

PASCACK VALLEY

BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRIES TO BATTLE HUNGER ISSUE

Recently, a survey of 33,000 community college students at 70 institutions showed how one-third of students are battling hunger.

The report, conducted by the Wisconsin HOPE Lab and Association of Community College Trustees, showed how more than two-thirds of students are food insecure, meaning they do not have a sufficient amount of access to food.

"Hunger is not an isolated issue affecting a small number of students," said Bergen Community College President, B. Kaye Walter, Ph. D.

Issues such as hunger and employment cause community college students to worry if they can still be enrolled in college. Almost half of students think that their finances could cause them to have to leave school, according to the Center for Community College Student Engagement.

Bergen Community College has partnered with a non-profit organization, the Center for Food Action, to open a pantry at its main campus and signing the "Presidents' Commitment to Food and Nutrition Security" pledge started by Auburn University and Presidents United to Solve Hunger (PUSH). Walter was the only community college leader to make the

commitment.

Due to Bergen Community College's efforts with the hunger issue, the school received the "Champion of Good Works" award from the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey on

March 15 at the Chairman's Reception. Bergen Community College was only one of six colleges to be honored at this event for their dedication to fighting against hunger.

Photo courtesy Larry Hlavenka Jr.



BCC Managing Director of Public Relations Larry Hlavenka accepts the "Champion of Good Works" award from Commerce and Industry of NJ Chair Andrew Silverstein.