

The CHRONICLE

A SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL PUBLICATION

WINTER 2016 VOL. 9

Educational
Growth



in
South
Jersey!

I N S I D E

Libraries as Creative Learning Spaces

Funding New Jersey Public Schools

College Affordability in South Jersey

Stockton University Expansion



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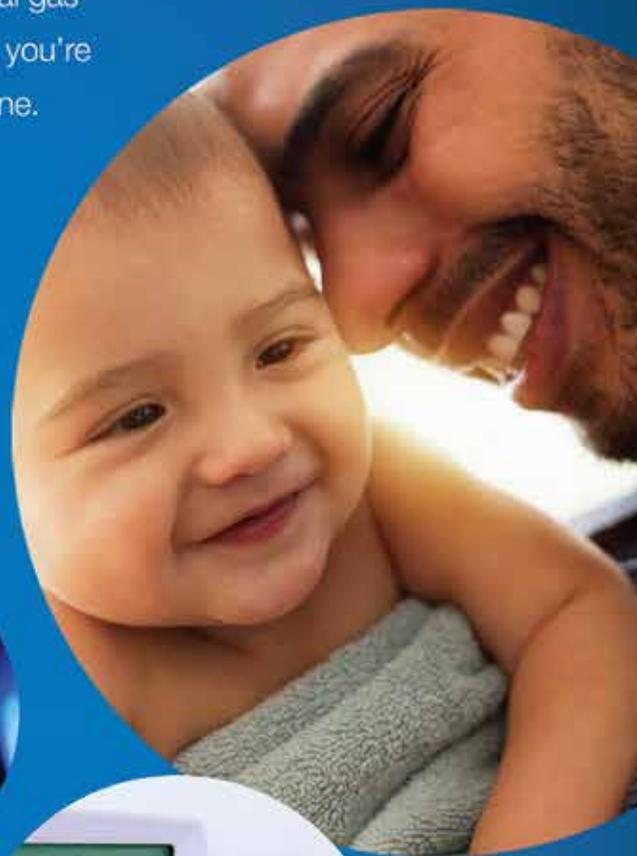
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**The Chronicle is Published by
The Southern New Jersey
Development Council**

Editor: Marlene Z. Asselta

Creative and Design:

Glenn Davila/Performance Marketing

Printing: Bellia Printing

Advertising and Editorial Contact:

Southern New Jersey Development Council

900 Route 168, Suite D-4

Turnersville, NJ 08012

Phone: 856-228-7500

Fax: 856-228-7511

Email: snjdc@snjdc.org

President's Letter

Educational institutions generate economic activity and growth – beyond the millions of dollars in wages and the thousands of direct jobs. Educational institutions contribute significantly to the economy through capital construction investments and research and development, through human capital development educating the workforce of tomorrow, and through job training and community service programs.

Look no further than the Cumberland County Technical Education Center as a link between education and economic development through capital investment. In *Get Ready!*, CCTEC Superintendent Dr. Dina Rossi Elliott shares the educational workforce development goals of the \$70 million, 200,000 square foot technical high school that during construction generated 750 construction jobs.

Sticking with K-12 education, when it comes time to financing construction and capital improvements, the societal benefit is born by taxpayers. Garrison Architects reviews several funding models to finance K-12 education construction in *Funding New Jersey Public Schools*.

Stockton University's Expansion, Growth Promoted through National 'Vision Tour' outlines the capital investments underway to fulfill a vision for offering students a high-quality, diverse educational experience with a choice of environments. President Kesselman mentions several sources for funding capital construction that higher educational intuitions utilize so the burden of construction need not be paid by students.

Preventing students from financing higher education construction costs is important in light of the increasing costs of obtaining a college degree. *College Affordability in South Jersey* summarizes the College Affordability Study Commission mission and also lists options already offered by our South Jersey colleges and universities to make college more affordable. Andrea Stanton from Rowan College at Gloucester County announces a unique program in *County to Provide RCGC Free Education and Work Experience Scholarship*.

Our library system also plays an important role in fostering economic growth; in *Libraries as Creative Learning Spaces*, Nancy Polhamus writes about the “Maker Movement” in creating enticing spaces for people to learn to use new technologies and foster the entrepreneurs of tomorrow.

I hope you enjoy reading this publication and welcome any comments you have. To learn more about the Southern New Jersey Development Council, please call us at (856) 228-7500 or visit our website at www.snjdc.org.



Sincerely,

Marlene Z. Asselta
President

Southern New Jersey Development Council



Get Ready!

By Dina Rossi Elliott, Ed. D.
Superintendent, Cumberland County
Technical Education Center

Cumberland County makes history this year when it opens its first full-time career and technical education high school on

College Drive in Millville. The new Cumberland County Technical Education Center, also New Jersey's newest technical high school, will change the face of education as we have come to know it. **Are you ready?**

The new school, currently being constructed adjacent to the campus of Cumberland County College, offers us a window of opportunity for drastic change. This magnificent structure, which is highly visible to travelers on Route 55, will provide a vital and necessary link between education and the local economy - a link that promises to build a stronger foundation for economic success and shared prosperity throughout our county. **Are you ready for that change?**

Students graduating from the new high school will have the knowledge and skills necessary to qualify for and succeed in college credit courses offered to them by several colleges and universities while in high school including Rowan and Rutgers Universities. This will include, of course, our own nationally ranked community college. They will complete a rigorous core curriculum resulting in advanced knowledge and skills. Most importantly, these young county residents will be educated and prepared to enter any postsecondary option, from four-year programs to short-term technical training. **Are you ready for these students?**

Workforce directed students will have the benefits of completing programs of study with industry-recognized credentials making them truly prepared for their career of choice. They will do so while participating in general education and academic courses making them not only employable - but well-rounded citizens of Cumberland County. Plus, they will be able to avail themselves of the workforce partners that exist at the school's central location including the new Cumberland

(continued on page 15)



August 2015: Aerial photo of construction on Cumberland County Technical Education Center's new full-time high school - New Jersey's newest career and technical education high school reached the halfway point last August. The 200,000 square foot facility is adjacent to the campus of Cumberland County College and opens this September.

Get Ready for the New CCTEC

Cumberland County Technical Education Center launched a promotional campaign last year, titled *Get Ready*, as its initial appeal for the high school's inaugural freshmen class. The multi-media endeavor also helped educate the public about the school and drew awareness to this landmark workforce development resource.

CCTEC's *Get Ready* campaign featured a photograph of prospective students on the site of the new high school to convey the message that this career and technical education facility will serve the needs of generations to come.

The public information campaign combined several communication platforms. The sessions were held from September to December for residents to learn more about the student selection criteria and application process.

The promotional effort consisted of digital and print ads, social media, videos, local entertainment and shopping center advertising, a website landing page and printed materials distributed at CCTEC, area middle schools and public events.

Nearly 650 students attended the public information sessions including elementary level students and families eager for the opening of the new facility.

CCTEC administrators, under the auspices of the Cumberland County Board of Vocational Education, will now work with more than 500 eligible eighth-grade applicants to complete the Board's criteria in selecting the school's first 225 freshmen students.





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County to Provide RCGC Free Education and Work Experience Scholarship

By Andrea Stanton - Rowan College at Gloucester County College Relations, Communications & Marketing Director

When it comes to being able to afford a college education the news usually isn't all that good. But for 20 Gloucester County high school seniors an unbelievable opportunity awaits this September.

Thanks to a new Gloucester County Internship Scholarship Program funded by the Board of Chosen Freeholders, recipients will receive free tuition and fees their freshman year followed by a repeat the second year for students meeting the required criteria. What makes this scholarship award even more unique is that it is linked to field-specific work experience.

"The cost of earning a college degree is pricing young people out of the classroom. The College and the County are working closely together, committed to making a quality education affordable to the residents of Gloucester County," stated Dr. Frederick Keating, president of Rowan College at Gloucester County. "This new scholarship provides each of the 20 scholarship recipients with approximately \$10,000 in tuition savings as well as career training, which will certainly be a bonus on their resumes."

"The Board of Freeholders created this internship scholarship to help students from being crushed by debt after they graduate," said Freeholder Director Robert M. Damming. "Students who take advantage of this scholarship program can get a four-year degree for half of the cost of what they would normally have to spend for the same education."

To be eligible for the Gloucester County Internship Scholarship Program, high school seniors must be ranked in the top 20 percent of their graduating class and enroll at RCGC for the upcoming fall semester in a full-time course of study. Students are required to take a minimum of 30 credits each academic year and be a permanent resident of Gloucester County. In addition, scholarship recipients must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen and legal New Jersey resident for a minimum of 12 consecutive months prior to high school graduation.

Students interested in applying for the scholarship need to submit an essay for consideration into the program. RCGC staff will select recipients based on the essays, interviews, majors of study and the eight available internship fields, which include economic — finance, engineering, library, marketing, nursing, parks and recreation, social services and technology. During the fall and spring semesters, students will be required to commit five-hours per week to the county internship, and 20-hours a week in the summer. Students who maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher and fulfill the required internship hours are eligible for scholarship renewal the second year.

"As a college student, an internship can help you apply knowledge learned in the classroom as you gain real-world experience in your field of study. It is also an opportunity to decide if this is the best career path for you," added Freeholder Lyman Barnes, educational liaison. "By creating opportunity for further cutting down the cost of college, the Internship Scholarship Program will benefit both the student, via full-tuition and fees assistance, and the county, via creating potential community and government leaders."

"For the serious student who wants to earn a college degree and is looking to significantly reduce loan debt, this is the real deal," said Keating.

For more information about the Gloucester County Internship Scholarship Program, email cap@rcgc.edu or call 856-464-5229.

Students must apply for admission to RCGC by June 1 and meet all eligibility requirements.

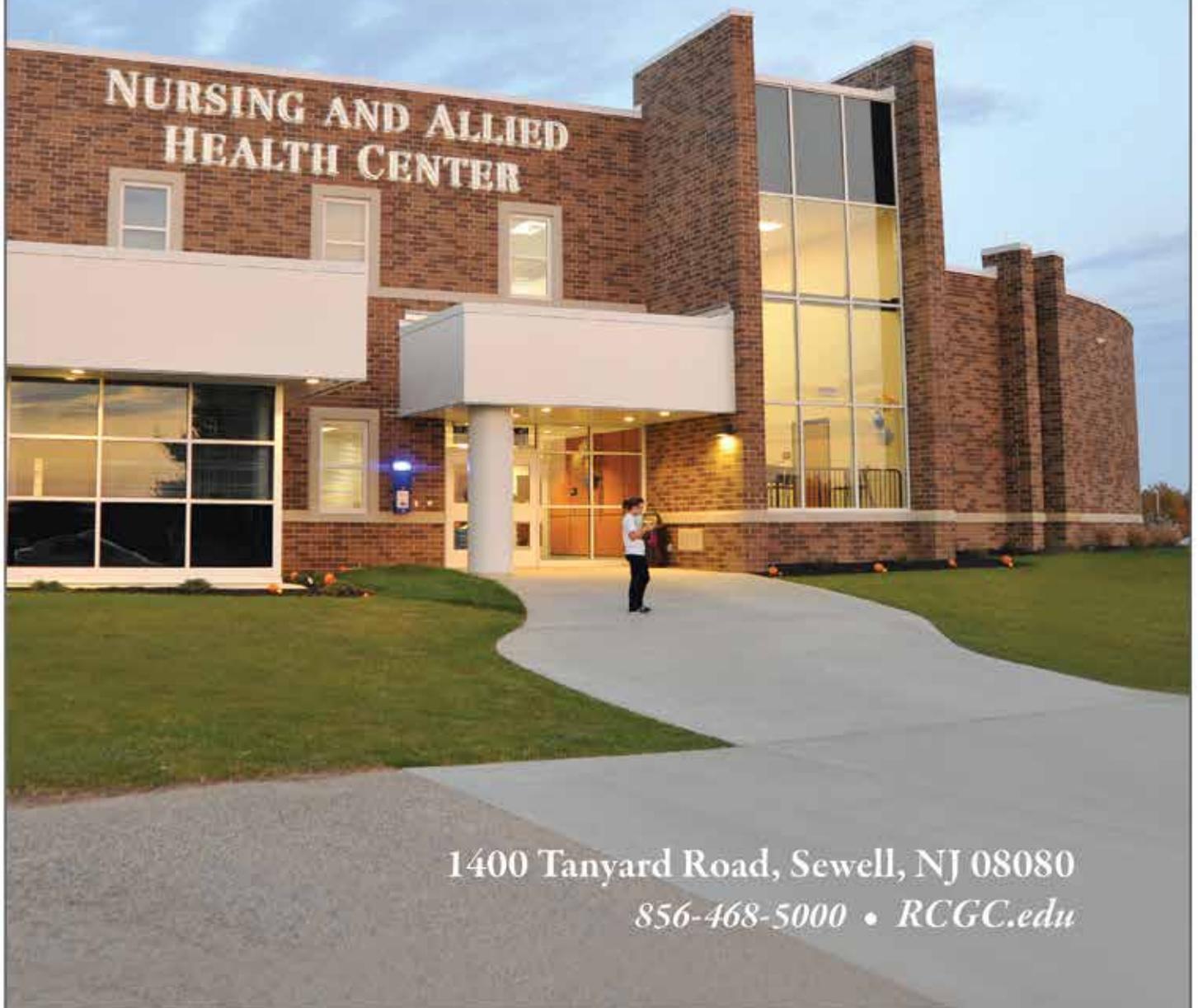
Rowan College at Gloucester County is located at 1400 Tanyard Road in Deptford, just off Exit 56 of Route 55.

Gloucester County Internship Scholarship Program

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Photo Credit: Donna Connor

Stockton's Harvey Kesselman

Stockton University's Expansion, Growth Promoted through National 'Vision Tour'

By President Harvey Kesselman

Stockton University has had 44 years of continuous growth since its founding in 1971, resulting in geographic expansion in three

southern New Jersey counties, record enrollments in recent years and new status as a university.

But Stockton, known as a place where you can plant yourself and grow, is cultivating the seeds for an even brighter future.

We are connecting with more alumni and potential donors this year to build a stronger Stockton community by telling a story across New Jersey and throughout the nation. The national tour, "A Distinctive Vision: Embracing Stockton's Future," celebrates the University's tremendous growth and transformation over the years, and unveils the strategic vision for Stockton's future which focuses on "students first."

The vision includes a new Atlantic City campus which would be built through public-private partnerships; continued expansion of graduate studies and professional development courses; construction of two new academic buildings on the Galloway campus and development of academic and research programs at the Stockton Aviation Research and Technology Park.

The University is lining up financial support for a planned residential campus bounded by the Boardwalk and Atlantic, Albany, Trenton and Ventnor avenues in Atlantic City. The public-private development by the non-profit Atlantic City Development Corp. (AC Devco) would include a 56,000-square-foot academic building with on-site parking and a residential housing building for 500 students.

In addition to Stockton's \$18 million investment, the N.J. Economic Development Authority has approved almost \$70 million in tax credits and the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) has committed \$17 million to support the new campus. Other portions of the financial structure are not yet complete.

The University has also received funding from the state Building Our Future Fund Act (GO Bond Act) and applied for additional funds from the Higher Education Capital Improvement Fund Act to support the \$28.62 million expansion of the Unified Science Center, construction of a \$18 million new classroom building and other

improvements at its Galloway campus, as well as to develop an Atlantic City campus.

The 58,210-square-foot expansion of the Unified Science Center will offer larger, world-class facilities for students of the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, which awards approximately 22 percent of all the science and mathematics undergraduate degrees at New Jersey's senior public colleges and universities. This expansion and the 37,720-square-foot new classroom building, coupled with a green area for gathering outside and the Campus Center, will form a Quad that creates a stunning new entrance to the Galloway campus.

The University's main campus in the Pinelands National Reserve and the nearby Stockton Seaview Hotel & Golf Club together comprise 2,000 acres. Our instructional sites provide access to students in western Atlantic, Cape May and Ocean counties.

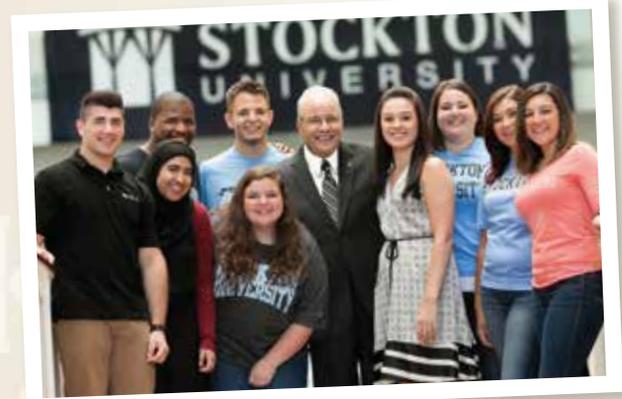
Moving forward, we will be able to offer students a choice of environments ranging from the Pinelands, to Stockton Seaview on the bay, to an urban seaside campus.

Demand for admissions and university housing continues to rise, as Stockton receives national recognition for its academic excellence, affordability and commitment to students.

Stockton is ranked at #12 among best public Regional Universities of the North, by U.S. News & World Report in its 2016 edition of "America's Best Colleges" and is one of The Princeton Review's Best Northeastern Colleges.

We are also rated as a best value among public colleges by Kiplinger's Personal Finance, while The Military Times ranked Stockton as sixth in the nation on its Best for Veterans list.

(continued on page 10)



Stockton University President Harvey Kesselman with students in the Campus Center. Credit: Donna Connor



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Funding New Jersey Public Schools

Garrison Architects, a second generation family-owned architectural firm, represents over 60 southern New Jersey school districts including charters, regular operating, special services and technical/vocational school districts.

We are often asked, “So how do New Jersey’s K-12 schools get funding for larger capital construction projects?” It is mandated that most School Districts get voter approval after which the local Board of Education is authorized to borrow money and retire that debt over a long period of time...much like your home mortgage.

About 591 out of 616 districts follow that model. Another 13 technical/vocational schools are districts that get both their annual operating funds and capital outlay funds direct from government allocation, primarily at the county level.

All but the Charter Schools can compete for a share of monies offered by the State to reduce the burden on the local taxpayer. The largest sustainable New Jersey state aid program is known as Debt Service Aid. The other program that needs legislative funding is the ROD (Regular Operating District) Grant Program. Under both programs, the District and their Architect submit NJDOE applications that delineate need, scope and cost of the proposed project(s).

Need is determined by a demographic study projecting the future number of students in a district by grade level and comparing that with standards for schoolhouse capacities. Districts with “Unhoused Students,” that is insufficient seats usually due to residential development growth, can get funding for those students.

Need can also be determined based on security, health and life safety, essential building system replacement after a full facilities assessment.

Enrollment and physical/functional building needs are often delineated in a Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) that proposes a capital expansion or improvement. Review of the LRFP and the architect’s plans for improvements by

the Planning & Facilities Office of the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and an application of rigorous formulas result in a determination of a level of aid offered under each specific program. Districts can submit under both programs and analyze the different levels of aid after an offer is made by the NJDOE.

Under the Debt Service Aid scenario, a district borrows the entire amount of its project costs; the State pays a portion of the school district’s debt service payments consisting of principal and interest. In the ROD Grant Program, the State provides an up-front grant and the district borrows the remaining costs. Both programs have the same economic effect on the school district’s taxpayers.

One of our firm’s largest projects is the Cumberland County Technical High School under construction in Millville. This new 201,118 square foot Technology High School will accommodate up to 900 students. The Technical Education Center is located adjacent to the County College providing for shared educational, administrative and athletic programs and spaces, shared administrative and adult programs, and is oriented to the STEM programs needed to meet 21st Century education goals.

The Cumberland County Board of Freeholders included the funding for the new school in a \$70 million bond ordinance that financed both the new school and other county improvements. The new school received State Debt Service Aid, which will finance approximately 69% of the County’s debt service allocated to the school for a term of 30 years.

The requirements for Charter School capital improvements are more restrictive than the requirements for a public school district. One example is Camden’s Charter School Network and the new Camden’s Pride Elementary Charter School. Annual Operating Funds for Charter Schools come through the host District based on the number of students enrolled. Construction funds are another story. A Charter School has statutory limits on borrowing debt long term

(continued on page 12)



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Stockton University's Expansion... *(continued from page 6)*

Enrollment reached 8,674 in the fall of 2015, a new record that bested 2014's record of 8,570 - and 94 percent of our students attend full-time. Stockton is attracting students from throughout New Jersey, from other states, and from other countries.

We have admissions agreements with a number of community colleges, which enable students to earn their associate degrees and then more easily transition to Stockton to complete their undergraduate educations, while reducing their overall costs.

Stockton has partnered with 16 area high schools to offer college-level courses to their students, enabling them to save time and money in earning a college degree.

At the same time, international and exchange students on campus this year come from Peru, Bulgaria, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong/China, Vietnam, Poland, Albania, Lebanon, Philippines, Macedonia, Korea, Brazil and Colombia. Stockton's Office of Global Engagement opened its Educational Language Services (ELS) Language Center on campus last summer, in partnership with ELS, one of the world's largest English Language educational providers.

Stockton is committed to helping students graduate in a timely fashion and to succeed in their careers. Stockton has an impressive graduation rate, in part because flat-rate tuition enables students to take up to 20 credits for the price of 12. Within six months of graduating, 87 percent of our 2015 graduates were employed or in graduate school.

Those new graduates are now part of the University's alumni, three of whom are now leading Stockton. Madeleine Deininger, chair of the Board of Trustees, is a 1980 graduate; Richard Dovey, president of the University Foundation, is a 1975 graduate, and like Rick, I am a member of the inaugural group of students who began classes in Atlantic City's Mayflower Hotel in 1971.

As we move forward, Stockton's key strategic priorities continue to be advancing our mission of excellence in teaching, support for scholarship and dedication to service. We are committed to developing the academic, administrative and financial resources to be the region's premier educational institution, benefiting southern New Jersey, our state and nation.



Photo Credit: Keann Monko

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Funding New Jersey Public Schools *(continued from page 8)*

and the lease term cannot exceed the length of the Charter. Therefore, the prohibition on the use of public funds for construction of facilities, as well as the limitations on long term debt, makes it difficult for a Charter School to directly finance the construction of a new charter school (except a “turnkey” arrangement) or undertake major renovations.

Camden’s Charter School Network, located in the Cramer Hill neighborhood, opened in 1998 at the middle school level in a 2-story office building and then three years later at the High School level in a school that was substantially rehabilitated from an adjacent 1-story abandoned brake manufacturing building. In 2004, the PAC Center, a

Gymnasium and Media Center, was added. By 2010, a freestanding 2-story Pride Elementary School was constructed on an adjacent lot. In a current project, the Charter School Network is converting the Rosedale Church Center to the Katz A to Z Charter School serving Grade K to 4 students. How did the Charter School finance so many worthwhile projects over the last few years? Their excellence in education was recognized by county government and through the Improvement Authority the projects were bonded and constructed. Other Charter Schools form similar partnerships, non-profits, and shared space concepts to enable their visions to become a reality.



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College Affordability in South Jersey

The College Affordability Study Commission, created by the New Jersey Legislature, was established in February 2015 and charged with examining issues and developing recommendations to increase the affordability of higher education in New Jersey.

The Commission, comprised of university presidents, college faculty members, current students and other public representatives is chaired by Rowan College at Gloucester County President Dr. Frederick Keating. The Commission held three public hearings, the last of which was hosted by commission member Dr. Ali Houshmand, President of Rowan University.

Among the issues the Commission is considering is developing a fixed tuition system, eliminating mandatory meal plans, and developing free online textbooks. Another proposal under consideration is creating a "Pay-It-Forward" program allowing students to pay tuition and fees through the state taking a

percentage of the graduate's earnings for a certain time period.

The Commission was also tasked with studying improvements to current programs such as New Jersey Better Educational Savings Trust (NJBEST), New Jersey's 529 plan, and NJCLASS. Suggested changes to NJBEST include increasing options available to investors, giving more flexibility for customers to customize their portfolio, tax deductions for NJBEST contributions, and annual state matching contributions.

The New Jersey College Loans to Assist State Students (NJCLASS) changes examined are regarding transparency within the program. These include providing options for the borrower to choose a co-signer or guarantor; interest rates that are more accurate compared to market conditions; as well as better advertising of these rates. Additionally, the Commission will consider an option for deferred loan payments and interest while in school.

Meeting the Need Now

Atlantic Cape Community College Students can save up to \$50,000 by spending the first two years of their education at Atlantic Cape Community College. Atlantic Cape offers 40 transfer agreements with colleges and universities nationwide that allow for a seamless transfer of credits, and also has Conditional Dual Admissions agreements with Stockton and Rutgers universities. This free program is designed to bridge the transfer process from an associate degree program at Atlantic Cape to a bachelor's degree program at these select four-year universities.

Cumberland County College The School Counts! Program provides two-year Cumberland County College tuition scholarships to county residents who earn four consecutive School Counts! certificates from participating high schools. To earn certificates, students must meet certain criteria including in attendance, curriculum, GPA, and have graduated high school on time.

Rowan College at Gloucester County recently unveiled a new internship program that allows some students to attend RCGC free of charge. In exchange for free tuition, the program requires students work at internships within the Gloucester County government in a field related to their study while they attend RCGC. This program allows some students to graduate with a degree, no debt, and work experience relevant to their degree.

Rowan University, in partnership with Rowan College at Gloucester County and Rowan College at Burlington County, unveiled a plan that allows students to graduate with a 4-year degree for only \$25,000. The plan consists of students attending either RCBC or RCGC for 3 years followed by 1 year at Rowan University.

Rutgers University-Camden offers families with an adjusted gross income (AGI) of \$60,000 or less the opportunity to receive a grant covering all of their tuition and the general campus fee not already covered by federal and/or state grants. For families with an AGI of \$60,001 to \$100,000, students can receive a grant covering 50% of their remaining tuition and the general campus fee after any other need-based federal and/or state grants are applied.

Stockton University has implemented a flat rate tuition plan that allows for full time students to take up to 20 credits for the price of 12 credits. The plan allows for greater flexibility for students and has increased the 4-year graduation rate by 12% since its implementation in 2009.

*In the classroom, in the lab and onsite,
we are working to build a
stronger, safer, sustainable New Jersey.*



Get Ready! *(continued from page 2)*

County Workforce and Economic Development Center and Cumberland County College. Together these forces dubbed the Economic Development Triangle will foster skilled, insightful individuals. **Are you ready for these job seekers?**

Local skill levels drive area job and wage growth and that means improved education not only benefits workers and employers, but all participants of the local economy. Proof of this is the state's Department of Education support of this \$70 million investment also being financed and managed by the Cumberland County Improvement Authority. However, even we who continue to lead and support this key workforce development resource can't imagine the magnitude of change this predictably eminent school will bring to both current and future residents.

So rather than pose a question, I'll instead make an important call to action. With much excitement, I say emphatically to "Get Ready" for the new CCTEC. Get Ready for the promise it brings to families and businesses in southern New Jersey. **Get Ready for the future!**



For more information about the new Cumberland County Technical Education Center programs and workforce development resources visit www.cctecnj.org or www.CumberlandYES.com/TEC.



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Libraries as Creative Learning Spaces

By Nancy Polhamus

Are you a Maker? Have you ever seen a Maker Space, or been to a Maker Faire? If you haven't yet encountered the "Maker Movement," you surely will soon - and your public library may very well be the place where your first Maker experience occurs.

The Maker Movement seeks to encourage creativity and learning by means of hands-on activity, incorporating new technologies in addition to or alongside traditional crafting. The Maker movement is an outgrowth of the popular "DIY" (Do-It-Yourself) trend. Doing your own home improvements, decorating, making homemade bread, knitting your own sweaters - these activities reflect a desire to step back from the high-tech, pre-fab world we live in. "Making" involves all of that, but takes doing it yourself a step further by combining the creative process with new technology.

The Gloucester County Library System (GCLS) opened the MakerStudio@GCLS at the main library in Mullica Hill in 2014. The first of its kind in Gloucester County, it was funded by an award from the New Jersey State Library. The MakerStudio contains two 3-D printers, a 3-D scanner, a vinyl cutter, and related software. There is also a serger sewing machine and supplies for traditional crafting. An adjacent digital media studio, contains an iMac computer with Garageband, iMovie, and photo-editing software. Accessories include a MIDI controller, HD video cameras, a green screen, and photo printer/scanner. Newer equipment converts analog media to digital formats. All equipment in the MakerStudio@GCLS is available for public use. (Users must first be trained and certified by library staff.) The MakerStudio also hosts classes in traditional crafts like porcelain painting and bread making.

Why are libraries investing in even more advanced technology, especially when psychologists and educators are concerned about the effects of "screen time" on the human brain?

Take another look at the GCLS Mission Statement. We strive to be a place where people come to learn, create,

The Gloucester County Library System provides welcoming community spaces where people gather to learn, create, and have fun.

Gloucester County Library Mission Statement

and have fun. Maker Spaces in libraries are a 21st century extension of the traditional core value of the public library - education. The focus of the Maker Movement is not so much on the technology itself, but the spirit of the process - learning together in a common space, sharing skills and knowledge, and collaborating to create something new. Maker Spaces can offer an antidote to screen-induced isolation by combining technology with teamwork and creativity.

Recent news reporting has highlighted the potential in new technologies like 3-D printing. NASA transmitted specifications for a ratchet wrench to the International Space Station; astronauts printed the wrench using the 3-D printer on board. In Kansas, a high school student used the 3-D printer at the public library to create a prosthetic hand for a child missing fingers on one hand.

Entrepreneurs have access to technology that allows them to design and create a prototype for a new product. Artists can create models of ideas they have for larger works. Just think - the world's next great inventor may be at work right now in a public library, creating the next new "big thing" that we'll all want to buy a few years from now.

Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) are the keys to preparing young students for tomorrow's careers. The Mullica Hill library offers the MakerStudio Jr, a fun space for younger children. Equipped with products like Snap Circuits, Lego Robotics kits, Early Machines mechanical models, and a 3-D printer designed with child safety in mind, children can experiment with the basics of circuitry, electronics, and engineering. The DesignStudio@GCLS, opening in February 2016, provides equipment for children ages 9-12 to experiment with art and music through technology.

If you haven't visited your public library in a long time, it's time to go back. You'll be surprised at what you see, what you can make, and how much you can learn.

Nancy Polhamus is a reference librarian and Public Information Officer at the Gloucester County Library System. For more information visit www.gcls.org/make.



3D printer set up: Ralph Bingham, Head of Digital Services, assembles a 3-D printer in the MakerStudio@GCLS.



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Brett Wiltsey, Esq.
Cherry Hill Office Managing Partner
bwiltsey@dilworthlaw.com
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O'Donnell & Naccarato is providing ongoing structural engineering services for the \$45-million, 202,000 SF technical high school to be situated alongside the Cumberland County College Campus. The 2-story structure will house classrooms, a media center, technical laboratories, a greenhouse, a gymnasium, and other amenities. The full-time school will offer technical training, such as welding, plumbing, heating ventilation and air-conditioning, auto-mechanics, cosmetology, and standard academic courses.