

GREETINGS FROM CHANCELLOR STEVEN J. DINER

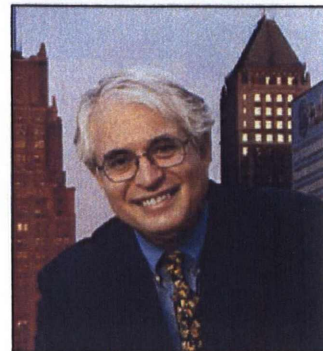
While I constantly sing the praises of Rutgers University-Newark for its proactive civic engagement with its home city and surrounding communities, it's doubly meaningful when others concur with my sentiments. Such is the case with the recent publication of *Saviors of Our Cities: A Survey of Best College and University Civic Partnerships*, by Evan S. Dobbelle, president of Westfield State College.

In the survey, Rutgers ranks 23rd for its efforts in spurring economic expansion, cultural renewal and other improvements in the city of Newark and northern New Jersey. Specifically, the survey applauds Rutgers for supporting small businesses, contributing to the arts, providing greater access for residents, conducting legal clinics, and creating programs at the Center for Information

Management, Integration, and Connectivity. Rutgers also received kudos for *Newark Metro*, an online publication that reports on life in the North Jersey/New York metropolitan region, and for our initiatives to revitalize historic Washington Park.

Criteria for assessment in the survey include length of involvement with the community; faculty and student involvement in community service; continued sustainability of neighborhood initiatives; effect on local student access and affordability to attend college through K-12 partnerships; and increase in student applications and funds raised through renewed alumni giving.

Deeply honored by this recognition, Rutgers-Newark remains evermore committed to forging partnerships that successfully address complex urban issues and serve as catalysts for community change.



RUTGERS-NEWARK MAKING A DIFFERENCE



(l-r) Gates, Stanislaus, Diner, Pinkett, Hicks

On October 24, 2009, Rutgers University, Newark, hosted the official celebration launch of the Garden State Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (GS-LAMP) program. GS-LAMP is a \$5 million, five-year, multiple-school program that aims to increase substantially the number of

underrepresented minority students graduating with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) majors. Rutgers University, Newark, is the leader of the nine-school consortium, which includes Essex County College, Montclair State University, William Paterson University, and Rutgers University, New Brunswick. **Dr. Alexander E. Gates**, chair of Rutgers-Newark's Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, serves as director.

GS-LSAMP provides academic support programs to assist students through challenging STEM classes that traditionally have been barriers to success and retention. The program also offers opportunities for undergraduates to conduct hands-on laboratory research with faculty members, community service projects, and internships with companies and organizations in STEM industries. Funding for GS-LAMP is provided by the National Science Foundation.

Guest speakers at the launch included Mildred E. Crump, Newark Municipal Council president; Mathy Stanislaus, assistant administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency; and Dr. A. James Hicks, program director of LSAMP. Rutgers alumnus Dr. Randal Pinkett, chief executive officer of BCT Partners, gave an inspiring talk.

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY IN NEWARK: Did You Know?

With a four-year, \$2 million grant from the National Institute of Nursing Research, Assistant Professor of Nursing Rachel Jones is studying the effectiveness of an innovative approach to reduce the risk of HIV infection in young urban women. Jones has produced a series of 12 soap operas that depict real-world dilemmas women face in their relationships with male partners. Delivered via video-capable cell phones to a pilot group of women, ages 18 to 25, Jones will explore the extent to which the soap opera viewers identify with the heroine's emotionally-charged evolution to safer decision-making. The success of this private approach to instruction has transformative and international implications. The pilot video is accessible at www.stophiv.newark.rutgers.edu.

RUTGERS-NEWARK ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

L. Grace Spencer -- Newark College of Arts & Sciences '92/School of Law – Newark '96



L. Grace Spencer

Assemblywoman L. Grace Spencer's extracurricular activities while an undergraduate student at the Newark College of Arts & Sciences at Rutgers foreshadowed her professional entrée into the world of public service. As a member of the Black Organization of Students, a senator of the Student Government Association, and a housing resident assistant, Spencer earnestly endeavored to address the needs, concerns and interests of the campus' diverse student population and foster a "home-away-from-home" ambiance for all.

Enticed by this familial setting, Spencer enrolled in the Rutgers School of Law – Newark, receiving her *juris doctor* in 1996. A member of the New Jersey General Assembly for nearly two years, Spencer represents the 29th legislative district, serving as vice chair of the Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee and a member of the Judiciary Committee and the Law and Public Safety Committee. She has sponsored or supported legislation promoting the safety of children and improving the quality of education in New Jersey. Prior to assuming office at the state level, Spencer served the city of Newark as special prosecutor (2000-2003) and assistant corporate counsel (1997-1999).

RUTGERS-NEWARK STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

On Veterans Day, Rutgers University, Newark, presented a staged reading of the play *ReEntry*, a compelling look at the lives of United States marines returning home from Afghanistan and Iraq. Through stirring, engaging and humorous interviews with colonels, privates, and military family members, *ReEntry* addresses the many challenges marines face the moment they reenter the country.



Joseph Harrell

The five-member cast included Rutgers undergraduate student **Joseph Harrell**, a Marine Corps veteran. Harrell is a senior studying business who served in the military for nearly nine years, 1999-2008. Scheduled to receive his bachelor's degree in May 2010, the Atlantic Highlands resident plans to continue perfecting his acting skills while pursuing a master of fine arts in theater or master in business administration degree.

THE COMMUNITY LAW CLINIC AT RUTGERS SCHOOL OF LAW – NEWARK

Clinical Professor Robert C. Holmes, director of the Community Law Clinic at Rutgers School of Law – Newark, talks about the clinic and its impact in Newark and the surrounding areas.

What is the Community Law Clinic?

The Community Law Clinic is a non-litigation clinic that allows law students to provide *pro bono* legal services to non-profit organizations, start-up businesses, charter schools, and community development corporations.

What are the practice areas of the Community Law Clinic?

Practice areas include community development, corporate transactions, and intellectual property. Students provide guidance on initial corporate organizational and governance documentation, non-profit status filings, charter school formations, real estate transactions, and intellectual property and entertainment law. Many of their clients are businesses and organizations that offer services and opportunities to economically-disadvantaged residents and new business owners in Newark and surrounding areas.

Describe some recent accomplishments of the Community Law Clinic.

Last year, the clinic gained 501(c)(3) federal tax-exempt status for nine organizations. This year the clinic is assisting the Newark Mentoring Coalition (NMC) with obtaining its 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. NMC is a group of institutions, including Rutgers-Newark, seeking to ensure that every child, teenager and young adult in Newark who needs and wants a mentor will be suitably matched with one.



Community Law Clinic students at work