



NEW JERSEY

# Association of State Colleges and Universities

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**State College/University Group:**

**WE WILL WORK WITH TRENTON AND WASHINGTON TO MAXIMIZE NJ SHARE OF FEDERAL STIMULUS FUNDING FOR HIGHER ED**

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**Trenton, February 6, 2009**---New Jersey should not be jeopardized in its eligibility for federal stimulus funding by a reduction in the state's higher education investment.

So says Dr. Darryl G. Greer, executive director/CEO of the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities (ASCU), pointing to current House and Senate versions of the federal economic stimulus package. These bills contain a "maintenance-of-effort" provision that in order to receive some of the federal stimulus funding for higher education, states must maintain, over the next two fiscal years, at least the same level of higher education funding as in FY 2006. Under both the House and Senate versions, New Jersey would stand to gain a greater share of about \$79 billion nationally, currently allocated for "public safety and other public services," including such services at public institutions of higher education, if it meets the maintenance-of-effort standard.

"Maintenance-of-effort" provisions are being increasingly employed in federal higher education funding legislation to ensure that federal investment does not supplant state investment or facilitate disinvestment.

Greer also said this today: "Legislation, as currently drafted, may still allow New Jersey to qualify for other stimulus funds, including infrastructure support for higher education, in spite of several budget cuts to institutions over the period in question."

"State college and university presidents and boards of trustees look forward to working with the governor and state legislators to make sure that the state can take advantage of all funds that will become available for higher education. Likewise, we will work with the New Jersey Congressional Delegation and the Obama administration on the stimulus package to assure that New Jersey is eligible for its fair share of the federal higher education stimulus — so that we can expand college opportunity, promote affordability, protect and create jobs and assure the long-term prosperity of the Garden State."

Greer cited one recent positive development: Governor Corzine has stated that there would be no mid-year (FY 2009) cuts in funding to state colleges and universities.

Potential infrastructure funds for higher education in the stimulus bill, as much as \$6 billion nationally, are not affected by the "maintenance-of-effort" provision. ASCU estimates that New

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*The College of New Jersey  
Kean University  
Montclair State University*

*New Jersey City University  
Ramapo College of New Jersey  
Richard Stockton College of New Jersey*

*Rowan University  
Thomas Edison State College  
William Paterson University*

Jersey could gain about \$129 million for infrastructure improvements for all of higher education under the House version of the bill.

ASCU is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization created by the State of New Jersey in 1985. Its members are: The College of New Jersey, Kean University, Montclair State University, New Jersey City University, Ramapo College of New Jersey, Richard Stockton College, Rowan University, Thomas Edison State College and William Paterson University. These institutions collectively serve about 98,000 students.