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## News Release

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**For Immediate Release**

### **New Jersey Center for Student Success Awarded \$200,000 Grant from The Prudential Foundation to Support College Readiness Initiatives**

TRENTON, N.J.--The Prudential Foundation has awarded \$200,000 to the New Jersey Council of County Colleges in support of the Center for Student Success.

The grant will support the expansion of the College Readiness Now and College Credit Now Initiatives to increase the number of students completing postsecondary degrees and/or credentials in New Jersey. These efforts have successfully shown that early interventions better prepare students for college and that dual enrollment programs accelerate the time it takes for students to earn associate degrees.

“New Jersey’s community college trustees and presidents have been leading our statewide efforts to improve student completion since 2009 as part of our Big Ideas Project, now Strategic Goals for Student Success,” said New Jersey Center for Student Success Executive Director Dr. Yesenia Madas. “We have worked collaboratively as 19 community colleges to transform our colleges from access institutions to access to student success institutions. With The Prudential Foundation’s support, our 19 community colleges can do even more to develop and implement programs that enable students to achieve their goals and realize their dreams.”

The New Jersey Council of County Colleges will receive the year-long grant to improve college-readiness among high school students across the state with a particular emphasis in the City of Newark and Essex County College. The grant will also have a statewide impact to

accelerate college attainment with dual enrollment programs for high school students with College Credit Now.

“The Prudential Foundation has been a steadfast partner with Essex County College,” said Essex County College President Dr. Gale Gibson. “Through this grant, our High School Initiatives program will implement intentional interventions that further support Newark Public School students with the necessary skills at critical junctures in order for them to be successful.”

“Securing employment can be challenging for people who lack a postsecondary education or the credentials necessary to compete in today’s economy,” said Lata Reddy, vice president of corporate social responsibility at Prudential and president of The Prudential Foundation. “Prudential is committed to supporting community colleges with early intervention programs to better prepare and connect people to quality jobs in New Jersey.”

New Jersey’s Center for Student Success, established in October 2012, works on behalf of the state’s 19 community colleges to more effectively assist students in achieving college completion. Grants from the Fund for New Jersey and the PSE&G Foundation helped to launch the Center. In addition to The Prudential Foundation, the Center is also funded by the Kresge Foundation, the PSE&G Foundation and the State Street Foundation, and received programmatic support from the Office of the New Jersey Secretary of Higher Education, the New Jersey Department of Education, the New Jersey Education Association, and Kean University.

The New Jersey Council of County Colleges is the state association representing New Jersey’s 19 community colleges. As an independent, trustee-headed organization that joins the leadership of trustees and presidents, the Council is the voice of the community college sector before the state legislature and other branches of government.