

**NJ Commission on Higher Education and
Hudson County Community College
Issue Joint Statement on Middle States Accreditation**

Recent Press Coverage Falsely Implies that College May Lose Accreditation

For Immediate Release

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July 14, 2008, Jersey City, NJ—Jane Oates, the Executive Director of the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education, and Dr. Glen Gabert, President of Hudson County Community College, issued the following joint statement today:

Ms. Oates said: “I was recently contacted by a member of the press regarding the Middle States Commission on Higher Education’s Statement of Accreditation on Hudson County Community College. In that interview, I spent more than forty minutes enumerating the many good qualities of Hudson County Community College and the great job they have done in providing for the needs of the community. I find it disconcerting —and most unfortunate— that of all the information discussed in that interview, the reporter chose only to include the answer to a hypothetical question he posed to me about what might happen if the College was to lose its accreditation.

“The Middle States Commission on Higher Education has reaffirmed the College’s accreditation. The Middle States Commission Statement of Accreditation reads: ‘Hudson County Community College remains accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.’ The Commission’s disclosure statement goes on to say that, ‘When the Commission warns an institution, it believes that, although the institution is out of compliance, the institution has the capacity both to make the appropriate improvements within a reasonable period and to sustain itself long term.’

“Hudson County Community College met or exceeded thirteen of the fourteen Middle States Commission’s standards. The Middle States team recognized and applauded the College’s extraordinary work. They also identified an area which the College has already started addressing and will improve within the next twelve months.

“I have worked with Dr. Gabert and the members of the Hudson County Community College staff for some time. The New Jersey Commission on Higher Education is confident that Hudson County Community College will have this warning removed by September 2009, when the plan is submitted to the Middle States Commission.”

Dr. Gabert said: “We appreciate the support of Ms. Oates and the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education. We view the Middle States reaffirmation process as a means of strengthening the College and staying on track with our commitment to constantly improve our operations; we see this as an opportunity to make our very good College into an even better institution.

“The College remains dedicated to its mission of providing high quality programs and services that are affordable, accessible, and community-centered. We strive to ensure that all programs and services are designed to meet the educational needs of a linguistically and ethnically/racially diverse community, while working to promote the economic, technological, cultural, social and civic development of our County’s residents. The expansion of our course offerings and our facilities these past several years demonstrates our ongoing commitment to the community and our principles.

We are confident that we will meet the expectations of the Middle States Commission and will have this warning removed by September 2009. We would also like to remind that the College also holds the following accreditations: The Culinary Arts (CAI) Program is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of the American Culinary Federation Educational Institute (ACFEI); the Electronics Engineering Technology (EET) Program is accredited by the Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (TAC-ABET); the Cooperative Nursing (NSG) Program, offered in conjunction with the Schools of Nursing of Bayonne, and Christ Hospitals is accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC); the Health Information Technology (HIT) Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) in cooperation with the Council on Education of the American Health Information Management Association (COE-AHIMA); the Medical Assisting (MDA) Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAA HEP), in conjunction with the American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA); and the Respiratory Care (RTP) Program, offered in conjunction with the University of Medicine and Dentistry, NJ School of Health Related Professions is accredited by the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC).”

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