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### **President dreams of a renewed campus**

By Sharon Waters  
*Staff Writer*

New Brunswick: College Avenue would be converted into a grassy, tree-lined pedestrian mall; attractive student housing would line the side streets; and Easton Avenue would boast trendy shops, in a dream described yesterday by Rutgers University President Richard L. McCormick.

McCormick said College Avenue between Somerset Street and the canal is “not as pretty as it should be” and students there live in inadequate apartments owned by absentee landlords on the Sixth Ward side streets.

But within 10 years, McCormick would like to see the area become a draw and keep New Jersey’s high school students from leaving the state for college.

“I can imagine a partnership between New Brunswick and Rutgers in which that whole College Avenue corridor and the Sixth Ward behind it is transformed,” said McCormick yesterday during a Home News Tribune editorial board meeting.

McCormick said he has had preliminary discussions with city and New Brunswick Development Corp. leaders about his “dream and speculation.”

Mayor Jim Cahill was unavailable yesterday to talk about McCormick’s dream, a city spokesman said.

Devco president Christopher J. Paladino said his nonprofit organization looked forward to working with McCormick on the College Avenue Area.

“We’re actively involved in developing a master plan to make those dreams a vision and the vision a reality,” said Paladino.

McCormick said he is happy with the university’s collaboration with New Brunswick on the George Street corridor and he’d like to see that cooperation extended to the College Avenue area.