

## **II.H. 1. 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 that serve the needs of the surrounding community, the faculty, staff and students at SCCC are actively involved in volunteerism throughout Sussex and Pike Counties.

### **Supporting Local Businesses**

Sussex County Community College is the host to many initiatives designed to provide resources and enhance the county's economy. From computer training, to personal finance, SCCC offers a broad range of workshops, seminars and career training programs for area residents and businesses. The Community Education and Workforce Development Division also offers customized training for area businesses. Additionally, the College is an active partner in the New Jersey Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development. This consortium provides one-point access to all of the vast resources of the state's 19 community colleges, including over 1,700 programs taught by highly qualified faculty with business and industry experience.

### **Community Enrichment**

SCCC has a long tradition of offering diverse cultural programming to the community and dozens of enrichment activities for students and the public. In January 2008, the College opened a state of the art Performing Arts Center launching a whole new era of arts and entertainment for SCCC students and the community. The Performing Arts Center at SCCC has become the flagship theater in Northwest New Jersey presenting exceptional entertainment. SCCC presents a diverse showcase of dance, comedy, opera, contemporary and classical music, international and supernatural shows and student performances.

*Thursdays on the Green*, a free concert series hosted on the SCCC campus has been a summer tradition for hundreds of Sussex County residents for nine years. In addition to fabulous music, guests enjoy a family festival with vendors, artisans, giveaways and more. For the past few years the concert series has been underwritten by Horizon Blue Cross, Blue Shield.

In addition to being the cultural hub for the County, the SCCC campus has become the center for dozens of community activities. An annual 911 Remembrance Ceremony takes place at the College's 911 memorial each year. The United Way and dozens of other local charities use the campus green and College facilities for various fundraisers and activities. Human Spirit awards are presented on campus each year. Area law enforcement and emergency service volunteers are

honored at an annual gathering on campus. The College hosts two blood drives on campus each year. A fitness and walking trail was opened on campus in February, 2010 and is widely used by community members. Each year the Student Government Association organizes an annual community Haunted Hay Ride at the end of October. This event is attended by hundreds of area school children.

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. The campus also hosts the Teen Arts Festival, which gives local students a platform to display their immense creative talent in a variety of arenas.

### **Philanthropy**

Sussex County Community College students, staff and faculty support dozens of charitable events throughout the year. The College is an active participant in the Sussex County United Way annual campaign, American Cancer Society Daffodil Days, the American Red Cross Heroes Campaign and many other fundraising drives. Student Clubs and SCCC athletic teams champion specific causes throughout the year including Project Self Sufficiency, Mentoring Plus, DASI, holiday food and toy drives and more.

For the past several years the College has hosted and coordinated the annual Relay for Life event for the American Cancer Society. More than 500 members from the community participate in this extraordinary event which raises over \$100,000.

Each month the college reports community service activities to the Board of Trustees. This report details monthly volunteer service of the SCCC faculty and staff. Over 70% of SCCC employees participate regularly in some form of community service. Service areas represented include local community organizations, faith based causes, health and wellness issues; social services; arts and culture and education.

### **Volunteerism in the Classroom**

In the spring semester of 2010 SCCC partnered with United Way of Sussex County to mobilize volunteers on campus and throughout the community. Service Learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates community service with instruction and reflection.

### **Improving employment skills in the community**

In the summer of 2012 the NJ State Department of Labor approached community colleges requesting support with training for local residents who were transitioning from state to federal unemployment benefits. SCCC responded to this request and has trained hundreds of area residents on resume writing, job search skills and local resources available to support unemployed individuals.