

H. 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. The college offers associate degrees and certificates in over 70 programs. The Mercer Institute of Management and Technology Training provides a full range of customizable training for business and industries throughout the region. Similarly, the Center for Continuing Studies offers a range of non-credit programs and course offerings for the citizens of Mercer County.

With campuses in West Windsor and downtown Trenton (the state's capital), Mercer operates under a one-college philosophy that ensures equitable educational opportunities and services to all students. Full-time faculty members teach both day and evening courses at the West Windsor and James Kerney campuses. Academic divisions and support-service 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.

During the 2011-2012 academic year, MCCC launched 2 new degree programs in Fashion Merchandising and Sustainability. In addition, the college now offers fully on-line degree programs in Liberal Arts, Criminal Justice (the corrections option) and Business Studies. The University Center allows students to continue their studies through the Bachelors degree with our on campus partners - Fairleigh Dickinson University, William Paterson University and Felician College. The college offers a number of pre-college opportunities through its Youth Programs funded by TRIO, Upward Bound and Talent Search. The Dual enrollment program has expanded to include 3 area high schools including the County's Vocational Technical school.

Mercer County Community College is a cultural hub. The Kelsey Theatre provides 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; and its expanding Study Abroad program sponsored trips to Costa Rica and South Africa. Two students have studied for full semesters: one in Ireland and one in Finland. A student is currently studying in Italy. The programs are available to community members. The Conference Center at Mercer serves as a host location for events sponsored by regional, state and local organizations; and, finally, the Camp College offers summer enrichment programs to hundreds of children throughout the Mercer County region.

Mercer is a destination site for area high-school athletes seeking scholarship opportunities through sports. The men's and women's soccer teams are Division I; cross-country for women is Division I. Baseball, softball, and men's and women's basketball participate in Division II and our Division III teams are men's and women's tennis.

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 50 faculty, staff members and students. Our 290-acre campus is used frequently for similar walks for March of Dimes, AIDS, Cancer, etc. Various non-profit or other groups use the College facilities every day of the week, and these activities are coordinated with our security personnel for the health and safety of students and community members. The college encourages students to volunteer through the college chapter of the Bonners Honors program or through service learning projects. The College continues to house the Mercer County Police Academy and 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 hosted the 2009 NJCAA Division I Men's Soccer Championship and the facility is also used by local high school and club teams.