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## NORTH ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS, BCC, AND NJCU PARTNER TO OFFER STUDENTS AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE AND BACHELOR'S DEGREE TUITION-FREE

North Arlington Public Schools is delighted to announce the launch of a new, one-of-a kind **Early College Program**. North Arlington High School has partnered with Bergen Community College and New Jersey City University to offer students the opportunity to earn a high school diploma, associate degree and bachelor's degree under a full academic scholarship. This program also offers the added advantage of continuing on to earn a master's degree with significant incentives from New Jersey City University.

Beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, eligible eleventh grade students accepted into the *Early College Academy* will take classes at Bergen Community College at the Meadowlands to pursue a degree in one of three associate degree tracks: business administration, liberal arts, or criminal justice. Representatives from Bergen Community College and North Arlington High School have collaborated to create a schedule that ensures students the ability to fully participate in high school activities and athletics, while also being a part of the Bergen Community College campus community. Over the course of four semesters, students will earn enough highly transferable credits to be accepted into both a bachelor's degree program and a master's degree program at New Jersey City University should they continue to meet the mutually agreed upon criteria. Those students will enter New Jersey City University at junior status, reducing the time it takes to earn a bachelor's degree on a more traditional route.

This innovative program for juniors and seniors strives to challenge North Arlington's pupils and increase post-secondary opportunities for families in the face of rising tuition costs and difficult economic times.

North Arlington Public Schools recognizes that the rigorous nature of the *Early College Academy* may not fit the needs of every student. To provide those students with similar opportunities, North Arlington Public Schools and Bergen Community College will allow seniors to enroll in a more flexible plan where they can earn between three and thirty college credits. Within this *Early Credit Advantage* component, enrolled students will also receive scholarship incentives from New Jersey City University.

Ambitious students in both programs will experience the rigors of college courses and engage in collegiate discourse alongside college students while having the ancillary support, guidance, and supervision of the North Arlington High School staff. Enrollment in either program will provide students with an excellent opportunity to get a jumpstart on their post-secondary endeavors at no cost to families.

The **Early College Program** will be officially announced at North Arlington High School on May 30, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the gymnasium. Community members, parents, and students are encouraged to attend to learn more about this program and celebrate its launch.

North Arlington High School is a four year college preparatory public high school located in Bergen County, New Jersey. It serves students in grades nine through twelve.

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