

# MONDAY

## Report

Volume 16, Number 1

January 2, 2008

*Special Edition  
Congrats to  
Dr. Phil Dolce,  
Social Science Dept. Head*

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

### **Congress Showers North Jersey with \$28M**

By Washington Correspondent Herb Jackson, *The Record*  
Bergen Community College came out one of the few winners in the federal budget that had Democrats in Congress and the White House deadlocked for most of the year. A \$516 billion bill hastily assembled over the weekend reduced funding for many of the pet projects members of Congress had been seeking.

The combined line items mean the college's Center for Suburban Justice, which works with teachers and students on ways to recognize and combat street gangs; will receive \$272,600 – or \$72,600 more than it was slated to get before cuts. Bergen Community College President G. Jeremiah Ryan praised the work of his faculty, who promoted the anti-gang program to members of Congress. Ryan noted that unlike most public colleges in the state, Bergen does not have a federal lobbyist. "But the work we're doing obviously caught the attention of the delegation," Ryan said.

Rep. Steve Rothman, D-Fair Lawn, was the author of the earmark in the House's version

of the Justice Department's budget providing \$100,000 to the program, while Lautenberg put \$200,000 in. Both serve on appropriations committees, and it is not unusual for programs to get different amounts in House and Senate versions of spending bills. But in most cases, the final bill this year included one amount where an across-the-board reduction was applied to the highest amount. In the Bergen Community College case, reductions were applied, but both lines survived.

A spokeswoman for Rothman said she consulted with the staff appropriations committee and the dual line items for the Bergen program were not an error. "The final amendment to add the two together was intentional," Kimberly Allen said. "They wanted to give it that boost." Other congressional aides, however, said that it appeared to be an error, but it was too late to make any changes. Phil Dolce, the director of the anti-gang program, said he plans to use the funds next year to train students to be peer leaders and conduct seminars with area high schools about gang activity around them. The center previously held seminars for teachers. "You're insane if you think you can deal with gangs without talking to young people," Dolce said.