

# The New Jersey Higher Education Task Force

A Review by President Kathleen Waldron  
to the General Faculty Meeting  
February 3, 2011

Convened by Governor May 2010 and issued its report December 2010.

Made public January 2011, receiving much press coverage.

## Task Force Comprised of:

- Thomas Kean – former Governor New Jersey, former President Drew University
- Robert Campbell – Vice Chair Retired Johnson & Johnson
- Margaret Howard – VP Administration Drew University
- John McGoldrick – EVP Retired Bristol-Myers
- George Pruitt – President Thomas Edison State College

- Provides a vision for the future of higher education in the State
- Outlines the investments needed to correct long term underfunding of higher education
- Calls for institutional autonomy and institutional accountability
- Promotes increased institutional productivity through deregulation

- Suggests ways to transform medical education in New Jersey
- Requests Rutgers move from good to great
- Recommends that institutions better serve students, economic development and global competitiveness

# 1. Increase the affordability of public colleges and universities for New Jersey residents

- Increase capacity of public institutions to educate more students
- Red tape reduction that will help with cost containment
- Investment in core educational support
- Regular state support for facilities

- Continued strong support for student aid – TAG
- Consolidation of merit based aid programs
- Expand STARS scholarships to freshmen at four year institutions
- Increase funding to Educational Opportunity Fund

## 2. A new approach to state coordination of higher education

- Create Secretary of Higher Education
- Create a Governor's Council of Higher Education
- Eliminate Commission on Higher Education
- Increase available research concerning the need for and benefits of higher education
- Recognize that public accountability rests principally with independent boards of trustees
- Re-establish Commission on Science and Technology



### 3. Improve state investment in public institutions

- Reverse decline in state funding
- Eliminate unfunded state mandates
- Regular funding of educational programs
- No caps on tuition and fees
- Creation of capital funding programs and issuing general obligation bonds
- Maintain tuition aid grants (TAG) for students
- Preserve the state's public-private partnership provision in statute

## 4. Enhance institutional mission differentiation and improve quality

- Re-establish Challenge Grant programs
- Develop a bold vision to improve Rutgers University
- Align with the state's economic and regional needs

## 5. Performance accountability

- Use identified metrics for institutional accountability
- Collect data on student learning
- Monitor graduation and retention rates
- Institutions should develop their own accountability indices

## 6. Teacher education and teacher quality assurance

- Retain the current limit on the number of teacher-education credits which can be transferred from county colleges
- Report rankings of educational programs
- Track performance of teacher education programs
- Reward teachers for taking on roles that help close achievement gaps among students

## 7. Workforce/economic development

- Improve college readiness of high school students
- Develop longitudinal data system for tracking student success
- Examine best practices of college readiness programs
- Expand outreach to high schools to prepare students for college