

Mercer County Community College - Institutional Profile, 2008

I. Major Research and Public Service Activities

Mercer is a publicly supported co-educational institution of higher education that seeks to provide quality programs and services at a reasonable cost. Funding is secured through state support (distributed among the various New Jersey community colleges according to enrollment), annual county allocation, student tuition and fees, and supplemental grants.

From the outset, Mercer has operated under a one-college philosophy that ensures equitable service to all students regardless of when and where they take their courses. Full-time faculty members teach both day and evening courses at both the West Windsor and James Kerney campuses. Academic divisions and support services departments serve students at both campuses and are responsible for day, evening and weekend students as well as those who enroll via The Virtual Campus, which offers distance learning through web and cable television based courses.

Mercer County Community College is a cultural hub. Mercer's Kelsey Theatre offers a full slate of musical and dramatic productions for both adults and children. The college's Art Gallery exhibits six major shows per year. A listener-supported public radio network offers classical music programming at 89.1 WWFM and a new HD-2 channel for jazz on the same frequency. Mercer hosts a series of speakers on topics of interest to the community through its Distinguished Lecture Series.

Our cable television channel has a wide geographic reach. It has been energized by the addition of new faculty, and is slated for additional programming including more educational programs. Kelsey Theatre, our Student Center, and classrooms host non-profits for informational seminars, meetings, and fund-raising activities.

The college operates the Conference Center at Mercer to deliver training and professional development for employees of regional businesses and other employers. Other regional, state and local events are hosted at the Conference Center with community partners such as United Way, Italian American societies etc.

While our faculty and staff are major supporters and a catalyst for the area's vibrant non-profit community, the College itself is the centerpiece of the activities for many non-profits and educational entities. The College just participated in the American Heart Association **Heart Walk** with over 35 faculty and staff members. Our 290-acre campus is used frequently for similar walks for March of Dimes, SIDS, Cancer, etc. Various non-profit or other groups use the College facilities every day of the week, and this activity is coordinated with our security personnel for the health and safety of students and community members. The College continues to house the Mercer County Police Academy and has now assumed responsibility for the Mercer County Fire Academy, which it plans to expand into a regional center for training in fire science and emergency management.

Our state-of-the-art soccer stadium has hosted Ivy League games and is used by local high school and club teams. The College also hosts Camp College, a summer educational program for area youth, numerous summer, sports and theatre camps.