

Supporting Community Colleges

For Immediate Release: February 19, 2008

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Bergen Community College Officials Thank Congressman Rothman for Securing \$272,600 for the Center for Suburban Criminal Justice

Rothman a Long-Time Supporter of Making College More Affordable

(Washington, DC)â€”On Wednesday, February 13, 2008, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn) met with Bergen Community College (BCC) President Dr. G. Jeremiah Ryan and Board of Trustees Secretary Cid Wilson. The college officials traveled to Washington, DC to thank Rothman for securing \$272,600 to support the work of BCC's Center for Suburban Criminal Justice. This funding will enhance the Center's work combating gang violence.

Dr. Ryan and Wilson also discussed BCC's plans to build a new campus in southern Bergen County and the importance of federal student financial aid. Congressman Rothman is a long-time advocate of making college more affordable for all students. Rothman strongly supported the College Cost Reduction Act, signed into law last September, which cuts interest rates on federal student loans by half over four years and increases the maximum Pell Grant scholarship that low- and middle-income students can receive.

Earlier this week, Rothman also voted in favor of the College Opportunity and Affordability Act (H.R. 4137), which builds on the College Cost Reduction Act to make it easier for students to attend and afford college. Specifically, H.R.4137 would:

- Encourage colleges to rein in price increases and increase transparency surrounding tuition increases and college plans for lowering costs;
- Simplify the federal student aid application process;
- Provide families with more information when making education decisions through a variety of measures, including the creation of a user-friendly online clearinghouse with information about college pricing in one location;
- Require strict codes of conduct for institutions and student loan providers to protect students from aggressive marketing practices by lenders;
- Create a new scholarship program for active duty military personnel and family members; and
- Expand federal assistance for low-income and minority students, and students with disabilities.

Following the meeting, Rothman joined the Congressional Community Colleges Caucus, a forum for Members of

Congress to identify and discuss current issues affecting community colleges. The Caucus also helps raise awareness within the House of Representatives about the unique role community colleges play in the American education system.

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