



# Gloucester County College

LEARNING FOR REAL LIFE

**Press Release #** 085  
**Date** 12/8/05

**Title** 4-Year Degree Introduced for Top Students  
THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT FOR NJSTARS

Deptford Twp. – Senator Wayne Bryant, D-Camden and Gloucester, author of the NJ STARS legislation, plans to introduce to state representatives a follow up to the NJ STARS program that provides full-time students who finish in the top 20 percent of their high school graduating class with free tuition and fees for up to five semesters at their county college.

NJ STARS, the state-sponsored program that started September 2004, is the first merit-based scholarship program in the country. The Senator would like to extend that program offering the state's top scholars the opportunity to also earn a bachelor's degree free of charge.

Bryant, a member of the Senate Education Committee, announced today at a Statehouse news conference his plans for NJ STARS II. The proposed legislation would provide up to \$4,000 a year to qualified students to transfer to a participating New Jersey state college or university where they can continue their education without the worry of how to pay for it. Community college presidents, trustees and representatives from participating four-year institutions gathered at the news conference to hear more about the program that will financially assist students seeking to earn a bachelor's degree while keeping the state's best and brightest in New Jersey.

“Gloucester County College is pleased to report that this fall 118 freshmen enrolled as NJ STARS bringing the total number of NJ STARS on campus to over 170,” stated College President William F. Anderson. “This scholarship program truly benefits the hard working and dedicated students looking for ways to pursue a higher education. NJ STARS II will be an additional bonus to both the students and New Jersey, helping to keep the state’s top scholars as they work towards a four-year degree and eventually seek employment.”

To qualify for NJ STARS II, NJ STARS students need to earn an associate degree and maintain a 3.0 or higher grade point average. While NJ STARS II will contribute up to \$4,000 toward tuition per year, each four-year school taking part in the program will have to cover the remaining balance.

For more information on the NJ STARS program, please contact Tanya Johnson, at (856) 468-5000, ext. 6205.

GCC’s 270-acre campus is on Tanyard Road, Deptford just off Exit 56 of Route 55.

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**For more information contact:**

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