

# New Jersey's Community College System

- 19 COMMUNITY COLLEGES
- 70+ CAMPUSES
- 400,000 STUDENTS
  - 200,000 CREDIT STUDENTS
  - 150,000 NONCREDIT STUDENTS
  - 50,000 EMPLOYEES IN CUSTOMIZED TRAINING PROGRAMS
- GOVERNANCE SYSTEM: “COORDINATED AUTONOMY”
- COLLEGE GOVERNANCE BY LOCAL BOARDS OF TRUSTEES
- COORDINATION BY NJ COUNCIL OF COUNTY COLLEGES



# Student Success Initiative

- NJ STUDENT SUCCESS MODEL (MIRRORS ACHIEVING THE DREAM)
- AFTER SIX YEARS:
  - 20 PERCENT EARN DEGREE/CERTIFICATE
  - 14 PERCENT TRANSFER WITHOUT DEGREE
  - 12 PERCENT EARN 30 CREDITS WITH GPA OF 2.0 OR HIGHER
  - TOTAL “SUCCESS RATE” OF 46 PERCENT
- ONE IN SIX NEVER EARN A SINGLE COLLEGE CREDIT



# NJ STARS

- MERIT-BASED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
- FULL TUITION SCHOLARSHIP AT NJ COMMUNITY COLLEGES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO GRADUATE IN TOP 15 PERCENT OF THEIR CLASS
- SUBSTANTIAL JUNIOR/SENIOR YEAR SCHOLARSHIP AT NJ STATE COLLEGE FOR NJ STARS COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRADUATES WITH 3.25 GPA
- 30 PERCENT OF NJSTARS STUDENTS NEED REMEDIATION OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL
- AMENDMENT TO STATUTE ELIMINATED NJ STARS SCHOLARSHIP FOR REMEDIATION
- STUDENTS MUST SHOW COLLEGE READINESS BY TAKING PLACEMENT TESTS SELECTED BY NJ COUNCIL OF COUNTY COLLEGES



# ACTION PLAN

- ALL NJ COMMUNITY COLLEGES USE COLLEGE BOARD ACCUPLACER TESTS
- COMMON CUT SCORE ON ELEMENTARY ALGEBRA: 76
- COMMON CUT SCORE ON ENGLISH
  - 8 ON OLD 1-12 WRITEPLACER
  - 5-6 ON NEW 1-8 WRITEPLACER FOR 2009-2010
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- OTHER STATEWIDE ACADEMIC AGREEMENTS
- COMMON GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM
- COMMON PROCESS FOR REVIEW OF GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES
- STATEWIDE TRANSFER AGREEMENT REQUIRED BY STATUTE



# NEXT STEPS

- SHORT-TERM: STATEWIDE VALIDITY STUDY
- MID-TERM: STATEWIDE DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE
- LONG-TERM: ALIGNMENT OF HIGH SCHOOL STANDARDS WITH COLLEGE READINESS



# Cumberland County College

## Curriculum Alignment Meeting with Area High Schools



# Cumberland County College

- Location – Vineland, New Jersey
- Enrollment – 4,000+ students
- Degrees – Associate & Certificates
- Feeder High Schools
  - 4 Comprehensive
  - 1 Vocational/Technical
  - A number of small Parochial Schools



# Curriculum Alignment

## Driven by the College's 2006-2011 Strategic Plan

- Access
- Alignment
- Accountability

### Strategic Goal 1 of Plan:

With high school partners, develop and articulate a high school curriculum that will provide high school graduates with knowledge and skills necessary to enter post-secondary education without remedial education.



# The Challenge

- The State of New Jersey requires all high school student to pass HESPA in order to graduate from high school.
- The College requires all incoming freshman to take the Accuplacer for placement purposes before registering for classes.
- Many of our high school students are unable to place out of remedial courses.



- Alignment is an effort between the College and the high schools to bridge the gap and reduce the number of high school students placing into remedial courses at the College.

## **Why has this been possible?**

- ✓ Trust and mutual respect between the College President & the Superintendents of the school districts.
- ✓ General feeling between the various stakeholders in the counties that something has to be done.
- ✓ The size of our county.



# Meeting Format

- **First Meeting – Fall 2006**
- **Subsequent monthly/quarterly meetings**

# Outcomes for 2006-07

- Working groups of high school and college English & mathematics faculty met throughout 2006-07 to develop a list of skills needed to assure college readiness in their respective areas.
- The high school and college partners then identified a course alignment grid to describe the levels at which the required skills for college-level entry into English and mathematics are taught.
- Meetings between high school and college librarians also took place to discuss alignment of information literacy skills and to increase the knowledge and awareness of expectations regarding accurate citations of Web-based information.
- The College's placement exam, Accuplacer™ was administered to a group of students at each high school to determine their level of college readiness.



# Outcomes for 2007-08

- Quarterly meetings between English/Language Arts & Mathematics faculty at the high schools and the College continued to align curricula to work toward assuring their students are college-ready by grade 12.
- English/Language Arts teachers involved in Alignment meetings attended the High Schools that Work (HSTW) professional development workshop.
- Accuplacer placement test was provided to all high school students completing Algebra II or its equivalent.



# Outcomes for 2008-09

- Four High School/Middle School/College Alignment Meetings took place in 2008-09 with a final report out to superintendents and the college president. An alignment workshop held in October 2008 at Cumberland County College was attended by 215 people, including English and Math teachers from all countywide districts along with CCC faculty.
- Accuplacer was administered to high school students who completed Algebra II. A total of 1,058 high school students, representing all four county high schools, have been assessed using the Accuplacer.
- A comparison of students using A+ Advancer (on-line tutorial) and Brush Up classes will be obtained for those not testing into college-level courses.
- Language Arts Accuplacer Pilot was provided to seniors at Cumberland Regional High School who completed College Prep (or higher) English III to determine college-readiness.



# Summary of Outcomes

- Incremental decrease in the number of students placing into remedial courses.
- Development of brush-up courses for students that are not ready for college.
- Increased partnerships between the College & High Schools.



The Curriculum Alignment between the College and the high schools has helped the county focus on the very important issue of getting students ready for College.

