



New Jersey Association of State Colleges & Universities 25 Year Summary of Accomplishments 1985-2010

- 1985-86** Secured passage of legislation granting autonomy to the state colleges.
- 1986** Focused on helping the institutions implement the provisions of the autonomy laws.
- 1987** Worked to gain passage of early retirement options for state college faculty.
- 1988** Coordinated a successful campaign for voter support of a \$350 million facilities obligation bond.
- 1989** Pressed for trustee authority to set senior faculty promotions percentages and salary vs. non-salary expenditure policies.
- 1990** Successfully aided the colleges in obtaining greater institutional flexibility in determining adjunct faculty salary rates.
- 1991** Developed support for early retirement measures (subsequently approved by governor and legislature).
- 1992** Helped gain greater institutional flexibility in contracting for construction jobs.
- 1993** Supported legislation to create a \$100 million Higher Education Equipment Leasing Fund.
- 1994** Supported legislation to create a \$220 million Higher Education Facilities Trust Fund.
- Provided leadership to define the principles and provisions of landmark legislation that restructured the delivery and coordination of New Jersey higher education.
- Provided advice and support to ensure that the new state higher education governance structure would be effective; and review the Association's mission and structure in light of governance restructuring.

- 1995** Attained legislation securing member institutions' deposits at New Jersey banking institutions.
- 1996** Led budget advocacy efforts that resulted in restoration to member campuses of \$5.5 million in fringe benefit reductions originally proposed by the state.
- Achieved goal of putting member institutions at parity with other New Jersey public colleges and universities regarding flexibility in management of personnel and labor relations.
- 1998** Successfully attained the legislative goal of higher thresholds for required competitive bidding of contracts involving the campuses.
- 1999** Forecasted that demand for public college/university education would reach unprecedented levels over the next ten years.
- Voiced the need to make higher education a priority on the state's policy agenda in the years ahead.
- Commissioned a scientific poll – the first of many – of New Jersey adults to research public opinion on the state colleges/universities' value and connection to other policy issues.
- Supported provisions of the \$550 million Higher Education Capital Improvement Fund Act, and worked to make them more flexible.
- Advocated legislation to save students \$1 million annually in Social Security withholding taxes, and also save the campuses an additional \$1 million per year.
- 2000** Helped achieve enactment of legislation providing incentive funding for colleges obtaining major gifts of at least \$1 million, and worked on amendments to make the bill retroactive to include very recent major gifts.
- Took a lead role in working toward passage of dorm fire safety legislation which gave campuses a reasonable time frame in which to comply and provided \$90 million in interest-free state loans through bond sales to help finance required renovations.

Supported legislation, signed into law, making it possible for up to three alumni of a New Jersey state college or university, who reside out of state, to serve on the boards of trustees of the institutions they attended, thereby providing a tool to further strengthen boards of trustees.

2001 Rallied support, through **NJ College Bound 2008**, from statewide organizations in for-profit, non-profit and labor sectors for steps to expand higher education capacity and affordability.

Assisted with a proposal for increasing state support of teacher education, career development, retention, and recruitment into the profession. The result was a \$10 million state investment to improve teacher preparation and teacher education capacity.

Successfully advocated, with other public higher education colleagues, for the exclusion of sensitive campus documents pertaining to research, personnel, and donor records from legislation enlarging the scope of the Open Public Records Act.

2002 Worked to obtain increased flexibility for institutions in contracting for services, advocating higher thresholds for required bidding, more relaxed limits on contract periods, and sustained authority to engage subcontractors.

2003 Coordinated an effort that resulted in restoration of \$70 million, collectively, to state college/university budgets and higher education programs.

Helped advance and supported a law that increases the share of Higher Education Capital Improvement Fund grants that may be used for student-support facilities from 5% to 20%.

2004 Achieved broad support among state officials and the news media for the need for a higher education facilities bond referendum.

Achieved recognition, through state budget, of ASCU long-term policy goals of state funding for state-negotiated salary increases, ongoing support for senior public facilities needs, student aid commensurate with current tuition and students' need, and incentives for growth in enrollment.

Helped defeat a proposal to withhold state funding from public institutions that raise tuition above the rate of inflation.

- 2005** Made significant progress on legislation granting ASCU institutions greater autonomy in contracting, purchasing and construction.
- Organized opposition to legislation that would appoint members of various constituencies, including local government officials and campus employees, as representatives on boards of trustees.
- Supported legislative effort to increase share of FY 2006 salary costs paid by the state, resulting in an additional \$17 million for the twelve senior public colleges/universities.
- 2006** Worked with the Corzine Administration to amend Executive Order No. 1, which required state college and university trustees to disclose detailed aspects of their individual finances, with mandatory posting of these disclosures on a state website. Achieved revisions addressing trustee privacy concerns, but also assuring no conflicts of interest between trustees and the institutions they govern.
- In the midst of a budget deficit and proposal to cut the higher education budget by an unprecedented \$300 million, helped achieve cancellation of the fringe benefit cost transfer and secured restoration of a significant portion of base budget funding cuts proposed.
- Opposed legislation that would appoint members of various constituencies, including local government officials and campus employees, as representatives on trustee boards.
- Led a broad-based higher education effort to introduce legislation to put a \$2.705 billion higher education facilities bond issue on the ballot. Three legislative leaders introduced such measures.
- 2007** Conceived and launched an aggressive advocacy effort related to college costs, productivity, public trust, and accountability: The “New Jersey College Promise” campaign.
- Initiated a study of educational costs at member institutions to assist administrations with long-term planning.
- In close cooperation with the New Jersey Educational Facilities Authority, supported legislation to allow institutions greater flexibility in constructing facilities and partnering with private developers on construction projects.
- Coordinated with all other sectors of higher education in New Jersey to

advocate repeal a recently imposed sales tax on parking services that, as imposed at colleges and universities, affects only commuter students.

Hosted a seminar on the needs of new and student trustees, featuring a presentation by Richard Novak, Executive Director of the Association of Governing Boards (AGB) Center for Public Higher Education Trusteeship and Governance.

Following the unthinkable tragedy at Virginia Tech, ASCU coordinated sharing of information regarding campus security and notification procedures.

Helped draft new rules, adopted in November 2007, by the State Ethics Commission regarding faculty and staff acceptance of honoraria, travel reimbursement and royalties for work conducted in a scholarly capacity.

Planned and mounted a swift response to accusations in a report by the State Commission of Investigation (SCI) alleging inadequate fiscal controls at senior public colleges and universities. Diffused widely ideas for improving state coordination of higher education and assuring greater transparency and accountability in higher education, which were eventually reflected in statute.

2008

Publicized widely a checklist of member institutions' voluntary compliance to the principles and spirit of federal Sarbanes-Oxley law for corporate governance.

With the assistance of the NJ Business & Industry Association and other advisors, assembled the New Jersey College Promise Advisory Council, which resulted in an ambitious public interest agenda regarding college access, affordability, productivity and accountability for the state colleges and universities.

Coordinated a response to a voluntary student lending code of conduct for colleges and universities proposed by the New Jersey Attorney General, and achieved campus codes that protect students.

Supported passage of a transfer articulation bill designed to help students planning to transfer from county colleges to four-year state colleges and universities that clearly delineated the number of two-year college credits that can be applied to the baccalaureate program.

Supported the introduction of legislation that allows boards of trustees to have up to two members who are not state residents and not alumni.

2008-2009 Researched provisions of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, resulting in \$39.6 million added to the FY 2010 budget proposal for higher education.

Worked closely with teams of administrators and staff on each campus to build a new web-based citizens awareness/advocacy program that includes various constituencies within each institution: *New Jersey College Promise Action Network*.

Engaged with members of an Executive/Legislative Task Force to revise the NJ STARS and NJ STARS II programs to strengthen educational criteria and reduce cost burden to ASCU institutions.

Conceived and constructed one of the nation's most complete state websites on educational benefits and programs for veterans and active duty servicemembers, and won a \$100,000 grant (1 of 20 nationally) from the American Council on Education, Wal-Mart Foundation to expand services to veterans through the **Operation College Promise** program.

Promoted the unity and commitment of the nine ASCU members through a "*Nine Strong for a Stronger New Jersey*" pledge that included a news conference, especially prepared materials, a televised program featuring Governor Thomas Kean, broadcast on NJN, and structured meetings with state opinion leaders and nonprofit organization executives.

2009-2010 Continued to press forward with a multifaceted deregulation agenda during the gubernatorial campaign, the gubernatorial transition process, and the red tape review process after Governor Christie took office. This came to fruition in May 2010 with the governor's release of a major reform package containing five of the major items of the Association's agenda.

Sponsored a seminar on the need for new approaches to higher education funding and productivity, in cooperation with Princeton University Policy Research Institute of the Region, issuing a brief policy paper summarizing findings.

Prepared, for gubernatorial platform consideration, white papers reflecting facts about higher education and the state colleges and universities, policy issues that should be addressed, and innovative ideas for change and productivity.

Met with staff from each of the major gubernatorial campaigns and provided statistical and policy information.

During the Christie transition period and beginning months of the new Administration, provided analysis of law and regulation affecting state colleges' productivity to the "red tape" review effort led by the Lieutenant Governor.

Worked closely with the Governor's Office of Employee Relations to assist with labor contract administration and analysis, including compliance with requests for institutional personnel savings set forth in FY 2010 budget language.

Developed and published a *Public Policy Agenda* for FY 2009 through FY 2011.

Expanded existing veterans outreach program – Operation College Promise (OCP)SM with quarterly events.

Produced *Campus Resource Guide – Creating an Environment for Veteran Success in Higher Education*.

Developed Certificate for Veterans' Service Providers (CVSP) training program – the first of its kind.

Actively supported recently enacted law on state college accountability that codifies many of the fiscal and accountability best practices already in place at state colleges and universities, and which provides for regular publication of key statistics about individual institutions.

Supported a bill, subsequently enacted, that extends the time frame for public college partnerships with the private sector to construct revenue producing facilities.

Opposed, as inappropriate and duplicative, legislation which would require state college governing board members to undergo a training program developed by the Commission on Higher Education.

On educational policy grounds, opposed legislation easing State Board of Higher Education limits on the number of professional education credits that county college students can transfer when they enroll at four-year colleges.

Opposed legislation that would have imposed the prevailing wage on contracts to provide food service at public colleges and universities and other governmental entities.

Opposed, as unworkable, a bill requiring New Jersey residents for state employees, including those of the state colleges and universities.

Voiced deep concerns about mid-year budget cuts and a FY 2011 budget proposal containing one of the biggest ever cuts to operating aid at state colleges and universities. Raised objections to a 4% tuition and fee cap that appeared to be arbitrarily determined and punitive aspects for exceeding the cap. Productive exchanges in legislative hearings and a meeting with the governor followed.

Publicly supported other final budget provisions, including reversing an ill-conceived proposal to merge Thomas Edison State College with Rutgers University and planned cutbacks in the Educational Opportunity Fund.

Expanded membership in the New Jersey College Promise Action Network policy advocacy program to include over 8,500 individuals, conducted several highly successful activations, and shared evidence the Network is achieving its multiple goals effectively.

Repeated, through six op-ed articles, news releases and interviews with print, radio and television journalists, messages about the need for a rational funding approach by the state and statewide discussion of shared responsibilities for funding public higher education.

Coordinated an editorial board meeting with *The Star Ledger* resulting in a very positive editorial at a critical time in the budget process.

Worked closely with student trustees involved in the Garden State Student Alliance (GSSA) on statewide advocacy, outreach and organizational development, forging a supportive relationship between GSSA and the ASCU Board.

Conducted, prior to the November 2009 election, a scientific poll on higher education in the midst of a heated, three-way gubernatorial campaign and published results.

Achieved budget economies to hold dues flat through salary freeze, employee contributions to health benefits and increased productivity.

Implemented additional "Sarbanes-Oxley" best practices.

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