



2023-2024

# REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

*Student-Centered for Career Success*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rowan College of South Jersey's (RCSJ) faculty, staff and administration are inspired by our students every day. We always put students first in decisions that are made. By doing so, our students experience a culture of care and support that is unmatched in the classroom, on the field, and beyond. This holistic approach led The Aspen Institute to name RCSJ one of the nation's Top 150 Community Colleges. We are proud to be a community college, and RCSJ is redefining what it means to be one. Our students and communities' needs have changed, and we are serving them through our innovative partnerships.

***RCSJ's Promise: Student-Centered, Career-Focused***



## Key Accomplishments (July 2023 — June 2024)

**Summer Connect** - Two Summer Connect events were held to engage new students and help them navigate campus while learning about student success resources. New Student Orientations provided vital technology training and updates to keep students informed and connected. Approximately 500 students were welcomed on both campuses at our Fall Welcome Events. Students received resource information about campus life, leadership opportunities, and critical campus policies and protocols to navigate a successful year.

**Junior Achievement of New Jersey** - In fall 2023, RCSJ welcomed a partnership with Junior Achievement of New Jersey (JANJ) opening a satellite office on the Gloucester campus. This office serves as the first expansion site for JANJ and the headquarters for JANJ's southern New Jersey based initiatives. JANJ provides youth with programs that teach them about financial literacy, career readiness, and entrepreneurship through in-person and online programs.

**Pathway to Nursing & Medicine** - In October 2023, RCSJ, Rowan University, and Inspira Health introduced the Pathway to Nursing, which offers current and aspiring Inspira employees the opportunity to save money while earning their B.S.N. Students following the new Pathway to Nursing utilize the 3+1 Nursing Program, offered in collaboration with flagship partner Rowan University. Later that month, RCSJ, Rowan University, and the Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine (SOM) introduced their new Pathway to Medicine program. The pathway guarantees acceptance for five, high-achieving Cumberland and Gloucester County high school seniors annually into an accelerated, cost-saving pathway to a D.O. at a medical school located close to home. Rowan Medicine—in partnership with Cumberland County

leadership and Virtua Health—opened its doors in spring 2024 to its first clinical facility on our Cumberland campus.

**Together Cafe** - The Together Cafe opened in November 2023, inside the lobby of the Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine's location on RCSJ's Gloucester campus. The cafe is the product of a unique collaboration between RCSJ, the Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine (SOM), the Rowan-Virtua Integrated Special Needs Center of Rowan University (RISN), the County of Gloucester, and the Schools for Neurodiversity at the Gloucester County Special Services School District (GCSSSD). Its goal is to create job training and employment opportunities for individuals with physical and developmental disabilities and to promote their inclusion in all aspects of community life.

**The Academy for Neurodiversity** - In February 2024, The Academy for Neurodiversity was realized through a unique collaboration between RCSJ, the Schools for Neurodiversity at the Gloucester County Special Services School District, Rowan University and its medical schools, and Gloucester and Cumberland County governments. This Academy will integrate lifelong services for the developmentally disabled and offer multiple levels of education, workforce training, and support services. A groundbreaking ceremony also took place for a three-story, on-site housing complex, providing 24 one-bedroom, rent-supported apartments for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**RCSJ Collegiate High School & HSOP** - Vineland Public Schools (VPS) and RCSJ further enhanced their dual enrollment partnership for high school students when VPS was named as one of the four NJ Department of Education Dual Enrollment Pilot Grant Initiative recipients receiving \$148,000. During a recognition ceremony,

## RCSJ STRATEGIC PLANNING 2024 – 2025 GOALS & OBJECTIVES

1. Expanded Veterans' Partnerships
2. Division of College & Career Readiness
3. Academic Pathway Programs
4. University College Design
5. Advanced Manufacturing
6. Neurodiversity Centers
7. Technical Studies
8. National Recognition
9. Economic Impact Study
10. Strategic Plan — Middle States Commission on Higher Education Self-Study
11. Enrollment Management
12. Experiential Learning
13. Behavioral Support
14. Financial Sustainability
15. Information Technology & Cybersecurity

Vineland High School was named the first RCSJ Collegiate High School partner. At a subsequent ceremony, over 20 Gloucester and Cumberland High Schools also signed on as RCSJ Collegiate High Schools. Also, RCSJ expanded its partnership with the Catholic Diocese of Camden, the South Jersey Scholarship Fund (SJSN), and the Gaetano Foundation offering the High School Option Program (HSOP) and affordable transfer pathways to parochial students.

### **Lita Marcelo Abele (LMA) Institute for Business Studies -**

In March 2024, RCSJ established the Lita Marcelo Abele (LMA) Institute for Business Studies with a \$10,000 endowment from Abele. The intent of the Institute is to develop leadership skills, foster empowerment, and provide professional growth for students whose goals are to enter and advance their careers in the field of business.

**Tri-Alpha Honor Society** - As a First-Generation student, Dr. Keating was proud to announce the formation of a new RCSJ honor society, Tri-Alpha, which recognizes the academic achievements of first-generation college students. RCSJ's chapter is Kappa Epsilon, and the first chapter members were inducted in March 2024. Dr. Keating and his family also established an endowment to provide First Generation students with scholarship and mentorship opportunities and partnered with OceanFirst Bank Foundation for more scholarship support. A First Generation Institute will open in fall 2025.

**HBCU & HSI Transfer Partnerships** - Throughout the 2024 spring semester, we signed HBCU and HSI transfer

partnership agreements with Lincoln University (Pennsylvania), Delaware State University, Rutgers-Newark, and St. Peter's University, respectively, providing our diverse student body with more opportunities to pursue their bachelor's degree.

**Roadrunner Athletics Awards** - The RCSJ Roadrunners Athletic program won the 2023-2024 Learfield Directors' Cup for Two-Year Colleges. The Roadrunners won this year's Cup by capturing the NJCAA National Championship finish in baseball, second place finish in men's tennis, third place finish in women's tennis and fifth place finishes in men's soccer, women's cross country and women's outdoor track & field. The Roadrunners previously won the Learfield Directors' Cup in 2012-2013.

### **The Slack Family Scholarship for the Pathway to Medicine**

- In July 2024, four RCSJ Cumberland students entering their second year of study in RCSJ's Biological Science program became the inaugural recipients of The Slack Family Scholarship for the Pathway to Medicine. These students spoke highly of Cumberland's cohort programs, Adelante Juntos and Cumberland's Bridge to Rowan, accrediting the employees and the faculty involved for their success and access to opportunities.

**Strategic Plan** - The Board of Trustees has approved an extension to the College's Strategic Plan through the 2025-2026 academic year. RCSJ will utilize the results of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education self-study to inform a new Strategic Plan to continue our long-standing, student-centered philosophy.



*On July 23, 2024, four RCSJ Cumberland students entering their second year of study in RCSJ's Biological Science program became the inaugural recipients of The Slack Family Scholarship for the Pathway to Medicine. The Pathway to Medicine is a cost-saving pathway to a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from the Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine. Congratulations to Tyla Nottingham, Evelyn Chavez Lopez, Anthony Romero, and Christian DeLeon.*

# Building the College of the Future

As higher education continues to navigate a changing landscape, it is imperative for RCSJ to design and embrace a new college model that serves today's student. RCSJ will expand four partnerships focusing on sustainability—meeting the needs of our students and community. The four areas are: **The College of the University, RCSJ Collegiate High School, Workforce Solutions & Industry Partnerships, and Community.** The strengthening of these four partnerships will support this endeavor.

## THE COLLEGE OF THE UNIVERSITY

While remaining operationally separate, RCSJ will integrate more closely with the University to become "The College of the University." This integration will enhance the student experience while also setting students up for success.

- The traditional transfer of RCSJ students to Rowan University will be enhanced through the Rowan Pathway Programs.
- Rowan University students, who may be struggling academically, needing additional support, will become part of the RCSJ community with the intention of returning to the University when they are ready.
- RCSJ students needing room and board, like athletes and international students, can utilize the expansion of Rowan Choice creating a student residence cohort in Mimosa Hall.

## RCSJ COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL

Another critical partnership is RCSJ Collegiate High School. More than 30 high schools have joined this partnership to offer their students the Rowan Advantage Pathway, with cost-saving programs like 3+1, that enable their students to earn a bachelor's degree for less than \$30,000. RCSJ Collegiate High Schools provide secondary education students with the curriculum, experiences, preparation, and opportunities they need to confidently transition to their post-secondary education and career goals.

## WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS & INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

The Workforce Development Boards (WDB) and our Career and Technical Education (CTE) Division offerings are part three of the partnership bundle. In 2023, the Gloucester WDB merged with RCSJ to build a more accessible and inclusive workforce development system. With RCSJ more securely plugged into the community workforce needs, training programs can expand, and students will be connected to local job opportunities. While not formally merged, the WDB serving Cumberland County is an active player in discussions and has a long history of connecting residents to the training opportunities at RCSJ. Leading projects

include the CTE Trades Expansion on the Gloucester campus, and the collaborative Advanced Manufacturing Center project at the Cumberland campus between CCTEC and RCSJ. Both projects fill a vital need in South Jersey.

## COMMUNITY

The final part of the partnership structure is the Community and the immediate counties we serve—Gloucester and Cumberland. Our communities' needs are mission critical to the college. RCSJ serves as the anchor institution in each respective county. During the COVID-19 pandemic, RCSJ-Gloucester served as one of New Jersey's six vaccination mega sites. RCSJ is a resource to the community and will continue to partner with county leadership to offer community services.

The newest initiative is supporting our communities through the devastating effects of the opioid epidemic. This grant-funded initiative will allow RCSJ to work with Gloucester County, Cumberland County, and Rowan-Virtua SOM to provide community resources, initiate curriculum change in appropriate majors, and bolster our Wellness Center efforts.

Together, this new college model, with expansion of these four partnerships—University College, RCSJ Collegiate High School, Workforce Solutions & Industry Partnerships, and Community—will sustain the future of higher education in our region and provide "Something More."



## THE PATHWAY DESIGN

**RCSJ Collegiate High School**  
HIGH SCHOOL  
Dual Enrollment/  
HSOP/ High School  
Equivalency

**RCSJ**  
FRESHMAN  
1st year  
Industry  
Certification  
SOPHOMORE  
2nd year  
RCSJ Associate  
Degree conferred

**JUNIOR**  
3rd year  
3+1 at RCSJ  
or first year  
at Rowan U.







## Foundation Highlights (2023 – 2024)

**\$270,000** Raised

Funds raised to directly support Rowan College of South Jersey (RCSJ) students.

**\$20,000+** in Emergency Support

Provided to students facing financial hardships, covering tuition, books, laptops, lab kits, and more.

**\$150,000** for Food Pantries

Funding allocated to support food pantries at the Cumberland and Gloucester campuses.

**\$450,000+** in Scholarships

Awarded to empower students to achieve their educational goals.



**\$200,000** for Research and Development

Invested in innovative projects at RCSJ.

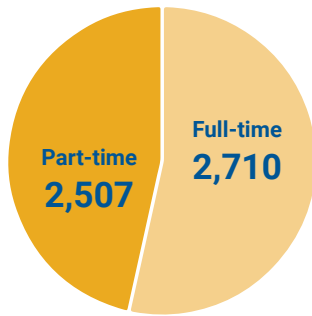


**\$160,000** STEM Grant

Secured to establish RCSJ's first STEM Summer Camp, sponsored by Atlantic City Electric and the Exelon Foundation.

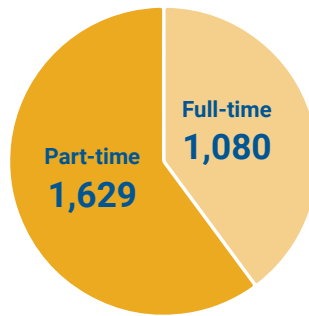
## FALL 2024 ENROLLMENT

### Gloucester



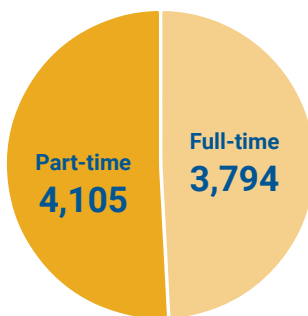
Headcount  
**5,217**

### Cumberland



Headcount  
**2,709**

### RCSJ

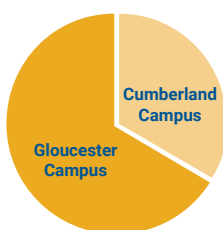


Headcount  
**7,899**

Fall 2024 suffered a 0.5% decline in headcount and a 1.6% decline in FTEs.

Numbers reported from Fall 2024 census day, 9/16/2024.

## RCSJ FY2024 FINANCIAL STATUS



Gloucester Campus \$ 46,163,392  
Cumberland Campus \$ 24,954,308

**RCSJ TOTAL \$ 71,117,700**

Develop a three-year enrollment management plan to expand traditional and non-traditional recruitment/retention patterns.

## Student Aid

More than

**\$1.1 million**

in scholarships available.



**\$1,579,571**

Community College Opportunity Grant funds awarded.

fall 2022 – spring 2023



**\$5,295**

Average grant and scholarship aid package.

## Gloucester County Board of County Commissioners

Frank J. DiMarco, *Director*  
Jim Jefferson, *Deputy Director*  
Nicholas DeSilvio  
Denice DiCarlo  
Joann Gattinelli, *Education Liaison*  
Christopher Konawel, Jr.  
Matthew Weng

## Cumberland County Board of County Commissioners

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*Co-Education Liaison*  
Art Marchand, *Deputy Director*  
Douglas Albrecht  
Robert Austino  
Victoria Groetsch-Lods,  
*Co-Education Liaison*  
Antonio Romero  
Sandra Taylor

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Frederick Keating, Ed.D., *ex officio*

## Rowan College of South Jersey Administration

Frederick Keating, Ed.D.  
*President*  
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Michael Plagianakos  
*Vice President, University Affiliation*

04/01/2025



## PRESIDENT'S STATE APPOINTMENTS

- New Jersey Dual Enrollment Study Commission (HSOP) - *Governor appointment*
- New Jersey Workforce in Infrastructure Network Commission - *Secretary of Labor appointment*
- New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC) Legislative Committee - *Chair appointment*

## Grants

### SECURED AND IN-PROGRESS

- NJCCC NJ Advanced Manufacturing Pathways: **\$355,996**
- NSF Engines Development Award-Advancing Photonics Technologies: **\$100,000**
- NSF Cultivating the Future of Soft Robotics Workforce through Integrated Undergraduate Research and Education: **\$35,000**
- NSF Growing Rowan's Environmental Education Network in Southern New Jersey (GREEN-SJ): **\$148,407**
- ACS Rowan University Chemical Assistantship Training (R2CAT) Program: **\$20,000**

### IN APPLICATION

- OSHE Some College, No Degree Grant Program: **\$100,000**
- OSHE Hunger Free Campus: **\$75,000**

## Academics



Behavioral Science and  
Law & Social Justice

Business Studies

Career and Technical Education

Communication and Creative  
& Performing Arts

Education and Humanities

Nursing and Health Professions

Science, Technology, Engineering  
and Mathematics (STEM)



**Student-Centered  
for Career Success**



Academic Excellence

College Excellence

Athletic Excellence

Student Excellence

Veterans Excellence

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