



Statement of Freeholder Director Robert M. Damminger

Budget Workshop, Saturday, March 4, 2011

Thank you for attending this final Saturday budget workshop meeting of the Gloucester County Board of Freeholders. Today we will review one of the most important components of our budget: Education.

Over the past several weeks we have reviewed the budget process that has been underway since last summer, we have explained and discussed the work we have set forth to meet my goal of reducing county spending, reducing taxes and the tax rate, while providing services to our citizens and municipalities.

We will be prepared to propose reducing operating expenses, reducing the county's debt service and the long range debt by nearly 30% over the next 7 years, and we will be prepared to present a bare-bones capital program.

And despite the continued funding reductions from the state and federal governments, and the trend of the State to shift their costs and responsibilities to the county and municipalities, I am determined that the county will accomplish our goals to the taxpayers without cutting our funding to education.

In 2010 Gloucester County provided:

- \$8 million to Gloucester County Institute of Technology (GCIT)
- \$7,654,944 to Gloucester County College (GCC)
- \$563,078 to the Gloucester County Special Services School District (GCSSSD)

I am proposing that in 2011 Gloucester County budget will include this same amount of funding to our educational institutions again in 2011.

The Gloucester County Special Services School District has been ranked by the NJ DOE as the lowest administrative cost per pupil in the state every year since 2003/04. Last year, Gloucester County Institute of Technology (GCIT) shared the #1 ranking for lowest administrative cost per pupil in New Jersey for vocational schools.

Since 2001 GCSSSD and GCIT have shared an administration, equipment, facilities and other staff. In 2008 the Board of Education for each was merged into one board to help promote continuity in policy and shared services. Annual savings for the shared administration and services is at least \$1.3 million. Prior to a shared administration and shared services in 2001, GCIT was ranked fourteenth in the state for

administrative spending per pupil. GCIT was ranked second lowest cost per pupil for administrative spending for the 2008/2009 school year and the New Jersey Department of Education Comparative Spending Guide (published on March 26, 2010) in 2009/2010 both GCIT and GCSSSD were ranked first for lowest for total administrative cost per pupil.

Unfortunately, the state of New Jersey has consistently underfunded GCIT and GCSSSD since 2009 to the tune of 44.75%, which continues to shift an unfair burden on local governments and taxpayers. The State Department of Education has underfunded GCIT/GCSSSD by more than \$5.7 million since 2009 leaving local taxpayers to pick up and provide for our students where the state has not.

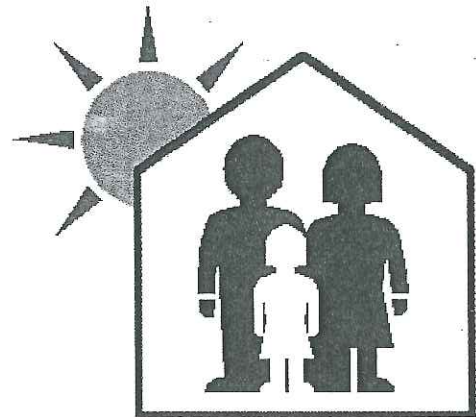
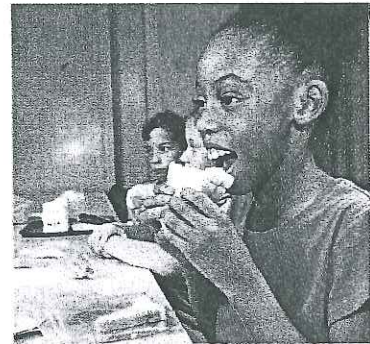
Gloucester County College has the highest graduation rates and the lowest cost per credit hour of all community colleges in New Jersey. With record enrollment, GCC continues to rise to meet the challenges faced by traditional and non-traditional students during these tough economic times. New programs that offer under graduate and graduate programs, certificates and continuing education and important basic education to our adult population are all important resources in maintaining a skilled and viable workforce that will enable our region to rebound from the national recession.

Funding education must be a priority, like economic development, and maintaining the health and public safety of our residents if we are to succeed as a region. I am proposing that GCC receive \$7.6 million in county funding again in 2011.

As we inch closer to the official introduction of the county's budget, I maintain that the Freeholders will introduce a budget of cutting the county's spending and reducing the county's taxes and tax rate for the third time in the past five years while providing essential services to our citizens and maintaining funding levels to our superior educational institutions.

Thank you.

# Gloucester County Education Campus



GCSSSD



Gloucester County College

Gloucester County Institute of Technology

Gloucester County Special Services School District

## *CAMPUS*

- Growing populations, new/updated facilities
  - Smart Tech
    - Online presence - GCIT-Adult HS, GCC, SSSD-Fast Forward (brain retraining)
    - State-of-the-art tech - Special Needs - assistive technology, GCC-computer assisted learning and 24 hour access to online studies, GCIT - Smart boards - to prepare for 21<sup>st</sup> Century workforce in the classrooms
- Full array of educational opportunities on one campus in Gloucester County
  - Preschool
  - Students with disabilities
  - Career-Technical training
  - Academy programs with embedded 30 college credits
  - Post-secondary opportunities for all residents (Associate, Bachelor, Post-Graduate Degrees and options for special needs)
  - Articulations and partnerships with 4-year universities, businesses, and labor unions
- Shared Services - greater opportunities and resources, reduced cost
  - Facilities - Buildings, Grounds, and operations
  - Administration
  - Staff
  - Purchasing
  - Insurance
  - Technology

## *GCC*

- Fall Enrollment - 6,609 students; 70,0-74 credit hours
- Two year Associate Degrees
- Certificate Programs
- Lowest tuition in NJ
- Open enrollment
- FDU Bachelor and Graduate Degree options on campus
- Articulation agreements and partnerships with 4-year colleges
- Continuing Education, Business and Industry training, GED
- Flexible scheduling - 7 days per week/24 hours per day
- Innovative Programs - Special Needs Program, STEM Program, Learning Communities
- Active student life with a focus on community service
- National achievement in athletics

# itation Outline

## GCIT

- 4-Year comprehensive high school (January 2011 – population count 1,381)
  - 3 Academy Programs (Allied Health and Medical Science, Information Technology, Finance)
  - 5 Career-Technical Programs (Construction, Cosmetology, Culinary, Transportation, and Performing Arts-Dance and Drama)
  - Shared-time Special Needs
  - Post-secondary Career-Technical
  - Adult High School
  - One Stop Program
- Lowest Administrative Cost for C-T in NJ
- Academy students graduate with 30 concurrent and transferable college credits from GCC
- C-T Programs are college prep and programs prepare students to enter the workforce
- Every program has an advisory board made up of professional in the career focus
- GCIT has articulations and partnerships with colleges and universities, businesses and labor unions
- Dedicated 120 special education seats. Other classified students are integrated throughout the programs
- Among the highest HSPA and SAT scores in the region
- Full array of clubs, activities, and athletics
- National and State Service-Learning Leader School

## GCSSSD

- Pre-K through grade 12
  - Bankbridge Schools - 731 students with disabilities as of 6/1/10
    - Bankbridge Regional - middle/high MD/BD
    - Bankbridge Elementary - MD/BD
    - Bankbridge Development - Pre-k - grade 12 Autism Spectrum
  - Alternative Education - 32 students
  - Career Center - 18-21 years – functional work and life skills
  - CRESS - 197 Services. Provides related services support to local schools
  - Nonpublic Auxiliary Services (Compensatory Education, Home Instruction, ESL, Child Study Team, Related Services, etc.)
  - Special Projects
    - Migrant Education - 522 students
    - Goals for Youth - 19 students
    - Homeless Educatio - 514 students
    - Together Shelter Program - 18 students
    - School Based Youth Services - 438 students
    - Cooperative Transportation – 1,703 Routes
- Lowest administrative cost for SS in NJ
- Model schools addressing a full array of educational services for students with disabilities

*\*The Office of Disabilities Services is located on the Educational Campus and provides access to additional services and referrals.*

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