Dear NJASCU Colleagues/Friends:

Welcome to this week’s edition of NJASCU’s "Noteworthy" compilation of a feature story, advocacy report, and news item(s), reflecting the interests and happenings among New Jersey's senior public colleges and universities.

We would love your feedback and suggestions. Please keep sending press releases, many of which will be included in our "Noteworthy" compilation.

Thank you,

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**NJASCU Features**

**Ramapo College Senior Selected for Fulbright U.S. Student Teaching Award to South Korea**

**NJASCU QuickTakes**

Senior Christina Dwyer ’19, a literature major from Denville, NJ, received an English Teaching Assistant grant from the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, the second-ever Fulbright scholarship to be awarded to a Ramapo college student. Christina will spend 13 months in South Korea teaching English and serving as a "cultural ambassador for the United States" beginning in July 2019.

"I am absolutely thrilled to receive this honor," said Christina. "It's going to be very intense, but I am so excited for such an opportunity. I'm ready for this journey."
Established in 1946 and sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, the Fulbright Program is the largest U.S. international exchange program that offers opportunities to students, scholars, and professionals for graduate study, advanced research, and elementary, secondary, and university teaching across the globe.

"The immensely competitive nature of a Fulbright Award cannot be overstated," said Ramapo President Peter P. Mercer. "With guidance from a dedicated Ramapo College faculty mentor, Christina has already achieved, as an undergraduate, something that many learned people only hope to accomplish at some point in their lifetime."

Professor Naseem Choudhury, director of the Office of Fellowships and Scholarships and Faculty Program Advisor for the Fulbright Program for U.S. Students at Ramapo College, said Christina is deserving of the Fulbright, considered one of the most prestigious awards given to an undergraduate student.

"Christina is one of the most driven individuals I have met," said Professor Choudhury. "She is clear in her desire to develop such bridges between the USA and South Korea. She is candid and honest, qualities that people gravitate toward and yet she is clearly aware that she is the image of America that people will take away when they leave her classroom. Her self-reflective and inclusive nature makes her an ideal representative of American culture and values in their totality. As a Fulbright recipient I have no doubt that she will be the ideal ambassador to the world ... (She) was absolutely determined to go back to the country that had captured her imagination and do what she so loves to do."

Christina participated in a study abroad program in South Korea in spring 2018 for what she called a life-changing experience. "That was an incredible trip for me," she said. "In addition to my studies, I visited some rural areas of the country, hiked through the mountains and spent a weekend in a Buddhist temple. It was amazing."

Upon arrival in South Korea in July, Christina will participate in a six-week orientation that will include taking an intense Korean language course and other courses about Korean culture and history. After completion, she will meet her host family. While teaching English to Korean students, she also plans to introduce them to American folklore that represent various cultural groups within the United States.

"This topic has always interested me and I’m very excited to have the chance to focus on this particular type of literature," Christina said. "I am even more excited to create a conversation with my students as to how these works contrast with Korea’s traditional literature."

The Fulbright experience also will not be the first foray into teaching for Christina, who hopes to pursue a career as an ESL teacher for middle or high school students when she returns. Following her high school graduation, she spent several weeks during the summer in Austria teaching English to young students. "I’m far from fluent in German [Austria’s official language] but I managed pretty well," she said. "I knew then that teaching is what I wanted to do."

**Ramapo College of New Jersey** is the state’s premier public liberal arts college and is committed to academic excellence through interdisciplinary and experiential learning, and international and intercultural understanding. The College is ranked #1 among New Jersey public institutions by College Choice, and is recognized as a top college by U.S. News & World Report, Kiplinger’s, Princeton Review and Money magazine, among others. Ramapo College is also distinguished as a Career Development College of Distinction by CollegesofDistinction.com, boasts the best campus housing in New Jersey on
Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor’s degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include business, education, nursing and social work. In addition, the College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels, and offers graduate programs leading to master's degrees in Accounting, Business Administration, Educational Technology, Educational Leadership, Nursing, Social Work and Special Education.

Thomas Edison State University Celebrates Accelerated Nursing Program Graduates
NJASCU QuickTakes

The W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing at Thomas Edison State University honored graduates of its April 2018-19 Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Program with a pinning ceremony on March 26, 2019 at George A. Pruitt Hall.

The pinning signifies a ceremonial entrance into the profession for graduates who are now eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). The April cohort, one of two Accelerated BSN cohorts administered yearly by the school, represented 14 students who entered the program with non-nursing undergraduate degrees and successfully completed 60 credits within the program’s concentrated 12-month timeframe.

During the ceremony, program graduate Colleen Geib of Jersey City, NJ, received the Dr. Christine M. Rosner Clinical Excellence Award presented by the school’s Interim Dean Dr. Ana Maria Catanzaro. Members of the graduating class who demonstrated superior academic achievement, integrity and professional leadership potential were inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society.

"Remember to advocate relentlessly, care wholeheartedly and remember to always smile at the people we care for," counselled Student Speaker Anthonyette A. Karyczak of Highland Park, NJ, during her address to fellow graduates.

Launched in 2011, the Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Program features online and campus-based courses as well as simulation lab experiences provided by Thomas Edison State University. Clinical experiences are held at Capital Health facilities in Hopewell Township and Trenton, NJ, as well as various community-based agencies in the Mercer County area.

To learn more about this and other academic programs available through the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing, visit http://www.tesu.edu/nursing.
**Stockton Poll: New Jersey Motorists Say Much-Needed Infrastructure Repair Should be Fueled with Federal Money**

Motorists say New Jersey roads and bridges are in bad shape and should be fixed. But only a minority are willing to personally pay more for road work, preferring federal funding to repair infrastructure, according to a Stockton University Poll released recently.

In the poll of 632 New Jersey adults, 80 percent rated the condition of the state's roads and highways as fair (45 percent) or poor (35 percent). Respondents rated the condition of New Jersey's bridges and tunnels only a little better, with 63 percent rating them as fair (43 percent) or poor (20 percent). Thirty-eight percent said they have felt concern for their safety when traveling over a bridge or through a tunnel.

Nearly half say poor road conditions have cost them money in repairs, with 46 percent saying their car sustained a flat tire or other damage because of a pothole in the last three years. Thirty-one percent called potholes the greatest hazard on the state's roads.

The Stockton Polling Institute of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton University interviewed 632 adult residents of New Jersey in this poll. Live interviewers called landline and cell telephones March 21-28, 2019. The poll’s margin of error is +/- 3.9 percentage points.

Strong majorities believe leaders in Washington should do more about the problem. Sixty-two percent said President Donald Trump is not paying enough attention to the conditions of roads, bridges and tunnels, while 22 percent said he is, and 15 percent were unsure.

But the president fared better than Congress; 76 percent said leaders in Congress were not paying enough attention to infrastructure concerns, while 13 percent said they are, and 10 percent were unsure. Researcher John Froonjian of the Hughes Center said the results are consistent with abysmally low ratings of Congress in previous Stockton polls.

New Jersey adults would overwhelmingly support a federal infrastructure bill discussed in Washington that would spent up to $200 billion, according to the poll. Eighty percent said they would support it, with 10 percent opposed and 9 percent unsure. However, when asked whether they personally were willing to pay more to help finance construction projects for roads and bridges, 48 percent said no, while 45 percent said they would be willing, and 7 percent were unsure.

"New Jersey is a very high-state tax, and taxpayers already feel that they are tapped out," said Michael W. Klein, interim executive director of the Hughes Center. "The state's gas tax increased more than 27 cents per gallon between 2016 and 2018, and the congestion pricing plan for driving into New York City, recently approved under New York State’s new budget, will make commuting for many New Jerseyans more expensive than ever when it is implemented."

The percentage in support of a federal infrastructure bill dropped to 55 percent if the bill would increase the federal debt.

So how to fund infrastructure repairs? Among those willing to pay more to improve road
and bridge conditions, one-third would support higher tolls, including increased tolls on existing toll roads (21 percent) or charging new tolls on New Jersey roads that do not have them (13 percent). Eighteen percent supported a higher gasoline tax, while 20 percent would increase other taxes such as the state’s sales or income taxes. Only 5 percent wanted more government debt.

Distracted Drivers Also a Major Hazard

While poor road conditions were seen as dangerous by many, the most respondents (49 percent) said distracted drivers posed the greatest hazard on the road. A majority of 55 percent said New Jersey drivers generally drive too fast. Six percent said they drive too slowly, while 35 percent said most drive at appropriate speeds. However, there was little appetite for greater enforcement of anti-speeding laws: 53 percent wanted no change in enforcement levels, and 6 percent wanted less enforcement. Forty percent would like stricter enforcement of speed limits.

Eighty-four percent of respondents said they drive more than 10 mph over the speed limit at least occasionally, with 39 percent responding they speed very or somewhat often. Otherwise, motorists rate themselves as careful drivers. Only 9 percent said they are distracted when they drive very or somewhat often, and the same percentage admitted to driving too aggressively very or somewhat often. Eleven percent said they have frequently made rude gestures at other drivers, and 7 percent said they have felt road rage. Hardly anyone - 1 percent - said they ran stop signs or traffic lights very or somewhat often, while 17 percent said they do so occasionally.

Finally, many see traffic as the bane of New Jersey driving. Ten percent identified it as the greatest road hazard, and 56 percent (60 percent in North Jersey) said it poses a major inconvenience (23 percent) or a serious problem (33 percent). Thirty-seven percent called it a minor inconvenience.

For full poll results, go to Poll Results.

About the Hughes Center

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy (www.stockton.edu/hughescenter) at Stockton University serves as a catalyst for research, analysis and innovative policy solutions on the economic, social and cultural issues facing New Jersey, and promotes the civic life of New Jersey through engagement, education and research. The center is named for William J. Hughes, whose distinguished career includes service in the U.S. House of Representatives, Ambassador to Panama and as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Stockton. The Hughes Center can be found on YouTube, and can be followed on Facebook @StocktonHughesCenter, Twitter @hughescenter and Instagram @_stockton_hughes_center.

Methodology

The poll of New Jersey adults was conducted by the Stockton Polling Institute of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy March 21-28, 2019. Live interviewers who are mostly Stockton University students called cell phones and landlines from the Stockton University campus. Overall, 59 percent of interviews were conducted on cell phones and 41 percent on landline phones. A total of 632 respondents screened as adults and residents of New Jersey were interviewed. Both cell and landline phone numbers came from a random digital dialing (RDD) sample provided by MSG. Data are weighted based on U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-year data for New Jersey on variables
Noteworthy: NJASCU Colleges and Universities

**Billboard Magazine Names William Paterson University Among the Nation’s Top 20 Business Schools for Music**  
www.WPUNJ.edu

William Paterson University in Wayne, NJ has been named among the top 20 music business schools in the nation for the second consecutive year - and the only school in New Jersey - chosen by Billboard magazine in its annual spotlight on industry-related courses at colleges and universities.

"We are proud and elated to be included in Billboard's 2019 list of the top 20 music business schools in the country," says Daryl Moore, dean of the College of the Arts and Communication at the University. "Our program is exceptional because of our distinguished faculty, notable alumni and hands-on learning opportunities that prepare our students for all aspects of the music business world."

The University, which offers bachelor’s and master's degrees in music and entertainment industries, as well as an MBA degree with a music industry focus through the University’s Cotsakos College of Business, was recognized for offering learning opportunities that go beyond the classroom.

**Rowan University Opens Integrate Special Needs Center**  
www.Rowan.edu

Senior administrators from Rowan University, the School of Osteopathic Medicine and the Gloucester County Special Services School District were joined by local and state officials for a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating a unique clinical enterprise for South Jersey.

On Wednesday, April 3, the Rowan Integrated Special Needs Center (RSN Center) officially opened its doors in the Bankridge Development Center and will soon begin offering patient centered primary and behavioral health care services for individuals with physical, intellectual and developmental disabilities and for their families. The RSN Center is the first facility of this kind in the South Jersey region.

"We are thrilled to be able to open our doors to begin providing services for patients, children and adults, with special needs and their families," said Dr. Jennifer LeComte, Division Chief of General Internal Medicine at Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine and the director of the Rowan Integrated Special Needs (RSN) Center. "We are creating a bridge to adult care with care coordination at the core of our program. Primary care for all with embedded behavioral health will create greater access to all components of care for this vulnerable population."
Thomas Edison State University Partners with Cape May County Chamber of Commerce
www.TESU.edu

Thomas Edison State University and the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce announce a partnership that will allow chamber employees, members and employees of member corporations to earn industry valued degrees at New Jersey’s premier University for adult higher education. The newly signed partnership allows the approximately 800 members of the chamber to enroll in the university’s more than 100 undergraduate and graduate degree programs with tuition reduction at the university.

"We are pleased to partner with the chamber to provide these academic programs that are valued by the business community," said Dr. Dennis Devery, vice president of Enrollment Management for the university. "Reduced cost to improve access to accredited programs for adults helps fulfill the university’s mission as well as the mission of the chamber to further the success of its members throughout the community."

New Jersey City University Names Dr. Tamar Jhashi as Senior Vice President and Provost
www.NJCU.edu

After an extensive national search, NJCU announces the appointment of Dr. Tamara Jhashi as NJCU’s Senior Vice President and Provost. Dr. Jhashi’s academic credentials and longstanding commitment to the values and virtues central to NJCU’s mission propelled her to the top of a talented candidate pool.

An academic leader, committed to transforming lives through access to academic excellence and a champion of faculty and students, Dr. Jhashi comes to NJCU from Mercy College in New York, where, as the Dean of the School of Liberal Arts, she led the academic mission of the Departments of Communications and the Arts; Humanities; Literature and Language; and Mathematics and Computer Science.

Serving the College for four years, her initiatives included establishing an annual theme in the School of Liberal Arts fusing curricular and co-curricular experiences to build a sense of community; leading the redesign of gateway Math and English courses to improve student success; founding an Advisory Board for the technology programs in the School; adding a graduate program in computer science; increasing high-impact practices; and hiring a third of the core school faculty.

After Overcoming Homelessness, this Teen was Accepted to 17 Colleges but Opted for His First Choice - The College of New Jersey
WashingtonPost.com

He had applied to more than a dozen colleges, not an unusual move for an ambitious student who served as class president at Henry Snyder High School in Jersey City. In November, the packets and letters started arriving, and they kept coming into the New Year, week after week in a perpetual cycle of anxiousness and excitement. His mother would ask to open the envelopes. They contained very good news.

In total, the teenager said, he has been accepted to 17 colleges - including New England
College, Quinnipiac University and Rowan University. Ever ambitious, he said he was waiting to hear from one more school: his top choice, the College of New Jersey.

But to reach this point, he had already overcome an obstacle that not even his friends at school knew about until his story made the news this week.

For about three months during the summer of 2017, Chidick, his mother and two younger brothers (who are twins and have heart problems) were homeless and lived in a Jersey City shelter, after his mother lost her job and was unable to pay rent.

**Montclair State University Names a New Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences**
www.Montclair.edu

Peter Kingstone, PhD, has been appointed Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) at Montclair State University, effective July 22, 2019.

Dr. Kingstone joins Montclair State after seven years at King’s College London where he co-founded the Department of International Development and served as Head of Department and Professor of Politics and Development from 2012-2019. Prior to his work at King’s, he was a member of the political science faculty at the University of Vermont from 1994-1999 and the University of Connecticut from 1999-2012, where he was also the Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

"The College of Humanities and Social Sciences is a critical component of Montclair State University, and I look forward to the College’s continued growth in both programmatic offerings and public stature under Dr. Kingstone’s leadership," said Montclair State University President Susan A. Cole.

"I am excited about joining Montclair State and contributing to the transformational growth and development of this very distinctive University," said Dr. Kingstone. "Throughout my career, I have worked in highly diverse, multi-disciplinary settings and Montclair State offers a wonderful opportunity to draw on the values and expertise in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences to shape tomorrow’s citizens."

**Kean University Computer Science Dean Discusses Strengthening Computer Science Field Through Diversity**
www.Kean.edu

Computer scientists "help create the future," according to Patricia Morreale, PhD, professor and executive director of the Kean University School of Computer Science. A fellow of the prestigious American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), she has won praise for her leadership in helping make the future of computer science more diverse. As Kean recognizes Women's History Month, Kean News asked her about diversity in computing.

**TCNJ Professor’s Book Reaches New Heights - An Exploration of Mt. Kilimanjaro**
www.TCNJ.edu
With the support of the Gitenstein-Hart Sabbatical Prize, associate professor of history Matthew Bender capped off a chapter in his career with the completion of his book, Water Brings No Harm: Knowledge, Power, and the Struggle for the Waters of Kilimanjaro, published by Ohio University Press in April 2019. On March 27, Bender shared with the campus community his findings about the politics of water resources on the dormant volcano in Tanzania.

"I’d like to say I spent my sabbatical scourging through the African plains," he said, pointing to a picture he had taken of two giraffes out in the wild. "But instead I spent my time here," he finished, showing a picture of his home in Ewing, New Jersey.

Bender explained that while he spent most of his sabbatical writing his new book, he spent over 15 years working on the slopes of the mountain gathering research.

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Noteworthy: New Jersey Issues

**Meet the Chairs for New Jersey’s $20M Higher Education Investment Plan**

[www.NJBiz.com](http://www.njbiz.com)

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy and New Jersey Secretary of Higher Education Zakiya Smith Ellis announced a $20 million investment in higher education in the release last month of "Where Opportunity Meets Innovation: A Student-Centered Vision for New Jersey Higher Education."

The following educators will chair the five working groups that comprise the higher education plan:

Camden County College President Donald Borden and Laura Overdeck from the Overdeck Family Foundation will head Creating On-ramps to College.

Rutgers University Newark Chancellor Nancy Cantor and Rowan University President Ali Houshmand will co-chair Making College Affordable.

Stockton University President Harvey Kesselman and Reginald Lewis of the Newark City of Learning Collaborative will co-chair Student Success.

Sarah McMahon from Rutgers University and Maggie McMenamin from Union County College will co-chair Safe and Inclusive Learning Environments.

The New Jersey Institute of Technology President Joel Bloom and BioNJ President and CEO Debbie Hart will co-chair Research, Talent, and Innovation.

The plan is based around a Student Bill of Rights which includes early exposure to college, starting in middle school; clear and comprehensive financial information on cost and financial aid; affordable and predictable education costs with support to cover expenses; experiential learning opportunities through research and/or internships; supportive faculty and staff with time and resources to support student learning; support for on-time college completion; opportunities to earn college credit outside the classroom for work and other experiences; high-quality academic programs that will prepare students for success in the global economy; safe, supportive and inclusive campuses that welcome all students; and a voice in the decisions that affect their education.
Governor Murphy and Secretary Smith Ellis unveiled the plan at Rutgers University-Newark, surrounded by students, state officials, and other higher education stakeholders.

Secretary Smith Ellis said the plan's central goal is to have 65 percent of New Jersey residents graduate from college by 2025. She wants every New Jerseyan to have the opportunity to obtain a high-quality credential that prepares them for life after college.

_School's Out?_  
[www.NJSpotlight.com](http://www.NJSpotlight.com)

After 13 months of fruitless negotiations, tenure-track faculty, part-time lecturers, and other professionals are ready to walk off the job at Rutgers University. It's sizing up to be a significant action.

The following is commentary from NJ Spotlight Editor in Chief Lee Keough about the likelihood of a strike by Rutgers faculty.

Rutgers faculty are planning to strike. See School’s Out? for the details of the issues facing the university and how a Rutgers faculty union is proceeding. It doesn’t seem to be an empty threat.

It’s difficult to take a position in any union negotiations. The rhetoric on both sides always seems to be fixed. Thus, it’s hard to get a clear view of what’s really going on. But I can’t help but think the faculty might have some very real concerns.

Certainly, no one wants to see a strike, nor do they want to see tuition go up. Rutgers already has among the highest in-state tuition of any state university in the country and its out-of-state tuition is on par with many private institutions.

But the faculty’s demands seem somewhat reasonable, albeit expensive. They are arguing for three things beyond basic pay raise (which would be awarded in any contract negotiation). The union asked for a plan to increase faculty diversity - which it says the university has already agreed to. It is also asking for parity in pay for female faculty members. And it is also seeking what might be the most expensive demand: a hefty increase for part-time lecturers, also known as adjunct professors. This is significant because Rutgers pays only $5,200 per course, per semester to part-time lecturers. The average pay for other Big Ten schools - none located in high-priced New Jersey - is more than $7,000.

Adjunct professors are the backbone of the teaching staff at Rutgers - the union says they make up 30 percent, but undergraduates are more than likely to have a part-time lecturer teach their course than a full-time faculty member. It’s mind-boggling to realize that given the high cost of a college education, the institution is paying its teachers so little. And Rutgers is by no means alone.

I have a good friend who teaches an undergraduate course at Rutgers. Although she has some supervision from the department head, she is the expert in her field and gets less help than you would expect. After choosing her textbook, she created her own syllabus, and then had to conjure her lesson plan, which consists of an hour and half twice a week. That’s a lot of time to fill. Then, she is expected to grade papers, as well as tests, which takes days if not weeks to complete. She also is expected to have office hours, so students can seek her out.
And for all that she gets $5,200. If you happen to teach two courses, maybe twice a semester, and another in the summer, you are still earning poverty wages.

I don't want to see tuition go up. But you have to wonder where all this money from undergraduate tuition goes. I guess it's not going to undergraduate education. Maybe we need to ponder that.

Higher Ed Plan Needs More Work
www.NJSpotlight.com

Op-Ed by Darryl Greer with decades of higher education leadership experience in New Jersey weighs in on the New Jersey plan for higher education.

Citizens and policymakers should be pleased with the release at the end of March of a long-awaited New Jersey plan for higher education. The plan "Where Opportunity Meets Innovation" is on target with its "student-centered" approach, and sets reasonable long-term goals regarding college opportunity, affordability and outcomes. The vision as presented, however, misses an explicit focus on a few key issues driving college success, and fails to propose a solid rationale for funding public colleges.

Practical experiences, such as internships and academic credit for them, are key to college completion and preparation for the workforce.

The state needs to provide more direct funding and incentives to help make this happen to meet students' number one goal in attending college - to acquire the knowledge and practical skills and abilities to find good jobs and to prosper for a lifetime. Colleges need to put far more resources into academic advising and career-counseling services and require students use of these services a condition of graduation.

Assembly Democrats' Bill to Make College Textbooks More Affordable Heads to Governor
www.InsiderNJ.com

Aiming to ease some of the financial burden facing college students, legislation sponsored by Assembly Democrats Nancy Pinkin, Mila Jasey, Wayne DeAngelo, Joe Danielsen, Benjie Wimberly, Angela McKnight, and Adam Taliaferro to expand the use of digital alternatives to textbooks was approved at the end of March 2019, by the full Assembly, 77-0.

The bill (A-327 / S-768) requires each institution of higher education to submit a plan to the Secretary of Higher Education to expand the use of open textbooks and commercial digital learning materials. "Open textbooks" are educational resources for college courses that are available online for free or at a reduced cost.

Noteworthy: National Issues

Higher Ed Funding is Halfway Back to Pre-Recession
www.EducationDive.com

State per-student spending on higher education is rebounding, though it is only halfway
back to its pre-recession levels, according to a new report from the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO), which looks at changes in higher ed finance over the last decade at the state and national levels. Just nine states are back to pre-recession funding levels, while nine have had no recovery.

The flattening of tuition revenue suggests public colleges and universities are responding to market pressure on price growth, the SHEEO report notes. Still, "heavy reliance on tuition revenue has become the new norm for how state higher education systems are funded," SHEEO President Robert Anderson said in a news release.

Some state budgets are proposing tuition freezes or limits on increases in exchange for more access to public funds. Colleges have also rolled out additional grant aid for low- and middle-income students, and some have even reset their tuition rates.

Net tuition revenue per full-time student has increased 38.6% since 2008, growing its share from 35.8% of total higher ed revenue that year to 46.6% in 2018. (The report counts total higher ed revenue as the combination of net tuition and educational appropriations.) SHEEO projects this share will surpass 50% during the next economic recession, as the share of revenue students are responsible for tends to increase during contractions. Already, however, tuition accounted for more than half of total revenue in 27 states, including Vermont, New Hampshire and Delaware.

Although appropriations were largely flat nationwide, significant variation persists among states as they recover unevenly from the recession. From 2013 to 2018, total appropriations to public U.S. colleges and universities increased 15.2%, though the changes spanned a 19.8% decrease in Oklahoma and a 47.1% increase in Oregon.

Seven states saw higher ed appropriations decrease by 40% or more during the recession: Arizona, Florida, Idaho, New Hampshire, Oregon, Pennsylvania and South Carolina. Just two states - Illinois and North Dakota - did not see state funding decrease on a per-FTE level during that period. In 15 states, meanwhile, the higher ed budget has less revenue available for general operations today than it did a year ago.

Although total education revenue in 2018 experienced the least amount of change in nearly 40 years, higher ed funding is not necessarily stabilizing, the report suggests. Overall, total education revenue across U.S. higher ed increased 12.9% from 2013 to 2018, with 18 states posting above that mark and 32 states falling under it, of which two reported decreases for the period.

SHEEO’s findings echo an analysis from Moody’s Investors Service earlier this year that evaluated states’ varying reliance on state-level public funding. It found that Alaska, Illinois and Hawaii rely on state funding for more than 40% of their revenue while Vermont, New Hampshire and Pennsylvania each get less than 10% of their funds from the state.

The Moody’s report suggests state funding concerns will remain a "high-profile policy issue" for public colleges, and that the strength of public support will remain largely tied to the health of the economy.

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