

**** Cranford/Garwood Education News ****



AWARD OF EXCELLENCE...Union County College President Margaret M. McMenamin, left, and Victor M. Richel, right, Chair of the College's Board of Trustees, honor Dr. Patricia Biddar as a recipient of the 2012 NISOD Excellence Award.

Union County College's Patricia Biddar Receives National Excellence Award

C Cranford – This past spring, at the Annual International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence, Dr. Patricia Biddar, Executive Director of Institutional Assessment, Planning, and Research at Union County College, was honored as a recipient of the 2012 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD)

Excellence Award. Since its inception in 1989, NISOD has emphasized the importance of teaching and leadership excellence in institutions of higher education. The awards are given annually to faculty, staff, and administrators who are innovators in teaching and learning.

The Excellence Award tradition allows NISOD member presi-

dents the ability to select an individual at their college who has defined the best in teaching and learning practices that encourage student achievement. This individual has contributed towards student success and the College's mission. Dr. Biddar was honored by the College's Board of Trustees at their June 2012 meeting.

Spencer Savings Bank Recognizes Local Student

GARWOOD – Spencer Savings Bank, a community bank headquartered in Elmwood Park, announced the winners of its annual scholarship program. Among the winners is local student Joseph Brecht, who attended Lincoln Middle School in Garwood. Spencer Savings Bank granted Joseph with a \$500 Coverdell Education Savings Account (CESA) as a reward for the hard work he has shown throughout the entirety of his educational career and his dedication to the community's growth and well-being.

Since the program was founded in 2002, Spencer Savings Bank has awarded a total of \$248,000 in scholarships to youths in the communities it serves. This year, Spencer Savings Bank's \$22,500 scholarship fund was divided among 15 high school students and 15 middle school students located within the bank's communities. The criteria assessed in determining the quality of the candidate consisted of the applicants' academic record, history of community service and future interest in a career in business, finance or banking.

"Joseph demonstrated excellence in academic achievement and showed continuous dedication to our community," said José B. Guerrero, President, Chairman and CEO of Spencer Savings Bank. "We are proud to support the future goals of such deserving students through our scholarship program, as we are confident they will continue to contribute to and support our community for many years to come."

Centered on generating growth through reinvestment of local deposits into the community, Spencer Savings Bank proudly supports local business and workforce initiatives, civic groups, charitable organizations, youth programs, and other community-focused organizations.

For more information on the scholarship program and additional programs established to benefit local communities, or to learn more about Spencer Savings Bank and its personalized banking options, please visit www.spencersavings.com.

Tea Party Meeting

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purpose is to educate, inform and empower New Jersey residents in Union County, as well as neighboring counties, to return government at all levels to Constitutional principles.

According to founding member Vikki Jensen, "Our goals include the resurgence of New Jersey's and America's economy and a return to liberty for all. We take action against high taxes and excessive spending, we seek the repeal of business-stifling and job-killing regulations, and we promote the principles of free-market capitalism. We seek a government limited to protecting citizens' individual rights."

The UCTP's general meetings usually take place on the third Wednesday of every month, but the July meeting has been postponed to the fourth Wednesday. There is no charge. The public and new members are welcome. For more information, e-mail libertylady76@gmail.com or call (908) 578-5005.

Probitas Verus Honos