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AUTHOR Oromaner, Mark
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ABSTRACT

This report focuses on changes in the enrollment of credit students at Hudson County Community College (HCCC) (New Jersey) during the period 1990-1999. The data permit two types of comparisons: HCCC over time and HCCC relative to the other 18 community colleges in New Jersey. Highlights include: (1) HCCC entered the decade as the 15th largest college and exited the decade as the 14th largest college in New Jersey; (2) an examination of all 19 colleges indicates that Essex was the only other institution to move up in rank during the 1990s; (3) during the 1990s, the community college sector experienced a slight decrease in total enrollment; in contrast, HCCC experienced an increase of 58%; (4) in terms of 1990-1999 changes, both part-time (41%) and full-time (68%) enrollments increased at HCCC; (5) the most dramatic finding is the 68% increase in full-time enrollment at HCCC, which accounts for 13% of the total full-time increase among the 19 community colleges; and (6) the most significant change in terms of gender is that while the sector composition remained stable during the 1990-1999 period, HCCC became "more female" (57% vs. 62%). Contains six tables and 1 figure. (JA)



Planning and Institutional Research

A Decade of Growth: HCCC's Presence
Among New Jersey Community Colleges,
1990 - 1999

Mark Oromaner,
Dean

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Estelle F. Greenberg,
Director of Grants
Frederick Taffy,
Assessment Analyst
Dorothea Graham-King,
Administrative Assistant
Ana Quinonez,
Clerk Typist

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26 Journal Square, 14th Floor
Jersey City, N.J. 07306
Tel. No. (201) 714-7174
Fax No. (201) 714-7148

dgraham@mail.hudson.cc.nj.us

Prepared by: Mark Oromaner,
Dean/Planning and Institutional
Research

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FINDINGS

The focus of this report is on changes in enrollment of credit students at Hudson County Community College (HCCC) during the period 1990 – 1999. The data permit two types of comparisons : (a) HCCC over time, and (b) HCCC relative to the other 18 community colleges in New Jersey. All data are derived from various issues of New Jersey's Community Colleges Fact Book and Directory developed by Richard M. Parrish and published by the New Jersey Council of County Colleges.

TOTAL ENROLLMENT

Table 1 - HCCC entered the decade as the 15th largest college and exited the decade as the 14th largest college. An examination of all 19 colleges indicates that Essex was the only other institution to move up in rank (10th to 5th) during the 1990's. Twelve of the remaining colleges maintained the same relative position, four lost one position, and one lost two positions. In the fall of 2000, Gloucester (N=4,669) and Hudson (N=4,854) reversed rank positions. HCCC is now 13th and Gloucester is 14th in total enrollment.

Table 2 - During the 1990's, the community college sector experienced a slight decrease in total enrollment. In contrast, HCCC experienced an increase of 57.5 %. In terms of percentage increase, Hudson was followed by Essex (33.9%) and Passaic (33.0%). In terms of headcount increase, HCCC (N=1,628) was second to Essex (N=2,211). A majority of the colleges experienced a decrease in enrollment during the decade.

Table 3 – Each of the six colleges that had a 1990 enrollment of 9000+ experienced a decline (-.5 to -18.1), and four of the six with an enrollment of 5000-9000 experienced a decline (-2.3 to -17.2). However, five of the seven colleges with an enrollment below 5000 experienced an increase (+.8 to +57.5).

Figure 1 – The rank order of HCCC according to total, part-, and full-time enrollment for 1990 and 1999 is presented in this graph. The bars in the graph indicate rank from the lowest position (1). As cited above, in the case of total enrollment HCCC moved up one position (5th to 6th). In addition, for both part- (3rd to 5th) and full-time (9th to 11th) the college moved up two positions. The relatively high rank for HCCC according to full-time enrollment reflects the “deviant case” (majority full-time students) enrollment composition at HCCC.* In the fall of 1999, 65 percent of the HCCC students were enrolled full-time. In contrast, the comparable number for the New Jersey community college sector was 45 percent.

*Mark Oromaner, A Research Note on a Deviant Case: The Majority Enrollment of Full-time Students at HCCC, Data Report 95.01, HCCC Office of Planning and Institutional Research (ED 388357), 1995.

ENROLLMENT COMPOSITION

Table 4 – Part- and Full-time enrollments are explored again in Table 4. The majority full-time student enrollment at HCCC vs. the majority part-time student enrollment throughout the state is quite clear. In terms of 1990 – 1999 changes , both part- (41%) and full-time (68%) enrollments increased at HCCC. In contrast, at the sector level the full-time (20%) enrollments increased, however, the part-time (-14%) enrollments decreased. The most dramatic finding is the 68% increase in full-time enrollment at HCCC. This accounts for 13% of the total full-time increase among the 19 community colleges (1,170/9,196).

Table 5 – The most significant change in terms of gender is that while the sector composition remained quite stable during the 1990 – 1999 period, HCCC became more female (57% vs. 62%). Although both males and females increased at HCCC, the former increased by 40% and the latter by 71%.

Table 6 - The role of ethnic/racial diversity among HCCC students is evident in the data in Table 6. In contrast to the sector, the four largest groups (white, African-American, Hispanic, Asian) are each represented by at least ten percent of the HCCC enrollment; in 1990 only two of the groups reached this number at the sector level and in 1999 only three of the groups reached this number. Although white students experienced a decline at the sector level (70% vs. 57%), they continue to be a majority of the community college students. In contrast, no group contributed more than 50% of the enrollment at HCCC. In terms of growth, African-Americans (115%) and Asians (78%) were the two fastest growing populations at HCCC, and Hispanics (71%) and Asians (64%) were the two fastest growing populations sectorwide.

A note concerning the reporting of racial/ethnic data is in order. At both the sector and HCCC, the percentage of students in the “Unknown” category increased during the 1990 – 1999 period. The HCCC percentages increased from 2.4%(1990) to 7.1%(1999) to 12.3%(2000). The 12.3% represents 599 students. A number this large may have a significant impact on our ability to describe our students. Does the “Unknown” category reflect the collegewide distribution according to race/ethnicity? Are students who would have previously chosen one of the racial/ethnic categories now placing themselves in the “Unknown” category? Does this reflect a change in attitude among recent entering cohorts? This issue is not limited to the students at HCCC. Changes in racial/ethnic identification and attitudes toward such identification resulted in a change in options provided in the 2000 U.S. census. The research challenge is to ensure that we continue to make valid comparisons over time. Do changes reflect changes in the population or changes in the way in which members of the population respond to questions concerning race and ethnicity?

Table 1- Rank Order of New Jersey Community Colleges According to Total Enrollment, 1990 and 1999

COMMUNITY COLLEGES	1990	1999	CHANGE
Atlantic Cape	12 (5,004)*	12 (4,811)	0
Bergen	1 (12,287)	1 (12,225)	0
Brookdale	3 (11,888)	3 (11,575)	0
Burlington	9 (6,928)	10 (5,733)	-1
Camden	2 (12,014)	2 (11,821)	0
Cumberland	16 (2,476)	16 (2,662)	0
Essex	10 (6,710)	5 (8,921)	+5
Gloucester	13 (4,373)	13 (4,752)	0
Hudson	15 (2,832)	14 (4,460)	+1
Mercer	7 (8,779)	7 (7,843)	0
Middlesex	4 (11,510)	4 (10,331)	0
Morris	6 (9,424)	8 (7,714)	-2
Ocean	8 (7,424)	9 (7,256)	-1
Passaic	14 (3,273)	15 (4,354)	-1
Raritan Valley	11 (5,388)	11 (5,439)	0
Salem	18 (1,356)	18 (1,244)	0
Sussex	17 (1,946)	17 (2,339)	0
Union	5 (9,981)	6 (8,571)	-1
Warren	19 (1,247)	19 (831)	0
TOTAL	124,840	122,882	

*Enrollment

Note: In the fall of 2000, Gloucester (N= 4,669) and Hudson (N= 4,854) reversed rank positions. Hudson is now 13 and Gloucester is 14 in total enrollment.

Table 2- Rank Order of New Jersey Community Colleges According to Change in Total Enrollment, 1990 and 1999.

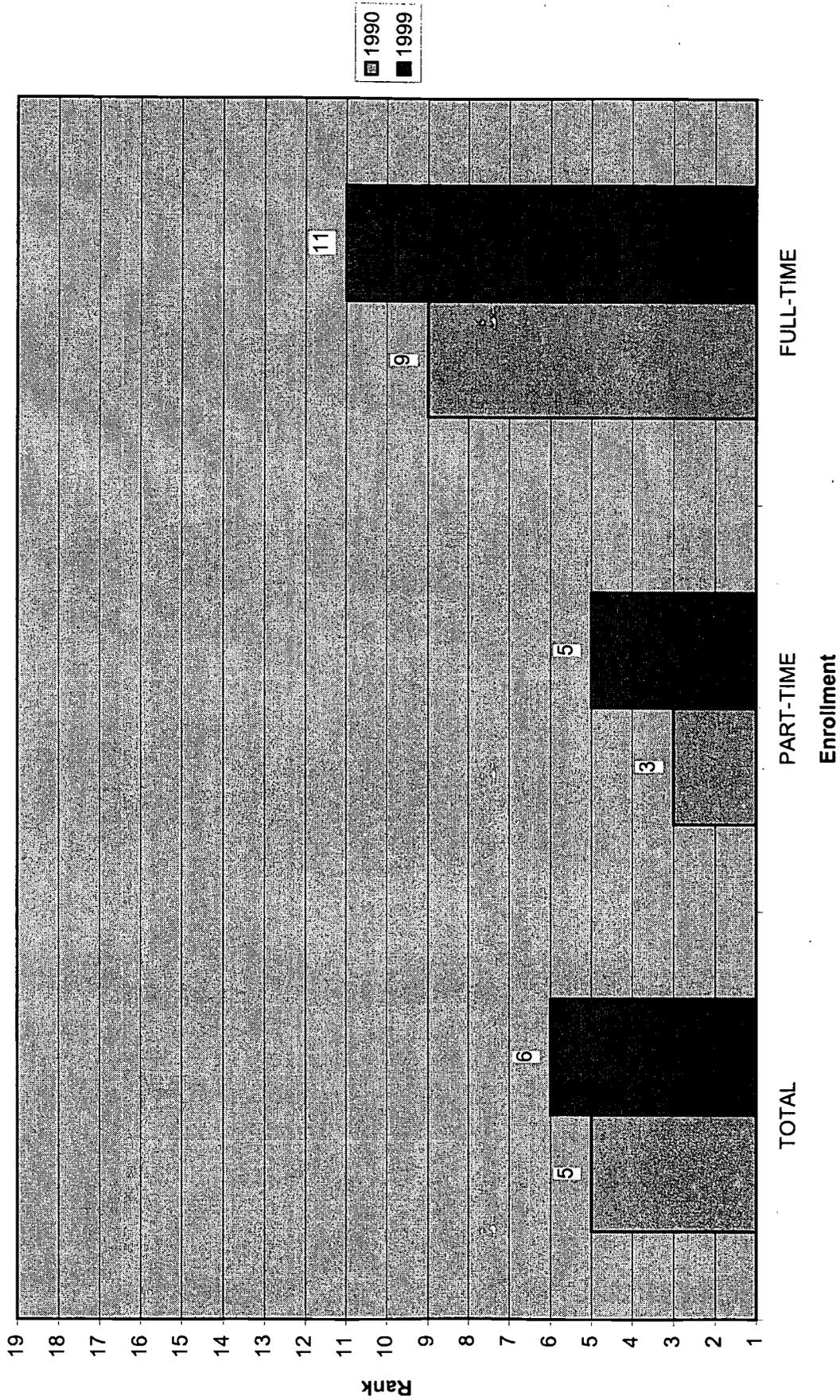
COMMUNITY COLLEGES	Change N	Change %	RANK
Atlantic Cape	-193	-3.9	13
Bergen	-62	-.5	8
Brookdale	-313	-2.6	12
Burlington	-1195	-17.2	16
Camden	-193	-1.6	10
Cumberland	+186	+8	7
Essex	+2211	+33.9	2
Gloucester	+379	+8.7	5
Hudson	+1628	+57.5	1
Mercer	-936	-10.7	15
Middlesex	-1179	-10.2	14
Morris	-1710	-18.1	18
Ocean	-168	-2.3	11
Passaic	+1081	+33.0	3
Raritan Valley	+51	+9	6
Salem	-112	-.8	9
Sussex	+393	+20.1	4
Union	-1410	-14.1	17
Warren	-416	-33.4	19
TOTAL	-1958	-1.6	

Table 3- Percent Change 1990 – 1999 of New Jersey Community Colleges Grouped According to 1990 Total Enrollment

College Enrollment	1990/1999	% Change
9000+		
Bergen	12,287 / 12,225	-.5
Camden	12,014 / 11,821	-1.6
Brookdale	11,888 / 11,575	-2.6
Middlesex	11,510 / 10,331	-10.2
Union	9,981 / 8,571	-14.1
Morris	9,424 / 7,714	-18.1
5000 - 9000		
Essex	6,710 / 8,921	+33.9
Raritan Valley	5,388 / 5,439	+9
Ocean	7,424 / 7,256	-2.3
Atlantic Cape	5,004 / 4,811	-3.9
Mercer	8,779 / 7,843	-10.7
Burlington	6,928 / 5,733	-17.2
Up To 5000		
Hudson	2,832 / 4,460	+57.5
Passaic	3,273 / 4,354	+33.0
Sussex	1,946 / 2,339	+20.1
Gloucester	4,373 / 4,752	+8.7
Cumberland	2,476 / 2,662	+8
Salem	1,356 / 1,244	-.8
Warren	1,247 / 831	-33.4

Note: In the fall of 2000, Gloucester (N= 4,669) and Hudson (4,854) reversed rank positions. Hudson is now 13 and Gloucester is 14 in total enrollment.

Figure 1 - Rank of HCCC According to Enrollment, 1990 and 1999



Note: Rank 19 = Highest
Rank 1 = Lowest

Table 4 – Comparison of HCCC and All New Jersey Community College (NJCC) Students According to Part- and Full-Time Status, 1990 and 1999.

	1990		1999		Change 1990 - 1999	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
HCCC						
Full-Time	1,712	60.5	2,882	64.6	1,170	68.3
Part-Time	1,120	39.5	1,578	35.4	458	40.9
(Total)	(2,832)	(100.0)	(4,460)	(100.0)	(1,628)	(57.5)
All NJCC's						
Full-Time	45,673	36.6	54,869	44.7	9,196	20.1
Part-Time	79,167	63.4	68,013	55.3	-11,154	-14.1
(Total)	(124,840)	(100.0)	(122,882)	(100.0)	(-1,958)	(-1.6)

Table -5 Comparison of HCCC and All New Jersey Community College (NJCC) Students According to Gender, 1990 and 1999

	1990		1999		Change 1990 - 1999	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
HCCC						
Male	1,216	42.9	1,698	38.1	482	39.6
Female	1,616	57.1	2,762	61.9	1,146	70.9
(Total)	(2,832)	(100.0)	(4,460)	(100.0)	(1,628)	(57.5)
All NJCC's						
Male	52,649	42.2	51,019	41.5	-1,630	-3.1
Female	72,191	57.8	71,863	58.5	-328	-.4
(Total)	(124,840)	(100.0)	(122,882)	(100.0)	(-1,958)	(-1.6)

Table 6 - Comparison of HCCC and All New Jersey Community College (NJCC) Students According to Race/Ethnicity, 1990 and 1999

	1990		1999		Change 1990 - 1999	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
HCCC						
White	690	24.4	722	16.2	32	4.6
African-American	382	13.5	821	18.4	439	114.9
Hispanic	1,340	47.3	2,022	45.3	682	50.9
Asian	290	10.2	517	11.6	227	78.3
Am. Ind/Alaskan	4	---	20	---	16	---
Alien	58	2.0	43	1.0	-15	-25.9
Unknown	68	2.4	315	7.1	247	363.2
(Total)	(2,832)	(100.0)	(4,460)	(100.0)	(1,628)	(57.5)
All NJCC's						
White	87,095	69.8	69,813	56.8	-17,282	-19.8
African- American	13,806	11.1	17,151	14.0	3,345	24.2
Hispanic	8,862	7.1	15,158	12.3	6,296	71.0
Asian	4,140	3.3	6,790	5.5	2,650	64.0
Am. Ind/Alaskan	300	---	348	---	48	16.0
Alien	3,848	3.1	3,394	2.8	-454	-11.8
Unknown	6,789	5.4	10,228	8.3	3,439	50.6
(Total)	(124,840)	(100.0)	(122,882)	(100.0)	(-1,958)	(-1.6)



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