

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:

Assistance to Business: Sussex County Community College is the host to SCORE, Counselors to America's Small Business, a volunteer organization comprised of successful business people dedicated to assisting Sussex County small business owners. SCORE is a source of information about opening a business, as well as providing advice to existing business owners on how to grow or to revitalize their businesses. We also received a \$60,000 grant from the Department of Labor Rural Development for an Entrepreneurial Center which provides assistance to new and existing business owners.

Culture/Cultural Events: The Sussex County Community College strives to be the cultural hub in the county. The calendar includes a variety of provocative, intellectually stimulating events ranging from film to music festivals; from poetry, speakers and storytellers to art displays. Many events include light refreshments and are open to the public. Free or a minimal admission fee is charged. Thursdays on the Green runs for six to eight weeks in the summer and is a vehicle to present quality cultural programming free of charge to the community. It is funded through sponsorships. The Student Government Association also organizes an annual community Haunted Hay Ride at the end of October. In addition, the College houses the Betty June Silconas Poetry Center which provides poetry readings, poetry workshops and open readings for area poets.

Charitable Efforts: Sussex County Community College is an active participant of the Sussex County United Way. The College Community also volunteers each year for the Sussex County United Way "Day of Caring" each October. Every year the Office of Student Activities holds two blood drives that support the NJ Blood Services area. During the holidays we have an annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, a Holiday Food Drive, and Wish Tree that provides gifts and clothing to area children in need. Each of the clubs organizes various community service activities as well. Each month the college reports community service activities to the Board of Trustees. This report reveals the generous nature of the faculty and staff with their time and talents.

Volunteerism: Sussex County Community College continuously promotes volunteerism in its courses. Many students volunteer in the College's "Reading Buddies Program" that provides one-on-one reading instruction for children in grades 1-3. The college is also an active partner with more than 55 human service agencies within Sussex County. Sussex County Community College has placed many students into these agencies as interns while our faculty/staff members continue to volunteer their time and services to these agencies as well.

Other Public Services

1. *Sussex County Chamber of Commerce:* The College is an active participant in the local Chamber of Commerce. It also participates in a number of its subcommittees, including Education, Human Resources, Public Relations and Training. The College also supports the Sussex County Economic Development Partnership.

2. *Educational Coordinating Committee:* Working with two Freeholders, the County Office of the New Jersey Department of Education, and representatives of the local technical school, Sussex County Community College seeks ways of promoting and improving education in the county.