

**NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF COUNTY COLLEGES MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 23, 2024- 11:00 AM
NJ COUNCIL OF COUNTY COLLEGES
SOCIAL PROFIT CENTER- MILL ONE
1 N. JOHNSTON AVE., HAMILTON, NJ 08609 (3RD FLOOR)**

MINUTES

I. WELCOME

1. Meeting was Called to Order at 11:00 a.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 May 6, 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	Barbara Gaba		
Bergen	Eric Friedman		
Brookdale	David Stout	Barbara Horl	
Camden	Lovell Pugh Bassett		Jessica Stewart
Essex	Augustine Boakye		Arnold Lewis
Hudson			
Mercer	Deborah Preston		Lawrence Nespoli
Middlesex	Mark McCormick		
Morris			
Ocean			
Passaic	Steve Rose		
Raritan		Zenon Christodoulou	
Rowan at Burlington	Michal Cioce		
Rowan at South Jersey			
Salem	Michael Gorman		Dot Hall
Sussex			
Union	Margaret McMenamin		Mary Zimmermann
Warren			

There were 18 voting members of the Council who were present during the business meeting, not constituting a majority and quorum.

Council Staff: Aaron Fichtner, Megan Swieconeck, Catherine Starghill, Linda Scherr, Maria Heidkamp, and Jessica Britt.

2. Introduction and Announcements- Vice Chair Jessica Stewart

II. BUSINESS

3. Tabled: Approval of Minutes

The approval of the minutes from June 3, 2024 Executive Committee meeting; June 11, 2024 Council meeting; and July 15, 2024 Executive Committee meeting are tabled until a quorum is present.

4. Tabled: Acceptance of Council Financial Statements

The acceptance of the financial statements for July 2024 and August 2024 is tabled until a quorum is present.

5. 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 August 31, 2024, the Council's NJ Cash Management Fund holdings are \$2,147,287.

6. NJCCC Committees Reorganization: November 2024

Fichtner shared the current committee assignments with the Council members. These Committees are set to be reorganized in November. Members were encouraged to reach out to Fichtner and Ranjan with their committee assignment preferences.

III. STRATEGY

7. Legislative Priorities to Implement the Opportunity Agenda

- **Overview of Proposed Bills-** Fichtner reviewed the following legislative bill package the Council wishes to pursue:
 - a. Strengthen the NJCCC and modernize the purpose and functions of the **Council**.
 - b. Ensure all New Jersey high school students have the opportunity to earn at least 6 college credits through **dual enrollment** at community colleges, entirely free of charge for low income and historically underserved populations.
 - c. Make community college tuition free for New Jerseyans with incomes up to \$125,000 by

expanding the Community College Opportunity Grant (**CCOG**).

- d. Establish permanent statutory funding for an evidence-based Community College **Student Success** Initiative to better serve low-income and underrepresented students.
 - e. Create partnerships between community colleges and State/Local governments to address **students' basic needs**, expand benefit access, and promote economic mobility.
 - f. Launch applied community college **baccalaureate programs** in high-demand occupations.
 - g. Ensure that all credits earned as part of an associate degree will **transfer** to a public four-year institution in New Jersey and that students have the transfer support they need.
 - h. Establish permanent statutory funding for the **Pathways** to Career Opportunities Initiative.
 - i. Fund industry-valued **noncredit programs** for low-income students, including both tuition assistance and support for institutional program infrastructure and operation.
 - j. Support stronger strategic collaboration between **workforce development** boards and community colleges to address economic development and local labor market needs.
- **Strategy-** Fichtner and Council staff will work with the college presidents and trustees to meet with key legislators and to seek bill sponsors.

8. Council Committee Priorities*

Fichtner reviewed the 2024-2025 Council Committee Priorities document with the Council members.

9. Council Convenings

The Council plans to organize statewide meetings and conferences to advance the priorities of the Opportunity Agenda and of the Community Colleges including:

- Statewide Conference in Atlantic City tentatively scheduled for June 3-5 2025
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion convening tentative January 2025;
- ACCT National Legislative Summit- February 2025
- Community to Opportunity Initiative (funded by Tepper)- various dates
- Community College Scholars Celebration /Trenton Engagement Day- April 2025
- General Education – Spring 2025
- Humanities Faculty Convening- Spring 2025

10. Other Business

- Council Domain Change to njcommunitycolleges.org

Council staff emails and Affinity Group list serve domains have been updated to align with the new Council website.

Meeting Adjourned.