Non-Traditional No More in New Jersey
WICHE Support & NJ DARC Program

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**NJCHE - Background**

- Established by Higher Education Restructuring Act of 1994 replacing former Department of Higher Education
- [http://www.state.nj.us/highereducation/index.html](http://www.state.nj.us/highereducation/index.html)

**NJ Higher Ed System**
- 410,000 full- and part-time credit-seeking students statewide
- Decentralized coordination/oversight
  - 31 public colleges & universities
    - Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey;
    - University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey;
    - New Jersey Institute of Technology;
    - 4 state colleges & 5 state universities
    - 19 community colleges.
  - 32 independent institutions
    - 15 public mission senior colleges & universities
    - 2 independent two-year religious colleges,
    - 9 rabbinical schools and theological seminaries
    - 6 proprietary institutions
NJCHE – Major Statutory Responsibilities

- Licensing institutions & granting university status
- Rendering final administrative decisions on new academic programs that go beyond the programmatic mission of an institution
- Public Accountability –
  - IPEDs
  - SURE System
  - Establishing the form & content of annual institutional reports to the public
  - Annually report to the Governor and the Legislature an analysis of the effect of the Statewide Transfer Agreement on the transfer process & on the academic success of transfer students at the senior institutions, & an analysis of each participating institution's compliance with the provisions of the act
- Lead agency of communication with the federal government on higher education issues, except student assistance
- Grant writing to obtain funds from the federal government or other entities for advancement of higher education
  - GEAR UP
  - CACG
  - WICHE
- Statewide planning including research on higher education issues and the development of a comprehensive master plan;
- Advocacy on behalf of higher education
NJCHE –
Major Statutory Responsibilities & Programs

- Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF)
- Martin Luther King Medical/Dentistry Scholars
- C. Clyde Ferguson Law Scholarships
- Minority Faculty Advancement Program
- Minority Undergraduate Fellowship Program
- Higher Education Services for Visually Impaired, Auditory Impaired and Learning Disabled Students Program
- College Bound Program
NJCHE – Critical Grants

- **WICHE**
  - Non-Traditional No More
  - Activities to date
    - 2 statewide meetings with key stakeholders – February & June 2009
      - Identify the barriers & opportunities presented by encouraging the return of adult students to complete their degrees
      - Provided technical assistance and input from stakeholders to develop NJ’s Disengaged Adults Returning to College (DARC) RFP

- **Federal College Access Challenge Grant**
  - 3 –year federal grant
  - 3 Components
    - Disengaged Adults Returning to College (DARC) – 4 institutions @ $75,000 per
    - FAFSA Outreach – 17 projects @ $10,000 per
    - Dual Enrollment Collaborations – 15 Projects @ $20,000 per
NJCHE – DARC Grants

- Targets adults, aged 20+, who left a New Jersey institution within the past 10 years (since 2000), in good standing, without earning an undergraduate degree. They should have earned at least 50% of credits toward a degree.
- Highly competitive grant process with 21 institutions submitting proposals
- 4 Awards
NJCHE – DARC Awardees

**Mercer County Community College**
- Suburban Community college w Urban extension center
- Goal - contacting 300 students who have left college within 5-7 years, have a GPA of 2.75, & have earned at least 30 credits
- Program based on previous credentialing partnership with Trenton Public Schools
- Priority will go to students in high-demand jobs such as radiography & other allied health careers
- On-line tutorials through the institution's Virtual Classroom will assist returning adults

**Passaic County Community College**
- Urban Community College
- “PCCC Credentials for the Workplace” program,
- Goal - recruit 125 students ages 20 and older who have earned 40 or more credits toward an associate's degree
- Priority - students whose majors are linked to demand occupations such as Information Technology, Health Science, Business Administration, Education, & Human Services
- Priority will also be given to unemployed or under-employed adults seeking retraining in demand occupations
- Students will be assigned a single point of contact when they return to the institution
- Recruitment activities will be coordinated with Passaic County One-Stop & Workforce Development Systems
NJCHE – DARC Awardees

William Paterson University
- State University located near urban center in northern section of NJ
- Online, Weekend, & Evening Program (O-W-E) for Degree Completion
- Goal - to successfully re-engage 35 students in first cohort
- Eligibility - students 20 & older who left the university within 10 years & have earned half of their credits needed for graduation
- Information sessions will be offered to students who show interest in the program
- Students will have an academic advisor & a faculty/staff mentor, as well as a peer mentor
- Students will be encouraged to pursue Liberal Studies degrees, which lend themselves more to online, weekend or evening coursework, but will not be prevented from pursuing any major

Rider University
- Suburban Independent Public- Mission University
- “Return 2Learn” program
- Goal - to identify 25 students who have left college within 10 years, have earned 60 credits toward a bachelor’s degree & are not enrolled at another institution
- Development of an interactive website that includes video clips of adults who have successfully navigated similar challenges
- Will create a moderated Facebook site for a virtual peer network of support
- Grant will offer a fee forgiveness program
- Will develop a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Online Degree Completion Program