

The College of New Jersey Board of Trustees Meeting

Acknowledgements

Thank you to President Gitenstein and fellow board members.

It has been a pleasure to serve along side you.

Importance of Higher Education

I truly believe that NJ's higher education institutions are one of the most valuable resources in our state.

It means a lot to me to be part of the higher education system and help improve the value students get out of their education at The College of New Jersey.

A student receives so much from their time at college.

The years they spend at a university molds a student, teaches them about their values and sets the stage for their future success.

I know my higher education played a critical role in personal and professional achievements.

I'm proud of our work to grow The College of New Jersey and build upon its stellar reputation.

Budget

Given the economic difficulties in recent years, it isn't always easy to sit on the board of any college, but despite tough fiscal times we've made progress.

As NJ faces a catastrophic budget year, your duties on the board will be even more challenging due to reduction in state aid. Unfortunately during times of economic crisis, there are no easy or painless solutions.

I know Governor Christie's goal is to be in a position where aid for higher education can be increased. However, right now, New Jersey simply doesn't have the money.

Very few programs or government functions were spared in efforts to close a nearly \$11 billion budget deficit.

Closing

As we work to put the state on solid financial footing, I know you will do your best to ensure students at TCNJ receive the best education possible.

Again, it was a pleasure to serve on the board and help direct the vision for this excellent institution.

I wish you all success in the future.