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New Jersey Virtual Community College Consortium Background

- 1 When Governor Christine Todd Whitman announced the creation of the New Jersey Virtual University (NJVU) in January 1999, community college presidents moved quickly to support this initiative by developing a companion New Jersey Virtual Community College Consortium (NJVCCC). All 19 community colleges belong to the NJVCCC.
- 1 NJVCCC's primary purpose is to increase access to post-secondary education for all New Jerseyans regardless of geographic or time constraints.
- 1 The NJVCCC is not a separate degree-granting college.
- 1 All courses offered through the NJVCCC cost \$80 per credit with no service fees.
- 1 Online courses offered by the NJVCCC are designed for students who are comfortable with using the Internet as a learning tool.
- 1 New Jersey's 19 community colleges are the largest provider of public higher education in the state, enrolling nearly a quarter of a million credit and non-credit students each semester.
- 1 As a consortium, NJVCCC members share distance learning resources, including telecommunications infrastructure, courses and programs, faculty, student services and administrative support. Students throughout the state can enroll at their local community college in a wide range of distance learning services offered by all of New Jersey's 19 community colleges.
- 1 NJVCCC Web site address: www.njvccc.cc.nj.us

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- 1 When enrolling in a course offered by the NJVCCC, students receive a high-tech education combined with the high “touch” of their local community college. Students receive personal services such as counseling and tutoring.
- 1 During the fall 1999 semester, Atlantic, Bergen, Brookdale, Burlington, Camden, Mercer, Raritan Valley, Sussex and Warren offered over 50 online courses to 43 students throughout the state as a pilot program. For the spring 2000 semester, NJVCCC will offer approximately 200 online courses.
- 1 Online courses require a computer with a graphical user interface (Mac or Windows), a modem (28.8 or higher), connection to an Internet Service Provider (ISP), knowledge of downloading software from the Internet and knowledge of installing and configuring software. Students also need to meet the prerequisites of the course (see online course description on the NJVCCC web site for more information about prerequisites).
- 1 About 20 students are permitted per course, while 10 to 12 students must enroll in a course for the course to run.