

## **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:***

Public service activities take a variety of forms at Sussex County Community College. In addition to a variety of programs, and events, at the institution that are intended to serve the needs of the surrounding community, many of the faculty and staff are actively involved in volunteerism through events at Sussex County Community College and independently in the community.

**Assistance to Business:** Sussex County Community College is the host to many initiatives designed to provide resources and enhance the county's economy. One of these programs is SCORE, Counselors to America's Small Business, which is a volunteer organization comprised of successful business people dedicated to assisting Sussex County small business owners. This program serves as 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. In 2005 Sussex County Community College received a grant from the Department of Labor Rural Development for an Entrepreneurial Center which has provided assistance to new and existing business owners for the last three years.

**Cultural Initiatives/Events:** The Sussex County Community College strives to be the cultural hub in the county. The calendar of activities and events include a variety of provocative, intellectually stimulating events ranging from film to music festivals; and from poetry, speakers and storytellers to art displays. While many events serve to expand the horizons of our students, they are also open to the public. These offerings are certainly expanding with the recent opening of Sussex County Community College's new Performing Arts Center. For the last seven years, Thursdays on the Green has entertained the community each summer with a variety of cultural programs free of charge. Each year the Student Government Association organizes an annual community Haunted Hay Ride at the end of October. In addition, Sussex County Community College is the home for the Betty June Silconas Poetry Center which provides poetry readings, poetry workshops and open readings for area poets. It is also the home for the Teen Arts Festival, which gives local students a platform to display their immense creative talent in a variety of arenas.

**Charitable Efforts:** Sussex County Community College is an active participant of the Sussex County United Way. Much of the College community volunteers for the Sussex County United Way "Day of Caring" each October. For the first time in 2008 Sussex County Community College hosted the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life. At this event, more than 400 participants came together to raise over \$87,000. This shattered the Relay For Life's goal of \$40,000. Each year Sussex County Community College holds two blood drives that support the NJ Blood Services area. During the holidays we

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have an annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, a Holiday Food Drive, and Wish Tree that provides gifts and clothing to area children/seniors 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 clearly demonstrates the generous nature of the faculty and staff with their time and talents.

**Volunteerism in the Classroom:** Sussex County Community College continuously promotes volunteerism integrated 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 Sussex County Community College is also an active partner with many human service agencies within Sussex County. The 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.