

For Immediate Release

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**Political science chair honored with McGraw-Hill Award
for Scholarship and Teaching on Civic Engagement**

EWING, NJ ... **William Ball**, associate professor and department chair of political science at The College of New Jersey, was selected out of a national pool of nominees to receive the honor of the McGraw-Hill Award for Scholarship and Teaching on Civic Engagement in Political Science. The award is presented by the education section of the American Political Science Association (APSA). Ball received the award on Saturday, August 30 in Boston at the annual meeting of the APSA.

The award recognizes political scientists who advance civic engagement through the study of engagement and participation and seeks to honor a wide range of unique and new approaches to the scholarship of teaching engagement. In particular, the award is bestowed to scholars who raise political awareness, involvement, and participation of undergraduate students.

Ball describes his entry into civic engagement: “I initially got involved in civic education as a means of permitting students to observe the political life of the community right outside the campus boundaries. Then I came to see that students could not only observe this life but could develop as leaders by participating it while also giving something back to the community. Mostly recently, I have come to understand that the "real world" is hungry for the very type of environment of learning and tolerance that is foundational for campus life. In particular, while there are fabulous civic education programs for students in the K-12 ages and a few for college students, there is basically nothing out there for citizens 18 and older who are not in school.

“Just at the moment that people become voters we stop offering them a way to continue their civic education and growth. Instead we leave them to fend for themselves in a world of sound bites and attack ads. So the priority for me at this point is to bring all this together, college students, the rest of the campus community, and the public, in a true learning community that is deliberative, tolerant, inquiry-based, and finds the common ground for action on problems of



policy and governance. It is also a priority for me to find ways to make the boundaries between campus and outside community evaporate, at least where civic education is concerned.”

In his effort to promote civic engagement, Ball has devoted the last eight years to creating and growing the Leadership in Public Affairs (LPA) program at The College of New Jersey. The LPA program focuses on public deliberative forums that bring students together with citizens and leaders from the surrounding community to engage on pressing policy issues. Eight large-scale forums – known as Public Issues Summits – have been held to date, involving a total of nearly 1000 participants to discuss issues such as sprawl, immigration, property taxes, and climate change.

"I am extremely pleased to receive the award, mostly because awarding it for the work I have done recognizes the value of providing students the opportunities to develop as community leaders, of bringing them together with the public that quite literally surrounds the campus in an environment of mutual learning.”

About The College of New Jersey

TCNJ currently is ranked as one of the 75 "Most Competitive" schools in the nation by Barron's Profiles of American Colleges, is rated the No. 1 public institution in the northern region of the country by U.S. News & World Report, and is one of Kiplinger's Personal Finance's top educational values in the country. In 2006, the College joined an elite group of institutions when it was awarded a Phi Beta Kappa chapter. Fewer than 10 percent of the nation's colleges and universities share this honor.

