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Joe Emrick
Pennsylvania State Representative
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Making College More Affordable

By State Rep. Joe Emrick

I recently attended Northampton Community College's spring legislative luncheon with NCC President David Ruth, which allowed me to talk with President Ruth and students about how we can make college more affordable.

NCC is in the heart of the 137th District and offers a multitude of educational options that ultimately strengthen our region's workforce and economy. We should always prioritize continued and increased access to high-quality education.

That's why we were thrilled to announce that same morning NCC received a \$401,907 state grant to help expand access to dual-credit programs for high school students who want to pursue higher education. Dual-credit courses allow high school students to satisfy their curriculum requirements while also earning college credits. These classes have proven to be highly successful in preparing students for college while also improving their academic performance overall.

The funding was made available through the PA Dual Credit Innovation Grant, which was created by the General Assembly in 2024 and receives its funding through General Fund appropriations approved by the General Assembly.

Watch Out for These Social Media Scams

By State Rep. Joe Emrick

According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), people reported losing \$2.1 billion to social media scams in 2025.

Shopping scams were the most reported scam on social media. Scammers post ads offering high-priced items for cheap. If you click, you might end up on a site that's impersonating a well-known brand.

More than half of the reported losses came from investment scams. Scammers use ads and testimonials offering to teach you a fool-proof way to beat the stock market. But investing always comes with risk.

Nearly 60% of people who reported losing money to a romance scam in 2025 said it started on social media. Scammers use what's in your profile to build a connection only to later invent a problem that requires you to send them money.

To avoid scams on social media:

- Limit who can see your posts and contacts. Visit your privacy settings to set restrictions so scammers have less to work with.
- Never let someone you meet on social media direct your investment decisions. Instead, learn more about spotting investment scams.
- Before you buy, check out the company. Search online for its name plus "scam" or "complaint."

Learn more ways to spot and avoid scams at consumer.ftc.gov/scams. If you spot a scam, report it to the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov.



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