



CONGRESSMAN FRANK PALLONE



Reports to Central New Jersey

Student Aid Cuts Affect Area Families

Pallone Joins Rutgers Students Opposing Education Cuts

Tuition costs at both private and public colleges have skyrocketed since 2001. College costs are so high that over the next decade more than four million high school graduates will be unable to attend a four-year university. Those fortunate enough to graduate are faced with, on average, more than \$17,000 in student loan debt.

Last December, the Republican majority passed a bill to cut \$12 billion from the federal student aid programs—the largest cuts in history. As a result, students with loans will be forced to pay more when they repay their college loans because of either new fees leveled by the financial institutions or higher interest rates.

I support Democratic legislation that would reverse these misguided policies. We must cut college costs by lowering interest rates on college loans and making a portion of college tuition tax deductible.

In April, I attended the opening ceremony of



Congressman Pallone cuts the ribbon at the opening of Rutgers' "Tent State University" event opposing federal cuts to student aid programs.

Rutgers University's "Tent State University" event to advocate on behalf of increased college education funding. The federal government should be doing more,

not less, to ensure all high school graduates have an opportunity to pursue a higher education.

UMDNJ-Rutgers Merger a Positive Solution

New Jersey's 6th District is home to some of the finest research and health care institutions in the country. In fact, the city of New Brunswick has even been nicknamed the "Health Care City." Ensuring that we have a coherent structure in place to secure federal research dollars is crucial to this continued success.

I strongly believe that merging the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and the School of Public Health, both currently part of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ), with Rutgers University will create a premier medical institution with greater opportunities to receive research grants from the National

Institutes of Health (NIH).

For over a century the federal government has

had a strong commitment to biomedical, behavioral and population based research conducted at NIH centers around the nation. However, I am now concerned that the President and House Republicans are abandoning their commitment to NIH and health research.

By combining the best of UMDNJ and Rutgers in the New Brunswick area, I am confident

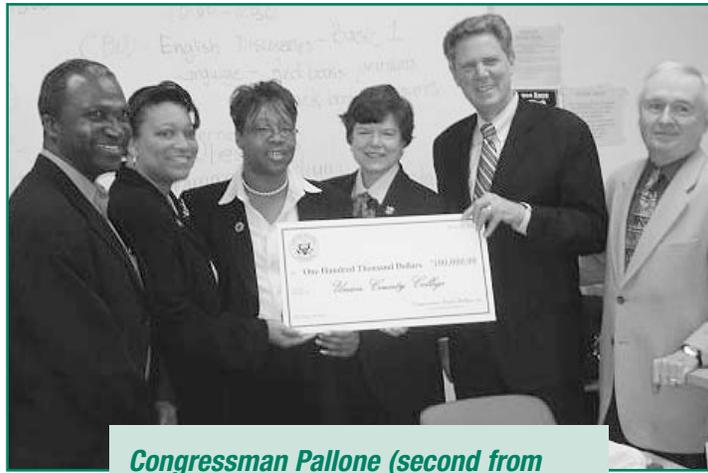
New Jersey will remain a national leader in medical care, education and research. I will continue to work to build a stronger state economy and improve the health care of all New Jerseyans.



Pallone Secures \$100,000 for UCC College for Teens

In March I presented Union County College with \$100,000 in federal funds for the school's "College for Teens" program. The Plainfield-based program provides at-risk high school students with the crucial academic, technological and leadership skills they need to succeed in college or the workplace.

Over the years, Plainfield has suffered from youth violence and rising high school dropout rates. Too many students do not aspire to higher education because they have never seen a college or their par-



Congressman Pallone (second from right), alongside UCC President Thomas Brown (right), presents a check to UCC College for Teens for \$100,000.

ents never had the opportunity for post-secondary education. By bringing the students onto a college campus for instruction, they see that college is possible for them.

Dr. Thomas H. Brown, UCC President, noted that the funding will allow the College to expand the program to involve parents of the participating students. As these parents and students reinforce each others' learning, they also

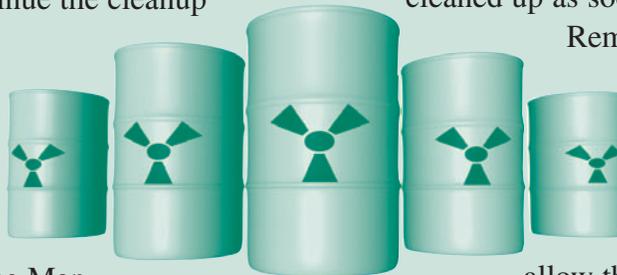
gain the technological skills required to succeed in today's workforce.

Sampling Plant Funds Will Aid in Cleanup

I worked to secure House passage of \$15 million in federal funding to continue the cleanup of chemical and radioactive contamination at the former Middlesex Sampling Plant in Middlesex, NJ.

The former Sampling Plant was used to process radioactive ores as part of the Manhattan Project to develop the first atomic bomb. While the plant is no longer operational, large amounts of contamination are still present. The site

poses potential health threats and needs to be cleaned up as soon as possible.



Remaining work includes moving any extra material to proper landfills and cleaning up the soil and groundwater as necessary. The federal funds will

allow the Army Corps to clean up the site in the upcoming fiscal year to ensure it is safe for human use and does not pose a threat to the community.

Rep. Pallone's District Offices – Reaching Out to You

If you have a problem of a federal nature or want to obtain information on legislative issues, contact these offices, open weekdays 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Middlesex/Somerset/Union

67/69 Church St., Kilmer Square
New Brunswick 08901
732-249-8892

Monmouth

504 Broadway
Long Branch 07740
732-571-1140

Bayshore/West Monmouth

I.E.I. Airport Plaza
1390 Rt. 36, #104, Hazlet 07730
732-264-9104

Web site: www.house.gov/pallone

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
CONGRESSMAN
**FRANK
PALLONE**

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3006

Official Business



Frank Pallone, Jr.
M.C.
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