



NJDOE News

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State Board Welcomes New Member from Union County

Today, Josephine E. Figueras, a Vice-President at Passaic County Community College, was welcomed as the newest member of the State Board of Education. Ms. Figueras, a resident of Elizabeth succeeds Orlando Edreira as the Union County representative to the State Board.

"On behalf of the State Board, I am honored to welcome our newest member," said State Board President Arnold G. Hyndman. "I am certain that her expertise and involvement in higher education and local community organizations will benefit the State Board, the Department of Education and New Jersey's students."

Ms. Figueras has served in the areas of enrollment and admissions at the State University of New York's (SUNY) Rockland Community College in Suffern, NY, Bergen Community College in Paramus, and Rutgers University in New Brunswick and Newark. She also serves on the executive board of the Eastern Union County YWCA and is currently President of the Middle States Association of Collegiate Registrars and Officers of Admissions (MSACROA).

"I join President Hyndman in welcoming Josephine Figueras to the State Board and in wishing her success in this undertaking," added Commissioner of Education William L. Librera. "Her participation in various programs that seek to increase minority participation and educational achievement will bring a needed perspective that can only support the efforts of both the State Board and the Department of Education to provide a thorough and efficient education to all students." Ms. Figueras has been an advocate of student-related concerns such as minority retention on college campuses and Latino issues in college admissions.

In addition to her numerous professional achievements and community outreach, Josephine Figueras has received the Unsung Champion Award from CASA Community Organization in Paterson and the Merit Award from Rutgers University.

In another related matter, current State Board member Ronald K. Butcher from Gloucester county was sworn in to his new term. Mr. Butcher, an administrator at Rowan University and former Vice-President of the State Board, is beginning his 14th year as a member.

Appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the New Jersey State Senate, State Board of Education members serve for six year terms without compensation. The board is composed of 13 members. By law, at least three members of the board must be women and no two members may be appointed from the same county.

For more information, please contact the Office of the State Board at (609) 984-6024.