



MS. HELEN ALBRIGHT – Chair  
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## News Release

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**For Immediate Release**

### **Hudson County Workforce Development Board Executive Director Honored with Community College Spirit Award**

TRENTON, N.J.— Yesterday, during its annual New Jersey Community College Awards Ceremony, the New Jersey Council of County Colleges presented the 2016 Community College Spirit Award to Hudson County Workforce Development Board Executive Director John Fugazzie for his exemplary support of New Jersey’s community colleges.

“Since its inauguration in 1993, the Community College Spirit Award has been an honor bestowed to those who embody the community college spirit – perseverance, dedication and excellence,” said NJCCC Chair Helen Albright

Fugazzie was recognized for his role as the founder of *Neighbors-helping-Neighbors USA* and working with the New Jersey Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development to provide job training and job placement to long-term unemployed New Jerseyans as part of the Ready to Work New Jersey initiative.

Last year, the Workforce Consortium was awarded a \$10 million competitive federal grant for New Jersey and a matching \$2 million grant from New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Ready to Work New Jersey’s goal is to help 1,000 long-term unemployed New Jerseyans find their way back in to the workforce over the next four years.

“In the first year alone, Ready to Work New Jersey has already placed 528 people in new jobs. And another 117 people are currently participating in on the job training, with the

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expectation that they, too, will become permanently employed once their training is complete,”

Albright said. “The Workforce Consortium is one of 23 organizations nationally that received this federal grant. The number of our participants placed in jobs to date exceeds the sum of all the other grant awardees combined.”

The Workforce Consortium, established in 2004, is a central one-stop contact that develops and delivers education and training programs to New Jersey businesses, agencies and organizations. Since its inception, the Workforce Consortium has trained over 154,000 employees at over 7,000 New Jersey businesses.

Neighbors-*helping*-Neighbors USA Inc., is an all volunteer-led job search networking and support group organization that is responsible for helping over 550 members find gainful employment in just five years, making it the most rapidly successful job search group in the country.

Fugazzie has become one of the country's leading subject matter experts in job search training and career education. He has been extremely active nationally, providing mentoring to job seekers, career management advice for those who have jobs, a wide range of business consulting services, technical advice, and marketing services for non-profit organizations.

Fugazzie serves as an adjunct professor at Petrocelli College of Continuing Studies at Fairleigh Dickinson University, teaching master courses in marketing, leadership, social change and nonprofit management in the Puerto al Futuro Program.

He holds a master's degree in business administration from Rutgers University Newark and a bachelor's of science degree from Montclair State University.

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The New Jersey Council of County Colleges is the state association representing New Jersey's 19 community colleges. As an independent, trustee-headed organization that joins the leadership of trustees and presidents, the Council is the voice of the community college sector before the state legislature and other branches of government.