Dear Colleagues/Friends:

Welcome to News and Notes, a publication that includes news items directly relating to NJASCU institutions, as well as political and economic items that are relevant to public higher education institutions in New Jersey. Please send us any item about your school that you would like to share and have included in our next newsletter.

2017 Higher Education Symposium

October 19, 2017
Trenton War Memorial
Trenton, New Jersey

On Thursday, October 19, 2017, the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities (NJASCU) hosted its annual Symposium on Higher Education at the Trenton War Memorial in Trenton, New Jersey. The purpose of this annual event is to stimulate discussion among the state leaders in government, business and higher education about significant issues challenging New Jersey's public higher education institutions and affecting not only the hundreds of thousands of enrolled students, but also every resident and business in the state. The symposium is a key component of NJASCU's role as the leading voice for public higher education in New Jersey. Working in cooperation with students, faculty and campus administrators, NJASCU plays an active role in developing and proposing state higher education policy to better serve New Jersey's citizens. (NJASCU's brochure)

Under the overarching theme of the 2017 event was the value of a bachelor's degree to the individual and to society. The participating university representatives made two specific recommendations: reform the State College Contracts Law, and say 'No' to a recent suggestion to bring back the Chancellor of Higher Education as a way to restructure higher education in New Jersey. (State College Contracts Law fact sheet)

The NJASCU Symposium began two years ago to honor former NJASCU staff member Paul Shelly, who served for over 25 years as the association's communications director. "We wanted to honor our fellow staff member, Paul Shelly," said NJASCU Executive Director Michael Klein. "Paul loved policy and was a real expert about getting the word out about the value of public education and the important role public colleges and universities play in New Jersey. It's incumbent upon us to have events like this - where college leaders can meet with business leaders and public officials to talk about the issues facing higher education in New Jersey." (2017 Symposium Program)

The keynote speaker at the 2017 event was the Honorable James Florio, former New Jersey governor, who among his many accomplishments during his tenure created the New Jersey Business-Higher Education forum to develop strategies for making the higher education system more responsive to the needs of business and improving the education of a
skilled workforce. He spoke primarily about the importance of the bachelor's degree in today’s society. The economic value of a bachelor's degree for the individual is well documented and "obvious, but less obvious is the value of a bachelor's degree for sustaining a civil society and our democracy. The bachelor's degree provides the tools to accommodate change, to develop analytical skills, to acquire intellectual courage, to engage with and understand others .... Higher education is crucial to prepare a new generation of leaders,” said Governor Florio.

In a statement to Ramapo News, the governor added, "We need to have stronger advocacy for higher education. The state has gone from funding 70 percent of a public college’s operating budget to an average of 20 percent.....(This is unfortunate, because) it's an investment that yields great returns." (State Funding to the New Jersey State Colleges and Universities fact sheet.)

See full summary of symposium.

Photos of Symposium Participants: (clockwise) Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker, Assemblywoman Mila Jasey, Senator Tom Kean, Jr., Assemblyman Louis Greenwald, the former NJ Governor James Florio with NJASCU CEO Mike Klein, Mike Klein with Assemblyman Zwicker and Assemblywoman Jasey

See more photos from symposium here.

State College/University Alumni Profiles

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

Our most recent Alumni Profile is:

Scott Schober, Kean University, Class of 1992
Campus Specific News

The College of New Jersey Dedicates a New SigmaPharm Laboratories Organic Chemistry Suite
www.tcnj.edu

The new SigmaPharm Laboratories Organic Chemistry Suite, which is part of TCNJ’s new Chemistry addition, will be utilized for the department’s sophomore-level and upper-level laboratory courses, as well as its robust undergraduate research program. The open design of the suite intentionally supports the kind of powerful learning that TCNJ’s mission requires. The spaces were specifically designed to maximize interdisciplinary connections and collaborative learning among students and faculty in a research-based curriculum.

The College of New Jersey to Create a New Center for Health and Wellness
www.tcnj.edu

The new health and wellness center will continue the counseling work that had previously been housed in the TCNJ Clinic, in addition to providing increased educational and health and wellness resources for the campus and community. The vision and timeline for short and long-term goals of the center are being finalized.

TCNJ Launches a Masters of Public Health Program
www.tcnj.edu

TCNJ’s School of Nursing, Health, and Exercise Science announced the creation of a dynamic Master’s of Public Health program aimed at addressing the lack of proficient public health facilitators worldwide. The program will begin next fall, pending state approval. The MPH program, which was approved by the Board of Trustees in July, is a comprehensive program drawing on talent from all seven TCNJ schools to train the next generation of leaders in the rapidly changing public health landscape.
Kean University Inspires Dialog on Race and Justice Through an Oral History Project
NJASCU QuickTakes

Kean University professor Abigail Perkiss is a historian whose research focuses on the history of race and urban space in her native city, Philadelphia. Professor Perkiss recently partnered with student performers from Philadelphia’s Hip H’Opera on an oral history project that was part of the development of We Shall Not Be Moved, which premiered in September at Philadelphia’s Wilma Theater.

Kean University and Union County College Sign Joint Admissions Agreement
www.patch.com

Kean University and Union County College have signed a joint admissions agreement. This is less than a month after Kean finalized a similar agreement with Middlesex County College. Union County College graduates who meet Kean’s academic standards will receive automatic admission to the university as part of the agreement.

Montclair State Joins Trend in Housing for Students Getting Over Addiction
www.NorthJersey.com

For students recovering from drug and alcohol addiction, the typical college campus can seem like a minefield of temptation, with frat parties, tailgating and late night rounds of beer pong. To help recovering students cope, Montclair State University has set aside a floor in one of its dormitories for those committed to sobriety. Officials hope it will give recovering students a refuge on campus, as well as a way for them to develop a small community of classmates who can provide each other support.

$55.8 Million Communications Building Opens at Montclair State University
www.NJBiz.com

Montclair State University officially opened its $55.8 million School of Communication and Media building at the beginning of October, at which time it was hailed as the most advanced in the country. The building was completed after two years of construction assisted by a strategic partnership with Sony. The facility’s technological advantage was intended to allow students to attain an education on higher-end equipment before the technology becomes mainstream in the media world.

State Recognizes Montclair State University as a Research University
www.Politico.com

Montclair's official NJ state designation as a research university brings benefits which not even the national “research institution” classification provides. Among the most substantial changes are rules impacting how Montclair State conducts business. The school gets to operate with greater flexibility.

As a public research university, Montclair no longer has to abide by New Jersey contracting laws for state colleges and universities, rules Dr. Cole described as "very rigid." Schools labeled as a state college or university must award contracts for goods and services to the "lowest responsible bidder."

Dr. Cole and other critics of the law noted that a contractor may look good on paper, but lack the expertise or staff to deliver the goods as promised. In the long run, such setbacks could cost a school more to change purchase orders or redo a project, or face delays. As a public research university, Montclair now can
consider not only a bidder's price, but other factors, such as a company's track record, in awarding bids.

**NJCU Offers Tuition Aid to Residents of Hurricane-Devastated Areas**

**NJASCU QuickTakes**

New Jersey City University (NJCU) offered tuition-free study the Fall 2017 semester to college students in Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands whose studies have been disrupted by the island-wide devastation caused recently by Hurricane Maria and Hurricane Irma. Visiting students will have the opportunity to continue studies at NJCU in the Spring 2018 semester on a plan which will reduce the usual out-of-state tuition cost to in-state tuition fully covered by a scholarship. NJCU will also provide students with a housing scholarship of $2,000 per semester.

**NJCU Receives 2017 Outstanding Member Award from Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities**

www.njcu.edu

New Jersey City University is the recipient of the national 2017 Outstanding HACU-Member Institution Award from the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. HACU's Governing Board approved the establishment of the award to "recognize and honor the extraordinary efforts and success of an institution that has excelled in advancing the mission and goals of HACU," according to the association. HACU represents more than 470 colleges and universities committed to Hispanic higher education success in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Latin America, and Spain.

**Ramapo College's Pathway Program Honored by Commerce Association**

www.ramapo.edu

Ramapo College of New Jersey was recognized by the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey (CIANJ) and COMMERCE Magazine at their recent 4th Annual Best Practices Conference. The College's Pathways Program, a comprehensive curriculum designed to help students cultivate a rich understanding of the career development process, was recognized at the event which saluted innovation in the workplace.

**Ramapo College Offers New Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education**

www.ramapo.edu

The School of Social Sciences and Human Services (SSHS) at Ramapo College of New Jersey now offers the Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education effective Fall 2017. Students at Ramapo College now are able to declare a major in Elementary Education toward certification as a classroom teacher in grades K-6.

**NJ Honors Rowan-Lockheed Partnership with Inaugural Innovative Partnership Award**

www.Today.Rowan.edu

The State of New Jersey honored Rowan University and Lockheed Martin with its inaugural Innovative Partnership Award during its recent "65 by '25: Many Paths, One Future" campaign launch at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation headquarters in Princeton. The award recognizes high-quality collaborations among higher education, business and industry.

The Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering (HMRCOE) and Lockheed Martin, which have collaborated for more than 10 years, developed a series of undergraduate and graduate programs that prepare students for a specialized workforce.
Rowan University and Nexus Properties Open Largest Phase of Rowan Boulevard Development
www.NJBiz.com

The just-opened $110 million phase, known as A3, added a total of 557 beds to Rowan Boulevard a 17,000-square-foot fitness center for the university, 43,000-square-feet of retail space, a 934-unit parking structure, and 37 luxury apartments spread across four buildings. The A3 development also added an additional 30,000-square-feet of classroom space to be used by the university's College of Communications and Creative Arts.

Nexus Properties was awarded a 30-year PILOT incentive by Glassboro, and received a $30 million residential ERG tax credit from the New Jersey Economic Development Authority.

Stockton's Hughes Center Honors State Leaders for Civility and Integrity
NJASCU QuickTakes

A Stockton University Hughes Center program on Thursday, November 9, 2017 highlighted the extraordinary civility and integrity of the program's honorees and the need to restore these qualities in government today. Former Vice President Joe Biden set the inspirational tone for the evening when he presented the Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award to U.S. Ambassador William J. Hughes, also a former U.S. Congressman.

Stockton Marks a Five Percent Enrollment Increase in AY2017 over AY2016
NJASCU QuickTakes

Stockton welcomed its largest freshman class ever in September, with 1,569 new students, a 32 percent increase from 1,190 freshmen in fall 2016. Dean of Enrollment Management John Iacovelli reported to the Board of Trustees that another 988 undergraduate students also transferred to Stockton, bringing the total undergraduate enrollment to 8,275, a five percent increase over the fall 2016 enrollment of 7,854.

When graduate students are added, the total enrollment at Stockton is 9,216, the first time enrollment has exceeded 9,000. Dean Iacovelli said active recruiting and financial aid contributed to the freshmen class increase, which is impressive considering that many colleges are struggling to meet their enrollment goals.

Stockton and Atlantic Cape Introduce Program to Streamline Transfer Process
www.PressofAtlanticCity.com

Students who enroll at Atlantic Cape Community College will have a clear pathway to a four-year degree from Stockton University with a new partnership between the two post-secondary institutions. Stockton always has accepted transfer students from Atlantic Capek, but the partnership will make the transition easier to transfer credits, waive fees and offer scholarship opportunities.

Thomas Edison State University Honors its Retiring President Pruitt with his Name on a New Building
NJASCU QuickTakes
Thomas Edison State University (TESU) has recently unveiled building signage designating Glen Cairn Hall as George A. Pruitt Hall. "We believe this is a fitting tribute that recognizes Dr. Pruitt's leadership, vision and more than 30 years of tireless service to our University, our students and alumni, and the city of Trenton," said Brian Maloney, chair of the University Board of Trustees. "His leadership has been transformational and positions us to continue changing the lives of the students we serve."

**Nuclear Regulatory Commission Awards TESU Scholarship Funding to Pass onto its Students**
www.TESU.edu

The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has awarded more than $197,000 in scholarship funding to Thomas Edison State University to benefit qualifying students enrolled in academic programs related to the nuclear power industry.

**William Paterson University Opens $31 Million Facility in Wayne**
www.NorthJersey.com

William Paterson University recently opened the doors of a $31 million multi-disciplinary academic facility equipped with state-of-the-art science labs, smart classrooms and a 90-seat auditorium. University leaders joined Assembly members Kevin Rooney (R-Wyckoff) and Mila Jasey (D-South Orange) at Preakness Hall, a 58,000-square-foot building originally known as Hunziker Wing when it was erected more than 60 years ago.

**William Paterson University Signs Agreement with Ain Shams University of Egypt and Ocean County College**
www.WPUNJ.edu

William Paterson University, Ain Shams University of Egypt, and Ocean County College representatives joined together on August 15, 2017 to sign a memorandum of understanding that will lead to cooperative baccalaureate degree opportunities for students.

As part of the agreement, qualified students who complete an associate degree from Ocean County College will be able to complete a baccalaureate degree from both Ain Shams University and William Paterson University.

**William Paterson President Kathy Waldron is retiring at the End of AY18**
www.NJBiz.com

William Paterson University President Kathleen Waldron, who was named one of the Best 50 Women in Business by NJBIZ in 2013, will retire at the conclusion of the 2017-2018 academic year. The university's seventh president, Dr. Waldron will leave June 30, 2018, after eight years in charge of the college. William Paterson said its board of trustees has begun a national search for her replacement.

"We have been very lucky to have someone as skilled as Kathy Waldron to be part of the journey of this institution," Fred Gruel, chair of the board of trustees, said in a statement. "Her impact on current and future generations of students is laudable and tangible."
Change in Montclair State's Status May Lead to Changes for Higher Education Association
www.Politico.com

Montclair State University's recent recognition as a public research university by the state was heralded by many as a positive development, not only for the school but for the overall higher education landscape in New Jersey.

But the upgrade in status had perhaps one unintended consequence: Because it no longer falls under the category of a "state university," Montclair was removed from the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities, as prescribed by the legislation, NJ A4969 (16R), establishing it as a public research institution.

Governor-Elect Murphy Announces Full Transition Team
www.InsiderNJ.com

"Our task is simple: get to work setting the blueprint to strengthen our economy and make it fair again," Transition 2018 Executive Director Jose Lozano said. "The depth and breadth of experience in this group is stunning. Let there be no doubt: New Jersey faces massive obstacles ahead. But together, with Governor-elect Murphy and the entire Transition 2018 team, we'll tackle those problems head-on and ensure the Murphy administration hits the ground running in January."

The transition team features strong representation from our presidents, senior campus staff, alumni, and close colleagues.

Education, Access, and Opportunity

- Dr. Harvey Kesselman, president, Stockton University
- Dr. George Pruitt, president, Thomas Edison State University
- Steve Weinstein, Esq., executive vice president for Policy and External Relationships/Partnerships, Rowan University

Urban and Regional Growth

- Dr. Peter Mercer, president, Ramapo College

Budget

- Co-chair: Dr. Henry Coleman, NJCU trustee and former NJASCU board chair; Rutgers professor

Government Technology and Innovation

- Dr. Ed Salmon, chair of the Steering Committee of Stockton University's William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy; chair, Salmon Ventures

Healthcare

- Michellene Davis, Esq., member of Rowan/Rutgers-Camden Board of Governors, executive vice president and chief corporate affairs officer, St. Barnabas Medical Center

Human and Children Services
Co-chair: Dr. Joseph Youngblood II, vice provost at Thomas Edison State University and dean of TESU's John S. Watson School of Public Service

Labor and Workforce Development Committee

Co-chair: Nelida Valentin, Stockton alumna and Stockton trustee; vice president of Grants and Programs, Princeton Area Community Foundation
Dennis Bone, director of the Feliciano Center for Entrepreneurship, Montclair State University
Bill Mullen, Montclair State University trustee; president, New Jersey State Building and Construction Trades Council AFL-CIO

Transportation and Infrastructure

Kris Kolluri, CEO of the Rowan/Rutgers-Camden Board of Governors; former commissioner, New Jersey Department of Transportation

Coughlin Taps Pintor Marin to Serve as the First Woman at the Helm of Assembly Budget Committee in 30 Years
www.InsiderNJ.com

Assembly Speaker-Elect Craig J. Coughlin has tapped Assemblywoman Eliana Pintor Marin to helm the Assembly Budget Committee when the 218th Legislature convenes in January.

Messenger Will Retire as Executive Director of Assembly Majority Office
www.InsiderNJ.com

Mary Messenger, the veteran executive director of the Assembly Majority Office, will retire in December. Possible successors being discussed: Laurie McCabe, who runs Speaker-elect Craig Coughlin’s legislative district 19 office and Mickey Quinn, veteran Chief of Staff for Assembly Majority Leader Lou Greenwald (District 6), legislators learned in caucus this morning.

Expecting Murphy to Move Fast on Range of Economic Policies
www.NJSpotlight.com

Christie vetoed Democratic bills on $15 minimum wage, millionaires tax but Governor-elect shares legislators’ top priorities. Throughout his winning campaign for governor, Democrat Phil Murphy repeatedly preached a message of strengthening the state economy and making it more equitable. High priorities are a $15 minimum wage and a millionaire’s tax.

ETS* Scores in Assessment and Student Success
www.NJASCU.org
*Sponsor Profile

In higher education, two "A" words are bandied about all the time - accessibility and affordability with the ultimate institutional goal of developing successful, well-educated, engaged individuals, who become valuable contributors to their local and global communities. But there is a third "A" word - assessment - that is crucial in achieving student learning and success. ETS headquartered in Princeton, NJ, gets an A plus in providing higher education institutions with the world's best assessment strategies and tools facilitating the overarching higher education mission.

ETS has a team of education experts, researchers and assessment developers who believe that, through learning, people can improve their situations in life and make incredible contributions to the world. At its core is the belief that by designing assessments with industry-leading insight, rigorous research and an
uncompromising commitment to quality, ETS is advancing equity and helping education and workplace communities make informed decisions about people and programs.

Renowned throughout the world for its assessment tools, ETS recently developed a new one - *TouchPoint* Assessment Portfolio that provides a holistic, rather than piece-meal, assessment strategy. The *TouchPoint* Assessment Portfolio includes assessments that span the entire student lifecycle, and includes support for measuring student learning and the overall assessment process. Therefore, institutions gain a comprehensive understanding of student learning and success. By analyzing student progress and capturing and utilizing meaningful data, the institution creates a bigger picture and develops a better outlook for institutional effectiveness and student success.

**AJ Sabath, NJASCU Board Chair, is the new NJPRO Executive Director**

The New Jersey Policy Research Organization (NJPRO) has hired a new executive director, AJ Sabath of the Advocacy & Management Group. Mr. Sabath, a Ramapo College alumnus and current chair of the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities (NJASCU) Board, assumed the NJPRO position on October 31, 2017. Mr. Sabath will continue to serve in his capacity at AMG while also serving as executive director of NJPRO.

**State Awards $8.4M to Colleges, Universities to Run Talent Development Centers**

To boost the number of skilled workers in seven key industries, the State Department of Labor and Workforce Development announced that it has awarded $8.4 million to a half-dozen colleges and universities to operate so-called talent development centers.

Each center will receive $1.2 million to educate and train individuals seeking nontraditional career pathways and apprenticeships leading to industry-valued credentials or degrees. The program is carried out in partnership with businesses, high schools, institutions of higher education, labor unions and workforce development agencies.

**Governor's Race 2017: Murphy, Guadagno Were Short on Specifics for Higher Ed**

While not a principal focus, New Jersey's high-cost public colleges - the fourth most expensive in the nation - and higher than average loan burden on students have been on the radar of both major party gubernatorial candidates.

Republican Kim Guadagno, the current lieutenant governor, and Democrat Phil Murphy, a former Wall Street executive and ambassador to Germany, agree on such issues as the importance of emphasizing STEM education and vocational training. But they have fundamental disagreements on others, including how to bring down or slow the growth in college costs and ease student borrowing.

**Is College Worth the Money? NJ Wants to Boost Degrees**

NJASCU 2017 Symposium on Higher Education presents data on the value - economically - of a four-year college degree. Data unequivocally indicate, said
Assistant Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development Jeff Stoller, that college graduates earn substantially more money and have a much lower unemployment rate than non-college graduates.

Over a lifetime, bachelor’s degree holders are expected to earn about $1 million more than those with no education past high school.

**New Jersey Policy Perspective Advocates for Making Public Higher Education a Top Priority**  
www.NJPP.org

Over the last quarter century, New Jersey's support for public higher education has declined noticeably, resulting in higher costs and rising debt for students and their families. Reversing this pattern of neglect and disinvestment by strengthening New Jersey's system of public colleges and universities is *essential* to New Jersey's economic success.

**SCUDDER: Opioid Initiatives Not Coming at Expense of Other Programs**  
www.APP.com

The NJ State Treasurer, Ford Scudder, tackled what he says are the misconceptions about the source of funding for the Christie administration opioid initiatives. "While much has been reported on Gov. Chris Christie's $200 million initiative to fight New Jersey's opioid epidemic, some of the media's analysis has been both incorrect and incomplete in regard to funding his much-needed initiative. As New Jersey's state treasurer, I would like to set the record straight .... Some contend that the governor is swiping funds appropriated for tuition and aid. The fact is that all students who have applied for a tuition aid grant will receive every dollar to which they are entitled under the program. The Christie administration - which has increased state funding of tuition aid grants by more than 65 percent since 2010 - has granted every dollar it can to every family that has applied and will continue to do so."

**Bill Introduced Would Restructure Higher Education System**  
www.DaillyIllini.com

Illinois legislators recently introduced their Higher Education Strategic Centers of Excellence Plan, which aims to keep Illinois high-school graduates in Illinois universities by making the application system easier. A similar bill has just been introduced in New Jersey.

Creating a streamlined, uniform online admission process for all public Illinois universities is one of the plan's goals.

**How to Pay for Free Community College**  
www.InsideHigherEd.com

Philanthropy, income-sharing agreements, lottery revenues and children's savings accounts are just a few methods researchers across the country believe can create sustainable tuition-free programs, according to a set of new reports.

**NJ Public Pension Fund Returns Over 13 Percent, Outpacing Expectations**  
www.NJSpotlight.com

New Jersey's public-employee pension fund investments generated returns of more than 13 percent during the state's last fiscal year, far outpacing the assumed rate of return for what is one of the nation's worst-funded state retirement systems.

Adding to the good news for retired public workers from yesterday's New Jersey State Investment Council meeting was word that the state was also able to make
an initial $377 million pension contribution before the end of September, meaning it passed the first big test of a new law that calls for state pension payments to be made on a quarterly basis.

**Undergraduate Internships are Beneficial for Job Prospects of Liberal Arts Graduates**  
www.NACEWeb.org  

A new study on the importance of internships and an article about the study in the October 5 edition of the *Wall Street Journal* illustrate the importance of a higher education degree in the workforce.

**English Majors: This is How to Graduate With a Job**  
*One good GPA plus at least two internships equals a job, research suggests*  
www.wsj.com

Landing a good job after college can feel like a daunting process, but new research suggests the formula is pretty simple. Get excellent grades and take as many internship experiences as possible. A team of researchers at Mount Holyoke College analyzed the career outcomes of around 1,800 students who graduated from the South Hadley, Mass-based liberal arts school from 2013 to 2015. They set out to determine which activities most closely correspond with improved odds in the job market.

**Budget Basics: Employee Retirement Benefits - the Problem is Large**  
www.NJSpotlight.com

This NJ Spotlight essay by Richard F. Keevey is from a series of articles that outline New Jersey's fiscal fundamentals. The goal is to demystify some of the state's financial challenges, and put them in context of the broader issues New Jersey faces. In this article, Mr. Keevey explains the enormity of the fiscal commitment to Employee Retirement Benefits.

**The List: Where Do Foreign Students Studying in New Jersey Call Home?**  
www.NJSpotlight.com

Many have complained about the possible effects of the Trump administration’s latest travel ban and announced end of protection from deportation for undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children by their parents, but so far there has been no efforts to curb the issuance of student visas. Still, there are some who say the new policies and attitudes toward immigrants in effect since the beginning of this year are deterring some students from considering a study abroad option in the United States.

**College Choice Releases 2017 Ranking of the 20 Best Colleges in New Jersey and Ramapo College is Number Three**  
Markets.BusinessInsider.com

College Choice, a leading authority in college and university rankings and resources, has published a ranking of the 20 Best Colleges in New Jersey and had some nice things to say about higher ed options in the state. The ranking for the 20 Best Colleges in New Jersey finds Princeton University in the top spot. Stevens Institute of Technology is in second, and Ramapo College of New Jersey rounds out the top three.

**Poll: Tuition-Free Community College - Smart Move or Dumb Mistake?**  
NJSpotlight.com

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Phil Murphy announced that, if he wins the election this fall, his goal is to make community college tuition-free across New Jersey.
Jersey. The proposal was part of a broader policy platform aimed at improving the state economy by boosting opportunities for women, minorities, and the disabled. But the campaign of Republican candidate Kim Guadagno also weighed in, questioning how state taxpayers would be able to take on the added financial burden – estimated by the Murphy camp to be as much as $200 million – without facing major tax hikes. Republican gubernatorial candidate Kim Guadagno, however, said the middle class will wind up footing the bill.

**New Jersey Commits to 65-Educational Attainment Rate by 2025 - Thus Achieving the Highest in the Nation**
NJBiz.com

New Jersey is committing to become the most educated state in the country.

Under the banner of "65 by '25," New Jersey announced its plan to achieve 65 percent educational attainment among Jersey residents by the year 2025 in a joint conference among representatives of the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, the Department of Education, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and the Lumina Foundation, a private company focused on education in the United States. The attainment level is a metric used to measure the amount of secondary and higher education achieved by residents of a state. New Jersey's average sits at 50 percent, several points above the national average of 47 percent. Educational attainment does not exclusively refer to four-year bachelor degrees, but rather any type of additional education post-high school.

**Phil Murphy Proposes Free Community College at a Cost of $200 Million**
NJ.com

Democratic nominee governor Phil Murphy officially announced a plan to offer tuition-free community college to all New Jerseyans. He couched in terms of smart workforce development.

**Budget Basics: How New Jersey Spends Your Money**
www.NJSpotlight.com

The $34.7 billion state budget for fiscal year 2018 (the part supported by state revenue and taxes) is divided into four major parts: state aid, grants-in-aid, capital construction and debt service, and direct state services. Within these broad categories appropriations are made by major program category (for example, Medicaid, K-12 education, transit subsidies, higher education, state police, and hundreds of other programs and line items). But from a macro viewpoint, the budget can easily be understood by focusing on these four general categories.

**Lesniak to Bow Out of Senate when Term Ends - but Not Out of Politics**
www.NJSpotlight.com

State Sen. Raymond Lesniak, New Jersey's second-longest-serving lawmaker, will be leaving the Senate in January when his term ends. But he won't be going away. The Union County Democrat has formed a 501(c)4 "social welfare" organization that he plans to use to continue to advocate for the kinds of progressive causes he has worked for during his nearly four decades in office.

**Moody Says NJ Still a Gamble, Despite Pension Fund Tapping Lottery Revenues**
www.NJSpotlight.com

Despite a new law that funnels about $1 billion in annual New Jersey lottery revenues directly into the state's beleaguered public-employee pension system, a
major Wall Street credit-rating agency is warning there remains "considerable risk" since the state faces still-rising pension obligations. The notice issued earlier this week by Moody's Investors Service also noted that changes to New Jersey's spending and revenue policies that would help make swelling pension contributions more affordable "could prove very difficult to implement."

**With Vo-Techs Turning Away Students, Lawmakers Consider Bond Issue**
www.NJSpotlight.com

Demand for vocational-technical training is on the rise across the state, but there's not enough space available now in existing school facilities to meet the demand. So lawmakers are considering going before voters to ask for approval of a new state bond issue to help cover the cost of expanding the state's network of 21 county vo-tech high schools.

**Charting Student Loan Debt Across the Garden State**
www.NJSpotlight.com

The typical young adult graduating from a New Jersey college last year left owing more than $28,000 in student loans, according to a Lend EDU report recently released. The average debt load for the Class of 2016 was about 7.5 percent lower than for the previous class. The total of $28,233 is the average for the 62 percent of graduates of New Jersey colleges and universities who took out loans during their years in school.

New Jersey's grads' total debt was slightly higher than the national average of $27,975, but significantly below neighboring Pennsylvania colleges, whose students had the highest debt load of $35,185.

While New Jersey's graduate-debt ranking was right in the middle of all the states, the issue has been a priority in the Legislature for more than a year as lawmakers have sought ways to ease the ever-increasing cost of tuition and fees and high debt burdens, as well as reform the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, which offers loans to state students. That authority came under fire for questionable lending and collection practices in news reports and at a legislative hearing.

NJASCU CEO Mike Klein has noted the reasons why debt data have to be qualified:

1. Debt data are voluntarily reported by the institutions
2. Debt data combine data from students at public and private institutions
3. Debt data exclude transfer students
4. Debt data are not audited
5. Debt data may not include all the private loans a student may be carrying
6. Debt data include graduate school

**Law Caps Size of Student Loans to Keep Them from Overburdening Borrowers**
www.NJSpotlight.com

A new law will limit the amount New Jersey college students can borrow from the state's student loan program in an effort to prevent them from burdening themselves with debt and to rein in the state authority that writes the loans.

**Op-Ed: Modernize Contracts Laws for NJ’s State Colleges, Universities**
www.NJSpotlight.org
Michael W. Klein, JD, PhD
In New Jersey, the rules that public four-year colleges and universities follow to purchase goods and services, or construct a building, depend on how the institution is categorized under the law. This differentiation no longer makes sense. It is time to abolish the State College Contracts Law - which applies to seven institutions - and replace it with the same rules followed by public research universities.

**Stemming the Brain Drain: Why It's Important to Keep New Jersey’s Students Here for College**

NJ Business Magazine
Michael W. Klein, JD, PhD

NJASCU CEO Michael Klein was asked to submit an op-ed to New Jersey Business Magazine about New Jersey's outmigration of college-eligible students. The following is his essay.

Each year, the students who leave New Jersey to attend college in another state far outnumber the out-of-state students who attend one of New Jersey's colleges. This net-outmigration, or "brain drain," hurts our economy and depletes our workforce. Reversing this damaging decades-long trend requires state support, institutional resourcefulness, and business leadership.

In 2014 (the most recent statistic available), 34,782 first-time undergraduates left New Jersey, while 5,876 out-of-state students came to New Jersey to start college, for a net out-migration of 28,906 new undergraduates.

To attract students to New Jersey's colleges with state-of-the-art facilities without increasing tuition and fees, the state must boost its capital support for our colleges, and make it more consistent. The $750 million Building Our Future Bond fund, approved by 63-percent of New Jersey's voters in 2012, was the first general-obligation bond for higher education in 25 years. New facilities for science, engineering, nursing, and business, plus expanded classrooms, were just some of the projects built with the bond proceeds. We cannot wait another 25 years for the next state-backed bond fund for higher education.

To give students a head-start on postsecondary education and introduce them to New Jersey's institutions of higher education, our public colleges partner with local high schools through dual-enrollment programs. Dual-enrollment students earn college credit while in high school and can transfer those credits to accelerate their college degree.

The business community knows the importance of retaining New Jersey's talent. The Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce projects that 29 percent of New Jersey's jobs will require a bachelor's degree in 2020, the highest percentage of any state. NJBIA recently formed a Postsecondary Education Task Force to build and promote a dynamic brand for higher education in New Jersey, and develop strategies to prepare our future workforce. I am excited to be a member of this task force and contribute to solving New Jersey's brain drain.

**National Higher Education News**

**Obama-Era School Sexual Assault Policy Rescinded**
www.Poltico.com

The Trump administration announced it is now rescinding Obama-era sexual assault guidance and issuing a question-and-answer document while a formal review is undertaken.
Education Secretary Betsy DeVos has said a new direction is needed to balance the rights of the victims and the accused, and said in a statement today, "As I said earlier this month, the era of rule by letter is over." The highly contentious shift under Title IX affects all the nation's colleges, universities and K-12 schools.

**Who Gets to Define Campus Rape?**
www.NYTimes.com

Who should have the right to define rape: survivors who have experienced sexual violence or those who are accused of perpetrating it? That is the core question raised by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos's decision this month to replace Obama-era guidelines on how universities handle sexual misconduct complaints. In a strongly worded speech, Ms. DeVos made clear that she believed the previous administration had used "intimidation and coercion" to force colleges to adopt disciplinary procedures that deprived accused students of their rights. To come to these conclusions, Ms. DeVos and her staff appear to have given special consideration to the concerns of men accused of sexual assault. After one hearing about campus rape policies, Candice Jackson, the top civil rights official in the Department of Education, said, "The accusations - 90 percent of them - fall into the category of 'we were both drunk, we broke up, and six months later I found myself under a Title IX investigation because she just decided that our last sleeping together was not quite right.'"

**The Biggest Misconception About Today's College Students**
www.NYTimes.com

Of the country's nearly 18 million undergraduates, more than 40 percent go to community college, and of those, only 62 percent can afford to go to college full-time. By contrast, a mere 0.4 percent of students in the United States attend one of the Ivies. College life for many is the antithesis of the stereotypical care-free, socializing existence. It is one of financial struggle, single parenting, working full-time.

**How Can Higher Ed Institutions Increase Access for High-Achieving, Low-Income Students?**
www.EducationDive.com

A new report from the Jack Kent Coolke Foundation found well-off students outnumber their low-income peers from selective colleges 24:1.

"Selective colleges and universities must commit to expanding access for high-achieving, low-income students and opening the doors of our higher education system to students based on true merit rather than family income," Jennifer Glynn, PhD wrote in the report, "Opening Doors: How Selective Colleges and Universities Are Expanding Access for High-Achieving, Low-Income Students."

**Survey: College Business Officers are Increasingly Concerned About Financial Stability**
www.EducationDive.com

The interweaving challenges of shrinking state budgets, reduced enrollment and lower tuition revenue have led to a decidedly dimmer view on the financial stability of institutions by those who manage the business offices.

**Presidential Salaries at Public Institutions Increasing**
www.EducationDive.com

The State of Texas remains at the top of the list in terms of the amount of compensation offered to the leaders of its' public colleges and universities, with numerous heads of institutions earning upwards of $700,000 a year, according to data released by the Chronicle of Higher Education.
The average total compensation for public college presidents throughout the country was $521,000, with eight presidents making over $1 million. The data indicated a 5% boost in executive compensation over last year.

**Why Republicans Don't Trust Higher Ed**
www.InsideHigherEd.com

Not only do Republicans and Democrats have different levels of confidence in higher education, but they are coming at the issues by focusing on different issues, a new poll by Gallup shows. Republicans who distrust higher education focus on campus politics, while the smaller share of Democrats who distrust higher education tend to focus on rising college prices, the pollster found.

**Americans Losing Faith**
www.WSJ.com

*Wall Street Journal* reporters Josh Mitchell and Douglas Belkin report on a poll that says Americans are frustrated by the cost of a college degree and are questioning a degree's value relative to that cost. Americans are losing faith in the value of a college degree, with majorities of young adults, men and rural residents saying college isn't worth the cost, a new *Wall Street Journal/NBC News* survey shows.

**Trump Administration Announces Demise of DACA - Issues in Hands of Congress**
www.NYTimes.com

The government will no longer accept new applications from undocumented immigrants to shield them from deportation under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA, administration officials announced Tuesday. But officials said about 800,000 current beneficiaries of the program will not be immediately affected by what they called an "orderly wind down" of former President Barack Obama’s policy.

**US News Rankings Create Incentives for Schools to Favor Wealthier Students**
www.Politico.com

A *Politico* review shows that the criteria used in the *U.S. News* rankings - a measure so closely followed in the academic world that some colleges have built them into strategic plans - create incentives for schools to favor wealthier students.

**University of California Sues Trump Administration over Repeal of DACA**
www.UniversityofCalifornia.edu

The University of California is the first institution to sue the Trump administration over its decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, according to a Friday news release on the system’s website. UC President Janet Napolitano created the program in her capacity as Secretary for the Department of Homeland Security during the Obama Administration (2009-2013). "The University faces the loss of vital members of its community, students and employees," she said in a statement. "It is imperative, however, that we stand up for these vital members of the UC community."

Please stay in touch: https://www.facebook.com/NJASCUorg; @NJASCU; www.njascu.org; pjhersh@njascu.org; 609-989-1100; 150 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608
Thank you very much,

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