



### *Executive Director Eric Brophy Delivers Remarks at Sussex County Community College's Academic Center Groundbreaking Ceremony*

Newton, May 6, 2019 – NJEFA Executive Director Eric Brophy accompanied Sussex County Community College President Dr. Jon H. Connolly, Chair – Board of Trustees, William P. Curcio, and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Mercedes Aguirre Batty, in breaking ground on Sussex County Community College's new, 13,000 square-foot Academic Center.

Mr. Brophy spoke about the role New Jersey's Community Colleges play in developing New Jersey's workforce. "New Jersey's Community Colleges provide an important gateway to higher learning for many New Jersey students and adult learners. Support for both students and County Colleges is critical to New Jersey's workforce development efforts." He also spoke about the need for modern facilities so that students are better prepared to meet modern challenges, "In order for students to best fulfill their college experience, county colleges like Sussex must provide modern facilities and infrastructure, and I think this is clearly on the path to accomplishing that. With today's groundbreaking, Sussex continues its commitment to providing an enriching learning environment for all of its students."

The 13,000 square-foot, two-story Academic Center will include four classrooms, a lecture hall, a Maker Space for collaborative hands-on learning, meeting rooms and a student gathering space. It will be connected to the Performing Arts Center, which was constructed in 2007. Construction of the Academic Center is due to be complete in early 2020.

NJEFA is proud of its role in supporting this project, which is being funded in part by a \$3.12 million grant from the Building Our Future Bond Act. The Authority administers the Building Our Future Bond Act as well as the State's Higher Education Capital Grant Programs through a memorandum of understanding with the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education.

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