



## **Additional Institutional Information**

### **Mission Statement**

Bergen Community College educates a diverse student population in a supportive and challenging academic environment that fosters civility and respect. The College offers a comprehensive set of accessible, affordable, high-quality credit and non-credit courses as well as degree and non-degree programs. Bergen provides life-long learning opportunities for all members of the community. The College responds to community needs through work force training and continuing education, and by developing programs for employers.

### **Vision Statement**

As a college of choice, Bergen Community College provides a comfort level that enables students of all abilities to mature as learners and engaged citizens. A leading community college in the nation, the College creates a stimulating, rigorous, and inclusive learning environment. Use of innovative technology enhances learning experiences and widens access to learning media. Community and business leaders value the College as a reliable partner and principal provider of work force development. Bergen County residents of all ages and cultural backgrounds appreciate the College as the hub of their educational and cultural activities.

### **Philosophy**

Bergen Community College embraces the concept that a highly developed society, dynamic, and technologically oriented, makes it necessary to provide education opportunities beyond high school to all who can benefit from them. The College is also committed to community services such as continuing education programs, cultural activities, and counseling. The purpose and objectives of Bergen Community College are to:

1. Make two-year college education available to members of the community.
2. Provide full and part-time students with diversified programs of study leading to variety of educational and vocational goals.
3. Offer programs of scholastic, vocational, personal, and community counseling.
4. Use the resources of the institution to meet local needs.
5. Supplement educational opportunities in the county and state.

Bergen Community College realizes the need to educate citizens to meet the varied demands of a complex society and to prepare young people and adults to undertake the obligation of intelligent citizenship and family life. To this end, the college offers diverse and useful educational experiences. The variety of programs provides choices and permits flexibility of movement from one curriculum to another, to help the student toward self-discovery and personal self-realization. High academic standards are maintained so that the student can transfer to the four-year college or be prepared for immediate employment.

The College is aware of its obligation to the student body and to the community-at-large. It serves as a cultural center by offering frequent lectures, symposia, films, musical and dramatic presentations. The College's proximity to centers of learning and culture enable it to draw fully on a variety of resources.



## **Additional Institutional Information (continued)**

The primary emphasis of the faculty is on effective instruction of students. Research and writing directed toward these goals are encouraged. Since the general welfare of the students is of paramount importance, emphasis on individual advisement and counseling is fundamental to the College's purpose.

Faculty members are selected not only for their academic qualifications and experience, but also for their interest in maintaining close student-teacher relationship that will enable each student to develop to his full potential.

The faculty stimulates and guides a variety of activities such as student government, clubs, societies, and publications. These activities serve to enrich student experiences and provide the maximum opportunity for demonstrated leadership and responsible participation.

Bergen Community College is committed to meet the challenge of rapidly changing social, political, economic, and educational thought and to the principle that higher education for every citizen in our society is a worthy goal.

## **History (Abbreviated)**

On April 3, 1963, the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders passed a resolution appointing a committee of distinguished citizens charged with the responsibility of inquiring into the needs for a two-year county college in Bergen County.

On October 20, 1965, the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders passed the necessary resolutions to establish, operate, and provide financial support for a county college in Bergen County. The college was projected to fulfill immediate and long-range educational needs of the citizens of the community. The 167-acre site of the Orchard Hills Country Club in Paramus was selected for the home of Bergen Community College.

Dr. Sidney Silverman was named as the first president of the College and consultant to the Board of Trustees in August, 1966, and assumed the full duties as president on February 1, 1967 until his retirement on June 30, 1977. Dr. Alban E. Reid was appointed as the second president of Bergen Community College on July 1, 1977.

Dr. Jose Lopez-Isa became the third president of the College on July 1, 1982. Dr. Judith K. Winn became the fourth president on June 1, 1995. Most recently; in July 2007, Dr. G. Jeremiah Ryan began his tenure as the fifth president of Bergen Community College. Prior to his tenure at Bergen, Dr. Ryan had served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Raritan Valley Community College in Somerville, New Jersey from 2000 – 2006.

The College registered its first class of day and evening students in September 1968, in interim buildings designed to accommodate more than 1,300 full-time students.

The Master Plan, approved by the Board of Trustees on July 19, 1967, called for two phases of construction. Construction of the Phase I campus was begun in 1969 on the 167-acre site in Paramus. Phase I was completed in 1973, cost about 21 million dollars, and totaled 430,000 square feet. The College has since expanded its facilities to include additional classroom and library space, a theater arts laboratory and a student center.



### **Additional Institutional Information (continued)**

The current Facilities Master Plan was presented to the Board of Trustees in April 2000. The plan projected the need for additional facilities over the next ten years, to be accomplished in three phases. The first phase has been completed with the construction of the new Technology Education Center which opened in Fall 2002. A new parking deck has added about 600 spaces. West Hall, a 58,000 square foot building and home to Bergen's Educational Broadcast Center and Media Technologies, opened in May 2007 offering arts and communications instructional facilities (e.g. Television, radio and art studios, classrooms, rehearsal rooms, computer graphic and animation laboratories and music recording facilities).

The first phase of Bergen's expansion into southern Bergen County was marked by the opening of **Bergen at the Meadowlands** in July 2008. Beginning in the fall of 2008, Bergen will offer credit and non-credit courses at this new facility. It is expected that the ground breaking for a permanent Bergen campus, located between the planned Meadowlands Xanadu complex and the future stadium to be occupied by the New York Giants and New York Jets, will take place by 2010 and the campus opened and functioning by 2012.