BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 21, 2026

Boys & Girls Clubs of Cumberland County, RCSJ and Foundation Partner to Expand College and Career Opportunities

Agreement opens pathways to college readiness, mentorship, career exploration, and potential scholarship and tuition assistance for local youth

VINELAND, N.J. — Young people served by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Cumberland County will have expanded opportunities to explore college and career pathways through a new Memorandum of Understanding with Rowan College of South Jersey (RCSJ) and the Rowan College of South Jersey Foundation.

The partnership, celebrated during a signing ceremony on Wednesday, October 21, at the Guaracini Center on RCSJ's Cumberland Campus, establishes a framework for connecting Club members with educational resources, experiences, and support to help them prepare for their futures.

Through the agreement, eligible Club members may receive scholarship and tuition assistance, access to college facilities, campus visits, mentorship, educational workshops, and workforce development opportunities. The collaboration supports exploration of higher education, technical training, and career pathways.

"But to me, this partnership is about much more than what's written on paper. It's about opening doors and showing our kids that their future can be filled with possibilities," said Carlos Mercado, CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Cumberland County.

By introducing young people to a college environment and connecting them with mentors and educational resources, the partnership aims to help Club members build confidence, discover their interests, and understand the options available to them after high school.

The agreement builds on the relationship between the organizations and creates additional opportunities for internships and community engagement. It reflects their shared commitment to expanding access to education and helping Cumberland County residents succeed.

During the ceremony, Dr. Brenden Rickards, President and Chief Academic Officer of RCSJ, emphasized the alignment between the College's mission and that of the Boys & Girls Clubs. His remarks highlighted the importance of helping young people recognize available opportunities, feel a sense of belonging in a college setting, and access support as they pursue their goals.

Cody Miller, RCSJ's Executive Director of Advancement & Foundation, served as master of ceremonies. Mercado thanked the College, the Foundation, and those who helped develop the partnership for their commitment to the young people the Club serves.

Opportunities under the agreement remain subject to eligibility requirements, available staffing, funding, facilities, and existing College programs.

For more information about the Boys & Girls Clubs of Cumberland County, visit www.bgccumberland.org or call (856) 696-4190.

ABOUT THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Cumberland County provides youth development programs that support academic success, character and leadership, and healthy lifestyles. Through supportive relationships and opportunities to learn and grow, the organization helps young people build brighter futures.

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MEDIA CONTACT
Carlos A. Mercado, Jr., Chief Executive Officer
Boys & Girls Clubs of Cumberland County
cmercado@bgccumberland.org · (856) 696-4190

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY
560 Crystal Avenue
Vineland, NJ 08360
bgccumberland.org