

Dr. Robert Messina Biography

Over the course of the last 15 years Dr. Robert C. Messina, Jr. has emerged as one of Burlington County's prominent movers and shakers, ever working to ensure that a quality college education is a reachable goal for men and women of all ages.

As President of Burlington County College, Dr. Messina has dramatically raised the profile of BCC and, in the process, gained stature not just as a college administrator, but as an experienced educator, researcher, and contributor to local, state and national affairs.

But it is his other role - that of a volunteer - which qualifies him as the undisputed fourth recipient of the Volunteer Center's distinguished Community Service Award.

Make no mistake about it in his capacity as an educator, Dr. Messina has served more or less as a "volunteer" on many local, regional, state and national boards and committees, which delve into current and future issues facing higher education.

But he has also made his mark as a member of the boards of the Burlington County Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber of Southern New Jersey, promoting business activities and programs which contribute to the economic health of Burlington County.

Dr. Messina also serves on the board of Directors for the Deborah Heart and Lung Center, and he is a former board member for Memorial Health Alliance. Through these organizations, and in cooperation with the Burlington County Health Department, he has contributed to studies and other programs aimed at identifying health issues and needs in the community-at-large.

For his efforts, Dr. Messina is the recipient of several prestigious awards, including the

Distinguished Citizen of the Year Honors by the Burlington County Council of the Boy Scouts of America; the Lancer Award from Holy Cross High School for distinguished service to education; and, the Voice of Business Award from the Burlington County Chamber of Commerce.

He is also a recipient of the Educator of the Year award from the New Jersey Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers; the Pacesetter Award from District 1 of the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations, which is an affiliate council of the American Association of Community Colleges; and, was named Regional Chief Executive of the Year by the Association of Community College Trustees.

At the national level, Dr. Messina recently completed a two year term, as President of COMEBASE, an organization of community college presidents and other administrators whose institutions offer extensive community-based programming.

He previously served on the board of the American Association of Community Colleges, has chaired the Facilities Committee of NJ Council of County Colleges, and is actively involved with the New Jersey Council of College Presidents and the New Jersey Technology Council.

Dr. Messina has clearly come a long way since he started out as an instructor in the physical sciences and engineering at Nassau Community College in New York. With more than 25 years of teaching experience behind him it was inevitable that he would gravitate to bigger and leadership roles.

Today, BCC stands as a tribute to his work and determination. The Pemberton Campus has expanded to include a new modern classroom building and a first-rate library facility. Under his leadership, a new Mount Laurel Campus also took root, and today includes a half-dozen permanent facilities, including the Technology and Engineering

Center, and the recently opened Enterprise Center, which addresses business conferencing and training needs.

Meantime, final touches are being added to a major classroom facility in the Willingboro Town Center, giving the college an important presence in the county's Route 130/Delaware River Corridor, where new business and job opportunities abound.

Therein lies the secret to success, both Dr. Messina's and the community he serves: Educational achievement spurs economic success and employment. And those of us in Burlington County are all the better for his dedication to this simple equation.