



## Passaic County Cultural & Heritage Council at Passaic County Community College Receives Prestigious State Arts Award



*Awards Reception: (left to right):* Steve Runk, Executive Director, NJ State Council on the Arts; Sharon Burton Turner, Chair, NJ State Council on the Arts; **Ashley Kesling, Associate Director, Passaic County Cultural & Heritage Council**; **Maria Mazziotti Gillan, Executive Director of the Poetry Center at Passaic County Community College**; Kim Guadagno, NJ Lieutenant Governor/Secretary of State; Germaine B. Trabert, Council Member, NJ State Council on the Arts.

**Feb 10, 2011 - Paterson, NJ** - The Passaic County Cultural & Heritage Council (PCCHC) at Passaic County Community College received a Citation of Excellence from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts for excellence in artistic quality, programming and public service in the arts. State Arts Council leadership held an awards reception on January 25, 2011, in Trenton.

PCCHC assists local organizations that undertake arts and cultural projects within Passaic County. The mission of PCCHC is to promote awareness of and interest in the diverse arts and heritage of Passaic County, home to over 140 different ethnic groups. By encouraging and supporting cultural and arts activities and public programs, PCCHC strives to enrich the lives of the citizens of Passaic County.

This award, the State Arts Council's most prestigious mark of distinction, is designated based on grant application review and conferred upon PCCHC for the duration of the grant period for which funding is received.

The New Jersey State Council on the Arts is a division of the NJ Department of State. It receives funding in direct appropriations from the State of New Jersey through a dedicated Hotel/Motel Occupancy fee, and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts. Since 1966, its volunteer members and professional staff have worked to improve the quality of life in New Jersey by helping the arts to flourish. For more information about the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, visit [www.njartscouncil.org](http://www.njartscouncil.org).