



NEW JERSEY SENATE

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ON ETHICAL STANDARDS

September 11, 2008

Richard L. McCormick
President, Rutgers University
College Avenue Campus
83 Somerset Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Dear President McCormick:

Thank you for taking time to speak with me about the Service members Opportunity Colleges (SOC) program. I appreciate your interest and your willingness to investigate the potential involvement of Rutgers University in this important program.

The value of the SOC program was brought to my attention by Veterans for Education, a student group at Rutgers Camden. I remain in awe of these young, motivated men and women who are dedicated to promoting education and awareness for our nation's veterans. Many of its founding members have served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Some have been wounded during their service. Unfortunately they have not seen their relevant military experience translate into course credit at Rutgers. The SOC program is specifically designed for service members and veterans who move frequently and have special circumstances due to their service to our country. SOC enables the transfer of credits to minimize the loss of these credits and to prevent duplication of coursework. In addition, it awards credit for the real world experience gained in the military.

Everything in our power should be done to help these young men and women who have given so much to our country. I will soon sponsor a concurrent resolution in the New Jersey State Senate encouraging colleges and universities in New Jersey to administer SOC programs. Twenty-seven New Jersey institutions of higher learning are already members of the SOC consortium, and I urge you to consider implementing SOC at Rutgers. For more information on what steps Rutgers needs to take to become a SOC University, please consult the following website: <http://www.soc.aascu.org/>. The SOC program has a record of success at many Colleges and Universities across our state and across the country, and it will certainly help make Rutgers a more welcoming place for our veterans.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter, and I look forward to working with you to bring a bright future to our veterans.

Sincerely,

John Adler
State Senator, 6th District