February 15, 2019

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

**In 2018-2019 Academic Year, 513 Dreamers Were Granted State Financial Aid to Pursue Postsecondary Education**

**NJASCU QuickTakes**

According to the NJ Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA), Governor Phil Murphy's May 2018 education expansion has enabled 513 New Jersey Dreamers to be granted state financial aid for the 2018-2019 academic year. The education expansion allows for undocumented students who came to New Jersey as children to apply for and potentially receive state financial aid, provided they meet certain criteria.

"A total of 513 students who previously faced financial obstacles were able to enroll in college in New Jersey and receive state-funded financial aid in the fall of 2018. This financial assistance offers these New Jersey students a life-changing opportunity," said David J. Socolow, HESAA's Executive Director. "The successes of these first 513 students, who are now attending county colleges, state colleges and universities, and independent institutions around the state, will have a positive impact on countless additional lives."
"Ensuring all of our state's residents have the opportunity to access higher education is key to economic success," said Zakiya Smith Ellis, Secretary of Higher Education. "All of our residents who have benefited from a New Jersey high school education, are working toward citizenship, and come from families who have contributed to our economy deserve equal opportunities to go to college here in New Jersey. I'm pleased this expansion of eligibility is already working to aid people who will contribute to our state's prosperity for years to come."

Many of these families now qualify for the state's signature need-based financial aid program, the Tuition Aid Grant (TAG), because they can show proof of verifiable income. In addition, students who received the financial aid expansion must have met the following criteria to qualify as "New Jersey Dreamers":

- Attended a New Jersey high school for at least three years;
- Earned either a New Jersey high school diploma or a New Jersey equivalency exam certificate;
- Reside in New Jersey;
- Be certified as attending or enrolling at an eligible New Jersey institution of higher education.

Additionally, New Jersey Dreamers who receive financial aid must sign an affidavit that they will apply to regularize their immigration status once they are able to do so. As required by state law, male New Jersey Dreamers must also register with the Selective Service, if they are applying for financial aid and are between the ages of 18 and 25.

When Governor Murphy signed the law making state-funded student financial assistance available for New Jersey Dreamers on May 9, 2018, New Jersey became the 10th state to provide aid to undocumented students and the first to implement the law within the same year. Concurrently with the announcement, the New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application went live on HESAA's website.

HESAA - which is the state agency responsible for overseeing financial aid programs - proactively worked with community members to promote enrollment. Within days of the signing, HESAA hosted a webinar series for secondary school counselors and college and university financial aid administrators to explain the details of the program, at which HESAA reviewed topics including eligibility, school certification, and how to navigate the new Dreamer-specific state application form. By the fall of 2018, more than 950 secondary school counselors had attended HESAA's in-person training. HESAA also partnered with various community-based organizations to help build awareness through publications, workshops, and social media.

In all, HESAA received 1,209 completed applications. The 513 New Jersey Dreamers who received grants in Fall 2018 (which totaled $1.625 million in state aid) met all eligibility criteria and had applications that were submitted within the filing deadline. Students who did not file completely or by the deadline may still be eligible for the Spring 2019 semester. The program is expected to grow in subsequent years.

Please see NJASCU website for the breakdown of the numbers of Dreamers receiving financial aid by institution.

**Stockton University and Rowan College at Gloucester County Sign Dual Admission Transfer Agreement**

**NJASCU Quick Takes**

The presidents of Stockton University in Galloway Township and Rowan College at Gloucester County have signed a new dual admission and transfer partnership that will help students make a smooth transition from the two-year college to Stockton's bachelor's degree program.

The Transfer Pathways agreement builds a strong relationship between Stockton and Rowan College at Gloucester County by offering multiple opportunities for
students to seamlessly pursue associate and bachelor's degrees at the two institutions of higher education.

"Rowan College at Gloucester County is excited to enter into this transfer agreement with Stockton University," Vice President, Academic Services Brenden Rickards said. "This agreement will strengthen our long-standing partnership with Stockton University and allow more efficient communication and transfer for students interested in transferring to Stockton University from Rowan College at Gloucester County. For students, this provides access to transfer programs at Stockton University that do not exist with other partners and enhances their educational transfer opportunities. We look forward to growing our relationship."

Stockton Chief Enrollment Management Officer Robert Heinrich said the agreement will give students access to Stockton University services while they attend Rowan College at Gloucester County.

"Transfer Pathways is an exciting new dual admission option," Mr. Heinrich said. "If a student applies to Stockton but is not initially accepted as a freshman, through the Transfer Pathways program we offer the opportunity for conditional acceptance at Rowan College of Gloucester County. If students are already enrolled at Rowan College of Gloucester County, they can apply for conditional acceptance while they work toward their associate degree at the partner institution."

**NJCU President Dr. Sue Henderson Ascends to Chair of NCAA Division III President's Council and Elected Vice-Chair of the NCAA Board of Governors**

Dr. Sue Henderson, the president of New Jersey City University, will assume the chair of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III President's Council at the 2019 NCAA Convention in Orlando, Florida. Additionally, Dr. Henderson has been elected Vice-Chair of the influential NCAA Board of Governors.

Dr. Henderson, who served as Division III Vice-Chair since January 2018, will serve as chair until the January 2020 convention in Anaheim, California, as chair of the President's Council. It will be her second year as a member of the Board of Governors.

"I am honored to serve as the new chair of the Division III President's Council and grateful to serve as Vice-Chair of the NCAA Board of Governors. Collegiate athletics play a vital role in the life of any institution. It is exciting to serve at a time where the NCAA is focusing on all aspects of the holistic development of the student-athlete including health and wellness."

Dr. Henderson will be the first president from a New Jersey Athletic Conference Institution to ever serve as chair of the NCAA Division III President's Council. Furthermore, she will be just the third chair from a Division III public institution and the first female president from a Division III public to serve as chair.

**Professor Kevin Michels, TCNJ Professor at the School of Business, is Working to Make Innovation an Academic Discipline**

If New Jersey government and business leaders were playing television's popular word game "Wheel of Fortune," their word of choice for solving all the puzzles would be 'innovation.' They spell the word daily in their speeches that extol the virtues of innovation as being the key to New Jersey's fame and fortune. Turning that key and unlocking the value of innovation may be a bit more complicated, however, than using it in a sentence.
Kevin Michels, a professor at the School of Business at The College of New Jersey, can help individuals and institutions discover the societal treasures that result from well-executed innovation. Professor Michels is a student of innovation, which he is working to elevate to an academic discipline.

The keynote speaker at a recent Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce luncheon, Professor Michels was named one of the Top 40 Undergraduate Business Professors in the country in a 2017 survey by Poets and Quants Magazine. As a perpetual student, teacher, and advocate of innovation, he sees innovation as "a trinity of value, ethics and technology .... A deep reflection on value and ethics can help us uncover the innovation opportunities that technology can deliver .... Businesses, social enterprises, and technologists can learn how to work together to create and deliver valuable change," said Professor Michels, who teaches courses and conducts research on law, ethics and innovation and is the founding director of the School of Business Center for Innovation and Ethics. He is working on a book tentatively titled: The Innovator's Discipline: Fusing Value, Ethics and Technology to Change the World. Read full article.

Noteworthy: NJASCU Colleges and Universities

Ramapo Film Students Earn Top Editing Award for Web Series
www.Ramapo.edu

"Deep End," an original 5-episode Web Series written and produced by Ramapo College film students, garnered the top award for Best Editing at the New Jersey Web Festival, held earlier this semester. "Deep End" bested 14 competitors in the category to earn the honor.

Professor Kelly Dolak, who teaches Web Series Production in the College's School of Contemporary Arts, served as Executive Producer.

"The Web Series course is known for its intensive time commitment," said Dolak. "Students worked more than 30 hours a week producing, writing, filming and editing 'Deep End,' and this class met the challenge."

Nature Article Co-Authored by Rowan Professor Forecasts Climate Change Chaos
www.Rowan.edu

An article in the February 7 issue of the journal Nature, co-authored by Rowan Assistant Professor Luke Trusel, predicts new and dire consequences from climate change, much of the result of rapidly melting polar ice entering the oceans.

Those consequences, which include rising sea levels (which will mean greater flooding in low-lying areas), altered ocean currents (which help regulate temperature), and more variable and extreme weather across the globe, have not previously been accounted for in government forecasts. Further, scientists believe they result from government policies failing to address rising greenhouse gas emissions.

William Paterson is Honored as a New Member of Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society
www.WPUNJ.edu
William Paterson University was accepted as a new member of Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society in Social Sciences, based on the exceptional quality and quantity of the University's students and faculty research in the Social Sciences Honor track.

"We are honored to house the New Jersey Zeta Chapter of Pi Gamma Mu, says Barbara Andrew, dean of the Honors College at William Paterson. "Our acceptance was supported by faculty and student research and the quality of the coursework available in the Honors track and the associated majors."

Kean Industrial Design Students Shine at Prestigious Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Museum Exhibit
www.Kean.edu

A team of Kean industrial design students is exhibiting its transportation vision for the University at the prestigious Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum in New York City, one of only five student teams selected from across the nation.

Their project, "A Day in the Life of a Kean Student," has been included in the exhibit, The Road Ahead: Reimagining Transportation. The exhibit opened in December, and is scheduled to be on display until March 31. The other universities represented are Harvard, Arizona State, the University of Michigan, and the University of Washington.

The students, all of whom are in the industrial design program at Kean's Michael Graves College Robert Busch School of Design, collaborated on the project that brainstormed new means of transportation. They came up with a shuttle system leading to Kean; a fleet of on-campus self-driving carts; and a fleet of assisted-pedal bicycles, with apps that tie all the features together.

Montclair State Business Professor Wins Prestigious Award from Small Businesses and Entrepreneurship Association
www.Montclair.edu

Montclair State University Professor of Information Management and Business Analytics Ethne Swartz was inducted as a Justin G. Longenecker Fellow at the annual conference of the United States Association for Small Businesses and Entrepreneurship (USASBE) in January.

The USASBE advances entrepreneurship education through teaching, scholarship and practice, bestowing its highest recognition to its Longenecker Fellows for their contributions on behalf of small and mid-sized companies. With her induction, Swartz joins a select group of 66 distinguished educators, researchers, government officials, small business advocates and trade association leaders who have received the prestigious award since 1986.

Noteworthy: General Category

Coalition Letter to Sec. Devos Re: Proposed Title IX Regulations
www.AASCU.org

The overarching goal of our comments is to (1) note where we believe the proposed rule would help institutions better support survivors, have processes that are fair and equitable to both parties, and understand the responsibilities Title IX imposes on institutions; and (2) identify and describe where changes are needed to help achieve these objectives. Our comments align with what we have said since
the Obama administration issued its Dear Colleague Letter in 2011 and are consistent with the goals of the NPRM. Most importantly, we ask that the final rule reflect this fundamental premise: Colleges and universities are educational institutions, not arms of or alternatives to the criminal justice system. They should not be expected to mimic civil court systems with trial-like forums that enable one person to seek a quasi-judicial judgment against another individual. Attempts to graft formal legal procedures onto internal college and university disciplinary systems conflict with a longstanding body of case law that distinguishes college disciplinary processes from judicial systems.

**University of Wisconsin System Confronts Maintenance Backlog: "We Can’t Afford to Keep Kicking This Issue Down the Road"**

Deferred maintenance is plaguing public colleges in New Jersey and throughout the country. University of Wisconsin System details the dilemma.

**Going to College Should Not Be a Financial Albatross**
[www.NYTimes.com](http://www.NYTimes.com)

In Senator and former Education Secretary Lamar Alexander's op-ed, he presents strategies for college affordability.

Our country has most of the best colleges in the world. We also have the most graduates paying off college debt. Roughly 40 million borrowers owe $1.5 trillion in student loan debt.

The questions I hear most often about college are: "Can I afford it? Is it worth it? Can you make it simpler to apply for financial aid and pay back loans?"

Administrators have a specific question: "Can you do something about the jungle of red tape that wastes money on overhead that could instead be spent on students?" First, to reduce to about two dozen from 108 the number of questions on the form 20 million families fill out every year to apply for federal student financial aid. Eliminating this unnecessary complexity is the best way to help more low-income students attend college.

The number of applicants for student aid would go up by about two million a year, according to Kim Cook of the National College Access Network. The former president of Southwest Community College in Memphis told me he loses 1,500 students each semester who are discouraged by the chilling maze of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form. This simplification also would help avoid $6 billion in mistakes that affect taxpayers, according to the Education Department.

I am working with Senator Patty Murray of Washington, the senior Democrat on the Senate's education committee, to complete work on bipartisan proposals during the next six months. The next time a student asks "Can I afford it? Is it worth it? Can you make it simpler to apply for aid and pay back loans?" I want to be able to answer yes.

**N.J. Higher Education Secretary: College Internships Key to Professional Careers**
[www.NJBiz.com](http://www.NJBiz.com)

Zakiya Smith Ellis, commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Higher Education, touted college students working internships as a key to opening avenues to professional jobs during a keynote address Tuesday, February 5.

"People still value higher education. That is not irrational," Dr. Ellis said at the Education Summit presented by the Meadowlands Chamber of Commerce and held
A native of Georgia, Secretary Ellis disputed a misconception about the more people who earn a college degree results in the degree being less valuable.

"The nature of work has changed and the nature of jobs has changed," Ellis said. "We need learning experiences that are similar to work experiences."

One travesty is that some college students not do internships. Additionally, adults may not be able to advance in a career without a bachelor's degree so they return to college. They then mortgage their house or take money from their retirement account to pay for tuition.

"There is an affordability crisis," she said. "We have to tackle affordability."

Many community colleges have tuition and fees of $2,000 to $4,000 per semester, which is still a barrier, she said.

"We have to do something that gets at that value proposition," she said.

The second major idea surrounding college being a cost that is worth paying centers on people-learning skills that are worthwhile, Secretary Ellis said.

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**An Agenda for Higher Education Reform: Remarks by Senate HELP Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander**

www.AASCU.org/policy/

Senate, Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee Chair Lamar Alexander (R-TN) announced his priorities for a Higher Education Act (HEA) reauthorization, which he would like to get signed into law before the end of the year. Senator Alexander's three main priorities for HEA reauthorization are: 1) Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) simplification; 2) simplifying the current student loan repayment system, where borrowers will either have the option to use the standard repayment method (equal payments over 10 years) or income-based repayment (with no more than 10 percent of monthly income taken directly from the borrowers paycheck and forgiveness of remaining loan balances after 20 years of repayment); and 3) accountability for institutions of higher education (IHEs) based off of cohort-repayment rate, down to the program level, for all IHEs. This marks the first time Senator Alexander has laid out his HEA platform this Congress, and the Senator would like to have a bill through committee by the Spring, through the full Senate by the Summer and in conference committee with the House by the Fall. While we think it is unlikely that HEA reauthorization is able to happen along this aggressive timeline, it shows a renewed and increased interest in getting an HEA reauthorization done.