

Castle Celebrates Announcement of New Community College Caucus with Del Tech -- January 26, 2006

Wilmington, DE -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle was joined today by Delaware Technical & Community College President Dr. Orlando George, on the Wilmington campus to announce the new Community College caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives. Castle recently created the caucus with three other Representatives and serves as a co-chair. Castle and Dr. George were joined by students and administration from the school as they stressed the importance of community colleges throughout the United States.

"The purpose of the Community College Caucus is to raise awareness within the U.S. House of Representatives about the unique role community colleges play within the American educational system. The caucus will serve as a forum to identify and discuss current issues, which affect community colleges. Community colleges provide a low cost, close -to-home education to more than 11.9 million students a year, and the ability of the community college to adapt to the needs of the community situates them to play a key role in training workers in our evolving economy. The caucus will emphasize the important and distinctive role that community colleges play not only in education, but the communities that they serve. I also intend to offer informational briefings for members and their staffs that will allow these Representatives to partner with their local schools," Castle said.

Castle emphasized pertinent issues which he would like to see the caucus address in the coming months, such as federal grants that are available to community colleges, the cost of text books and its impact on students and the role community colleges have played in retraining our nation's workforce.