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**For Immediate Release**

## **New Jersey Community Colleges Receive Federal Grants to Expand Apprenticeship Programs**

TRENTON, N.J. -- New Jersey community colleges, led by Bergen Community College and County College of Morris, have received two of the 23 grants awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor to expand apprenticeships, with a focus on the health care and advanced manufacturing industries.

These two Scaling Apprenticeship Through Sector-Based Strategies grants, totaling \$16 million, will be used to provide apprenticeships for more than 6,600 individuals and will serve to expand New Jersey community colleges' efforts to build career pathways that are driven by the needs of the state's key industries.

In all, 15 community colleges are participating in these grant-funded initiatives. Apprenticeship programs combine classroom education and training with work experience, and are developed and implemented in close partnership with employers.

Bergen Community College received a \$12 million grant focused on the health care industry and will serve as the lead working with 13 other community colleges in the state, CVS health and five health care entities to develop apprenticeship models in the health care sector.

Community colleges participating with Bergen Community College in the health care initiative include:

- Atlantic Cape Community College,
- Brookdale Community College,
- Camden County College,
- Essex County College,
- Hudson County Community College,
- Mercer County Community College,
- Middlesex County College,
- County College of Morris,
- Ocean County College,
- Passaic County Community College,
- Rowan College at Burlington County,
- Rowan College of South Jersey, and
- Union County College.

"The health care sector represents one of critical importance to our county, state and nation. This collaborative effort of Bergen Community College, education and industry partners will not only strengthen the health care sector by providing employers with highly skilled workers, but offer new career opportunities for thousands of men and women seeking to improve their personal, economic and workforce mobility," Bergen Community College President Michael Redmond said.

County College of Morris received a \$4 million grant focused on the advanced manufacturing industry and will serve as the lead in working with seven other community colleges in the state, the German American Chamber of Commerce, Siemens, UPS, and five firms to develop apprenticeship models in the advanced manufacturing sector. Community colleges participating with County College of Morris in the advanced manufacturing initiative include:

- Bergen Community College,
- Camden County College,
- Hudson County Community College,
- Mercer County Community College,
- Middlesex County College,
- Raritan Valley Community College, and
- Rowan College of South Jersey.

"Receiving these grants allows the County College of Morris to help fulfill its mission as one of New Jersey's major economic engines. The extensive network of education and industry partners means these apprenticeship grants will have a significant and far-reaching impact," said County College of Morris President Anthony J. Iacono. "New Jersey's future is very bright! With more than 7,000 manufacturers in the state and the fact that manufacturing offers high wage jobs with mobility is crucial for the future of this state and nation."

These grants will serve as a cornerstone for broader efforts in New Jersey's community colleges to build Career and Credential Pathway Collaboratives in the health care and advanced manufacturing industries. These collaboratives will bring community colleges, employers, high schools, colleges and universities, labor unions, workforce agencies, and other partners together to identify the common needs of employers, to map existing programs and pathways and to build new pathways in response to industry needs. Each collaborative will coordinate closely with state government agencies and will work closely with the New Jersey Apprenticeship Network, ensuring that work and learn models are incorporated into pathways.

The grants are also consistent with the framework for the future of New Jersey community colleges developed through a nine month collaborative effort and detailed in the VISION 2028 executive summary and full report, accessible via <https://www.njccc.org/vision-2028>.

At the heart of VISION 2028 is a commitment from the state's community colleges to playing a critical role in helping the State of New Jersey increase the percentage of working adults who have earned a post-secondary credential or degree to 65% by the year 2025.

The New Jersey Council of County Colleges joins the leadership of trustees and presidents to strengthen and support New Jersey's network of community colleges.

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