

Madam Speaker, please join me in applauding Sunshine Slopers Ski Club as it celebrates 20 years of synonymous and exceptional experience to the sport of skiing—which in turn offers unique opportunities to allow all Floridians and Americans a chance to be together outside and enjoy the season. I appreciate this opportunity to congratulate Sunshine Slopers Ski Club before the United States House of Representatives.

**OBAMA, THE ECONOMY AND
COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following article entitled “Obama, the Economy and Community Colleges.” This article was printed in the Bergen Record on September 15, 2009: [From the Bergen Record, Sept. 15, 2009]

**OBAMA, THE ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY
COLLEGES**

(By G. Jeremiah Ryan)

If most experts are to be believed, the recession has bottomed out and we are about to begin the process of rebuilding our economy. While this is good news, it is hardly comforting to the thousands of New Jerseyans who are out of work or underemployed.

That’s because although business activity is starting to pick up, job creation isn’t. In fact, the same experts who are predicting the start of an economic rebound readily admit that the labor market will continue to deteriorate well into next year, and they expect the unemployment rate to hit double digits.

The question, then, is: What can we do to prevent further erosion in the job market and jump-start employment? President Obama answered that question back in July when, in a major public policy address, he unveiled a plan to spend \$12 billion over the next 10 years to help the nation’s community colleges train people for the jobs that will be needed in tomorrow’s economy.

PARTNERSHIP

By looking to community colleges for help, the president is harnessing a job-training infrastructure that already exists. No need to reinvent the wheel. Two-year colleges have been preparing students for employment for as long as they have existed. More recently, they have taken the lead in partnering with government agencies to provide customized job training for businesses in their communities.

Bergen Community College and the Bergen County Workforce Improvement Board came together this summer to help supermarket retailer Whole Foods train 300 of its employees at stores in Paramus and Edgewater. The board helped arrange a \$1 million training grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, while the college developed training budgets and schedules, and located instructors for computer courses, as well as for classes in customer service and basic supervision.

Obama is not the only one to recognize the value of community colleges. The public has, too. This fall, many two-year colleges saw sharp increases in enrollment. As of the first day of classes, Bergen Community College had enrolled 16,769 students, a 17 percent increase over last year.

Two-year colleges are also preparing students to join the workforce in a relatively

short period of time. Labor market experts believe that in the future there will be a strong supply of jobs for people who have two-year degrees or occupational certificates. In fact, these so-called “middle-skill” jobs—nurses, hotel managers, paralegals, etc.—make up about 50 percent of the labor market in New Jersey and pay above-average salaries. A licensed practical nurse, for example, earned a median salary of \$46,800 in 2006, well above the \$35,838 median salary for all occupations in New Jersey that year.

FLEXIBILITY

To have a lasting impact on the economy, it will be important to prepare students for jobs in industries that are growing and have a future. A hallmark of county colleges has been their ability and willingness to add courses of study that are in demand by the communities they serve. This year, Bergen Community College added nine more degree programs in subjects such as non-profit management, homeland security, fire science and sports management. When you add them to the existing curricula, Bergen students have 140 programs of study to choose from, each leading to a rewarding career.

Obama’s speech was a beginning, a recognition that the path to improving employment must include community colleges. Many details need to be worked out, but we have the know-how and experience to help people get back to work.

G. Jeremiah Ryan is president of Bergen Community College in Paramus.

**HONORING CHIEF WILLIAM “DUB”
WARRIOR OF BRACKETTVILLE,
TEXAS**

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise today to recognize Chief William “Dub” Warrior of Brackettville, Texas, a Historian and Seminole-Negro Indian descendant of the John Horse Band, and commemorate the distinguished service and loyalty of the Seminole-Negro Indian Scouts to the United States Army.

Following the Civil War, the Army was called into west Texas to defend settlements and travelers against retaliation raids from displaced Apache and Comanche Indians. However, they lacked the ability to track down and stop them. The Army needed experienced Indian fighters who knew the rugged terrain and were as skilled as their opponents at surviving and fighting in the desert borderlands. Thus, in 1870 the fearless Seminole-Negro Indians were recruited from Mexico as U.S. Army scouts. They were highly regarded and praised by their commanders for being excellent trackers, hunters and marksmen, and experts at hand-to-hand combat. During twenty-six expeditions they engaged in twelve battles without losing a single scout, and their bravery earned four scouts the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Therefore Madam Speaker it is my great pleasure to rise and announce in honor of these esteemed persons that the greater Washington, DC chapter of the 9th and 10th Horse Calvary Association, in partnership with the Army Freedom Team Salute and St. Elizabeth’s Hospital of Washington, DC, has planned a Seminole-Negro Indian Recognition

Ceremony for today, Friday, October 9, 2009 in the St. Elizabeth’s Hospital Chapel. Chief William “Dub” Warrior will be the keynote speaker for this event. He is the descendant of Tony Warrior, who collaborated with and assisted John Horse, leader of the Seminole-Negro Indians, in the movement of their tribe from Indian Territory to slavery-prohibited Mexico. Chief Warrior’s grandfather, Carolina Warrior, and great grandfather, Bill Warrior, were members of the revered U.S. Army scouts.

**TESTIMONIAL RECOGNIZING MS.
LUCY BECKHAM AS THE 2010 NA-
TIONAL SECONDARY PRINCIPAL
OF THE YEAR**

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 08, 2009

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to extend my congratulations to Ms. Lucy Beckham of Wando High School in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina on her selection as the 2010 National Secondary Principal of the Year.

This distinction, presented by MetLife and the National Association of Secondary School Principals, is a most deserving recognition of her leadership and dedication to the students entrusted to her.

The National Principal of the Year program began in 1993 and was established to honor those education administrators that have set the highest example for their peers.

Ms. Beckham’s contributions and sense-of-purpose extend beyond the campus of Wando to so many areas including her church and numerous community activities.

I am certain that all of the faculty and staff at Wando are proud to have her at the helm, and as the grandparent of a Wando student, speaking for all the families of the greater Charleston area, we congratulate her for being No. 1 at Wando and for now being No.1 in the Nation.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE “WATER
TRANSFER FACILITATION ACT
OF 2009”**

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, yesterday with Congressman CARDOZA I introduced the “Water Transfer Facilitation Act of 2009.” Given the overwhelming water user support we received for this bill, I am submitting additional letters in connection with this bill.

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER
WATER AUTHORITY,

San Joaquin Valley, CA, October 5, 2009.

Re Support for Transfer Legislation for the Central Valley Project.

Hon. JIM COSTA,
*Longworth House Office Building, Washington,
DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN COSTA: On behalf of the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority (Exchange Contractors), we thank you for introducing transfer legislation for the Central Valley Project (CVP)