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,

Pamela Hersh
Director, Communications & Public Affairs
NJ Association of State Colleges & Universities
150 West State Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08608
609-989-1100 office
609-256-8256 direct
pjhersh@njascu.org

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.

---

**Symposium at William Paterson University Launches the Propel Paterson Initiative**

**NJASCU QuickTakes**

William Paterson University hosted meetings Friday, February 15, as part of Propel Paterson, a partnership with the city intended to revitalize it through economic
From left, William Paterson University President Richard Helldobler and Paterson Mayor Andre Sayegh participate in a panel discussion at a Propel Paterson symposium. The program is a revitalization effort between the university and the municipality.

President Helldobler said that a revitalized Paterson keeps its graduates in the state, and he noted that 30 percent of New Jersey high school graduates do not seek post-secondary education. Read full story.

Montclair State University Earns R2 Designation (High Research Activity) from Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education
NJASCU QuickTakes

Montclair State University has achieved yet another milestone in its ascension to the ranks of the nation's top public universities.

The institution has earned the designation of R2 - Doctoral University - High Research Activity - in the latest reclassification of the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. Seen as the national standard for college and university classifications, the Carnegie Classification has been the leading framework for recognizing and describing higher education institutional diversity since 1970.

The accomplishment comes just three years after Montclair State earned an initial Research Doctoral University (R3) designation, and signifies a continued expansion of the University's research portfolio and doctoral program offerings.

"Our new designation as a Carnegie R2 institution is a well-deserved validation of what we have already known - that we are a dynamic research university with faculty and students who are producing cutting-edge research," said Vice Provost for Research and Dean of The Graduate School Scott Herness. Read full story.

Commencement News: Congressman Jeff Van Drew Will be Keynote Speaker at Stockton’s Commencement, May 10
NJASCU QuickTakes

U.S. Representative Jeff Van Drew will be the keynote speaker at Stockton
University's Baccalaureate Commencement Ceremony at noon May 10 at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City.

"We are honored that Congressman Van Drew has agreed to be our Commencement speaker this year," Stockton President Harvey Kesselman said. "He has had a long history of public service to New Jersey and his constituents. We look forward to him sharing his insights with our graduating students."

Dr. Van Drew was elected to Congress in November, 2018. He was sworn in on January 3, 2019, and has been named to serve on the House Agriculture Committee and the House Natural Resources Committee. Van Drew also sits on the following subcommittees, Biotech, Horticulture, and Research, Nutrition Oversight, and Department Operations, Commodity, Exchanges, Energy and Credit, General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, and Water, Oceans, and Wildlife. He previously served four terms in the New Jersey State Senate and three terms in the state Assembly where he earned the role of Assistant Majority Leader.

A dentist and resident of Dennis Township in Cape May County, Dr. Van Drew earned a reputation as a strong advocate for South Jersey municipalities and residents, especially veterans, senior citizens and consumers. He has been honored with numerous awards for his advocacy. He has also shown a willingness to work on a bipartisan basis.

One of his first acts in Congress was to introduce the "End Government Shutdowns Act" that would permanently prevent the federal government from shutting down. In his first speech on the House floor he asked for support for legislation that would keep the Coast Guard and Federal Aviation Administration funded during the recent shutdown.

---

**Noteworthy: NJASCU Colleges and Universities**

**Chemistry Professor Benny Chan Named Professor of the Year by Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals Group**

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

The National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals has recognized TCNJ Chemistry Professor Benny Chan as Educator of the Year for 2019.

Dr. Chan, who has been at the college since 2006, is a strong supporter of TCNJ's mission to ensure the educational success of students who have traditionally been underserved in higher education. He has observed that students can have multiple characteristics that can generate stress: gender, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic, and sexual orientation.

**William Paterson University Galleries to Receive $20,000 Grant from National Endowment for the Arts**

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

The William Paterson University Galleries has been approved to receive a $20,000 Art Works grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to support a site-specific installation and exhibition by artist Marion Wilson that will connect watershed research with the visual arts and provide STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) education for underserved populations.

"We are excited to be one of 13 organizations in New Jersey to receive NEA funding and we are honored for the opportunity to collaborate with artist Marion Wilson, who uses the lens of ecology to work non-hierarchically with diverse community members," said Kristen Evangelista, director of the William Paterson University Galleries. "Art will serve as a catalytic tool to address environmental concerns and increase the public knowledge of and connection to their surroundings."
The year-long project by Ms. Wilson, which begins this spring, will be informed by research on water sustainability and hydrology and integrate art and science. Ms. Wilson will collaborate with Nicole Davi, a William Paterson associate professor of environmental science, and undergraduate students, along with community partners, to examine the ecology of watersheds, and the connection to surrounding land-use, at a local study site.

"Our students are very excited about integrating science and art, and it is pushing them to think creatively," says Dr. Davi. "They are learning how the arts can raise environmental awareness and even support community buy-in for sustainable initiatives - critical elements for success and recurring themes in my class." Students will conduct stream studies, which include measuring stream flow, testing water, and drawing stream visualizations. The types of insects, invertebrates, and plant life that are collected reveal significant information about water quality and the need for conservation. This scientific data is also highly visual and lends itself to artistic interpretation. Read full story.

Noteworthy: General Category

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

Public universities are "gaining momentum" in giving, with donations rising a median 8.8% during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, according to a recent Moody's investor report. That increase has outpaced voluntary contributions to private universities, which were up 6.7% for the year. Overall, giving is expected to continue but will slow in 2019.

Moody's reported that intentional efforts to boost public university fundraising paid off, raising the increase in giving from a growth 2.3% rate in 2015. Private and public institutions with more than $5 billion in cash and investments collected 61% and 49% of all voluntary gifts, respectively.

Meanwhile, some private colleges that aim to become "philanthropically centered" by using annual gifts and larger endowments to cover more operating expenses may struggle, Moody's reported.

**Union County College Signs Memorandum of Understanding with New Jersey CannaBusiness**
[www.TapInto.net](http://www.TapInto.net)
February 15, 2019

Union is the third college in New Jersey to establish an agreement with NJCBA (NJ CannaBusiness Association) to develop and support a medicinal plant chemistry program. The first was with Stockton University and the second with Atlantic Cape Community College.

**NJ Attorney General Rebuffs Proposed Title IX Changes**
[www.TheSetonian.com](http://www.TheSetonian.com)
February 13, 2019

New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir Grewal and Secretary of Higher Education Zakiya Smith Ellis submitted a formal opposition to the U.S. Department of Education over new proposed Title IX guidelines for colleges and universities putting New Jersey in the ranks of 19 other states with attorneys general opposing the rules.
We are now on Facebook and would love for you to follow us:
https://www.facebook.com/NJASCUorg

NJASCU | crpipher@njascu.org | 609-989-1100 | www.njascu.org

See what's happening on our social sites: