

## *The Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) at Essex County College*

### The Mission of EOF

The Educational Opportunity Fund Program (EOF) at Essex County College was established in 1970. Our mission is to recruit and retain college students who come from low income backgrounds. We welcome people of all ages, ethnic, racial and gender groups. EOF provides a full range of supports to address: academic, personal, social, financial and career concerns. Annual enrollment into the program has risen to over 1,200 students, making the Essex program the largest EOF Program of the County Colleges in the State of New Jersey. EOF is funded by the Office of the New Jersey Secretary of Higher Education and Essex County College. The budget for the A/Y 2016 was approximately 1.7 ml.



### Here are some interesting facts: )

- ❖ The 3 year graduation rate for Fall 2013 cohort reached **18%** [College wide grad rate was 12.8%]
- ❖ 3<sup>rd</sup> semester retention rate (fall '15 to fall 16) reached **66.1%** [College wide retention rate was 58.6%]
- ❖ 15 large group workshops called **EOF Forums** focusing on college life and academic success, were produced and presented in 2015- 16. Every month approximately 175 students attend the EOF Forums
- ❖ At the end of the academic year 2014, **94%** of all EOF Students were making satisfactory (2.0 GPA or higher) progress.
- ❖ Each summer EOF PreFreshman Summer Program prepares 60+ new students for college. The students receive a full day of classes in math, English, college success and one general education requirement course.
- ❖ More than 75 Students from the program received awards for their academic excellence from the EOF State office (2016); we have more students receiving academic excellence awards than any other two year college in the state.
- ❖ In the A/Y 2016, over 1 million dollars was allocated to some 1,000 low-income (525.00 for each fall and spring semesters), students to assist them in meeting their college expenses.

To learn more about EOF or ECC, visits us at the Yamba Building, Market St, Newark, go to the website: [essex.edu](http://essex.edu) or call: 973 877-3231 (J. Romano, Director) or x 3405 (C. Beretta, Associate Director) **JR 10/16**

[Photo: Paul R. Llierson, State of New Jersey, EOF Distinguished Alumnus 2016 with Caroline Beretta, Associate Director]

***EOF – Get with the Program!!!***