



About Us

The Center for Student Success works with New Jersey's 19 community colleges to more effectively assist students in achieving degree and/or certificate completion. Our goal is to support the colleges through data-driven research so that campus administrators, faculty, and staff are making the most informed decisions. In addition, the Center for Student Success is addressing complementary student services initiatives that, when coupled with those of New Jersey's Big Ideas project, will lead to a comprehensive statewide student success agenda.

Our Mission

Founded in Fall 2012, the Center for Student Success aims to foster a collaborative process in which students, faculty, administrators, and staff work together to develop a culture of academic and personal success for community college students across the state of New Jersey. Consistent with the mission of our colleges, we aim to promote communities in which students are encouraged to succeed and excel as they work towards achieving their goals of degree and certificate completion.

Resources

The NJ Center for Student Success has received several grants to support its operations including a \$500,000 competitive grant from the **Kresge Foundation** in the Spring of 2014. In addition to supporting personnel to carry out the mission and goals of the Center, the grant supports the convening of statewide faculty meetings, student success summits, student leadership initiatives, research- and data-based efforts, and a series of mini-grants to New Jersey's 19 community colleges to support professional development and other campus-based student success activities.

An Overview of the Center for Student Success

A project of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges with offices in Trenton and at Middlesex County College, the Center maintains an Advisory Board comprised of trustees, presidents, chief academic officers, chief student services officers, institutional research officers, faculty, students, state policy makers, and business leaders.

Working with New Jersey's 19 community colleges, the Center fosters **COLLABORATION** and facilitates **COMMUNICATION** by **CONVENING** campus leaders, all for the purpose of promoting **COHERENCE**, **CONTINUITY**, and **CATALYTIC CHANGE** on statewide student success initiatives (see Figure 1 below for a graphic representation).

By virtue of its grantee status with the Kresge Foundation, the NJ Center for Student Success joins a group of small but powerful Student Success Centers in other states (Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Michigan, Ohio and Texas) that together comprise a growing national network organized by Jobs for the Future, a policy-based organization located in Boston and Washington D.C.

Center Staff

The Center is staffed by an Executive Director, Assistant Director, Part-time Research Associate and a Part-time Graduate Research Assistant from Teachers College, Columbia University.

Yesenia Madas, Ed.D.

Executive Director
NJ Center for Student Success
ymadas@njccc.org
(609) 392-3434

Louis Venturelli

Assistant Director
NJ Center for Student Success
lventurelli@njccc.org
(609) 392-3434

Kristen Patel, Ph.D.

Part-time Research Associate
NJ Center for Student Success
kpatel@njccc.org
(973) 809-1593

James Nadeau

Part-time Graduate Research Assistant
NJ Center for Student Success
jnadeau@njccc.org

FIGURE 1.
NJ Center for Student Success Strategy and Framework

