

**RUTGERS**  
THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

**PIONEERS IN USING ACCESS**  
(Assessment of Campus Climate)  
What have we learned so far?

The Office of Disability Services  
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey  
New Brunswick, New Jersey

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**RUTGERS**

**A Long and Rich History**

- Founded in 1766, 10 years before the United States became a nation
- Eighth oldest university in America
- Became the State University of New Jersey in 1956
- Invited to join the prestigious Association of American Universities (AAU) in 1989
  - Organization comprises 62 of North America's most elite research universities
  - Only public university in New Jersey that is an AAU member




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**RUTGERS**

**An Educational Powerhouse**

- A top 25 public research university
- About 50,000 students from all 50 states and 110 countries
- 125,000 continuing education registrants annually
- 2,650 faculty members
- 100 degree programs at the undergraduate, graduate, and professional levels
- More than 10,000 graduates each year
- Over 360,000 alumni worldwide

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**RUTGERS**

### Map of Rutgers University



Click on a location for detailed information.

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### The Office of Disability Services

- Responsible for accommodations on all three regional campuses:
  - New Brunswick
  - Newark
  - Camden
- Part of Academic Affairs
  - Housed in Kreeger Learning Center
- Serves approximately 1300 students from all three campuses

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### Background of the Office of Disability Services

<b>Prior to Fall 2007</b>	<b>Fall 2007 to present</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New Brunswick had 3 liberal arts colleges</li><li>• Six different campuses across the New Brunswick/Piscataway area</li><li>• Structure of ODS included 13 different deans/admin providing accommodations in addition to other duties</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Undergraduate reorganization</li><li>• Centralized ODS office in New Brunswick</li><li>• Director of Disability services and 2 full time coordinators<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Camden/Newark remained with one dean/admin for each</li></ul></li></ul>

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Motivation for the Climate Survey

Senior administrators were interested in gaining a better understanding of the campus climate for students with disabilities

- Given the complexity of the University
- In light of the recent changes in undergraduate education

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Who initiated the study

- In 2007, Rutgers completed re-accreditation by the North Central Accrediting Association
- Immediate motivation to begin process for the next one
- In need of a more comprehensive, systematic assessment, rather than satisfaction surveys and anecdotal feedback
- ACCESS appeared to meet our needs

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Funding

The Office of the Vice President for Undergraduate Education funded ACCESS.

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Dissemination of the Questionnaire

- Spring Semester 2009
- Sent by the Vice President for Undergraduate Education to all students, faculty, and staff on the New Brunswick campus
- The Assistant Chancellors on the Camden and Newark campuses sent the questionnaire, with an introductory email, to those campuses.
- More than 2,000 members of the Rutgers community completed the questionnaire

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Our goals for the assessment

- The number of students served increased over 30% from FY08 to FY09.
  - Chancellors in Camden and Newark aware of need to have staff dedicated to Disability Services
- Office of Disability Services in New Brunswick is aware of the need for education and training for university staff and faculty in regards to issues pertaining to students with disabilities

We anticipate that the survey will identify the need for additional staff, and opportunities for training.

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