bachelor's degree in English and a minor in art history.

Today, Mary continues to be an active volunteer in her community. She has chaired a number of organizations, and currently sits as a commissioner on the Summit Housing Authority. She volunteers her time at the Loaves and Fishes food pantry at St. Teresa's of Avila's Church, and delivers meals for Meals on Wheels. In addition to being a Trustee Ambassador, Mary is currently Chair of the NJ Council of County Colleges' legislative committee.

As a community college graduate, Mary stresses the importance of understanding students' perspectives. In fact, her advice to new trustees is "to be conscious of everything going on at the college, and to be conscious of the student experience at the college. Try and understand where the students are coming from."

She also encourages new trustees to get involved with the NJCCC, and to commit to student success and completion.

For Mary, the most meaningful part of her position as Trustee Ambassador is serving her students. She says, "That's my number one job – to make sure that I serve the students and that they get everything that they need. I want them to be successful. I want them to graduate or get a certificate and get a job."

Mary echoes the same sentiment of completion and success in her advice to community college students. "Complete, complete, complete. Never give up on yourself." Having done so herself, she wants students to know "not to be afraid to go back for more education."

She credits education as a valuable and key component in success. "The sacrifice you make now will pay off later. If you work hard in college, and know what it takes to work hard, you will be successful."

Mary resides in Summit with her husband of 47 years. She and her husband have two sons and three grandchildren. ■

Scenes from NJCC4

Enjoy these pictures of our students throughout the state signing their Community College Completion Pledges and committing to complete their degrees. You can also see videos from this year's NJCC4 events on the NJCCC YouTube channel, www.YouTube.com/NJCommColleges. ■





UPDATE FROM



By: James Nadeau, NJ Center for Student Success Graduate Research Assistant

It's been a busy semester for the New Jersey Center for Student Success.

The Center, which began in 2012 and ramped up its efforts in 2014 with support from a competitive Kresge Foundation grant, is housed within The New Jersey Council of County Colleges. New Jersey is one of only seven states to receive this highly competitive grant. The Center's mission is to support innovative and data-driven practices to help institutions advance success for New Jersey students. Over the past several months, it has been hard at work planning events designed to bring together some of the greatest minds from the state's community colleges to consider ways to individually and collectively move the needle on degree completion.

Implementing Guided Pathways

On October 6th, approximately 130 faculty members, deans and administrators from 13 community colleges gathered at Middlesex County College in Edison. Facilitated by the Center for Student Success, the Cohort Colleges Meeting was the first of what will be several throughout the year centered on implementing Guided Pathways at New Jersey's community colleges. The Guided Pathways reform movement suggests that redesigning academic and career pathways and streamlining advising services can substantially improve community college completion rates. The meeting included presentations by Dr. Thomas Bailey, executive director of the Community College Research Center at Teachers College, Columbia University, and Dr. Joyce Walsh-Portillo, associate vice president of academic affairs at Broward College in Florida.

Campus representatives also spent time working on institutional self-evaluations meant to lay the groundwork for upcoming adoption of guided pathways. "The practical, hands-on, example-based approach to the presentations were very much appreciated," one attendee commented. "I left the meeting with actual examples to follow, not just research concepts."

Identifying Core Student Learning Outcomes

On October 9th, the Center hosted approximately 40 full-time mathematics faculty members from 15 community colleges at Middlesex County College. The goal of the convening was to establish a set of key learning outcomes for Introductory College-

Level Algebra. Building off of a February summit centered on non-STEM liberal arts math, such meetings are a key element of the Center's Strategic Goal V – *Using Core Student Learning Outcomes and Common Assessment Tools in the Top Highest Enrolled General Education Courses.*

One takeaway from the October 9th convening was an agreement on three key learning objectives for Introductory College-Level Algebra. The Center plans to work with NJ's community colleges in the coming months to help faculty include these outcomes in course syllabi across the state.

Transforming Developmental Education

On December 11th, in line with Strategic Goal I – *Transforming Developmental Education*, the Center brought together almost 140 faculty and staff from New Jersey's 19 community colleges for the Developmental Education Summit. Practitioners from a wide variety of colleges presented on topics such as developmental education and guided pathways, developmental English and math reform, and integration and acceleration models.

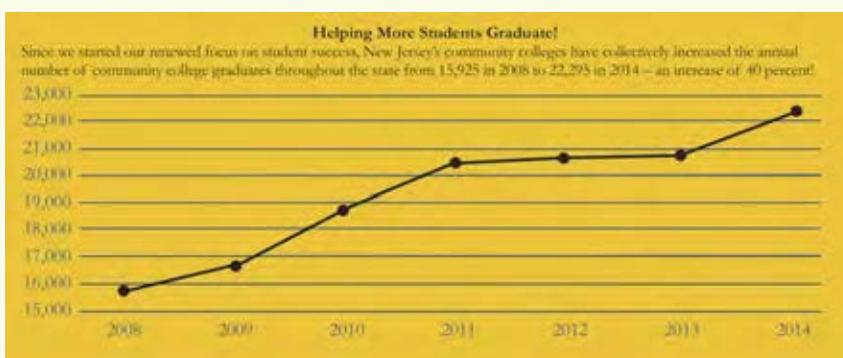
"It was helpful," one attendee commented, "to see what other faculty are doing in their classrooms to serve students whose reading/writing skills are below college level, while at the same time addressing the 'reality' of time and cost for students who need remediation."

Another participant thought the Summit was "a great opportunity to see how other colleges are engaging with developmental programs, retention initiatives and the pathways model to increase graduation rates."

An Exciting Year Ahead

The Center for Student Success looks forward to remaining a national leader in student completion initiatives by building on this past semester's successes. Along with a Student Services Summit in February and Best Practices Conference in April, the Center will, among many other important initiatives, continue supporting Guided Pathways teams throughout the planning and implementation process.

More information about the Center for Student Success can be found at www.njstudentsuccess.com. ■



Chinese Delegation Meets with Bergen Community College

By: Porsche Carmichael, Fall 2015 Communications Intern



The Chinese Delegation from the Hainan Province Department of Education visited Bergen Community College to learn about community college education. Here, the members are pictured while touring Bergen's new Health Professions Building.

Bergen Community College (BCC) held a successful meeting with the Chinese Delegation from the Hainan Province Department of Education to discuss the innovation of American Community College Education.

BCC's efforts to keep the meeting as informative and accommodating as possible managed to keep the Chinese Delegation engaged well past their scheduled departure.

Three key points were established during the meeting including: the current situation and innovation of American community college education, its evaluation system and the organizational structure of college management. The discussion acknowledged most popular and latest majors, age and race of enrollment, as well as graduation rates.

The Chinese Delegates from the Hainan Province Department of Education determine the local policies and direction of the education system in the Hainan Province. BCC pleased the delegation with a tour of the College's soon-to-open Integrated Health Professions Building, Advanced Manufacturing Lab, Fashion Design Studio, and Sidney Silverman Library on campus grounds. At the conclusion of the meeting the College was gifted a beautiful hand-woven cloth. ■

NJCCC's Bakari Lee Elected Chair-Elect of ACCT

Bakari G. Lee, Esq., Vice Chairman of the Hudson County Community College (HCCC) Board of Trustees, was elected Chair-Elect of the Association of Community College Trustees' Board of Directors at that organization's Annual Leadership Congress on Oct. 16 in San Diego, Calif. Lee will become national chair next year.



Bakari G. Lee

In 2013, Lee was elected to the Executive Committee in the office of Secretary-Treasurer. Founded in 1972, the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) is the nonprofit educational organization of governing boards, representing more than 6,500 elected and appointed trustees of community, technical, and junior colleges in the United States and beyond. ACCT's purpose is to strengthen the capacity of community, technical, and junior colleges and to foster the realization of their missions through effective board leadership at local, state, and national levels.

Lee, a partner with the law firm of McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC, was appointed to the HCCC Board of Trustees in 2006. He was elected to the ACCT Board of Directors and the office of Northeast Region Chair in 2011. Prior to that, he served as Associate Member of the ACCT Governance and Bylaws Committee, and he has served on several ad hoc committees. In his role as Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Lee also chaired ACCT's Finance and Audit Committee.

Lee served as the Chairman of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges for three years, with his service concluding in November 2014. Prior to serving as Chairman, he chaired the Council's Legislative Committee. He continues to serve as a Trustee Ambassador for the Council and on the Council's Executive Committee.

A graduate of Florida A&M University, Mr. Lee earned his Juris Doctorate from the Rutgers University School of Law-Newark. He was admitted into the practice of law in the State of New Jersey and the United States District Court of New Jersey in 2004, and in the State of New York in 2007. ■

NJ Community College Joint Purchasing Consortium Now Has Procurement Authority

A bill that gives the New Jersey Community College Joint Purchasing Consortium (JPC) the legal power to serve as the lead contracting agency for joint purchases on behalf of community colleges recently became law.

Thanks to the leadership of sponsors Assemblyman Tim Eustace (D-Bergen), Assembly Majority Leader Louis Greenwald (D-Camden) and Senator Jim Whelan (D-Atlantic), the JPC can now further maximize the purchasing power of the participating colleges. Gov. Christie signed A3807/S2619 in early November.

New Jersey's community colleges established the JPC in 1999 to combine the member colleges' buying power to negotiate better prices on products and services.

"This is a significant legislative victory for New Jersey's 19 community colleges," said New Jersey Council of County Colleges President Dr. Lawrence A. Nespoli. "Thanks to the bill's sponsors, legislative leadership and the Governor, this law will give community colleges the ability to ramp-up purchasing activities, thereby creating cost savings for our member community colleges."

The JPC has already allowed the sector to save money in several areas and the new law will only enhance this. For example, the joint purchase of natural gas, under the leadership of Ocean County College, and electricity, under the leadership of Middlesex County College, resulted in savings of several million dollars for the colleges that participate. Cumberland County College negotiated a joint contract for all 19 community colleges for Accuplacer placement tests, which resulted in significant cost savings.

This past year, with Passaic County Community College as the lead, the JPC secured discount pricing for Title IX compliance online training for 16 participating community colleges from several vendors in order to meet Title IX compliance regulations. Raritan Valley Community College led efforts to secure a reduced discount rate and other charges for processing tuition and other payments using credit cards. Camden County College successfully secured discounted pricing for laboratory supply and medical supply/equipment catalogs.

The JPC is housed within the New Jersey Council of County Colleges. ■

Sussex County Community College Names Sixth President

Dr. Jon Connolly was named the sixth president of Sussex County Community College (SCCC) by the SCCC Board of Trustees in September.

Connolly brings a long history in higher education to the position. He has served in several roles including a biology faculty member, chief academic officer, associate dean of science and humanities, vice president of academic affairs, and interim president. He most recently served as the Vice President and Academic Dean for Kennebec Valley Community College in Maine before being selected as SCCC's next president.



Dr. Jon Connolly

Connolly holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Colby College in Maine, a master's degree in forest science from Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and a doctorate in biological science from the University of Maine. ■

(Continued from page 1)

Help More Students Complete College

For students looking to enter the workforce, having an associate degree or certificate can lead to a great job that pays a family sustaining wage."

Kean University and the NJEA provided grants to each Phi Theta Kappa chapter at the 19 community colleges to help offset the cost of NJC4 events and activities.

"Associate degree completion is an important step on the path to receiving a bachelor's degree, and Kean supports efforts that promote degree completion and student success," said Kean University President Dr. Dawood Farahi.

"NJEA is happy to once again partner with New Jersey's 19 community colleges to support the NJC4 initiative that encourages students to persevere, succeed and ultimately achieve the credentials necessary to be successful members of New Jersey's workforce," said NJEA President Wendell Steinhauer.

You can see NJC4 posts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram using #NJC4. In addition, you can see highlight videos from NJC4 by clicking the YouTube icon on the NJCCC website, www.njccc.org.

In two years, New Jersey has become a national leader in student completion initiatives. This past spring, Phi Theta Kappa recognized the New Jersey Center for Student Success for its efforts with the 2015 Outstanding Innovations Award for the NJC4 program and overall leadership in community college completion and transfer. Other states, including Pennsylvania and Oklahoma, are consulting with the New Jersey Center for Student Success to begin their own statewide community college completion initiatives. ■