

NEW JERSEY PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL 2006-07



*Working together to improve
Higher Education for all of New Jersey.*

Letter from the Chair

For more than a dozen years, the New Jersey Presidents' Council has been the forum for the state's public and independent colleges and universities to come together at the presidential level to address the challenges facing New Jersey's higher education community.

A major initiative of the Presidents' Council this past year was the development of a new statewide agreement on student transfers that was unanimously approved by the presidents in December 2006. The overarching purpose of the agreement is to provide a seamless transition from two-year colleges to four-year programs within the state. Every public two-year and four-year college and university has signed an institutional commitment to this agreement. We anticipate that many independent colleges will follow the guidelines as well.

This year, the Council continued to address the critical issue of funding and testified before Assembly and Senate committees concerning Governor Jon Corzine's proposed 2008 budget. While significant financial issues affecting higher education remain to be resolved, the presidents believe the proposed budget is a step in the right direction.

As Chair of the Presidents' Council, I want to thank my presidential colleagues for their unprecedented level of cooperation during the past year. Working together, we have accomplished much and, with continued strong support of the Commission on Higher Education, we are optimistic that New Jersey's higher education system will continue to be a national leader in the years ahead.

On behalf of my colleagues, I am pleased to present this report.

Edward J. Yaw, Chair

“Where there is harmony there is unity; where there is unity there will be strength; and where there is strength there will be the power to conquer all things.”

Xunzi, Basic Writing

The New Jersey Presidents' Council represents the state's institutions of higher education at the presidential level. The organization was created by the 1994 Higher Education Restructuring Act, which also created the Commission on Higher Education. The 50-member board is made up of the presidents of New Jersey's colleges and universities that receive state aid, the presidents of three proprietary schools, and the presidents of the state's two largest religious institutions. The Council's charge is to make recommendations on new programs, regional alliances, budget and student aid levels, licensure, and the state's higher education master plan.

The New Jersey Commission on Higher Education is a 14-member board with an executive director and a staff charged with institutional licensure, research and information dissemination, advocacy for higher education, administration of various grant programs, and development of a comprehensive statewide plan for higher education titled, "A Blueprint for Excellence." An updated, 2007 version of this plan is available on the Commission website (<http://www.state.nj.us/highereducation/>)

Together, the Council and the Commission work to integrate and improve higher education programs and services for New Jersey.

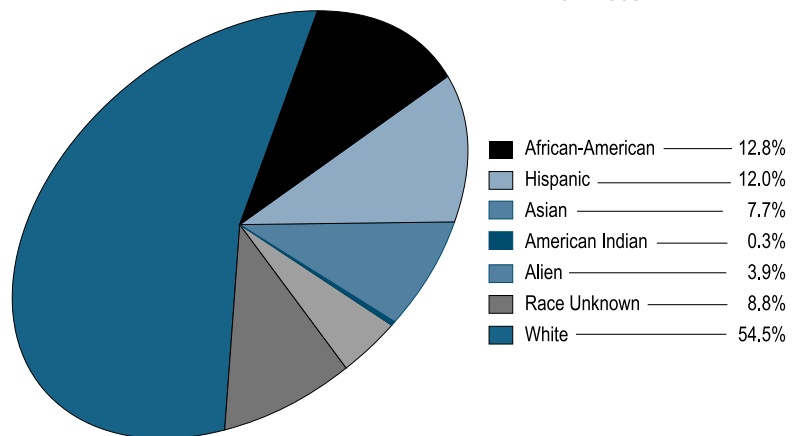
Continuing A Tradition of Excellence

In 2006-2007, New Jersey's colleges and universities worked together to make a difference for students and for the state and to maintain the highest levels of academic excellence in a time of financial hardship.

For the 2005-2006 academic year, New Jersey institutions of higher education enrolled 379,686 students (for credit) and continued to serve a diverse population. About one third (32.8%) of the students were African-American, Hispanic, Asian and American Indian; 36.7% of first-year students were minority.

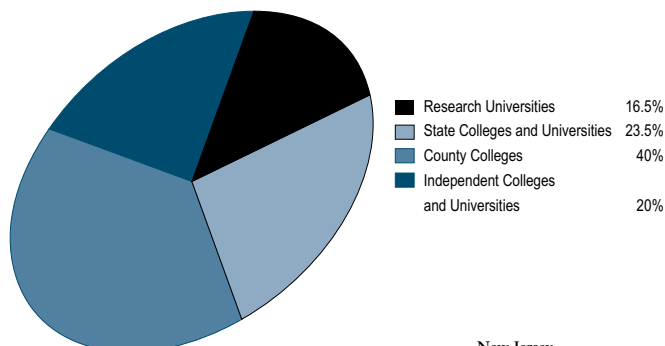
In spite of challenges, New Jersey's institutions of higher learning continued to serve the needs of the state with distinction, while maintaining their standing among the very best programs in the country. In 2007, the state's colleges and universities provided highest quality academic programming for students in spite of reduced state funding. The situation has potentially improved for 2008, as Governor Jon Corzine's proposed budget includes a 2.3% increase for colleges and universities.

Total Enrollment in NJ Colleges and Universities by Race/Ethnicity, Fall 2005 | Source: New Jersey Commission on Higher Education



Here are some notable highlights from New Jersey's higher education community:

- A report from the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (2005), showed that New Jersey's state colleges and universities were among the most productive in the nation as were the state's research universities.
- Through the Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development, the state's community colleges continue to be a vital resource for business. Most recently, the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration and the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development teamed up to fund a \$1.2 million grant to a coalition of organizations headed by the Community College Consortium and New Jersey Institute of Technology for life sciences initiatives.
- Student enrollment in the NJ STARS (New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Rewards Scholarship program) was up 52 percent in the past year, and participation has more than tripled since 2004, when the program began. This state-sponsored scholarship program covers the cost of tuition and fees at community colleges for students who graduate in the top 20 percent of their high school class. Students who earn their associate's degree with a 3.0 GPA, or higher, can also receive state funds to help cover tuition and fees at any New Jersey public four-year institution.
- Senior public colleges and universities received an extraordinary number of new donations from philanthropic sources and New Jersey individuals with campus ties including alumni, faculty and board members. In addition, the institutions received an outstanding array and number of new federal research and program grants, thus bringing more federal tax dollars into the Garden State and better positioning the state for leadership in the knowledge-based world economy.
- New Jersey's independent colleges and universities continue to play an important role in the higher education community. These institutions include traditional liberal arts colleges, major research universities, church and faith-related colleges and women's colleges. This variety offers students a choice in the type of educational experience that will best serve their interests, needs, and aspirations. In a recent year (2005), these colleges and universities awarded almost a quarter of all degrees in the state and 39 percent of all advanced degrees, while enrolling one-fifth of all students.



Total Enrollment in New Jersey Colleges and Universities by Sector

Source: New Jersey Commission on Higher Education





The New Jersey Presidents' Council

Working on behalf of the state and its higher education community, the New Jersey Presidents' Council was instrumental in leading or supporting key initiatives in 2007, such as the new statewide agreement governing student transfers, and an update of the state's master plan for higher education.

- The transfer agreement was a remarkable example of cooperation as the Presidents' Council and its members worked to first draft a new agreement and then unanimously approved the document in December 2006. The purpose of the agreement is to provide a seamless transition from two-year to four-year colleges within the state. Every state college and university has committed to the new agreement. The presidents believe that legislation introduced in the Assembly complements the new agreement and together the two initiatives create a "win-win" situation for New Jersey students.

New Jersey's state colleges and universities are among the most productive in the nation as were the state's research universities.

- Members of the Presidents' Council worked in collaboration with the Commission on Higher Education to update the state's master plan for colleges and universities, titled "A Blueprint for Excellence." This important document recognizes that the colleges and universities need predictable operating support and a major increase in operating funds to help meet growing needs and expectations. In essence, the plan sets out the parameters of a compact between the state and the higher education community that will sustain a higher education system that is among the best in the world.
- All colleges and universities continued to follow "green design guidelines" as established by the New Jersey Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability (NJHEPS), and endorsed by the Presidents' Council. The guidelines are meant to assist colleges and universities as they plan new buildings. Green design saves money by reducing energy consumption and aids the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. All presidents signed the "sustainability covenant" of the NJ Greenhouse Gas Action Plan to reduce CO2 emissions.



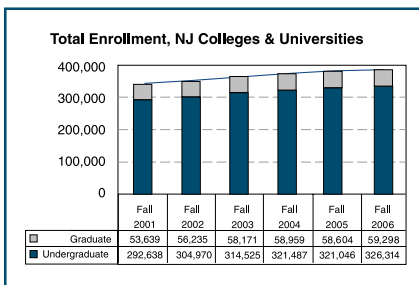
In 2007, the higher education community continued to benefit from several major collaborative initiatives that are providing important benefits to the colleges and universities, and to the state, with a high level of efficiency and cost savings.

- This year, **NJEDge.net** began to implement a next-generation optical network that will significantly enhance its powerful technology infrastructure and provide vastly increased broadband capacity at a substantial cost savings to all the state's colleges and universities.
- **NJTransfer** continued to be a major factor in helping students move between two-year colleges and four-year institutions. Since its inception in December 2004, NJ Transfer has electronically facilitated more than 130,000 transcript transactions.



Program Review

One of the most important roles of the Presidents' Council is to review new academic programs to ensure that they are in keeping with an institution's mission, are cost effective, and are non-duplicative. This past year, the Council reviewed 49 new programs (through April 2007), including 6 doctoral, 6 Master's, 18 Baccalaureate, and 19 Associate degree programs.



Enrollment for New Jersey's State Colleges, Universities, and Community Colleges Sets a Record.

Source: NJ Commission on Higher Education
7th Annual System Wide Accountability Report

The NCHEMS study was funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts and conducted by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems. It is titled "A New Look at the Institutional Component of Higher Education Finance: A Guide for Evaluating Performance Relative to Financial Resources." The full study is available on the NCHEMS website (www.nchems.org).

New Website Offers NJPC News

A new website with news about the New Jersey Presidents' Council, including updates on actions by the Council and its committees, is available at <http://www.njpc.org>

Summaries of NJPC meetings are posted on the website following each meeting. These summaries also are distributed electronically to presidents and to New Jersey state legislators.

Other excellent sources of information about higher education in New Jersey are these sites:

New Jersey Commission on Higher Education
<http://www.state.nj.us/highereducation/>

New Jersey Council of County Colleges
<http://www.njccc.org/>

New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities
<http://www.njascu.org/>

Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in New Jersey
<http://www.njcolleges.org/>

New Jersey's Higher Education Network
<http://www.njedge.net/>

New Jersey Transfer
<http://www.njtransfer.org/>



New Jersey Presidents' Council 2006-07

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NJEDGE
New Jersey's Colleges and Universities



NEW JERSEY PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL

- Public Research Universities
- State Colleges and Universities
- Community Colleges
- Independent Colleges and Universities
- ▲ Proprietary Colleges
- △ Religious Institutions

