

II.I. Major Research and Public Service Activities

Major Research Activities:

Sussex County Community College does not currently participate in any major research activities.

Public Service Activities:

Public service activities take a variety of forms at Sussex County Community College. In addition to a variety of programs and events that serve the needs of the surrounding community, the faculty, staff and students at SCCC are actively involved in volunteerism throughout Sussex and Pike Counties.

Supporting local business

Sussex County Community College is the host to many initiatives designed to provide resources and enhance the county's economy. From computer training, to personal finance, SCCC offers a broad range of workshops, seminars and career training programs for area residents and businesses.

SCCC's Continuing Education Division manages a resource center to assist entrepreneurs in Sussex County in order to stimulate economic growth. The Center for Entrepreneurial Studies & Development serves the needs of new businesses, business expansion, or businesses looking to redefine their objectives. This program is supported by funding from the Department of Labor Rural Development.

The Continuing Education Division also offers customized training for area businesses. Additionally, the College is an active partner in the New Jersey Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development. This consortium provides one-point access to all of the vast resources of the state's 19 community colleges, including over 1,700 programs taught by highly qualified faculty with business and industry experience.

The Educational Technology Training Center of Sussex County provides workshops that integrate technology into the classroom, and provide activities to meet the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards. These professional development workshops offer teaching strategies and technology that cover all grade levels and content areas.

Community Enrichment:

SCCC has a long tradition of offering diverse cultural programming to the community and dozens of enrichment activities for students and the public. In January 2008, the College opened a state of the art Performing Arts Center launching a whole new era of arts and entertainment for SCCC students and the community. The Performing Arts Center at SCCC has become the flagship theater in Northwest New Jersey presenting exceptional entertainment. SCCC presents a diverse showcase of dance, comedy, opera,

contemporary and classical music, international and supernatural shows and student performances.

Thursdays on the Green, a free concert series sponsored by SCCC has been a summer tradition for hundreds of Sussex County residents for seven years. In addition to fabulous music, guests enjoy a family festival with vendors, artisans, giveaways and more.

In addition to being the cultural hub for the County, the SCCC campus has become the center for dozens of community activities. An annual 911 Remembrance Ceremony takes place at the College's 911 memorial each year. The United Way and other local charities use the campus green and College facilities for various activities. Human Spirit awards are presented on campus each year. Area law enforcement and emergency service volunteers are honored at an annual gathering on campus.

Each year the Student Government Association organizes an annual community Haunted Hay Ride at the end of October.

Sussex County Community College is the home for the Betty June Silconas Poetry Center which provides poetry readings, poetry workshops and open readings for area poets. The campus also hosts the Teen Arts Festival, which gives local students a platform to display their immense creative talent in a variety of arenas.

Charitable Efforts:

Sussex County Community College students, staff and faculty support dozens of charitable events throughout the year. The College is an active participant in the Sussex County United Way annual campaign, Red Cross Heroes Campaign, American Cancer Society Daffodil Days and many other fundraising drives. Student Clubs and SCCC athletic teams champion specific causes throughout the year including Project Self Sufficiency, Mentoring Plus, and DASI, Holiday food and toy drives and more.

For the past two years the College has hosted and coordinated the annual Relay for Life event for the American Cancer Society. In 2008 this event raised over \$87,000 and in 2009 another \$70,000 was raised. More than 400 members from the community participate in this extraordinary event.

Each month the college reports community service activities to the Board of Trustees. This report details monthly volunteer service of the SCCC faculty and staff. A survey conducted in 2009 found that 71% of SCCC employees participate regularly in some form of community service. Service areas represented include local community organizations, faith based causes, health and wellness issues; social services; arts and culture and education.

Volunteerism in the Classroom:

The Service Learning initiative at Sussex County Community College, dubbed "Community Ties," is fueled by a committee of faculty and staff who are dedicated to the college and to the community. The goal is to outreach to community groups in need of volunteers, and to partner those groups with faculty and students willing to contribute of their time and talent. Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to initiate service learning ideas and to use a service learning component in a wide variety of classes.

The College, through the Service Learning committee, retains active partnerships with agencies such as Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Intervention Services (DASI), Project Self Sufficiency (PSS), United Way (UW), Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS), Bristol Glen, The American Cancer Society, and many others.