



February 2017

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](http://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>).

Our most recent Alumni Profile is:

### **Mohamad Bassel Khair, Class of 2013, Montclair State University**



## Events/Activities

### ***NJ Association of State Colleges and Universities Hosts Free Screening of Documentary on the Defunding of Public Higher Education on April 12, 2017***

The New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities (NJASCU) invites you to a **free** screening of the higher education documentary (2016) film *Starving the Beast* on **Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 7:30 p.m.**, Princeton Garden Theatre. The thought-provoking film about the systematic defunding of public higher education throughout the country will be followed by a discussion with NJASCU CEO Michael Klein.

According to the March 25, 2016 review in the *Huffington Post*: "No film better exposes the coordinated assault on public higher education that is going on right now." Dr. Klein will relate the movie's content to the declining state funding for New Jersey's senior public higher education institutions. Significantly reduced state support impacts college affordability and access for New Jersey's students, as well as the economic health of the state.

*The New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, created by state law in 1985 to support and advocate on behalf of New Jersey's senior public institutions of higher education.*

[www.njascu.org](http://www.njascu.org)

*The Garden Theatre is a nonprofit, member-supported arthouse dedicated to the community film-going experience and the preservation of the historic theater.*

For parking/directions to **the Wednesday, April 12, 7:30 p.m. screening at the Princeton Garden Theatre please go to:** <http://princetongardentheatre.org/parking>

**[Register Here](#)**

## News and Notes

### **No New Taxes, Spending in Christie's \$35.5B Budget, But He Floats Some Novel Plans**

[NJSpotlight.com](http://NJSpotlight.com)

March 1, 2017

Gov. Chris Christie put forward a plain-vanilla, \$35.5 billion state budget yesterday that calls for no new tax increases or tax cuts, and only flat funding in a number of key areas, including for schools, property tax relief programs, municipalities and colleges and universities.

But Christie, in the final budget address of his two-term tenure, also shook up the State House by floating a series of new proposals along with the new spending plan, including one that would see lottery revenues redirected to the grossly underfunded public-employee pension system. He also called on Horizon Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the state's largest health insurance company, to voluntarily contribute to his efforts to fund addiction services.

### **Christie's Proposed FY 2018 Budget Maintains Higher Ed Funding at FY17 level; TAG Increased But No Structural Changes to Program**

[www.njascu.org](http://www.njascu.org)

28 February 2017

Overall, the FY2018 budget would maintain higher education - funding at a total of \$2.2 billion. But Governor Christie's proposal to use NJ Lottery funds for pension funding raises concerns for higher education funding.

Operating aid to each of the senior public colleges and universities would stay largely the same as in FY2017. As the attached page from the *Budget in Brief* indicates, the only institutional reductions represent one-time payments made in FY2017: \$2.5 million to Rowan University for its Center for Research and Education in Advanced Transportation Engineering (\$2 million), and new academic buildings operated by the Rowan University - Rutgers Camden Board of Governors (\$500,000); and \$1 million to Rutgers University for Rutgers-Camden's School of Business facility.

With regard to the State's major financial-aid programs, funding for Tuition Aid Grants would increase \$15.7 million over FY2017, to a total of \$419.4 million. Awards at all levels of need would increase 2 percent over FY2017 award levels, and the program is projected to support more than 68,000 students. The Educational Opportunity Fund's grants and scholarships would be cut \$3.565 million (8.4 percent), slightly more than the \$3.035 million added by the legislature to the EOF program in FY2017.

The governor's proposal to use lottery money to make a \$2.5 billion pension contribution - an increase of \$647 million over Fiscal Year 2017's contribution, but only half of what is actuarially required - raises concerns over funding for higher education. In Fiscal Year 2015 (the most recent data available), revenues from the State Lottery paid for \$543.059 million in higher education services

### **NJ Pension Debt Soared to \$49B Last Year**

[NJBiz.com](#)

[NJ.com](#)

February 28, 2017

New Jersey's government worker pension funds lost a lot of ground last year, as the state's pension debt rose from [\\$43.8 billion](#) to \$49.1 billion, newly released actuarial reports reviewed by NJ Advance Media show. Even as Gov. [Chris Christie](#) made a record-high contribution to the pension system, the state's unfunded liabilities climbed ever higher, making the outlook for the weakest public pension system in the country appear worse still. The pension fund [lost nearly 1 percent](#) on its investments last year, and the state still contributed far less than what's recommended. And notably, the state winds up owing more because the treasurer reduced the funds' long-term assumed rate of return on its investments.

### **NJCU School of Business is Hosting Innovative Women's Conference in May**

[www.NJCU.edu](#)

February 28, 2017

Dr. Sue Henderson, president of New Jersey City University (NJCU) announced that the university's newly launched NJCU School of Business will host "One World: Empowering Women for the Global Conversation." JP Morgan Chase & Co is the lead sponsor.

The event will be held at the NJCU Hudson River waterfront Harborside location of the Mack-Cali complex in Jersey City, May 17-19. Three hundred and fifty businesswomen from the tristate area are scheduled to attend to explore **Womenomics: Making the Case for Women in the Workforce**. Participants will learn from iconic leaders how financial access, healthcare, education, leadership and entrepreneurship are shaping the future roles of women in the global economy.

One World is an outgrowth of the international network built by Dr. Henderson and Daryl Rand, Chairman of Friends of India: USA, Inc. through a decade of trade missions to India to foster the cultural exchange of ideas and best practices.

Dr. Henderson noted, "The One World conference presents an opportunity for a timely discussion on global equality. As the first female President at New Jersey City University, I know firsthand the importance of sharing experiences, insights, resources and opportunities that will help to inform how we progress in our professional and personal lives .... This is also a goal for the university

community and for the grater community, both domestic and abroad, which the institution serves. We are honored to host this global conversation, and look forward to doing so on the Jersey City waterfront at our School of Business."

Daryl Rand and the HarisonRand team, the Hudson County, NJ based marketing and communications company and the State's longest operating advertising agency, are responsible for the branding and management of the multi-faceted program. Major highlights include a strong focus on technology with Skype and live feed sessions with women leaders in India, China, Ecuador and Italy.

For further information, please register at <http://oneworldforwomen.org/>

### **Stockton University Is Honored with Two CASE Awards**

[www.Stockton.edu](http://www.Stockton.edu)

February 28, 2017

Stockton's "Presidential Vision Tour: A Distinctive Vision: Embracing Stockton's Future," and Jessica Kowal, executive director of Development and Alumni Affairs, were recognized on Monday with 2017 Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District II awards.

The Vision Tour received a Silver Award in Best Practices in Alumni Relations and a Bronze Award in the Special Events category.

Ms. Kowal, a resident of Egg Harbor Township, NJ, was honored as the CASE District II Professional of the Year.

CASE is the professional association serving educational institutions and the advancement of professionals who work on their behalf in alumni relations, communications, development, marketing and allied areas. The awards were presented during the CASE District II annual conference in Baltimore, February 26-28, 2017.

### **Building Financial Literacy in High School So Kids Don't Rack Up Huge College Loans**

[NJSpotlight.com](http://NJSpotlight.com)

February 28, 2017

As the cost of tuition continues to rise, more and more students across the country are being forced to take out heft loans to pay for their college educations. In New Jersey, the student-debt issue is a particular concern, with college students here carrying some of the largest debt burdens in the country.

A bipartisan group of state lawmakers is now trying to help stop New Jersey's students from being held back by heavy debt after they graduate college by ensuring they receive at least some instruction before they leave high school on the issue of college affordability.

### **Losing Access to Federal Funding Has Chilling Effect on Colleges Declaring Themselves "Sanctuaries"**

[RamapoNews.com](http://RamapoNews.com)

February 26, 2017

Sponsored by Republican Congressman Duncan D. Hunter (Congress), H.R. 483, which is titled "No Funding for Sanctuary Campuses Act," aims to block federal funding from reaching institutions that have declared themselves "sanctuaries." Trump's verbal threat and Republican congressional efforts have scared additional institutions from declaring themselves "sanctuaries."

This is the main concern around the discussion of Ramapo College becoming a "sanctuary campus." While not completely opposed to the idea, President Peter Mercer is worried about the risk to the college.

"If we were at risk of losing federal funding, our endowment would by no means be sufficient to offset the resources that our students would otherwise receive," President Mercer said.

**"Resistance" Group Wants Ramapo Declared a Sanctuary School**[NJ.com](#)

February 26, 2017

A group of five Ramapo College students want the school to declare itself a so-called sanctuary campus for undocumented students and staff.

A spokesman for the Ramapo Resistance group plans to deliver the petition, which so far has 200 signatures, to school officials, including College President Dr. Peter Philip Mercer, who earlier this month said the school and students face the risk of losing funds over the title.

"Declaring ourselves a sanctuary campus, which while it is a term not formally defined, could place us at risk of losing federal funding," Dr. Mercer said [in his state of the college address](#). "And, while we have a robust endowment, it is by no means sufficient to offset the resources our students receive from the federal government."

**"Stockton Safe" Provides a Safe Zone for all Students, Faculty and Staff Regardless of Immigration Status**[Stockton.edu](#)

February 24, 2017

Stockton University on Friday, February 24, 2017, issued a statement by President Harvey Kesselman, following productive talks with student leaders that led the Board of Trustees endorsing an agreement that outlines protections for undocumented members of the Stockton community:

Stockton University has agreed that the university is "Stockton Safe," providing a safe zone for all students, faculty, and staff regardless of immigration status. The university, to the fullest extent permitted by law, protects the identity and information of all members of our community.

Stockton's approach aligns with the actions of the New Jersey Legislature, which last week passed resolutions affirming that college campuses should "continue to serve as a safe zone and resource center for students and their families threatened by immigration enforcement or discrimination."

As a safe zone, Stockton offers the measures that the Student Senate resolution sought.

Student leaders including Senate President Maryam Sarhan, Unified Black Students Society (UBSS) President Mahalia Bazile, student Kaltoum Alibrahimi, student trustee Christian Moreno and alternate student trustee Ike Ejikeme represented their constituents in as articulate and intense a manner as possible and I could not be more proud to be the president of this institution, having students who acted as they did.

**Stockton to Pay \$132,000 for Boardwalk Hall Graduation**[PressofAtlanticCity.com](#)

February 23, 2017

Stockton University will pay more than \$130,000 to hold its graduation at Boardwalk Hall in May.

University trustees approved a \$132,000 contract with Global Spectrum LP Wednesday to provide the venue, stagehands, electricians, lighting, sound, video and other services for graduation rehearsal and ceremonies May 11 and 12.

State Sen. Jim Whelan, D-Atlantic, will receive a distinguished service award and be the keynote speaker at Stockton's first commencement ceremony at Boardwalk Hall.

Trustees approved a resolution for the award that cited Whelan's long service to the city and region as an Atlantic City teacher, city councilman, mayor and state representative.

**Mark Lender Is Named Finalist 2017 George Washington Prize**[News.Kean.Edu](#)

February 23, 2017

A book co-authored by Kean University Professor Emeritus Mark Edward Lender, PhD - *Fatal Sunday: George Washington, the Monmouth Campaign, and the Politics of Battle* - has been named a finalist for the George Washington Prize. The annual award recognizes the best-written works on the nation's founding era from the previous year, especially those that have the potential to advance a broader public understanding of early American history. This year's finalists include previous Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award winners. Professor Lender's *Fatal Sunday* co-author is Garry Wheeler Stone, PhD, a retired regional historian for the State Park Service and historian for Monmouth Battlefield State Park. "The George Washington Prize is one of the holy grails in early American history," said Professor Lender. "Garry Stone and I are extremely pleased, to say the least, to have *Fatal Sunday* named one of the seven finalists. We're in the company of the best historians in the early American field."

### **Opinion: The Coming Federalization of NJ Pension and Benefits Crisis**

[NJSpotlight.com](http://NJSpotlight.com)

February 23, 2017

Former State Treasurer Andrew Sidamon-Eristoff writes in an op-ed that "notwithstanding the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment, the federal government has repeatedly stepped in when the states' political systems failed to bring about necessary action. Prediction: Sometime in the foreseeable future, the federal government will step in to address the self-inflicted crisis in the state and local government pension and health-benefits funding. The only real question for us in New Jersey is whether it will happen soon enough to save us from ourselves.

### **College Connection: Public Universities Often Help Keep Costs in Check**

[MyCentralJersey.com](http://MyCentralJersey.com)

February 23, 2017

New Jersey students seeking an affordable college education often assume that the best route is to choose an in-state public college or university. While it's a great option to consider attending one of New Jersey's 11 public colleges, it's not the only way to go. Some of the highest ranked public universities in the country offer generous merit scholarships to lure top students from other states. At the University of South Carolina, for example, two-thirds of out-of-state freshmen receive scholarships starting at more than \$9,000 a year. Top students, with high GPAs and SAT scores more than 1500, often get full-tuition scholarships. Strong students can likewise get a great deal at Ohio State University where two thirds of out-of-state students get the \$44,000 annual price tag reduced to an average cost of less than \$29,000. A similar scenario exists at Miami University in Ohio where two thirds of out-of-state students get the \$49,000 annual cost reduced to \$35,000.

### **How NJ Can Make College More Affordable and Keep the College Bound Students in NJ**

[NJ.com](http://NJ.com) - Op-ed by Brigid Callahan Harrison

February 19, 2017

Each year, 31,000 of New Jersey's [graduating high school seniors](#) - more than half of our college-bound seniors - pack their bags and head to college out-of-state, many never to return. Part of the reason so many of our students leave begins with the simple economics of supply and demand: We have more college-bound students than we have the capacity to educate at our colleges and universities. But part of the reason also lies with a complex, inequitable and irrational system for funding our colleges and universities and supporting our needy students that most students and their parents are unaware of.

### **Anita Hill to Speak at William Paterson University**

[www.northjersey.com](http://www.northjersey.com)

<http://www.wpunj.edu/>

February 17, 2017

Anita Hill believes conversations can make a difference that the exchange of ideas and personal stories can lead to change, that speaking up and creating a public discussion can have an impact large and small. Ms. Hill, who in 1991 accused Supreme Court Justice

nominee Clarence Thomas of sexual harassment and testified during his confirmation hearings, will give a talk entitled "Reimagining Equality: Inclusive Communities in Post-Obama America" at William Paterson University on Friday, Feb. 24. She will also speak privately with WPU students before her event.

### **Students, Administration at Stockton Agree to "Stockton Safe"**

[Stockton.edu/news](http://Stockton.edu/news)

February 17, 2017

Student leaders, Stockton University President Harvey Kesselman, Executive Vice President Susan Davenport and members of the Cabinet today agreed that the university is "Stockton Safe," providing a safe zone for all students, faculty, and staff regardless of immigration status.

"The university, to the fullest extent permitted by law, protects the identity and information of all members of the community," said President Harvey Kesselman.

"We had a very productive meeting and came to a consensus about what will be most beneficial for the students. I thank Dr. Kesselman for allowing us to be part of this process and I am confident for a brighter future for Stockton University," said Ike Ejikeme student Board Trustee alternate.

"Historically, colleges and universities have been presented with the opportunity to stand for at-risk students during times such as the Fugitive Slave Act or Japanese internment. Many have failed. Today, as a result of the students' voice, Stockton took a step in the right direction to protect our own," said Kaltoum Alibrahimi, an Anthropology major.

### **Rowan Professor Lands Prestigious Science Center Grant**

[NJBMagazine.com](http://NJBMagazine.com)

February 17, 2017

Patients with broken legs soon may undergo more successful surgeries thanks to a robot.

That's the goal of Dr. Mohammad Abedin-Nasab, a research assistant professor of biomedical engineering in the Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering at Rowan University in Glassboro.

Abedin-Nasab has developed a robotic device that can assist surgeons in treating patients with broken femurs and other bones in a manner that will enable them to heal a little faster with fewer complications.

The University City Science Center is helping him reach that goal.

The prestigious Philadelphia-based organization recently awarded him one of three QED Program grants of \$100,000 to develop proof of concept for "Robosis™: Orthopedic Surgical Robot." More than 60 researchers applied for funding; the Science Center awarded the other grants to professors from the University of Pennsylvania and Penn State University.

### **Rhode Island: Tuition-Free College Proposal Moving Forward**

[www.AASCU.org](http://www.AASCU.org)

February 17, 2017

In her State of the State address last month, Gov. Gina Raimondo (D) proposed two tuition-free years for full-time students from Rhode Island at the Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College or the University of Rhode Island. By the year 2020, more than 70 percent of the jobs available in the state will require some type of postsecondary credential, yet only 45 percent of residents have any postsecondary education. Raimondo argues that her plan could accelerate the state's progress and benefit the state through higher tax revenues, lower unemployment rates, higher rates of homeownership, and lower levels of criminal behavior. According to the state's Department of Education, over 90 percent of high school seniors say they want to go to college and only 65 percent do, and the reason for non-participation is mainly financial. The Rhode Island House Finance Committee is expected to take up the issue on March 15.

*The Newport Daily News* (Date posted: February 15, 2017).

### **Thomas Edison State University to Pilot Free Guidance for College Level Examination Program**

[www.TESU.edu](http://www.TESU.edu)

February 16, 2017

Thomas Edison State University is part of a new pilot program designed to provide guidance for students who are preparing for a College-Level Examination Program (CLEP®) exam. CLEP, which is produced by the College Board, allows students from a wide range of ages and education levels, to demonstrate their proficiency of introductory, college-level material through credit-by-examinations and, in turn, earn college credit at more than 2,900 institutions, including Thomas Edison State University.

### **While Education Simmers in DC, NJ Quietly Puts Together its ESSA Proposal**

[NJSpotlight.com](http://NJSpotlight.com)

February 16, 2017

Long before there was President Donald Trump and U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, there was a new federal policy for public education called Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The law, signed last year by former President Barack Obama, shifted away from many of the top-down strictures of the famous - some would say infamous - No Child Left Behind Act. Instead, it gives the states wide discretion to come up with their own accountability standards and other strategies for schools. How much of that will survive under the Trump administration is open to question, but yesterday, after months of hearings and testimony, New Jersey released the first draft of its plan to implement the new law. NJASCU CEO Michael Klein served on the ESSA Stakeholder Focus Group that helped advise and inform the Department of Education on its drafting of the plan.

### **Op-Ed by President Kathleen Waldron: Deepening Our Commitment to Public Purposes of Higher Ed**

[NJSpotlight.com](http://NJSpotlight.com)

February 16, 2017

William Paterson University of New Jersey President Kathleen Waldron published a compelling op-ed in NJ Spotlight that reminds the reader of the crucial role that institutions of higher education play in serving society.

### **Twenty-One William Paterson University Honors Students to Present Their Research at Conferences Across the Country in Spring 2017**

[www.WPUNJ.edu](http://www.WPUNJ.edu)

February 16, 2017

Twenty-one William Paterson University honors students will be presenting their research at three conferences this spring 2017, in disciplines ranging from psychology to communication disorders to music. Conferences include the Eastern Psychological Association Conference in Boston, MA from March 16 to 18; the National Council on Undergraduate Research at the University of Memphis in Memphis, TN from April 6 to 8; and the Northeast Regional Honors Conferences in Pittsburgh, PA from April 6 to 9.

"Faculty are emphasizing opportunities for all students to present at conferences, where they can participate in panels and poster sessions and obtain feedback from experts in their academic field," says Barbara Andrew, interim director of the William Paterson Honors College and a professor of philosophy. "We have doubled the number of students presenting at the Northeast Regional Honors Conference from two years ago" reports Professor Andrew.

### **37th Annual Scholarship Benefit Gala is Scheduled for April 2017**

[Stockton.edu](http://Stockton.edu)

February 16, 2017

Stockton University's 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Benefit Gala will be held on Saturday, April 22, beginning at 6:30 p.m., with a formal that allows guests to circulate and enjoy live entertainment



and special menus in each of four spaces at the Stockton Seaview Hotel and Golf Club, 401 South New York Road in Galloway, NJ. Proceeds raised support the Stockton University Foundation Benefit Gala Endowed Scholarship Fund, which provided over \$110,000 in scholarships to 114 students last year. Since 2007 the Scholarship Benefit Gala has added more than \$3 million to the endowment in support of student scholarships. The endowment is a part of the Foundation, which has grown its net assets from \$3 million in 2003 to nearly \$34 million today. Over \$600,000 was awarded by the Foundation to deserving students this year.

### **Seton Hall President to Leave University**

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

February 16, 2017

Seton Hall University President A. Gabriel Esteban is leaving the university for a similar job at DePaul University, two sources have told NJBIZ. The sources, who requested anonymity because they are not authorized to speak on the subject, said the university also has suspended its search for a new provost. The search for a new provost began in December 2016. In September of that year, former Provost Larry A. Robinson announced his decision to retire at the end of the fall semester.

### **The College of New Jersey Lions Recognized for Academic Achievement**

[TCNjathletics.edu](http://TCNjathletics.edu)

February 15, 2017

The College of New Jersey men's swimming and diving team was named a Scholar All-America Team by the College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America (CSCAA).

The Lions (6-3) were recognized for their outstanding team achievement in the classroom. To be selected as a CSCAA Scholar All-America Team, programs must have achieved a grade point average of 3.00 or higher over the fall semester.

CSCAA Executive Director Joel Shinofield feels much of the credit, however, goes to the coaches. "Our coaches understand that the essence of intercollegiate athletics is the experience each student-athlete receives, and an emphasis on academics reflects what coaches' feel is most important." Founded in 1922, the College Swimming Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) - the oldest organization of college coaches in America is a professional organization of college swimming and diving coaches dedicated to serving and providing leadership for the advancement of the sport of swimming and diving at the collegiate level.

### **Top NJ CEO's Convene to Talk About Leadership Challenges**

[Web.cianj.org/events](http://Web.cianj.org/events)

February 15, 2017

William Paterson University President Kathleen Waldron is among the New Jersey CEOs to participate in a roundtable discussion led by Steve Aduato on Wednesday, February 15, 2017, 10 a.m. at the Hilton Hasbrouck Heights.

### **President Gitenstein Announces Advisory Commission on Social Justice: Race and Educational Attainment**

[News.TCNJ.edu](http://News.TCNJ.edu)

February 14, 2017

TCNJ President R. Barbara Gitenstein announced the formation of The College of New Jersey Advisory Commission on Social Justice: Race and Educational Attainment, which will be charged with leading a promised campus conversation following revelations last fall about the legacy of the namesake of one of the campus' buildings.

"The commission will help the college think about what should be the best institutional response in the face of Dr. Paul Loser's history as brought to light by the students who were conducting archival research under Dr. Rob McGreevey," said President Gitenstein.

### **Comparing Rowan and Stockton Universities**

**[RTForty.com](#)**

February 14, 2017

Two of South Jersey's universities are in expansion mode and we thought it would be interesting to compare and contrast their vital statistics, side by side, using data [from the state budget](#). You can see that enrollment is up at both universities (so are fees) and state-funded positions are also up at Rowan University. It will be interesting to see whether the chatter around Rowan's plans to expand in Atlantic City comes to anything, since Stockton University is rolling out ever-bigger plans for the city. On the one hand, expansion could bring more jobs and investment to the area, but on the other hand these institutions don't pay property taxes. Since we wrote about Stockton's plans to further expand in Atlantic City, we've also heard more people questioning the university's debt load and its tuition costs, so we looked at the numbers. The amount of state support that Rowan receives is much greater - my guess is that this is tied to Rowan's medical programs, but it's not clear. And Stockton is slightly more expensive than Rowan, by these measures.

**Stockton University Garners Award for Its Gateway Project****[SNJToday.com](#)**

February 14, 2017

Stockton University's Atlantic City campus has been recognized by the New Jersey Leading Infrastructure Projects with an award from the New Jersey Alliance for Action.

The \$220 million Atlantic City Gateway Project will include an academic building which will accommodate 1,800 students, residences for more than 500 students, a parking garage and a new office tower for South Jersey Gas. The New Jersey Alliance for Action is a non-profit, non-partisan coalition of business, labor, professional, academic and government leaders.

The Gateway Project is a public-private partnership with Atlantic City Development Corporation. The campus is expected to open in fall 2018.

**Stockton Proposes Marine Science Center on Section of Bader Field****[PressofAtlanticCity.com](#)**

February 14, 2017

Stockton University has developed preliminary plans for a Marine and Environmental Science Center that could be located on a 15-acre section of Bader Field in Atlantic City. But first the state would have to agree to fund it. The college submitted a proposal for the \$41 million center to the state as part of a wish list state colleges submit each year. The project would be developed in cooperation with the state Department of Environmental Protection and the city, which owns Bader Field. The center would complement the university's nearby \$156 million Atlantic City campus, under construction at the foot of Albany Avenue as part of a public/private partnership. It is scheduled to open in 2018.

**William Paterson University Honored as "Military Friendly School"****[WPUNJ.edu](#)**

February 13, 2017

William Paterson University has been honored as a "military friendly school" for the seventh year in a row by the *2017 Guide to Military Friendly Schools* and is included in their online listing at [militaryfriendly.com](#). "We're proud of our veterans and of the contributions they make to our community and will do everything we can to support them both academically and professionally," says Miki Cammarata, vice president for student development at William Paterson.

**Editorial: Enough with the Ridiculous Budget Projections****[NJBIZ.com](#)**

February 12, 2017

How do governors balance the state budget in New Jersey? Easy. They inflate the revenue projections and cross their fingers. If they're lucky, an expanding economy bails them out. If not,

"surprise" budget shortfalls become clear late in the fiscal year. Then a scramble begins to divert funds and trim programs in a process that sidesteps the usual budgeting system.

The issue got some attention last week with the release of a Stockton University study on New Jersey's budget practices and with the impending introduction of Gov. Chris Christie's eighth budget later this month. Believe it or not, there is a better way.

Certainly, as the report by Stockton's William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy noted, predicting future tax receipts is a difficult task. But, the report said, New Jersey is hamstrung by its system for setting revenue projections and its failure to have a sufficient rainy-day fund to make up for the inevitable shortfalls. These so-called "April surprises," by the way, have been a key factor in New Jersey's 10 credit downgrades under Christie.

### **U.S. Senator Cory Booker Meets Kean University Students at the "Pizza with City" Town Hall** [News.Kean.edu](#)

February 10, 2017

U.S. Senator Cory Booker met with approximately 150 Kean University students at a Town Hall meeting at the Green Lane Building (GLAB) on Friday, February 3, in a session that lived up to his promise of "a very honest dialogue" to learn what is on the minds of the millennial generation. Throughout the more than 90-minute session, the New Jersey Democrat also challenged the students to "think about how you can be better agents of change, of justice and truth in our country."

At the "Pizza with Cory" Town Hall - so named because the senator brought pizza for those who attended the 5:30 p.m. session - Sen. Booker fielded questions about his votes on President Trump's cabinet nominees, the Democratic Party's strategy in the 2016 presidential campaign, the president's recent executive order banning travel from seven primarily Muslim nations, potential threats to federal LGBTQ policies, and campaign finance reform, among other issues.

A Palestinian-born student from Clifton expressed concern about her personal safety in the current climate in the United States and wondered if she should carry her American passport at all times to prove her citizenship. Sen. Booker urged anyone who is harassed to contact his office.

### **Ramapo College Students Spend Winter Break Doing Community Service Outreach Projects in Costa Rica**

[Ramapo.edu](#)

February 10, 2017

Twelve Ramapo College students spent their winter break in Costa Rica, but the trip was hardly a relaxing two weeks on coastal beaches. Working with Ramapo's local partner in the Central America country, the students developed wildlife enrichment projects, constructed building and moving enclosures for rescued animals and supported educational programs, among other tasks at Santuario de Lapas, NATUWA, a not-for-profit animal sanctuary that rescues animals that were captured through illegal pet trade and provides a place of refuge for them. The College began a relationship with NATUWA during Spring Break 2012 and has offered nine individual trips with more than 100 students and six staff members participating.

### **Kanya Balakrishna Gives Keynote Address at Ramapo College's Annual Diversity Convocation**

[Ramapo.edu](#)

February 10, 2017

Kanya Balakrishna's youthful energy filled the room as she encouraged students to embrace passion for their own futures during her keynote address at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Diversity Convocation on Wednesday, February 1 at Ramapo College of New Jersey. The event was sponsored by the Diversity Action Committee, the Office of the President and the Ramapo College Board of Trustees.

Ramapo President Peter P. Mercer offered the opening remarks. "A young person with a passion and an enthusiasm for positive social change, Ms. Balakrishna reminds me of many of our student leaders," Mercer said. Student Trustee Stephen Geerlof and Associate Professor Pinar Kayaalp, co-

chair of the Diversity Action Committee, delivered the welcome and keynote speaker introduction, respectively.

### **Ramapo College is Hosting Bergen County's Small Business Development Center**

[Ramapo.edu](http://Ramapo.edu)

February 10, 2017

Ramapo College of New Jersey is now serving as the full-time host of the Bergen County office of the New Jersey Small Business Development Center (NJSBDC). Ramapo College has been an affiliate partner of the 12-center program for the past two years. The Center is located at the College's Anisfield School of Business, 505 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ. The Center can be reached at 201-684-7135.

"Our new SBDC colleagues will be working closely with faculty and students as a resource for research and experiential learning beyond the classroom," said Ed Petkus, Dean of the Anisfield School of Business. "This provides an extremely valuable venue for our students and faculty to engage with and impact the small business and non-profit community, and vice versa."

The Anisfield School of Business is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, AACSB International.

### **Chabad at Stockton University Purchases New Center**

[Lubavitch.com](http://Lubavitch.com)

February 10, 2017

Stockton's student population is approximately 9,000, about ten percent of whom are Jewish. There are as well dozens of Jewish faculty members. To accommodate the students and faculty and all the activity, there is a new centrally located, 7,000-square-foot building on nearly three acres, a dramatic upgrade from the old facility. The new center includes a dining hall, kitchen, student lounge, game room, library, chapel, and student parking. The old place, says the rabbi, "didn't have the presence that we wanted," and was too far from the university. "We weren't really accessible, except to the students who knew where we were and were willing to trek out, but now we're on the main road and thousands of people see us every day."

### **Kean Students Plant Seeds for Spring at Warinanco Park**

[NJ.com](http://NJ.com)

February 10, 2017

Students from the Kean University Center for Leadership and Service spent a chilly winter morning last weekend spreading seeds and straw alongside a stream bed in Warinanco Park, in hopes of sprouting a colorful burst of native wildflowers and grasses this spring.

### **Interactive Map: Plotting Student Loan Defaults Across the Garden State**

[NJSpotlight.com](http://NJSpotlight.com)

February 10, 2017

Students from New Jersey's colleges and trade schools default on their federal loans at a relatively low rate overall, although the proportion of defaults exceeds the national average at four of 10 schools. The news comes as a package of bills designed to help New Jersey students - particularly those who borrowed through the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority - deal with loan repayment problems and the high cost of college in general awaits further action in the Legislature.

Data from the website Student Loan Report put the state's default rate at nearly 9.1 percent, the 11<sup>th</sup> lowest in the nation for borrowers who had to begin repayment in the 2013 fiscal year, the most recent year for which data is available because the U.S. Department of Education uses a three-year period to define defaults. Of nearly 90,000 students who borrowed money while at a New Jersey school, 8,153 were in default, defined as nine months of nonpayment.

Starting Points, a private non-profit school in Jersey City primarily providing instruction in early childhood education, ranked 37<sup>th</sup> nationally and had the highest default rate in New Jersey: 32.2 percent. Except for Starting Points, the 10 New Jersey schools with the highest default rates were for-profit schools that do not offer a degree. A total of 39 schools had rates higher than the national average. Princeton University had the lowest rate, just below 1 percent, of all public and private colleges.

One reason for the state's relatively low default rate could be that many students take out New Jersey College Loans to Assist State Student loans through HESAA. According to the authority's 2015 annual report, it distributed more than \$163 million for 10,686 students in and out of state that fiscal year. According to the Institute for College Access and Success, New Jersey is one of three states - the others are Texas and Minnesota - with significant state student loan programs.

### **Can NJ Colleges Deliver 'Income Mobility' to Poor Students?**

[NJSpotlight.com](http://NJSpotlight.com)

February 9, 2017

More than two-thirds of New Jersey colleges are better than average at helping low-income students earn high wages as adults, according to a [study of college mobility](#).

In their report, "Mobility Report Cards: The Role of Colleges in Intergenerational Mobility," five researchers measured how many students were able to jump from the lowest income bracket (bottom 20 percent) to the top bracket (highest 20 percent) about a decade after graduating from college. They published their report for The Equality of Opportunity Project, a group of economists looking for ways to address chronic poverty. This latest report is an effort to show which colleges help the most children advance in income and suggests policymaker sat the federal, state, and college levels use the data to reassess their priorities. New Jersey City University, Thomas Edison State University and Kean University are among the top 10 of mobility achieving schools.

### **William Paterson Art Exhibit Takes on Race and Gender**

[NorthJersey.com](http://NorthJersey.com)

February 8, 2017

A new art exhibit at William Paterson University galleries tackles gender, race and the impact of stereotypes. "The Body as Battleground" is a photography and installation show by artists Nona Faustine and Joiiri Minaya that explores the representation of the female body as a political act.

### **Betsy DeVos Confirmed as Next U.S. Secretary of Education**

[EducationDive.com](http://EducationDive.com)

February 7, 2017

In a 51-50 vote, the U.S. Senate confirmed Betsy DeVos as the next U.S. Secretary of Education. Though Republican Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska joined Democrats in voting against Ms. DeVos, a 24-hour debate and record phone calls were unable to sway another member of the GOP. Vice President Mike Pence cast the tie-breaking vote. The Michigan billionaire's nomination for the role was highly controversial due to her lack of experience working in the public school system, her opposition to charter school regulation, and her advocacy of voucher programs in multiple states, leading to concerns around public school privatization. It is also worth considering that under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the influence of the U.S. Secretary of Education is limited given the law's focus on giving decision-making power back to states. How much Ms. DeVos would be able to accomplish under that law is still a matter of debate.

### **NJCU Launches Master's Degree in Business Analytics and Data Science**

[NJBMagazine.com](http://NJBMagazine.com)

February 6, 2017

The NJCU School of Business at New Jersey City University has launched a Master of Science degree program in Business Analytics and Data Science designed to prepare students for careers in the burgeoning field of data analytics.

The Master of Science in Business Analytics and Data Science program will prepare students with the skills needed to gather, store, analyze and interpret large amounts of "Big Data" to facilitate informed business decision-making.

The program will be fully geared towards practice and can be completed within 16 months as part of a full-time cohort-based program, or over a two-year period on a part-time basis. Students will complete eight core data analytics courses and four electives culminating in a capstone project that applies their knowledge to a real world data science problem.

### **Politicians Call for More Apprenticeships to Fill Need for Skilled Labor**

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

February 6, 2017

New Jersey's federal and state politicians are proposing plans to expand apprenticeship programs, through public-private partnership funding, in order to fill skilled labor jobs that remain vacant in the U.S. When asked what effect a push to expand apprenticeships would have on the higher education system in the country, NJ Senator Cory Booker replied that it, too, needed change.

"We need to reimagine our entire higher education system," he said. "I think that we are really falling behind. This idea of training people for jobs that don't exist anymore is just not acceptable. We are in, no exaggeration, we are in a crisis point in America right now."

### **Montclair State University Launches Career Fair Plus App**

[Montclair.edu](http://Montclair.edu)

February 4, 2017

Montclair State Career Fair Plus App is a complete mobile solution that will allow students to research companies, navigate the job fairs and get event alerts, all while on the go!

### **Mahwah College Students Encouraged to Create Future of Their Dreams**

[Paramus.DailyVoice.com](http://Paramus.DailyVoice.com)

February 3, 2017

Kanye Balkrishna, the co-founder and president of The Future Project, a movement calling on young people to create the future of their dreams, was the keynote speaker at Ramapo College's annual diversity convocation at the beginning of February. The initiative dispatches trained leaders into schools across the country and charges them with mobilizing students and staff to channel their passions into projects that positively impact their schools and communities.

### **Carol Blazejowski Elected to New Jersey Hall of Fame - Montclair State University**

[Montclair.edu](http://Montclair.edu)

February 2, 2017

Women's basketball icon and Montclair State University Associate Vice President for External Relations Carol Blazejowski, '78 has been elected to the New Jersey Hall of Fame's Class of 2017, adding yet another milestone to her career.

Regarded as one of the greatest women's basketball players in history, she became a member of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in 1989 and the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1994. The three-time All-American joins news anchor Connie Chung, musician Wyclef Jean and actor Ray Liotta among the members of the 2017 class.

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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