

**MEETING OF THE
NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF COUNTY COLLEGES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2025 – 5:00 P.M.
MIDDLESEX COLLEGE
2600 WOODBRIDGE AVE, EDISON, NJ
(WEST HALL, PARKVIEW ROOM)**

AGENDA

Networking – 5:00 - 6:00 P.M.

DINNER (5:30 P.M.)

BUSINESS MEETING (6:00 P.M.)

I. WELCOME

1. Meeting Called to Order - Reading of Public Announcement
2. Introductions and Announcements – Chair Sheetal Ranjan
 - ACCT Congress- October 22 – 25, 2025
 - Richard and Ann Wellbrock Scholarship Awardees – Chiamaka Ebelebe and Leo Santana, Bergen Community College
 - Deborah and Lawrence Nespoli Scholarship Awardee– Alexis Medina, Middlesex College

II. ELECTION

3. Election to Fill Vacany on Council Executive Committee* (*pg. 3*)

III. BUSINESS

4. ACTION: Approval of Minutes* (*pg. 4*)
 - A. June 9, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting
 - B. June 16, 2025 Council Meeting
 - C. July 14, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting
5. ACTION: Acceptance of Council Financial Statements* (*pg. 12*)

- A. July 2025
- B. August 2025

- 6. Report on Temporary Investments* (*pg. 14*)
- 7. Update: Selection of vendor through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to complete a Statewide Economic Impact Study* (*pg. 15*)

IV. STRATEGY

- 8. Key Priorities for the Council: 2025-2026* (*pg. 16*)
- 9. Approval of Updates to New Jersey's Opportunity Agenda* (*pg. 18*)
- 10. FutureReady States Initiative: Lumina Foundation
- 11. Council Communications Strategy: 2025-2026
- 12. Legislative Priorities: Lame Duck Strategy and Update on Legislation* (*pg. 33*)
- 13. Council Committee Priorities
- 14. Council Convenings
 - September 30, 2025 - Economic Opportunity and Prosperity Convening (Middlesex College)
 - April 24, 2026 - Student Leadership Summit (Brookdale Community College)
 - June 9-11, 2026 - Pathways and Community College Opportunity Summits (Hard Rock, Atlantic City)
- 15. Other Business

*Attachments

NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF COUNTY COLLEGES
MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2025 6:00 PM
VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

MINUTES

I. WELCOME

1. Meeting was Called to Order at 6:00 p.m. - Reading of Public Announcement

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey, advance notice of this Public Meeting of the Council was provided on November 21, 2024 by posting written notice of this meeting on the Council website and by transmitting the meeting notice to The Trenton Times, The Trentonian, and to the Secretary of State.

ATTENDEES:

<u>College</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Board Chair</u>	<u>Board Alternate/ Other Trustees</u>
Atlantic Cape			
Bergen	Eric Friedman		Sheetal Ranjan
Brookdale	David Stout		Barbara Horl
Camden	Lovell Pugh Bassett		Jessica Purnell
Essex	Augustine Boakye		Arnold Lewis
Hudson			
Mercer			
Middlesex	Mark McCormick		Chrissy Buteas
Morris	Anthony Iacono		
Ocean	Pamela Monaco		
Passaic	Steve Rose		
Raritan			Michael Goldberg
Rowan at Burlington	Michal Cioce		
Rowan at South Jersey	Fred Keating		
Salem	Michael Gorman		Dot Hall
Sussex			
Union	Margaret McMenamin		
Warren	Marianne VanDeursen (Acting)		

There were 20 voting members of the Council who were present during the business meeting, constituting a majority and quorum.

Council Staff: Aaron Fichtner, Catherine Starghill, Megan Swieconeck, Linda Scherr, Maria Heidkamp, Jacob Farbman, and Mikal Jenkins

Special Guests: Mary Zimmermann, Board of Governors (UCNJ) and former Chair of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges, and Jamie Segal, Board Secretary (UCNJ),

2. Introduction and Announcements- Chair Sheetal Ranjan

II. Election

3. Election: Fill Vacancy of Executive Committee

By motion of Barbara Horl, and seconded by Eric Friedman the Council accepted the nominating committee's nomination, and elected President David Stout to fill the vacancy on the Council's Executive Committee. Starting July 1, 2025 the president slate of officers will be: Mark McCormick, Secretary (Middlesex); David Stout, Treasurer, (Brookdale), and Mike Gorman, President at Large (Salem).

III. Business

4. Approval of Minutes

By motion of Mark McCormick, and seconded by Dot Hall, the minutes of the of March 17, 2025 Executive Committee meeting; March 24, 2025 Council meeting; April 14, 2025 Executive Committee meeting; and May 19, 2025 Executive Committee meeting were approved without amendment.

5. Acceptance of Council Financial Statements

By motion of Dot Hall, and seconded by Margaret McMenamin, the Council accepted the financial statements for March 2025, April 2025, and May 2025.

6. Report on Temporary Investments

The Council currently keeps its cash reserves in an account with Spencer Savings Bank. The Council is also enrolled in the NJ Cash Management Fund. As of May 31, 2025, the Council's NJ Cash Management Fund holdings are \$2,379,962.

7. Action: Resolution to Issue RFP for State-wide Economic Impact Study

By motion of Jessica Purnell, and seconded by Margaret McMenamin the Council adopted the

resolution to issue an RFP to conduct an Economic Impact Study of community colleges in New Jersey, rescinding the Council vote on April 22, 2025. Warren abstained.

8. Action: Approval of the NJCCC FY2026 Budget

- *Noticed to the Council membership on May 15, 2025*

By motion of Eric Friedman, and seconded by Barbara Horl, the Council approved the NJCCC FY2026 Budget.

9. Action: FY2026 Chapter 12

By motion of Barbara Horl, and seconded by Mark McCormick, the Council approved the FY2026 Chapter 12 allocations.

10. Action: Bylaw Amendment: Refocus and Rename the Economic Mobility Committee

By motion of Lovell Pugh-Bassett, and seconded by Eric Friedman, the Council adopted the bylaw amendment to refocus and rename the Economic Mobility Committee. The new name of the committee is now the Economic and Community Vibrancy Committee.

11. STRATEGY

12. FY2026 State Budget and Legislative Update

- **FY2026 State Budget**

Heidkamp reported, in the last weeks, we have learned that our request to the State Legislature for a resolution to restore \$20 million in operating aid in the FY2026 state budget is on track due to the widespread support of legislators across the state. The resolution will take the form of a “common resolution” that is supported by Senate and Assembly leadership. We are hopeful that the State Legislature will restore funding for the Summer Tuition Assistance Grant (Summer TAG) program in the FY2026 state budget as well. We will continue to keep the Council updated as things take shape.

- **Legislative Update**

Heidkamp reported that we have made significant progress in the State Legislature on all of the six Opportunity Agenda bills, including the County College Contract Law. The bills have been considered by the full Assembly and by various Senate and Assembly Committees. We expect some movement on the bills through June 30, but will be prepared to work with the State Legislature through the “lame duck” session as necessary.

13. Other Business

Jessica Purnell discussed the upcoming ACCT Awards with the Council encouraging members to submit nominations. The full details for the ACCT Awards and nomination process will be

forwarded to the Council following the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned.