



---

## NEWS

---

PR 98 – June 17, 2010

### GCC NAMED A NATIONAL TOP ASSOCIATE DEGREE PRODUCER

Deptford Twp. – Gloucester County College (GCC) has captured two top spots as a national producer of associate degree programs in the Community College Week, an independent biweekly newspaper covering community, technical and junior colleges across the country.

Out of all community colleges nationwide, GCC ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the number of associate degrees awarded to education majors and 35<sup>th</sup> in parks, recreation, leisure and fitness studies. Data compiled by the U.S. Department of Education was analyzed by Community College Week which also included four-year institutions that provide associate degrees.

“Being recognized nationally as a leader in education and health, physical education and recreation programs reflects both on the quality of our instructors and the College’s commitment to student success,” said GCC President Dr. Russell A. Davis.

According to John Henzy, provost/ vice president of academic services, since 1999 the College’s education program has been in the national spotlight, in part because of the Teachers 2000 (T2K) program. T2K— a unique GCC program that groups aspiring teachers in learning communities— encourages learning through a variety of resources including computer-assisted instruction, videos, the Internet, group “quests,” classroom and Web-based threaded discussions, field trips, seminars, and lectures. Students take classes in 3-week blocks, four days a week under the guidance of master instructors who gear their courses toward prospective teachers. Based on the academic success of the T2K program, GCC introduced seven additional academic learning communities (biology, communications, English, history/political science, mathematics, chemistry/food science, and psychology) in fall 2009.

College administrators have charted the positive impact since the implementation of the T2K program. In 2003, 36 students were enrolled in the education program. This year, the number of freshmen and sophomores has increased to 156. During the last 10 years, retention rates have held at over 76 percent.

“The T2K program has enabled us to retain more students in the education field and increase the number of graduates earning an associate degree each year,” said Charles Harkins, Teachers 2000 coordinator. “It’s a great start for education majors and the program transfers to the four-year universities.”

Catching the 35<sup>th</sup> top-seeded position in the associate degree producer arena is GCC’s health, physical education and recreation program. Scholar athletes and award-winning teams make the program a winner both on and off the field. Under the guidance of athletic director and dean of health, physical education and recreation Ron Case, the Roadrunners have won 16 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) National Team Championships, 27 individual national championship titles, were named one of the top three two-year college athletic programs in the country for three consecutive years by the National Alliance of Two-Year College Athletic Administrators (NATYCAA), awarded 7th Collegiate Athletic Administrators of New Jersey (CAANJ) Cup for Best Overall Athletic Program in New Jersey, won six World Series Baseball Championships, earned six NJCAA Division III National Wrestling Team Championships and boasted more than 250 All-Americans.

“Having GCC associate degree programs acknowledged as one of the top producers is a great honor. It speaks well of the dedication of our faculty, staff and students,” said Davis.

GCC’s 250-acre campus is located on Tanyard Road in Deptford, just off Exit 56 of Route 55.