



August 2016

Dear Colleagues/Friends:

Welcome to our comprehensive E-newsletter, called *NJASCU News and Notes*. The communication includes not only the compilation of media clips, but also a selection of feature stories highlighting NJASCU-member initiatives, alumni, and state legislative priorities.

Please check www.njascu.org for the most up-to-date information about the New Jersey public colleges and universities, as well as the AASCU "Daily Headlines" service for the national higher education news.

State College/University Alumni Profiles

Each month NJASCU features an Alumni Profile (<http://www.njascu.org/alumni-profiles.html>).

Dean Peter Straub, Stockton University, Class of 1980 Stockton University's Dean of the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (NAMS)



Dean Straub said that his skills and passions for his various professional roles are rooted to his undergraduate experiences at Stockton - particularly those that represented "learning without borders."

His favorite type of classroom had no walls, was outdoors and hands on. Read more [here](#).

Events/Activities

**William Paterson University Galleries' National Juried Exhibition
"Ink, Press, Repeat: National Juried Printmaking and Book Art Exhibition"
September 6-October 14, 2016
Monday-Friday
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

Ink, Press, Repeat, a national juried exhibition of traditional and digital print media and book art by 48 professional artists from across the United States, will be on view at the WPU Galleries from September 6 through October 14, 2016. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on select Sundays, including September 18 and 25, and October 2 and 9 from 12 noon to 4 p.m. Admission is free. An opening reception for the exhibit will be held on Sunday, September 18, from 2 to 4 p.m. Learn more [here](#).

News and Notes

Montclair State University to Officially Launch New Center for Clinical Services with Open House

www.montclair.edu

September 1, 2016

Montclair State University will host an Open House on September 29th from 4 to 6 p.m. to officially unveil its new Center for Clinical Services to the community. Members of the public are invited to join local civic leaders, university officials and faculty to meet staff and tour the on-campus facility located at 147 Clove Road. The Center, which had its soft opening in the spring, was created to provide the general public with programs and services in a broad range of clinical areas, from mental health counseling and literacy development to a suite of psychotherapeutic services for children with autism and their families. Center programs serve neighboring communities, as well as people from across the state and New York metropolitan area. The innovative center embodies the university's commitment to making positive, meaningful contributions to its larger community - by both providing the public with access to affordable clinical services and by also serving as a hub for collaborative, cutting-edge research. "Particular care was taken to meet the specialized needs of the different clinical programs while, at the same time enhancing opportunities for collaborations and the shared use of space," says Montclair State University President Susan A. Cole. "It also provides our students with professionally supervised opportunities to develop their skills in treating clients of all ages and backgrounds."

This NJ College Has the Worst Professors Among Top Schools, Ranking Says

NJ.com

August 30, 2016

Princeton Review, the college guide, released its [25th annual college rankings](#) on August 29, including more than 60 lists on everything from the biggest party schools to the colleges with the best food and best athletic facilities. The rankings are based on surveys of 143,000 students at 381 top colleges. NJIT topped the "Professors get low marks" list. Among other public four-year institutions in New Jersey, Rutgers University appeared on the list of the top 381 schools without appearing on any of the other ranked lists, and The College of New Jersey received high marks on the following lists:

Their Students Love These Colleges (#6)

Most Beautiful Campus (#7)
 Best Career Services (#12)
 Happiest Students (#13)
 Best Health Services (#15)
 Lots of Race/Class Interaction (#19)

Why College Tuition is Paying for Carnivals and Parties

www.philly.com

August 28, 2016

Other public colleges and universities in the region also offer a variety of social events during their freshman orientation or welcome programs, including Rowan University's pride rally, movie night, midnight breakfast, and family feud event. Stockton University has a campus scavenger hunt, a casino night, and a movie-night slumber party. Rutgers University's New Brunswick "Welcome Days" include a dance party, post-convocation carnival, and a "Throwdown" competition that pits freshmen in a series of games. "A lot of times people look at it and go: 'Why are you doing all this fun and games? Why are we paying tuition to go toward these things?'" said Jennifer Radwanski, Stockton's associate director of new student programs. But, administrators said, there are very serious goals behind the decidedly nonacademic events: Research shows students who feel engaged and at home are more likely to do better, stay in school, and ultimately graduate.

Five NJ Colleges with the Highest Student Debt

App.com

August 25, 2016

Graduates from Georgian Court University are leaving the Lakewood campus with \$40,927 in college debt, on average, according to the report. Georgian Court was the third-highest in the state among four-year schools surveyed in the report. On average, students left four-year institutions in New Jersey with \$30,536 in debt in 2015, making the Garden State the ninth-highest in the nation for student loan debt, according to the LendEDU report.

William Paterson University Hosts Sculpture Exhibit Exploring Geometry and Nature

www.wpunj.edu

August 24, 2016

New Jersey-based sculptor Armando Guiller investigates the aesthetics found in the principles of geometry and nature in the exhibition *Armando Guiller: Patterns and Beauty*, which will be on view at the William Paterson University Galleries (in the Court Gallery of the University's Ben Shahn Center for the Visual Arts) from September 6 through October 14, 2016. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on select Sundays including September 18 and 25, and October 2 and 9 from noon to 4 p.m. Admission is free. An opening reception for the exhibit will be held on Sunday, September 18 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. For additional information, please call the William Paterson University Galleries at 973-720-2654. The exhibit features Mr. Guiller's sculptures from the "Free matter," "Helical," and "Spiral" series, which reveal the influence of such artistic movements as Constructivism and Minimalism as well as Newtonian and Euclidian principles. Trained as an artist and mechanical engineer, Mr. Guiller is fascinated by "finding the patterns that surround us and in some ways guide us."

Adjust NJ's Programs to Help Nation Meet Challenges of College Access, Affordability

PressofAtlanticCity

August 24, 2016

While loan programs let students take on more debt, they allowed colleges to increase their costs - which provided more funding for programs, but required even more borrowing to pay for college.

The results overall fall short of hopes and expectations. About half of college students have completed their four-year degree after six years. Many with degrees have difficulty finding jobs if they didn't study science, technology, engineering, mathematics or business.

Editorial does credit some of the creative arrangements between community colleges and four-year institutions that enhance affordability, but does not distinguish between national statistics

and the situation at New Jersey's public institutions.

Where NJ Colleges Stand in Number of Campus Sexual Assaults

www.NJTVonline.org

August 23, 2016

Laura Luciano has worked in the [Victim Assistance Office of Rutgers University](#) for 15 years. She says the university has made tremendous progress in bringing sexual assault out of the darkness. A report from the [U.S. Department of Education](#) notes that there were 84 reported cases of rape among New Jersey's four-year colleges in 2014, 32 of them at Rutgers - the seventh most in the nation. Rutgers - the seventh most in the nation. Rowan University reported seven and Ramapo, Stockton and William Paterson - six. Patricia Teffenhart heads the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault, which works closely with Rutgers University. She says the federal report actually shows that schools are doing their job better. "We recognize that college campuses are a microcosm of society and we know that sexual assault and rape is the most under-reported crimes. So when we hear that students are feeling comfortable coming forward and disclosing, to us that says that there are campuses that are doing things right," she said.

Paterson's We McDonald, 17, Wows on "The Voice" [video]

NorthJersey.com

August 23, 2016

We McDonald, who plans to major in Jazz Vocals at William Paterson University, gave a gold medal performance Sunday night as the first competitor on the new season of NBC's "The Voice," which debuted following the closing ceremony of the Rio Olympics. The 17-year-old Ms. McDonald, who was born in Harlem but has lived in Paterson since she was a baby, was active in Passaic Tech's performing arts theatre program, starring in musicals such as "42nd Street." She's also an alumna of the Harlem School of the Arts, where she studied dance, vocal music and theatre and is involved with the New York City-based non-profit organization International Women in Jazz. She has also won at the Apollo Theater's Amateur Night.

New Jersey is Home to 3 of the Most LGBTQ-friendly Colleges in the Country

1015.com

August 22, 2016

Rutgers University-New Brunswick, Montclair State University, and Princeton University (despite the last one's laughable new HR language regulations). These three New Jersey Universities ranked in the top 30 for the top LGBTQ-friendly colleges and universities in the United States.

All three also received a full five-star rating in the Campus Pride Index.

The Campus Pride Index is the go-to LGBTQ bench-marking tool for colleges and universities to create safer and inclusive campus communities. It also offers an incredible tool for LGBTQ youth and their families when it comes time to start applying to colleges.

For the record, Rowan University and Ramapo College of New Jersey received two-star ratings.

NJ College Campuses Becoming Mini 'Downtowns'

1015.com

August 22, 2016

Select colleges and universities throughout New Jersey have essentially formed their own little towns right on campus, giving the campus community and nearby residents a chance to blend as one. At Rowan University, the \$350 million Rowan Boulevard project is already buzzing with more to come. Beyond housing for nearly 900 students, the corridor is packed with shops, restaurants and medical providers, anchored by major names such as Barnes & Noble and Courtyard Marriott.

But the project can serve as a big draw for potential applicants. Mr. Cardona noted all campus tours go through Rowan Boulevard, showing students where they could soon be hanging and perhaps working while receiving an education.



Campus Town, offering similar amenities and a similar vibe, is entering its second year of operations on the main campus of The College of New Jersey.

According to Curt Heuring, vice president of administration, the project has helped erase the perception that "there's nothing to do here at TCNJ without a car."

Michael Klein, executive director of the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities, said the time has come for

the state to change the underlying law and allow projects such as "campus towns" to continue.

"I think it's a good starting point for the public-private partnerships is that you can see the great success on the college campuses themselves," Dr. Klein said.

What Role Do Satellite Campuses Play in Economic Development?

PressofAtlanticCity.com

August 19, 2016

The opening of college satellite campuses and learning centers in the past decade came with hopes that facilities would drive customers to downtown districts. The results were mixed. Merchants and officials in Hammonton say Stockton University's Kramer Hall has sent customers to restaurants and stores on Bellevue Avenue since it opened in January 2013. Merchants display welcome stickers for students on their doors and offer them discounts on everything from food to clothing. "There are more people in the town. They may grab a cup of coffee or a lunch," said Hammonton Mayor Steve DiDonato. "We're excited and optimistic about what it can still bring to the town." Atlantic City is similarly optimistic as Stockton prepares to build a \$156 million campus in the Chelsea neighborhood.

How One School is Giving Students a Head Start at Becoming Teachers

NJ.com

August 19, 2016

Students with big dreams of standing in front of a classroom and helping shape the minds of the next generation now have a better chance of making that happen. Administrators from Rowan University and Williamstown High School are teaming up, starting this fall, to offer high school students a more direct path to becoming a teacher. Administrators from both schools met at the high school on August 17, 2016 to sign documents finalizing a program that would create an academy program at Williamstown that partners with the university's College of Education.

Forbes Ranks Stockton in "America's Top Colleges"

www.stockton.edu and NJASCU News

August 19, 2016

Stockton University has been rated as one of the best colleges or universities in the United States by Forbes in its 2016 listing, "America's Top Colleges." Stockton is rated as #164 among public colleges and #489 out of 660 institutions that made the list, moving up 55 places over the previous year.

US Department of Education Selects Thomas Edison State University as Only NJ Participant in Prestigious Pilot Program

www.tesu.edu and NJASCU News

August 17, 2016

Thomas Edison State University is one of eight institutions of higher education in the country and the only institution in New Jersey that has been selected by the U.S. Department of Education as a site for an experimental federal pilot program aimed at promoting, expanding and measuring

college access, affordability and student outcomes - the Educational Quality through Innovative Partnerships (EQUIP).

Noyes Museum Becomes Part of Stockton University

Philly.com

August 17, 2016

Stockton University announced on August 16 that it now owns the museum, which will be the Noyes Museum of Art of Stockton University.

62.3%

[NJSpotlight.com](#)

August 17, 2016

Only 62.3 percent of students attending a state four-year institution end up graduating - or graduate within six years, [according to Third Way](#), a Washington think tank. Even worse, eight out of the 12 public colleges (66 percent) would be considered "drop out factories" under other circumstances given that they graduate less than two-thirds of their students. Not all colleges are alike, however. The College of New Jersey has the highest rate of graduates, with 85.67 percent. The lowest completion rate is from New Jersey City University, with 32.97 percent. *(NJASCU CEO Michael Klein in his August 26, 2016 Executive Director's Report, responded to what he saw as flaws in the Third Way data. Please contact [pjherhsh@njascu.org](mailto:pjhersh@njascu.org) for more information.)*

These 10 States Take the Most College Freshmen from NJ, Report Says

[NJ.com](#)

August 17, 2016

New Jersey exported more than [30,000 college freshmen](#) in 2014, with at least one student attending a traditional four-year college in every state except Alaska and Wyoming, according to a new Chronicle of Higher Education database. Pennsylvania attracted 9,046 first-year students from New Jersey, more than any other state. More than 850 of those students attended Penn State, the Chronicle of Higher Education found. Overall, 31,783 college freshmen left New Jersey for other states in 2015 while 25,260 stayed within the state. The statistics shed new light on New Jersey's longstanding role as one of the nation's [largest exporters of college students](#). Nationwide, only six states sent more college freshmen to other states than they retained, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education data.

5 Ways to Save Money on a College Degree

[PressofAtlanticCity.com](#)

August 14, 2016

Making college more affordable is a major theme in higher education in New Jersey. Colleges have been creative in developing programs to help students graduate on time and with less debt. While it may not seem that way, New Jersey is the 10th most affordable state in the nation, due to low-cost community colleges and generous state financial aid, according to a report by the University of Pennsylvania's Institute for Higher Education Research. No one's college diploma includes how much they paid for it. Here are five ways students and parents can save money on a degree. *(NJASCU CEO Michael Klein was interviewed for 90 minutes for this article and provided background information.)*

Interactive Map: NJ Colleges Where Students Pile on the Most Debt

[NJSpotlight.com](#)

August 12, 2016

Students at New Jersey colleges carry some of the highest debt burden in the nation, according to data released on August 11, and Ivy League Princeton University had the smallest percentage of students in debt and the lowest amount of loans -\$8,577 per borrower. The average loan debt for students at colleges in New Jersey totaled almost \$31,000 per borrower last year, and close to two-thirds of all students had taken out at least one loan to pay for their education, as indicated by LendEDU, a marketplace for student loans and refinancing. That ranked the state's college students ninth most-indebted in the nation. Connecticut college students held the largest burden,

at close to \$37,000 per borrower, although a smaller percentage of all students had loans, 59 percent. In New Jersey, 14 percent of college students hold loans. New Hampshire and South Dakota each had 73 percent of college students in debt. Utah had the lowest rate, with just under four in 10 students using loans to pay for college. Students in Utah also carried the smallest debt burden - an average of less than \$19,000 per borrower. The new data is timely, since two state Senate committees held a hearing Monday on troubling accusations of aggressive and predatory lending by the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority. Testimony from students, graduates, and parents prompted two state senators to call for scrapping the agency, though officials said high college costs that force students and their parents to take out loans are a major problem.

Wanted: Innovative NJ Sustainable Energy Projects

CapeMayCountyHerald.com

August 12, 2016

Sustainable Jersey based at the College of New Jersey announced August 11th that it is accepting applications from New Jersey municipalities and public school districts for energy projects focused on energy conservation, efficiency and renewable energy. Funded by the Gardinier Environmental Fund, \$150,000 in grant money is now available. Applications are due on October 28, 2016.

Stockton MS in Communication Disorders Earns Five-Year Accreditation

NJASCU Quick-Takes

August 11, 2016

Stockton's Master of Science program in Communication Disorders has received accreditation from the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology.

"We are extremely proud of Dean Theresa Bartolotta's team in the School of Health Sciences," said Lori S. Vermeulen, provost and vice president for academic affairs. "The faculty at Stockton is very student-centered and this accomplishment is another manifestation of their passionate dedication to providing excellent opportunities for their students.

Talent Network to Hold First Targeted Industry Partnership Event at Stockton Seaview

www.stockton.edu

August 11, 2016

Employers, educators and workforce development professionals from Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland counties are invited to discuss hiring trends, skills and competency needs and workforce talent gaps at a Targeted Industry Partnership (TIP) event on **Monday, September 19** from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Stockton Seaview Hotel & Golf Club.

Stockton University is home to the Retail, Hospitality, and Tourism Talent Network, one of seven talent development networks funded by a grant from the N.J. Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

The RHT Talent Network wants people to attend this meeting to help shape how the state's workforce development funds are allocated and what training and certifications potential employees receive. "The state has allocated \$5 million to projects that are created by Targeted Industry Partnerships, which is a great incentive for businesses to be involved," said Stacy Forman, director of the RHT Talent Network.

For more information, email RHTSouth@Stockton.edu or call 609-626-5569.

\$70 Million

NJSpotlight.com

August 10, 2016

Rutgers Today, the university's daily news service, writes that the university is putting the finishing touches on a new master plan that will put the gardens in the same category as the New York Botanical Garden, the United States Botanic Garden and Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's home

in Virginia, by being designated a Horticultural Landmark by the American Society for Horticultural Society. The university envisions an investment of about \$70 million, funded through donations and revenue generated by events at the gardens. New features will include a 1.5-mile educational path dedicated to explaining the evolution of plants, trees, insects, and animals over 400 million years.

Tom Byrne 'Thinking Seriously' About Entering Democratic Primary

NJSpotlight.com

August 10, 2016

But Byrne's work on Governor Christie's bipartisan pension panel could cost him backing from public employee unions - and his moderate views may convince some he's not "Blue" enough. It's getting to be crowded when it comes to the 2017 Democratic gubernatorial field. Thanks to Gov. Chris Christie's extremely low approval ratings and New Jersey's long history of not giving the same party control of the governor's office for more than two consecutive terms, Democrats are confident the state's next chief executive will come from their own ranks. One of the latest Democrats to express interest in running is Tom Byrne, a Princeton financial professional and former chairman of the state Democratic Party who currently leads the New Jersey State Investment Council. Mr. Byrne is also the son of former Gov. Brendan Byrne, the state's last two-term Democrat.

Senators Unload on State Student Loan Agency, Outraged by Its Policies

NJSpotlight.org

August 9, 2016

Witnesses describe Higher Education Student Assistance Authority as 'predatory' and heartless - even with families of borrowers who die.

At least two New Jersey state senators say the state should scrap its major student loan program, called "predatory" and "loan sharking" during a special hearing on Monday, but note there are no easy answers for how best to replace it.

The Senate Higher Education and Legislative Oversight committees held a joint hearing on Monday on the state's [Higher Education Student Assistance Authority](#) and its policies, in light of a Pro Publica-New York Times investigation that highlighted tactics that senators found "disturbing." Those included the agency telling staffers they "should not be volunteering" information about a policy of considering loan forgiveness for students who die before making full repayment unless families ask about it.

Senate President's Failure to Act on Pension Amendment Enrages Public Unions

NJSpotlight.com

August 9, 2016

Sweeney says voters will be more likely to approve the question once the dispute about transportation funding is resolved.

New Jersey's teachers are promising to have a long memory after Senate President Stephen Sweeney didn't clear the way yesterday to put a proposed constitutional amendment to boost the public-employee pension before voters this fall.

Yesterday was the final deadline to get the issue on the ballot this year. The lack of action by the Senate leader means pension funding, which has dogged Gov. Chris Christie throughout his two terms in office, will now play a leading role in next year's gubernatorial contest.

Research from WPU Professor Reveals Blatant Health Violation at Majority of NYC Nail Salons

NJASCU Quick-Takes

August 9, 2016

Nearly three-quarters of nail salon workers observed during a recent field research study were not wearing protective gloves, despite a New York State law mandating nail salon owners to

provide them to their workers. The study, led by WPU Public Health Professor Dr. Corey Basch, EdD and published in the *Journal of Preventive Medicine & Public Health*, is the first study to document use of protective gloves by nail salon workers in Manhattan.

Federal Reforms Could Help NJ's Immigrants Contribute Even More to State Economy

[NJSpotlight.com](#)

August 8, 2016

New Jersey's immigrants are creating thousands of jobs and contributing billions of dollars in tax revenue, but they could be doing even more for the state economy with comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level, according to a new [report](#). Released by the bipartisan pro-reform group New Jersey Economy, the report provides an in-depth and well-rounded economic analysis of New Jersey's foreign-born population, which at more than 20 percent of all residents, is the third largest of any state's, behind only California and New York.

3+1 Equals \$75K ... or What Some Students Can Now Save on 4-Year Degree

[NJ.com](#)

August 5, 2016

Getting a bachelor's degree at Rowan University is about to get much cheaper thanks to a new program the university is offering through Rowan colleges. Students attending Rowan colleges will be able to stay an extra year for their junior-year courses before finishing their bachelor's degree at Rowan University - saving them thousands. Starting this fall, Rowan University will be offering a "3+1" option with Rowan College at Burlington County (RCBC) and at Gloucester County (RCGC). University officials say this is the first time any community college has been authorized to offer junior-year courses. With the 3+1 program, students will complete an associate degree at one of the Rowan colleges and stay on for an additional year. From there, students "transfer seamlessly to the University" to complete their final year for their bachelor's degree, according to RCGC president, Frederick Keating. A bachelor's degree at Rowan University - combined room and board expenses - can cost about \$98,000, according to figures on the university's website. Tuition and fees alone cost about \$52,000 for the four years.

Acting State Treasurer Gests High-Level Democratic Support for Confirmation

[NJSpotlight.com](#)

August 4, 2016

When Governor Chris Christie needed a new state treasurer last year, he turned to Ford Scudder, a financial analyst with little government experience and strong ties to a Reagan-era tax-cut guru. The Legislature's top Democrat immediately cried foul, suggesting Christie's pick would never win Senate confirmation. But even as acting Treasurer Ford Scudder has helped Christie pitch a major tax cut this year - one that has created ongoing gridlock between the Legislature's majority and the Republican governor - Scudder has been able to win over a key Democrat who is now promising to champion his Senate confirmation. Sen. Paul Sarlo, chairman of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee, said Scudder has built up a great rapport with lawmakers and deserves to be confirmed.

Stockton Plans Art Exhibit on Economic Inequality

[NJASCU Quick-Takes](#)

August 4, 2016

Stockton University invites students (high school and college), amateur artists and professionals to participate in a community exhibition of their artwork designed to bring attention to the impact of economic inequality in the United States.

NJ Will Make It Harder to Graduate High School

[NJ.com](#)

August 3, 2016

Georgia and California recently ditched their high school graduation tests and began [retroactively awarding diplomas](#) to students who flunked them. Pennsylvania shelved a new high school graduation test [until at least 2019](#). New Jersey, however, is moving ahead with plans to continue making students pass an exam in order to graduate, even though the [national trend](#) is shifting in the opposite direction and a majority of students who took the proposed test thus far didn't make the grade. In a move that would effectively make New Jersey a national outlier in education, the state Board of Education on Wednesday is expected to adopt the controversial PARCC exams as the sole test for earning a high school diploma [beginning with the Class of 2021](#). Students entering eighth grade this school year would be required to eventually pass both the Algebra I and 10th-grade English tests from the [Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers \(PARCC\)](#) exams - something fewer than 50 percent of current high school students have accomplished after two years of testing. The only other option for fulfilling the testing requirement mandated by state law would be a last-resort appeal to the state. "They are doubling down on swimming against the tide by having a graduation test and by making it PARCC," said Bob Schaeffer, public education director of FairTest, a national non-profit group critical of standardized testing.

New Law Requires Suicide-Prevention Steps at NJ Colleges, Universities

[NJSpotlight.com](#)

August 2, 2016

To help reduce college-age suicides in New Jersey, on August 1, 2016, Gov. Chris Christie signed a measure that requires all higher education facilities to ensure trained mental health experts are available to help suicidal students, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The law, which received nearly unanimous support in the Legislature, requires schools to notify all students of this resource within the first two weeks of each semester. The Madison Holleran Suicide Prevention Act honors the memory of a star Allendale student-athlete. Each year, suicide kills more than 1,000 college students in the United States and ranks as the second-leading cause of death for young people. The losses range from those who struggled for years with serious mental health issues to successful athletes and campus leaders who appeared to lead happy, healthy lives. Regardless of a younger's personal history and emotional exterior, quick and easy access to a skilled mental health professional can mean the difference between life and death, experts agree.

Agenda: State Board to Finalize HS Graduation Requirements

[NJSpotlight.com](#)

August 2, 2016

At its August meeting, the State Board of Education will take its final vote on new high school graduation requirements, starting with the Class of 2021. The topic has been debated for years and may be for years to come, but the state board appears undaunted about moving ahead in setting new requirements for what it means to get a high school diploma in New Jersey. Under the code being vote on today, starting in 2021, when today's seventh graders will graduate, students will need to have passed state PARCC tests in Algebra I and 10th grade reading and writing. The opposition remains strong, with more than 200 signatures signing a petition against the move, but the vote appears all but assured. Board president Mark Biedron acknowledged the intense opposition to setting such hard-and-fast rules - especially when barely half of graduating students now pass that measure - and he said the board would be closely watching the lead-up to 2021. "We have five years to look at this," Mr. Biedron said. "If next year or the year after, we don't move the needle [on passing rates], we may need to reevaluate what is proficiency."

Stockton Receives \$380,000 Federal Grant for Brain Research

[NJASCU Quick-Takes](#)

August 1, 2016

Stockton University has received a grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), part of the federal government's National Institutes of Health (NIH), to examine a neurodevelopmental pathway in the brain. The project will investigate the mechanisms in neural stem cells (NSCs) that can lead to neurological pathologies. The three-year project, with total funding of \$380,133, is titled "Akt-mTOR Pathway Impact on Neural Stem Cell Fates."

If you have not subscribed to "Daily Headlines" from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (a daily news service) and are interested, you can sign up at <http://www.aascu.org/policy/publications/subscriptionform/>. We have found "Daily Headlines" to be well targeted to the interests and needs of higher education leaders and decision makers. It includes national and state news, so you will see important stories from New Jersey media outlets on a regular basis.

We are now on Facebook and would love for you to follow us:

<https://www.facebook.com/NJASCUorg>

Thank you,

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