



2039 Kennedy Boulevard  
Jersey City, New Jersey 07305-1597

January 22, 2009

Dear Student:

The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 created two new Federal income tax credits, the **Hope Scholarship Tax Credit** and the **Lifetime Learning Credit** for eligible taxpayers paying qualified tuition and related expenses. The University is attaching the required **Form 1098-T Tuition Payment Statement** along with this correspondence.

**Hope Scholarship Tax Credit** -A tax credit of up to \$1,500 can be claimed for qualified tuition and fees billed between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008. Qualified tuition and fee charges are for the Winter '08, Spring '08, Summer I '08, Summer II '08 and Fall '08 academic periods. To be eligible, a student must meet the following: 1) have not completed the first two year of post secondary education (generally, the freshmen or sophomore years of college); 2) is enrolled in a program that leads to a degree, certificate, or other recognized educational credential; 3) is taking at least one-half the normal full-time work load for at least one of the academic periods during the calendar year; and 4) is free of any felony conviction for processing or distribution of a controlled substance.

**Lifetime Learning Credit** -A tax credit of up to \$2,000 can be claimed for qualified tuition and fees paid between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008. Qualified tuition and fee charges are for the Winter '08, Spring '08, Summer I '08, Summer II '08 and Fall '08 academic periods. This credit 1) is allowed for one or more courses; 2) is not limited to students in the first two years post secondary education; 3) is allowable for graduate-level degree expenses; 4) has no limit on the number of years for which this credit can be claimed for each student.

Winter Intersession' 09 and Spring' 09 charges will be included in box 2 if billed in the 2008 calendar year. Please also note that Winter Intersession' 08 and Spring' 08 charges billed in the 2007 calendar year were reflected in the 1098-T Tuition Payment Statement sent for 2007.

**New Jersey City University cannot act in the capacity of a tax advisor and therefore will not discuss your eligibility or the determination of your actual credit.**

The IRS has issued **Publication 970, Tax Benefits for Higher Education** to assist taxpayers in determining their eligibility for the new tax credits and **Notice 97-60, Education Tax Incentives** which addresses specific questions that taxpayers may have concerning their eligibility for the tax credits. These publications are available at any IRS office.

Also, there is IRS information available on their website at: [www.irs.gov/individuals/index.html](http://www.irs.gov/individuals/index.html). In addition, the U.S. Department of Education has information on the tax credits which can be found at: <http://www.ed.gov/updates/97918tax.html>.

If you have any questions concerning the information appearing on your 1098-T form, please contact the NJCU Educational Tax Benefits Hotline at (201) 200-2200 between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Sincerely,

Peter Ljutic  
Director of Student Financial Services

The Premier Cooperative Education University  
[www.njcu.edu](http://www.njcu.edu)