

## **Steven M. Rose Elected Chair, Presidents' Council; Praised as Champion for Urban Students and Communities**

*Believes in Quality, Affordable Education That Can Transform Lives*

Last month, Dr. Steven M. Rose, a leader in the State and in his community, was elected to serve as Chair of the New Jersey Presidents' Council, an advisory board comprised of the presidents of New Jersey's public and private higher education institutions. The Council makes recommendations to the Secretary of Higher Education on new programs, regional alliances, budget and student aid levels, licensure, and other issues affecting the future of higher education in New Jersey.

President Rose's election to lead the influential advisory board followed years of unprecedented growth at Passaic County Community College where he continues to serve as the college's president.

"Dr. Rose is a relentless advocate for the power of education," said Yvonne Zuidema, president and CEO of the United Way of Passaic County. "Dr. Rose has been an important catalyst for change for individual students and our community. His commitment to not only education but to the larger Passaic County exemplifies what it means to Live United." Dr. Rose received the Community Cornerstone Award last year, the United Way of Passaic County's highest honor.

Secretary of Higher Education Rochelle Hendricks said she looked forward to working with President Rose and thanked the outgoing Presidents' Council chair, Montclair State University President Susan Cole, for her service.

"Steve is a trusted, tireless champion for urban schools who correctly believes that all students, given an opportunity, can succeed in college. He has dedicated his life to providing equal access and equity to higher education in New Jersey, and I look forward to working with him," Secretary Hendricks said.

Dr. Rose has served as president of Passaic County Community College since 1996, overseeing unprecedented growth and expansion, which includes the opening of three new campuses for a total of four throughout the County – and an increase in enrollment to nearly 9,000 current students. Considered the fastest growing college in New Jersey, PCCC was recently included in the prestigious Achieving the Dream national initiative to promote student success in community college education.

PCCC received its charter in 1968 to serve the residents of Passaic County with educational and cultural programs. The College opened its doors in October 1971, offering programs in both transfer and career areas, and graduated its first class in 1973.

Since its inception more than 40 years ago, the college has grown significantly. In 1971, PCCC enrolled 324 students in seven programs of study, which included liberal arts, business and health sciences.

Today, PCCC enrolls nearly 9,000 students in more than 60 Associate degree and certificate programs plus customized training, continuing education and an extensive program of English as a Second Language,

The physical confines of the college have expanded over the years, from the original single building in Paterson to expansion in various parts of the county. Through all of the growth, PCCC has remained steadfast in its commitment to provide academic, cultural, and technological resources and experiences to the residents of Passaic County.

In addition, the College opened three new campuses in Wanaque, Wayne and Passaic while renovating and expanding its main Paterson Campus. Prior to becoming President, Dr. Rose served as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty at PCCC as well as Dean of Admissions and Enrollment Management.

Dr. Rose served previously as Director of Admissions at Wagner College from 1981 to 1987. He holds a Doctoral Degree in Education from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, a Master's Degree in Higher Education from the University of Vermont, and a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Muhlenberg College.

President Rose currently serves on boards of The College of Saint Elizabeth, Bloomfield College, The New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, The Greater Paterson Chamber of Commerce, and the Workforce Investment Board of Passaic County. He also serves as Vice Chair of NJ Edge (a higher education computing network), Treasurer of the United Way of Passaic County and Vice Chair of The Paterson Opportunities Industrialization Center.

He has taught at Passaic County Community College and in the Rowan University Doctoral Program in Community College Leadership.