

**Council for
Higher Education
in Newark**

A Force for Urban Progress

The University Heights Story



Essex County College

New Jersey Institute of Technology

**Rutgers, The State University
Campus at Newark**

**University of Medicine and
Dentistry of New Jersey**

A PROGRESS REPORT

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**TODAY
AND
YESTERDAY**

University Heights is the academic-commercial-residential hub of Newark, New Jersey, enriching and enriched by four of the state's largest public institutions of higher learning. Its 700 acres form a strategically located neighborhood that rises above downtown Newark, enclosing Essex County College, the Newark campus of Rutgers University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. The area is alive with stores, churches, schools and homes for middle and low-income families. Older multi-family frame houses stand alongside new modular structures, semi-detached homes, and elegant stone and brick-front town houses. Some clusters of new housing cover several blocks, others less than an acre.

Many area property owners are now investing in building improvements; a decade earlier they would not. Nor would anyone else: parcels of land stood vacant for years for lack of investor confidence.

Today the area has two shopping centers, the first such enterprise in more than twenty years. Also on the drawing boards are a multiplex movie theatre, restaurants, retail stores, auto centers—the amenities of a stable community now re-emerging after more than two decades.

An important catalyst in this dramatic turnaround was CHEN, the Council for Higher Education in Newark. With the help of a nurturing city government, CHEN sought to improve its neighborhood through planning, timing, and creating opportunities for investment in the area. Most importantly, CHEN proved that universities can be the catalyst in bringing a dormant city area to life.