CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

...for your community
Engaging lives for a bright future

Through a series of major initiatives and incremental steps, Rutgers–Camden is making an impact with effective and practical programs that transform lives and communities.

We see these opportunities with clear-eyed optimism. As the southernmost campus of Rutgers, New Jersey’s land grant university, Rutgers–Camden has a long history of applying the talents of our faculty, students, staff, and alumni to the challenges that face families, towns, cities, and communities in our region and beyond.

Because each community setting is unique, our work follows no formula. Instead, we collaborate with our partners with the agility and flexibility evident in the wide array of courses and programs developed to address pressing needs.

By working closely with community members and groups, religious organizations, government agencies, businesses, foundations, and nonprofit organizations, we prove the value of Rutgers–Camden as a regional anchor institution while helping our neighbors achieve their goals. Together, we are developing a national model for civic engagement that demonstrates what can be accomplished when a world-class research university embraces its role as an engaged community member.

Our students and faculty benefit greatly from the connections between their academic work and the lives of their fellow citizens. While learning through action, our students develop themselves as future professionals and as human beings. Rutgers students emerge from community-based learning, clinical experiences, and volunteer activity with a clear understanding of the importance of their work. At Rutgers–Camden, our research and teaching faculty are not satisfied with being recognized as among the best in the world. They also strive to put their innovations to work to become the best for the world.

These pages offer only the briefest snapshot of the deep portfolio of Rutgers–Camden’s civic engagement initiatives. We encourage you to bring us new opportunities for our students and faculty to learn while creating positive change. I invite you to learn more by contacting Andrew Seligsohn, Rutgers–Camden’s director of civic engagement, at ajs@camden.rutgers.edu.

Sincerely,

Wendell E. Pritchett, J.D., Ph.D.
Chancellor

“Together, we are developing a national model for civic engagement that demonstrates what can be accomplished when a world-class research university embraces its role as an engaged community member.”
Rutgers Jumpstart

Improving lives and strengthening communities starts at the earliest ages. Just ask the Rutgers–Camden students who participate in a civic engagement program that provides early childhood mentoring to preschoolers in Camden. Rutgers is part of a national Jumpstart network of 70 colleges and universities who train college students to work with preschool children to improve their chances for success in kindergarten and throughout school.

These Rutgers “Jumpstarters” make a major commitment to the program, volunteering 300 hours over the course of the academic year. After completing 35 hours of rigorous training, each Rutgers student works one-on-one with an assigned child for 12 to 15 hours a week at the LEAP Academy University Charter School in Camden.

“Rutgers–Camden’s Jumpstart is the first in New Jersey, in a city with so many needs,” says Dr. Gloria Bonilla-Santiago, a Rutgers Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor of Urban Studies and the founding director of the Center for Strategic Urban Community Leadership at Rutgers. The LEAP Academy University Charter School is one of the center’s signature projects.

Rutgers student Bashawn Moore was a member of the first group of Jumpstarters in 2008. “I’m honored to be a part of the pioneering Jumpstart group in New Jersey,” the English major says. “I know that I am having a direct impact on the students’ lives at such a young age. The personal bonds that the children make with us last long after session ends every day. We matter to them because they matter to us.”

Research shows that a solid relationship between a child and a caring adult can have a major impact on literacy and other skills in very young children. For that reason, it is critically important for Jumpstart Corps members to work closely with parents of their students.

“What I like most about Jumpstart is the fact that we get to directly make a positive impact and influence the kids in Camden and their families,” says Duke Olurin, a Rutgers–Camden senior and economics major.

Focusing on language, literacy, and social skills, classroom activities ensure that children enter kindergarten prepared to succeed in school. Jumpstarters read high-quality children’s literature in small groups with their students to promote vocabulary and comprehension and engage preschoolers in group activities that deepen their understanding of books. “The program is incredibly literature rich. It’s a stable environ-

ment with multiple adults in the room that get on the child’s level and work with them all for their benefit,” Bashawn says.

Working as a team, 45 Rutgers–Camden students work with 90 preschool children at LEAP Academy annually. “There’s an incredible interest at Rutgers in both early childhood education and in community service,” Gloria notes. She sees Jumpstart as “part of the whole initiative of Rutgers engaging the community and doing public service.”

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Rutgers–Camden Center for the Arts

Since 1976, the Rutgers–Camden Center for the Arts (RCCA) has expanded horizons and opportunities through innovative arts-based programs that serve the children, teens, and teachers of the Camden City Public School District on site at Rutgers, through outreach to the schools, and via distance learning. RCCA’s Education, Enrichment, and Community Arts Programs are designed to:

- build skills and abilities within various arts disciplines;
- foster self-awareness of individual artistic assets;
- augment knowledge of the arts in historical and cultural context;
- increase understanding of the arts as integral to the quality of life; and
- promote regular participation in a wide range of arts.

Designated a Major Arts Organization of New Jersey by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, RCCA has three main venues. The Walter K. Gordon Theater, the Stedman Gallery, and the Black Box Studio serve as regional focal points for visual and performing arts ranging from international touring artists and companies to local theater and student-derived works.

Professional arts educators design and provide research- and curricular-based arts education programs for the region’s pre-K through 12 schools, as well as after-school and summer programs in the city of Camden. Arts education programs include in-classroom artist workshops and on-site performances and educational activities.

Community artworks and gardens have been created under the guidance of RCCA professional teaching artists. RCCA partners with Camden community organizations on projects that incorporate the arts into neighborhoods, which enhance urban environments and strengthen the community. rcca.camden.rutgers.edu

LEAP Academy Partnership

Founded in 1997 through collaboration with the Rutgers–Camden Center for Strategic Urban Community Leadership, the LEAP (Leadership, Education, and Partnership) Academy University Charter School creates positive outcomes and opportunities for more than 800 Camden children in grades pre-K through 12 every year. In addition to raising college awareness, preparedness, and attendance, this charter school enhances academic success with holistic support for students and families. The Rutgers/LEAP Centers of Excellence supplements LEAP Academy curriculum through its two-year preschool program, on-site health services, parent training, and intensive precollege programming. The result? Since 2005, every student in all five graduating classes has been accepted into college. leapacademycrtercharter.org

SPARC Program

Middle and high school students across the city of Camden and Salem County have an opportunity to receive intensive exposure to science and health care disciplines through the Science Preparation Alliance of Rutgers and Camden (SPARC) program. Rutgers–Camden partners with the acclaimed Coriell Institute for Medical Research, a Camden corporate neighbor, on this initiative to encourage precollege students to pursue their interest in science, particularly biological, brain, behavioral, and cognitive sciences.

SPARC activities help students understand the importance of science in their everyday lives by relating biological and psychological investigations of human health and behavior to their own biology and psychology, and see the relevance for themselves. sparc.camden.rutgers.edu

...Rutgers works with families and schools
Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project

The Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project is dedicated to teaching high school students about their constitutional rights and how to use their knowledge of the law to become effective citizens. Top upper-level students from the Rutgers School of Law—Camden—the second law school in the country to offer this program—are selected to study the Bill of Rights in a year-long law school seminar. In the spring semester, they develop and teach a course in constitutional law to high school students in Camden. Working in teams, the law student “fellows” help make the U.S. Constitution come alive for young people by teaching four classes each week in a range of partner schools. The law students also coach Camden students in local and national moot court competitions and serve as role models and mentors.

Rutgers Future Scholars

Beginning in the summer before their eighth grade year, students in the Rutgers Future Scholars program become part of a unique precollege community that cultivates their academic growth, social development, and personal enrichment. Academically promising students from Camden public schools and from the LEAP Academy University Charter School engage in events, workshops, tutoring, and mentoring, with each year building upon the next. Scholars who successfully complete the five-program throughout high school and are admitted to Rutgers will receive a scholarship, funded through a range of grants and donations, which covers the cost of their college tuition for four years. children.camden.rutgers.edu/future_scholars

to prepare children for new achievements.
Opportunity Reconnect

Individuals released from correctional facilities face overwhelming challenges as they begin to transition back into society, from the complex (counseling for drugs) to the seemingly simple (applying for jobs online). Receiving guidance for these and other issues is integral to successful reentry, but the formerly incarcerated first must locate it among the complex network of governmental and social service systems.

Men and women undertaking reentry can find the support they need at Opportunity Reconnect–Camden, a new one-stop center that houses a host of agencies under one roof. “What we’re doing here is based on information from the ‘Governor’s Strategy for Safe Streets and Neighborhoods,’” says Joseph Cassisi, director of Opportunity Reconnect.

The 2007 New Jersey report cited by Joseph found that the majority of former inmates will return to prison within three years unless they can find employment, reunite with their families, and obtain substance abuse or mental-health treatment. In Camden, studies show that about 65 percent of adult offenders will be rearrested within five years of their release.

By centralizing government agencies and community-based programs in one venue, returnees can find the services they need in a convenient, and cost-effective, way.

The center represents an outgrowth of work the Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs at Rutgers–Camden had conducted with the Camden Safer Cities Initiative, a public safety partnership comprised of 40 community agencies. Funded by a grant from the Nicholson Foundation, Rutgers–Camden joined forces with the New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, the Camden County Board of Social Services, and the Camden County One-Stop Employment Center, among other organizations whose staff meet one-on-one with clients at the Volunteers of America building on Federal Street.

“We see a wide spectrum of backgrounds among those who come here. Some have a high school or GED degree and are interested in pursuing college education opportunities. Others need adult basic skills such as GED classes and literacy training,” Joseph explains.

Bryan Morton, a project coordinator at Opportunity Reconnect, stresses the importance of education to everyone who walks through the center’s doors. “I inform clients, ‘You have to take education seriously. You have to obtain your GED or specialized training,’” Bryan notes.

Working side-by-side Joseph at Opportunity Reconnect, Bryan helps others navigate the course he successfully did. “I am someone who has lived through it, from standing on a street corner, to being in prison, to being who I am now. I understand,” he says. Bryan received his bachelor’s degree in urban studies from Rutgers–Camden in 2010 and is now pursing his master’s degree in public administration.

On computers that Rutgers–Camden has donated, Bryan helps clients create resumes and apply for employment online, among other duties. He hopes that initial clients develop into repeat visitors, and Opportunity Reconnect becomes a place where the formerly incarcerated can return throughout their reentry journey. “Our top priorities are to provide information, encouragement, and access to needed services, and to remind our visitors that it is never okay to quit.”
Federal Prisoner Reentry Pro Bono Project

Every year, hundreds of federal inmates released from prison face significant hurdles before successfully reintegrating into their communities. The Rutgers School of Law–Camden established the Federal Prisoner Reentry Pro Bono Project to help ex-offenders make a smooth transition. Trained Rutgers law students, under supervision of a managing attorney, work with the client’s federal probation officer to help resolve a client’s outstanding civil legal issues, such as acquiring a driver’s license, paying child support, finding appropriate housing, or securing drug and alcohol treatment. Clients meet with law students at the federal courthouse on Cooper Street in Camden throughout the semester, or until the client’s case is resolved. Third-year law students may represent the client in court if necessary.

camlaw.rutgers.edu

Camden Community Development

In preparation for Peace Corps assignments, students in the international public service and development track of the Rutgers master of public administration (M.P.A.) program spend their first year working with nonprofit housing, health, human services, education, or planning organizations throughout Camden. Rutgers students have helped citizens improve their neighborhoods by creating vegetable gardens and parks with Volunteers of America; have worked toward developing a supermarket in the North Camden neighborhood with RESPOND, Inc.; and have studied green jobs potential in Camden with the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. The Department of Public Policy and Administration at Rutgers–Camden offers five concentrations within the M.P.A. in addition to its Ph.D. program.
dppa.camden.rutgers.edu

The Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs (WRI) at Rutgers–Camden engages Rutgers faculty and students with public administrators, elected officials, nonprofit organizations, and community leaders to address the challenges that affect the citizens of southern New Jersey. WRI delivers policy-relevant research on public issues that cut across local, regional, national, and global boundaries. In addition to high-quality research, the institute provides technical assistance to governments and nonprofit organizations, facilitates neutral convening of stakeholders and citizens, and establishes service learning opportunities for Rutgers students. Below are a few of WRI’s current initiatives.

wrand.rutgers.edu

► The Camden Safer Cities Initiative is a pilot public safety initiative in Camden that is supported by a grant from the state attorney general. Comprised of more than 40 members from the community, including law enforcement, criminal justice, and social service agencies, the initiative’s steering committee meets monthly at Rutgers to discuss the offender-based strategy that WRI has helped to design.

► The Municipal Prevention Planning Initiative addresses risk and protective factors affecting juveniles within communities. WRI has been chosen by the state attorney general to staff prevention boards in Camden, Trenton, and Vineland. Utilizing city-wide data, WRI assesses the current prevention system and available resources, and makes recommendations for improvement.

► For the Sexual Assault Prevention Coalition of Camden, Gloucester, and Cumberland counties, WRI facilitates discussions with each coalition regarding current sexual assault statistics, risk and protective factors affecting sexual violence, and resources available to respond to sexual violence. This dialogue allows opportunities to develop policy, practice, and programmatic recommendations.
Civil Practice Clinic

When Lula Williams purchased her home in Pennsauken, she thought it had enough bedrooms for her family of five adopted and foster children ages four through 19. But when the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) inspected it, Lula discovered that the home lacked the proper number of legal bedrooms she was required to have in order to provide adequate housing according to the agency.

“I needed a five-bedroom house, and I thought I was buying a five-bedroom house,” explains Lula, a Camden community activist and great-grandmother. “When it was inspected by DYFS, I was told it was not a five-bedroom. It was only a three-bedroom.”

To make her house into a legal five-bedroom dwelling, Lula secured a state-subsidized loan and hired a contractor to properly install windows into the two basement bedrooms. With her house up to code and approval from DYFS, she set out to recoup the money she had spent to turn her home into a legal residence for her family.

On the advice of a friend, Lula contacted South Jersey Legal Services (SJLS). A division of the nonprofit Legal Services of New Jersey, SJLS provides free legal assistance in civil matters to low-income South Jerseyans and seniors from Burlington to Cape May counties, and brings many of these cases to the Rutgers School of Law—Camden. Lula’s case was referred to the school’s Civil Practice Clinic, which is supported by a grant from the New Jersey State Bar Foundation.

Then third-year students Kevin Golden and Chuck Holmgren were assigned to Lula’s case and continued the work started by law students in the previous semester. “We had to get up to speed with what occurred prior to our involvement with Ms. Williams’s case while continuing to work with the case,” says Kevin, now an attorney with the civil defense firm of Shimberg & Friel in Cherry Hill. “It was intimidating initially because for the first time we were not involved in a hypothetical legal problem. This was a real person with real issues who needed help.”

Both a course and an office staffed by law students, the Civil Practice Clinic is one of four clinics offered by the Rutgers School of Law—Camden. Upper-division law students, under direction of faculty-attorneys, handle hundreds of cases for real clients in need of representation. Every year, Rutgers clinics help individuals and families with more than 30,000 hours of free legal services.

Kevin and Chuck devoted 18 to 20 hours per week to Lula’s case and represented their client throughout mediation, despite demanding schedules that included full-time jobs and family obligations. “The work on this case could not wait for exams or sick kids,” explains Chuck, an associate at Wilbraham, Lawler, and Buba in Haddonfield. “We tirelessly reviewed Ms. Williams’s case and our position, researched the case law, and talked to experts who are knowledgeable about real estate.”

In the following semester, a new team of law students continued Lula’s case and helped her reach a settlement. Chuck says that he wanted to end the case with the knowledge that Lula was represented just as well as practicing attorneys. “I would recommend to anyone that they work with the Rutgers law students. I knew they were going to do a good job. I had no doubt about it,” Lula says. “They were so very nice to me. And I want to say thank you.”
The Rutgers School of Law–Camden assists members of the community with free legal advice and representation through its clinical and pro bono programs. Children and adults can find legal help through programs in a variety of areas, including the following.

camlaw.rutgers.edu

Immigration and Legal Referral Pro Bono Project

Camden immigrants and ESL families who need help navigating the American legal system benefit from free legal information, advice, and referrals provided through the law school’s Immigration and Legal Referral Pro Bono Project. Trained students from the Rutgers School of Law–Camden make presentations to community groups about access to health care and food stamps, legal rights in relation to the police and immigration authorities, and other matters. Law students and their attorney supervisors also meet individually with clients to help identify their legal problems; provide advice and information; and make appropriate referrals to South Jersey Legal Services, Rutgers law school’s clinical programs, and the Camden Center for Law and Social Justice.

Domestic Violence Programs

Rutgers’ domestic violence programs provide legal advice and representation to more than 600 people each year seeking restraining orders in Camden, Burlington, and Gloucester counties. The Rutgers School of Law–Camden offers two programs in this challenging area: the Domestic Violence Clinic and the Domestic Violence Pro Bono Project. In the clinic, individuals receive legal services from law students under the supervision of faculty who are experts in domestic violence. Individuals who are seeking restraining orders without legal representation can find guidance from law students through the Domestic Violence Pro Bono Project.

Child Advocacy and Justice

In the Child and Family Advocacy Clinic, Rutgers law students represent children in abuse and neglect cases while ensuring that the child welfare system sufficiently addresses the needs of their clients. This clinic protects the legal rights of children in a variety of areas, including public benefits, education, immigration, medical, and mental health issues. The law school also hosts the Children’s Justice Clinic, a holistic program that uses multiple approaches to resolve problems for Camden youth facing charges. Law students work with their clients to address the causes of their legal problems, which may assist young clients in building more hopeful futures.

Street Law Pro Bono Project

Camden’s youngest residents face tremendous legal challenges, and many have had very difficult experiences in the legal system. Law student volunteers in the Rutgers–Camden law school’s Street Law Pro Bono Project seek to empower young people in Camden and southern New Jersey by engaging them in discussions about the law in their everyday lives. Law students meet with young people in high schools, juvenile detention centers, shelters, and other settings to talk about lease agreements, tenants’ rights, criminal law, workplace discrimination, and citizen advocacy, among other topics. The Rutgers–Camden program began in 2007 and is supported in part by a grant from the New Jersey State Bar Foundation.

Rutgers–Camden helps citizens address real issues through fair access to the legal system.
During the economic downturn that began in 2007, thousands of small business owners in the Delaware Valley struggled to keep their businesses open. Many owners who did not close their doors saw profit margins shrink as the national economy continued to spiral downward. David McDaniel, co-owner of Earle’s Tire Service in Bordentown, was no exception. “We were a good, solid company, but the economy killed us,” he reflects.

Earle’s Tire Service is a family-owned tire dealer open 24 hours a day, located near a truck stop at the I-295 and New Jersey Turnpike interchange. With low demand for goods and products and fewer trucks on the road, a downturn in the economy meant detoured business for David, his mother Janice Van Blarcom, and his brother Lloyd Van Blarcom Jr.

David sought to rescue the business his father Lloyd Sr. started in 1976 and save the livelihoods of his eight employees. At first he looked into obtaining a home equity or personal loan from local banks, but was repeatedly denied. “No bank would talk to us, because the company was losing money,” David explains. So he turned to the internet, searching for “small business owner help New Jersey,” and discovered the New Jersey Small Business Development Centers.

As part of a statewide network, the New Jersey Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Rutgers–Camden provides comprehensive small business counseling and educational opportunities to new, current, and potential small business owners in Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Salem counties. Last year, the SBDC at Rutgers–Camden assisted 585 individual business owners. For small business owners like David who seek guidance with applying for loans, the SBDC helps organize the required information in the accepted format. Lenders expect to see cash flow projection, a profit and loss statement, and projected year-end balance sheets. “We assist by helping the client convert the financial information they already have into a financial statement that lenders are able to understand and analyze,” says Gary Rago, director of the SBDC at Rutgers–Camden.

Beginning in early 2009, he worked with David to prepare a financial statement for loan proposals. Initially, Gary advised him on cash flow planning, identifying financing options, and preparing financial projections. After the loan application was accepted, the SBDC continued to assist David by developing marketing materials. “If it was not for Gary and the SBDC, we would not have survived,” David says. “They really did help us out.”

Supported by the U.S. Small Business Administration, the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, and the Rutgers School of Business–Camden, the SBDC at Rutgers–Camden offers business and financial experience to small business owners through confidential, individual counseling in a number of areas. “Many owners we meet with have enormous experience in some technical field, but have not been exposed to business disciplines such as financial planning, preparing and understanding financial information, and marketing. We do not charge clients for the consulting services we provide,” Gary notes.

The center also trains more than 1,700 students in their workshops each year. SBDC training workshops offer classes and certificate programs at locations in South Jersey for free or for a nominal cost. Entrepreneurs can learn how to write a business plan, how to market a business, and how to understand financial statements. Workshops also cover contract law, negotiating skills, and taxes, among its business topics. For more information about the SBDC at Rutgers–Camden, visit rsbdc.org.
Executive Education at Rutgers School of Business–Camden

Through Executive Education, the Rutgers School of Business–Camden provides innovative training solutions to individuals and businesses throughout the Delaware Valley region and the world. Rutgers’ Executive Education offers both classroom and online education in a variety of business topics as well as certificate programs that boost professional skills for employed and unemployed individuals. Funding for these certificate programs is available to unemployed state residents through the New Jersey Department of Labor’s Workforce Development Program and One-Stop Centers. Executive Education also provides management- and executive-level training for individuals through its open enrollment programs and customized training for organizations in nearly every industry, including manufacturing, government, health care, and technology.

Rutgers–Camden Technology Campus

Promoting economic growth in New Jersey and the Delaware Valley, the Rutgers–Camden Technology Campus (RCTC) is an independent 501(c)(3) mixed-use business incubator that provides new businesses with the support needed to grow and thrive. The RCTC delivers state-of-the-art dedicated and virtual office space in the Waterfront Technology Center in Camden. Tenants are predominantly for-profit early-stage companies that receive professional mentoring, management assistance, subsidized rent, access to venture capital, and many other supportive services. Upon “graduating” from the RCTC, businesses receive the assistance they need to locate in the city of Camden or elsewhere in New Jersey.

Business Leader Development Program

The Business Leader Development Program at the Rutgers School of Business–Camden encourages civic engagement as an opportunity for undergraduate students to hone leadership skills while helping others in the community. Past initiatives include involvement with programs such as Stamp-Out Hunger Food Drive for Camden food banks and others in the immediate community. Participants are selected based on their leadership potential and work to earn leadership credits before completing their degree. Students are encouraged to accomplish this goal by working with programs, activities, or events that give back to the community and help others in need.

Middle and High School Student Entrepreneurship

Funded by a grant from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, a new program offered by the Rutgers School of Business–Camden provides microfinance entrepreneurship training to teachers that they will bring back to the community. The program encourages Camden’s middle and high school students to start ventures that improve the triple bottom line of people, planet, and sustainable profit. This initiative aims to develop youth entrepreneurs in order to revitalize the community, and encourages them to attend college.

Rutgers Office of Economic Development

Based on the successful models of other urban universities, the Rutgers–Camden Office of Economic Development encourages retail growth and other forms of investment by utilizing the intellectual and physical assets of Rutgers to support economic growth activity in Camden and neighboring regions. Through this office, Rutgers partners with public, private, and nonprofit organizations with a shared goal of creating a knowledge-based economy that will attract businesses that benefit from the research and activities at Rutgers–Camden.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program provides free assistance to low-income Camden residents in preparing federal and New Jersey state tax returns. Under the auspices of the Rutgers School of Law–Camden Pro Bono Program and the Internal Revenue Service, VITA helps nearly 400 families annually receive hundreds of thousands of dollars in tax refunds. Trained law students meet with Camden residents for the three months prior to the April 15 filing deadline. Through VITA, many clients discover that they are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit, a federal initiative through which recipients are entitled to additional refunds.

Driving economic growth in southern New Jersey, Rutgers facilitates the region’s success.
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, is a leading national public research university and the state’s preeminent, comprehensive public institution of higher education. Rutgers is dedicated to teaching that meets the highest standards of excellence; to conducting research that breaks new ground; and to turning knowledge into solutions for local, national, and global communities.

As it was at our founding in 1766, the heart of our mission is preparing students to become productive members of society and good citizens of the world. Rutgers teaches across the full educational spectrum: preschool to precollege; undergraduate to graduate and postdoctoral; and continuing education for professional and personal advancement. Rutgers is New Jersey’s land-grant institution and one of the nation’s foremost research universities, and as such, we educate, make discoveries, serve as an engine of economic growth, and generate ideas for improving people’s lives.

At Rutgers–Camden, our community-based programs foster neighborhood revitalization, drive economic growth, and bring people together. Learn more about how Rutgers–Camden collaborates with communities and organizations to improve the quality of life for citizens across the Delaware Valley.

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