Welcome to the start of a new academic year!

“Commit to Complete!” is the Division of Student Affairs theme for this new year. Whether you are just starting, transferred in, or are continuing your academic career at Bergen Community College, the staff of the Division of Student Affairs wants you to know that you have a support system ready to guide you every step of the way to graduation.

The New Jersey Council of Community College’s Center for Student Success is partnering with student affairs and academic affairs officers throughout the state to develop, not a one-day, but a full-week of activities this fall with PTK’s central theme of encouraging students to pledge their commitment to complete a college education. To learn more about Bergen’s PTK chapter visit www.bergen.edu/phithetakappa.

Follow the road to successful attainment of a college degree by connecting to all of the resources Bergen has for you! In student affairs we want to create an atmosphere conducive to your successful completion of your degree. To help us improve your student experience, please visit one of Dr. Gonzalez-De Jesus’s “Pizza with the Vice President” and share your ideas.

Pizza with the VP of Student Affairs
- Paramus - Tues., Sept. 24, 2013 - 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
- Hackensack - Tues., Oct. 1, 2013 - 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Lyndhurst - Tues., Oct. 8, 2013 - 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

1. Did you know you can help researchers study the impact of your support system on your college education? To learn more about the Study Supporter Study, please visit: www.bccstudysupporter.org.
2. Did you know an essay contest offers $15,000 in scholarships? To enter, students must write a 600-800 word essay on this year’s topic, “the Meaning of Education to Me.” Entries will be judged on content, structure and mechanics and should be typed, double-spaced and contain a title page. Students are asked to hand-deliver their submissions to the foundation’s office, L-340, by Tuesday, October 1, 4:30 p.m.
3. Student on-campus employment is available today. For more information on on-campus job opportunities please contact Diane Mandrafina at dmandrafina@bergen.edu.
The following is student-written.
Hello, my name is Zeina Nofal. I am a Palestinian that was born and raised in New Jersey. I am a student in Bergen Community College majoring in International Justice Studies. I have had many struggles when it came to school. In many ways I have doubted myself, especially when it came to challenging myself and learning in school. Entering Bergen Community College was one of the best decisions I have made. I have come such a long way, as I opened up a lot more to myself and others. I learned and accomplished many goals that I have set for myself. What I liked about Bergen was it has so much diversity. I enjoyed meeting many people from different cultures. These are one of the reasons why I decided to work in the International Student Center. Working there is definitely something I will never forget because the experience was something that helped me grow and connect with Bergen. Seeing how many students from abroad want to come and study here in the U.S. was fascinating. There are many people from different cultures wanting to come and change their futures by getting a good education. What I enjoy doing is helping out students. I would want the best for everyone and give them the help they need as much as I needed when I first started in Bergen. Overall I have succeeded and gained a lot of experience within my years of Bergen. I look forward to taking what I learned from Bergen and gaining more success in the future.