February 4, 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

Stockton Professor Edits 'State-by-State History of Race and Racism in the U.S.'

Stockton University Distinguished Professor of Social Work and Africana Studies Patricia Reid-Merritt has edited a new book that offers insight into the history of race and racism in every state in the union. A State-by-State History of Race and Racism in the United States is a more than 1,000-page two-volume work by scholars from across the country that provides chronologies, historical narratives and biographies of major figures from the perspective of all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

"There are no race-free zones in America," Dr. Reid-Merritt said. "Issues related to race and racism are in every single state in the union."

Topics range from treatment of Native Americans in the West, to African Americans in the South and Japanese Americans during World War II. "So many people think of racial
Mentors in the Kean University Office of Veteran Student Services, veterans themselves, work one-on-one with student veterans to ease the transition to student life. (Front row, left to right): Patti Martino, executive secretary to Kean's president; Vito Zajda, director of Veteran Student Services; and mentor Venus Everett. (Back row, left to right): Mentors Daniel Colangelo, Louis Espinal, Matthew Diaz, and Juan Leon-Torres.

"This elite designation shows that Kean University is in a class by itself when it comes to helping our military veterans' transition to student life," said Kean President Dawood Farahi, PhD. "At every step of the educational journey, we want to demonstrate our respect for their service to our country and support their success as students."

### Kean University Ranked Top in the Nation as Military Friendly University

Kean University is ranked first in the nation among large public schools for its commitment, effort and success in creating sustainable and meaningful benefits for its student veterans, according to the Military Friendly Schools survey.

In awarding Kean the #1 national ranking and gold status, Victory Media, the producer of the Military Friendly Schools Survey, highlighted how Kean far exceeds standards for academic policies, culture, financial aid, military support services and other key areas for student veterans.

"Although we often focus on people moving across international borders as a result of conflict or disaster, students must also appreciate the patterns of movement and displacement within the United States - for example, labor migration, gentrification, and climate-related change," said Associate Professor of Criminal Justice Jess Bonnan-White, program coordinator.

The minor will provide a complement to such majors as pre-law, criminal justice, social...
work, sociology, sustainability, anthropology, economics and cultural studies. Currently, 30 courses in a variety of disciplines, taught by more than 15 faculty members, are included in the program. Several of the faculty have conducted international and domestic fieldwork and teach about displacement from a first-hand view.

Read full article.

**NJCU and the New Jersey Council for Economic Education Establish the Institute for Financial Literacy and Economic Education (IFLEE)**

The New Jersey City University (NJCU) School of Business and the New Jersey Council for Economic Education (NJCEE) are excited to announce the establishment of the Institute for Financial Literacy and Economic Education (IFLEE).

The vision of the Institute is to empower community members to pursue a lifetime of financial health by providing the tools needed to make informed financial decisions. IFLEE seeks to promote and improve personal finance skills among all New Jersey residents by providing education programs, acting as the New Jersey center and repository for financial resources, and conducting scholarly research.

NJCU President Sue Henderson noted, “The University is thrilled to partner with the New Jersey Council for Economic Education to create a financial literacy institute. This initiative will result in pervasive and transformational impact on individuals, families, and communities.”

Read full article.

**The Tuchman Foundation Partners with TESU Foundation to Help Coast Guard Students Affected by Partial Government Shutdown**

Thomas Edison State University (TESU) announced that The Tuchman Foundation has committed to strengthen the TESU Foundation’s pledge to assist enrolled Coast Guard students affected by the government shutdown.

This gift is the first step toward the creation of a broader Military Student Reserve Fund to assure the continuous education of enrolled students who face exigent circumstances that may prevent them from continuing with their education through no fault of their own.

According to Tuchman Foundation chair Martin Tuchman, a new Coast Guard Education Fund will join the TESU Foundation’s pledge to cover February tuition for enrolled Coast guard students. It will also help to cover Coast Guard tuition for the following two semesters, if the government shutdown continues. Additionally, the new fund will include up to $500 per student to cover emergency personal expenses such as textbooks for those registered in the February term. The Tuchman Foundation’s pledge could total as much as $65,000 in support of Coast Guard students.

"The university is committed to doing everything possible to reduce the negative impact of these emergencies on our military students, just as we are to addressing the urgent situation currently facing our Coast Guard students," said Dr. Merodie A. Hancock, president. "We are extremely grateful to The Tuchman Foundation for this display of generosity and humanity."
Stockton University Receives Grant to Train Youth in Salem County

Stockton University’s Office of Continuing Studies has received a grant to train 10 young adults in Salem County for careers that are in demand in that county.

Stockton received a $37,000 grant from the Salem County Board of Social Services to work with young adults ages 18 to 25 who are not currently attending school and meet income requirements.

Stockton will work with the Salem County Board of Social Services and Salem Community College to provide support services. Applicants without a high school diploma may also apply as the program will also help those individuals earn their high school equivalency.

William Paterson Professor Emerita of Political Science Defends a Liberal Arts Education

To the Editor:

Re: "At a Struggling Rural Colleges, No Future for History Degrees" (front page, January 13):

This is not just a function of declining enrollments. When conservative governors and state legislatures like those in Wisconsin reduce funding to state universities from 50 percent to 17 percent, what do you expect will happen to enrollments?

This is one aspect of conservatives' efforts to cut public funding across the board. I have seen this trend toward reduced state funding and narrowly conceived "career oriented" education at universities that are not in rural areas. Free higher education for all would fill those rural universities and might even restore economic prosperity to rural America.

A liberal arts education - not narrowly tailored technical education - is the best preparation for an economy that requires a flexible work force and a democracy that requires intelligent and critically thinking voters.

Sheila D. Collins
New Rochelle, N.Y.
The writer is professor emerita of political science at William Paterson University

Rachel Shanagher, Ramapo Alumna, Selected as Berkeley Heights Nominee for County Educator of the Year
Rachel Shanagher, Grade 1 Teacher at Mary Kay McMillin Early Childhood Center, has been chosen by the Berkeley Heights Public Schools to be the district’s nominee for Union County Educator of the Year recognition.

Ms. Shanagher was named Educator of the Year at McMillin Early Childhood Center last spring, along with honorees from each of the other five Berkeley Heights Public Schools, in accordance with the Governor’s Educator of the Year program. She has since been selected from that group of outstanding educators to represent the Berkeley Heights school district in the competition for county-level honors.

Ms. Shanagher has been serving as a Grade 1 Teacher at The Early Childhood Center since September 2013. She began her employment in Berkeley Heights just a few months after earning her Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics/Elementary Education from Ramapo College of New Jersey and completing her student teaching experience at John F. Kennedy Primary School in Raritan.

### Noteworthy: General Category

**State Takes Role to Protect Students from Sexual Violence and Harassment**

**www.NJBiz.com**

February 1, 2019

New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir Grewal and Secretary of Higher Education Zakiya Smith Ellis announced New Jersey is opposing a proposal by the U.S. Department of Education that would reduce federal law’s protections for students who have endured sexual violence and harassment.

Attorney General Grewal is among the leaders of a 19-state coalition of attorneys general opposing the U.S. Department of Education’s proposal. The coalition, which Mr. Grewal is leading with Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro and California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, is urging the U.S. Department of Education to withdraw its proposal.

The proposed rules would significantly change how schools respond to complaints of sexual harassment, including sexual assaults. Sexual harassment itself would be re-defined so that schools would not be required to address unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature until the conduct becomes "severe," "pervasive," and "objectively offensive," and unless the conduct is reported to designated school officials.

**Gov. Murphy's Computer-Science-for-All-Initiative is Off to a Modest Start**

**www.NJSpotlight.com**

February 1, 2019

Gov. Phil Murphy's "Computer Science for All" initiative will be starting out as computer science for some.

Gov. Murphy announced that the first $2 million in grants would be used to help launch or enhance computer science programs in 29 school districts and charter schools. He said it would open up 900 more classroom seats in those districts.
The program will be led by Math for America, a nonprofit group pushing for better math instruction and running a fellowship in New York City. The one-year fellowships - complete with $5,000 stipends - will begin next year and will be hosted by Montclair State University, Princeton University, and Rowan University.

Still, there is a great deal to do to meet the promise of computer science for all, or even most. A new law signed last winter requires at least one computer science class in every New Jersey high school. Gov. Murphy conceded that his announcement is just the beginning of the push to serve all the state’s high schools, not to mention lower grades.

**For 13,000 in New Jersey, Tuition-Free Community College Starts This Week**
www.NJ1015.com
January 21, 2019

The spring semester begins this week at many New Jersey colleges - and for around 13,000 students at 13 community colleges, it will be no-fee and tuition-free for the first time because of a new state grant program.

Community College Opportunity Grant program pays for whatever tuition and approved educational fees aren’t covered by federal and state need-based aid and merit scholarships, for students with adjusted gross incomes of $45,000 or less.

David Socolow, executive director of the state Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, said students who have already filled out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, are automatically considered for the program without having to do anything.

**NJ Population Drain? Check out IRS Data**
www.NJSpotlight.com
January 18, 2019

The Internal Revenue Services' Statistics of Income Migration Data, which in showing how New Jerseyans moved into, out of and around the state, pegs the Garden State as a population loser.

An NJ Spotlight analysis of the most recent IRS data, tracking the movement of federal income-tax filers between 2015 and 2016, found that New Jersey lost a net of nearly 27,000 households in that time, representing about 47,000 individuals. These households had an adjusted gross income of $3.5 billion, or about $131,000 apiece. Since New Jersey’s public institutions of higher education are enrolling predominantly New Jersey residents and since NJ higher education community is particularly interested in outmigration of college-aged students, the increase in general population outmigration is not good news.

**Ending Pell Grant Ban for Prisoners Could Give 463,000 College Access, Report Finds**
www.EducationDive.com
January 18, 2019

Restoring Pell Grants access to people in state prisons could stand to help some 463,000 individuals enroll in postsecondary education, boost their job prospects and reduce their chance of recidivism, according to a new report by the Vera Institute of Justice and the
Georgetown University Center on Poverty and Inequality. Almost two-thirds (64%) of incarcerated adults have a high school credential and even more (84%) want to enroll in a postsecondary educational program. Yet only 9% complete either a certificate or an associate degree while incarcerated. This low rate "does not appear to arise from disinterest," but rather a lack of financial means, the researchers note. Researchers estimate the change could save states a combined $365.8 million annually on incarceration costs if half the Pell-eligible prison population participated in postsecondary education. If all eligible prisoners received an award, it would raise costs by less than 10% for the Pell Grant program, which doled out $26.9 billion in awards for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Prisoners lost their access to Pell Grants in 1994, when President Bill Clinton passed an omnibus bill that ushered in a wave of tough-on-crime policies. Although that ban still stands, the Obama administration approved a pilot program in 2015 that restores some prisoners’ access to the grants. The program, called Second Chance Pell, provides federal financial aid for up to 12,000 prisoners to enroll in programs across 65 participating colleges. In all, the colleges offer a combined 24 bachelor’s degrees, 69 associate degrees, and 82 certificates. Some of these programs are helping meet local workforce needs. Connecticut’s Asnuntuck Community College, for instance, offers inmates either an associate degree or a certificate in manufacturing, an in-demand field in the state. Likewise, the Milwaukee Area Technical College is helping create a steady pipeline of workers for Wisconsin’s growing manufacturing industry by certifying inmates in the field.

Education can be a critical component in reducing recidivism rates. A 2014 Rand Corporation report found that inmates who participated in education programs while in prison were nearly half (43%) as likely to be reincarcerated than those who didn’t.

An Error in Republican Tax Law Could Save Public Colleges Millions - For Now
www.EducationDive.com
January 18, 2019

Last year’s Republican-led tax overhaul inadvertently left many public universities exempt from a new 21% levy on the salaries of highly paid executives, Politico reported. The tax intended to single out nonprofits that paid some employees more than $1 million in total compensation. By applying it only to 501(c)(3) organizations, however, legislators overlooked the fact that many public universities don’t fall under that category but instead exist as extensions of their state’s government. Congress hopes to correct the error, which according to Politico could save some public universities millions but has yet to make progress. Rep. Kevin Brady (R-Texas) put forth legislation that would apply the tax to all universities. Public and private institutions say the tax threatens the competitiveness of salaries for their medical schools, in particular.

We are now on Facebook and would love for you to follow us:
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See what's happening on our social sites: