

NJ County Vocational-Technical Schools Support New Legislative Package

For Immediate Release:
May 19, 2014

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A package of bills introduced by Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto and Assembly Education Committee Chairman Patrick Diegnan will greatly expand career and technical education opportunities for New Jersey students, representatives from the New Jersey Council of County Vocational-Technical Schools (NJCCVTS) said today.

“We applaud Speaker Prieto and Assemblyman Diegnan for their leadership in recognizing career and technical education as both an economic and educational priority for New Jersey,” said Dr. Howard Lerner, President of the Council and the Superintendent of Bergen County Technical Schools.

“At his January inauguration, and at the news conference announcing the launch of the NJ Employer Coalition for Technical Education in February, Speaker Prieto pledged to make the expansion of county vocational-technical schools a major priority during this legislative session. This comprehensive package of proposals will strengthen the workforce pipeline that our employers require, while providing opportunities for young people to succeed in a highly competitive economy,” Dr. Lerner said.

Currently, on a statewide average, county vocational-technical high schools receive 2.5 applications for every available seat. Last year, more than 16,000 students seeking a career-focused high school education could not be accommodated.

“Many of the bills that the Speaker announced today will help expand the capacity of New Jersey’s county vocational-technical school districts,” said Judy Savage, the executive director of the Council. “These programs are in high demand because students thrive when they are able to apply academic knowledge to their own career interests and goals. Enabling young people to learn and collaborate in a career-focused environment is real-world preparation for college and the world of work.

“The statewide county vocational-technical school community – including our 32,500 secondary students, their parents, our teachers and our business and educational partners – thanks the Speaker and Chairman Diegnan for their commitment to career and technical education. We look forward to working closely with them and with our employer partners at NJBIA and the NJ Employer Coalition for Technical Education on this exciting initiative,” Savage said.