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July 2016

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:

**David Keefe, Montclair State University, Master of Fine Arts, 2009**



## Events/Activities

### **"Salute to Stockton" Speaker Series Launches on July 22 with Presentation on Exercise Science**

Stockton Press Release  
July 29, 2016

Kelly Dougherty, assistant professor of Health Science, discussed Stockton University's new Exercise Science program on Friday, July 22 as Temple Emeth Shalom kicks off its 19<sup>th</sup> annual "Salute to Stockton" lecture series this summer, in conjunction with Congregation Beth Judah in Ventnor, New Jersey. The public is invited to this free series of events, to be held at Beth Judah, 700 N. Swarthmore Avenue in Ventnor. The programs will begin at 7:30 p.m. during Friday evening Sabbath services, in late July and August, and feature a question-answer session following the presentations. Other topics on subsequent weeks include: gender equity in sports (August 5<sup>th</sup>); town/gown relationship (August 12<sup>th</sup>); and African American gospel music and freedom songs (August 19<sup>th</sup>).

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## News and Notes

### **New Law Requires Suicide-Prevention Steps at NJ Colleges, Universities**

[NJSpotlight.com](http://NJSpotlight.com)  
August 2, 2016

To help reduce college-age suicides in New Jersey, on August 1, 2016, Gov. Chris Christie signed a measure that requires all higher education facilities to ensure trained mental health experts are available to help suicidal students, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The law, which received nearly unanimous support in the Legislature, requires schools to notify all students of this resource within the first two weeks of each semester. The Madison Holleran Suicide Prevention Act honors the memory of a star Allendale student-athlete. Each year, suicide kills more than 1,000 college students in the United States and ranks as the second-leading cause of death for young people. The losses range from those who struggled for years with serious mental health issues to successful athletes and campus leaders who appeared to lead happy, healthy lives. Regardless of a younger's personal history and emotional exterior, quick and easy access to a skilled mental health professional can mean the difference between life and death, experts agree.

### **Clinton's Free Tuition Plan Deserves a Robust Debate**

[NJ.com](http://NJ.com)  
August 1, 2016

The cost of public education has shifted from taxpayers to individual students. Today, [45 states spend less](#) per student than they did before the recession, with the average cut being 17 percent, or \$1,525 per person. In [New Jersey](#), state support for four-year publics has dropped 23.2 percent since 2008, or \$2,281 per student. And these cutbacks have blown massive holes in university budgets, leading to an average tuition hike of 33 percent since 2008. That makes the [college affordability plan](#) proposed by Hillary Clinton essential to the policy debate, because the soaring tuition trend is unsustainable. Dr. Susan Cole, the president at Montclair State, put it best: Affordable education for all "is fundamental to the best principles of our democracy, which rest on providing the nation's people with a level field of opportunity. And the most important opportunity is education."

### **NJASCU Executive Director Michael Klein responded with the following Letter to the Editor of The Star Ledger and NJ Times**

To the Editor:

Your [editorial on Hillary Clinton's free-tuition plan](#) rightly points out that the major reason for the increase in student debt "is that the cost of public education has shifted from taxpayers to individual students," with New Jersey having the [12th-largest dollar decrease in funding per student](#) in the U.S. between fiscal years 2008-2016.

New Jersey's public four-year colleges and universities deserve credit for shielding students from state funding cuts. These institutions had the [fourth-lowest](#) percentage increase in in-state tuition and required fees nationally, at four percent, between fiscal years 2011-2016. In the coming academic year, the average tuition and fee increase at these institutions is only 2.2 percent.

Smart belt-tightening and revenue enhancements helped restrain college costs. Our institutions have cut energy expenditures, reduced computer costs through web-based data storage, and maximized purchasing power through group contracts. Public-private partnerships, under a law that expired last year that we hope to renew, leveraged private financing for new facilities.

The recent infusion of \$1.48 billion in state funding for construction - including the recent award of [\\$180 million in grants](#) - will further help keep costs down.

To be sure, higher education in New Jersey is affordable. [Over 30 percent](#) of our students graduate with no debt. A stronger partnership with the state would expand opportunities for more students.

### **Stockton Receives \$380,000 Federal Grant for Brain Research**

NJASCU [QuickTakes](#) Feature

August 1, 2016

Stockton University has received a grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), part of the federal government's National Institutes of Health (NIH), to examine a neurodevelopmental pathway in the brain. The project will investigate the mechanisms in neural stem cells (NSCs) that can lead to neurological pathologies.

### **Wenzhou-Kean University Marks the Milestone of First Graduating Class**

[USA.Chinadaily.com](#)

July 28, 2016

Wenzhou-Kean University has just graduated its first class, which made Philip Connelly, executive vice-chancellor, very proud. The first cohort did very well, Vice Chancellor Connelly said, and two-thirds of the group of 187 chose to continue their graduate studies overseas, with some being accepted by excellent schools, including Columbia University in New York City and the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Officially established in 2014 by Wenzhou University in Zhejiang province and Kean University in the United States, the joint venture is a youngster among the seven Western-style schools currently operating in China. Recruitment started in 2012, before the official launch. Construction of the campus, which is expected to cover 200 hectares, is still ongoing.

### **Ramapo College Recognized for Innovative Student Retention Initiative**

NJASCU [QuickTakes](#) Feature

July 28, 2016

Ramapo College of New Jersey was recently recognized as the winner of the 2016 Hobsons Education Advances Award for its accomplishments in increasing student retention and establishing a campus-wide "success network."

### **Kean University to Launch Three New Master's Degree Programs**

NJASCU [QuickTakes](#) Feature

July 28, 2016

Kean University will launch three new graduate programs in the upcoming academic years (2016-2019): a Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology; Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies in Kean's new School of Physician Assistant Studies; and the Master of Architecture in the Michael Graves College.

### **Newark Black Film Festival Honors Legacy of NJCU Professor Lee Hagan**

NJASCU [QuickTakes](#) Feature

July 28, 2016

The 2016 Newark Black Film Festival will screen *Lee Hagan: Connecting Generations*, a film about the life and legacy of the late Dr. Lee Hagan - a New Jersey City University (NJCU) professor, community activist, and namesake of NJCU's Lee Hagan Africana Studies Center.

## **Rowan Colleges Will Offer Junior-Year Courses to Community College Students**

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

July 27, 2016

Students attending either Rowan College will soon be able to stay an extra year for their junior-year courses before completing a bachelor's degree at Rowan University, giving them a tremendous savings and graduate from one of the top 100 public universities in the country. The University's "3+1" option with Rowan College at Burlington County (RCBC) and Rowan College at Gloucester County (RCGC) made history in New Jersey, when it was approved by the N.J. Presidents' Council in June. It now has cleared all regulatory hurdles. This is a first time a community college has been authorized to offer junior-year courses in the state.

## **Kean University Ranked #1 Best Dorms Among NJ Public Universities**

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

July 27, 2016

For the second consecutive year, Kean University is ranked #1 Best Dorms among all public universities in New Jersey according to Niche.com. For the 2015-2016 academic year, Niche.com ranked 1,356 public and private, traditional four-year colleges and universities across the United States to determine which ones had the best college dorms based on four conditions including: average housing cost, housing capacity, student housing crime rate, and student surveys on campus housing.

## **Long, Winding Road for Sweeney's and Christie's Education-Funding Plans**

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

July 25, 2016

Since Governor Christie and Senate Senator Steve Sweeney proposed competing plans for remaking school funding in New Jersey, it's been more talk than action.

Both Christie and Sweeney have gone on public campaigns to muster support for their proposals, each winning their share of endorsements for what are radically different paths.

But there has been little to no legislative action on either plan. That's partly because some heavyweight topics like pensions and transportation are under debate, but also because there are questions as to whether either proposal has the political legs to get enacted.

**60%**

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

July 25, 2016

Calling government social programs the "invisible hand," a recent Stockton University study indicated that 60 percent of New Jersey residents said they had never benefited from one. In reality, according to the study, 68 percent of those very same respondents had participated in one or more programs. They just didn't consider them government social programs.

The respondents had enjoyed benefits from social security, Medicare, student loans, unemployment, and various tax credits.

According to the report, entitlement programs were considered by many people as a "right," while other programs such as student loans or tax-deferred savings were not identified as government social programs.

## **Kean University Alumna Leaves \$1.7 Million Posthumous Gift - Millions More May be Forthcoming**

NJASCU [QuickTakes](#) Feature

July 25, 2016

Kean University is the beneficiary of \$1.7 million from the retirement account of an alumna who died recently, and millions more may be forthcoming when the benefactor's estate is settled.

## **After Firing President, NJ Community College is Intent on Rebuilding**

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

July 24, 2016

After a tumultuous spring semester left Essex County College without 22 of its top-tier administrators, including its president, the school is spending the summer rebuilding. But, the process won't be easy, as college officials say ECC is now dealing with dwindling enrollment, and answering a probe by the agency that accredits it. After several scandals last spring saw the [ouster of President Gale Gibson](#) and [the upheaval of much of the school's administration](#), the Middle States Commission on Higher Education - the non-profit group that accredits area colleges - [requested the school provide it a report](#) "addressing recent developments at the College which may have implications for current and future compliance" with some of its accreditation standards.

### **College Connection: What's the Story Regarding Test Optional Colleges?**

[MyCentralJersey.com](#)

July 21, 2016

There are hundreds of colleges that do not require SAT or ACT scores as part of their application process. Many students find this extremely attractive and are thrilled at the prospect of avoiding a lengthy test preparation and test-taking process. But students should be sure to check the fine print for each college they are considering, as eliminating standardized tests from the college admission process could have serious repercussions. Many colleges and universities that say they are "test optional" actually require test scores for out-of-state applicants. Others require test scores for students seeking enrollment in certain programs, particularly in the field of science. Students with low grade point averages (GPA) are often required to submit SAT or ACT scores to test optional colleges.

### **NJCU Names Interim Dean as Business School's Founding Dean**

NJASCU [QuickTakes](#) Feature

July 21, 2016

New Jersey City University has named Dr. Bernard McSherry as founding dean of the NJCU School of Business. Dr. McSherry is a former governor of the New York Stock Exchange who brings three decades of experience as a business leader and entrepreneur. He has served as a faculty member and interim dean of the NJCU School of Business since June 2014.

### **Op-Ed: New Jersey's Educational Opportunity, A Chance for All to Succeed**

[NJSpotlight.com](#)

July 21, 2016

The new federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is enabling states and districts across the country to pursue game-changing innovation - if they rise to the opportunity. The new law, which provides \$900 million in federal funding to New Jersey, requires states to redesign their school accountability systems by the start of the 2017 school year, with new flexibility to focus on deeper learning. Instead of beating around the No Child Left Behind bush by only focusing on test-based proficiency, New Jersey can take advantage of major flexibility and authority under ESSA to completely transform its funding, accountability, testing, and instruction to better educate all of its diverse learners - without seeking Washington's permission.

### **Ballot Question on Pension Payments Gets Dragged into TTF Wrangle**

[NJSpotlight.com](#)

July 21, 2016

A statewide ballot question that would require increasing payments into New Jersey's grossly underfunded public-employee pension system has now been dragged into the debate over renewing the state Transportation Trust Fund. Senate President Stephen Sweeney fears the state won't be able to fund the bigger payments if the sales tax is also cut this year, which is part of Gov. Chris Christie's solution for the TTF. Public-worker unions enthusiastically back the proposal to amend the state constitution, which calls for more robust state pension contributions, and they remain confident it will pass the Senate one more time, which is the last step needed to put the ballot question before voters this fall. With renewal of the TTF still largely up in the air, and the budget implications of any potential deal with Christie still unknown, Sweeney (D-Gloucester) has not yet committed to putting the proposed amendment up for final approval. Sweeney said he's still waiting to see exactly how the TTF issue will play out, since any deal to fund transportation projects could drain funds that would be needed to ensure the state can afford the pension amendment's new payment schedule.

### **Stockton's Hughes Center Research Asks: Do You See the Invisible Hand of Government?**

Against the backdrop of campaign debates concerning the size and direction of government, many New Jerseyans do not recognize the government benefits they receive, according to a study released today by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton University. Nearly 60 percent of the New Jerseyans surveyed denied ever having used the services of a government social program. Yet 68 percent of those who denied receiving such benefits had participated in one or more programs, the study found. These benefits are often invisible, either because recipients view them as entitlements or because they are delivered indirectly rather than through government bureaucracies. "Your government social program is my entitlement," summarized David Carr, author of the study, and director of Research and Policy Analysis for the Hughes Center.

### **Rutgers' Annual Tuition Increase Comes in Below Average**

[NJBiz.com](#)

July 21, 2016

Rutgers University's board of governors limited tuition, fee, room and board increases for the 2016-2017 academic year to 1.7 percent for most undergraduates. Greg Brown, chairman of the board of governors, said he was "pleased" to keep tuition and fee increases at a "minimum." "In the face of ongoing budgetary challenges, the faculty and staff of this outstanding university are to be commended for continuing to provide an affordable, high-quality education for New Jersey's top high school graduates," he said. Signaling the school's efforts to keep costs down, the 1.7 percent increase is below its previous five-year average of 2.4 to 2.5 percent, depending on campus location. Mr. Brown also championed the increase in state funding. In particular, New Jersey's Tuition Aid Grant program is set to increase by \$17.8 million statewide in the coming year.

### **NJ Picks Up Nearly \$1M in Federal Funding for Healthcare Education**

[NJSpotlight.com](#)

July 21, 2016

The federal Health and Human Services Administration awarded more than \$960,000 to a half-dozen Garden State colleges that provide advanced training to key healthcare workers. The funding is part of \$149 million in federal grants that will be distributed nationwide and is targeted to help underserved communities and bolster the education of low-income and underrepresented students. The bulk of New Jersey's share of the annual Health Workforce Awards for 2016 - more than \$750,000 - will help nurses from underprivileged backgrounds pay off their student loans, if they go into nursing education. Nearly two-thirds of the money will go to Kean University in Union and the rest to the doctoral program at Rutgers School of Nursing in Newark, which is getting almost \$174,000, and William Paterson University in Wayne, which got close to \$91,000. The schools will distribute the funds to students approved by the federal program.

### **See What Ice Cream Shop Owned by TCNJ Alumni Won Reader's Choice in NJ's Best Ice Cream Showdown**

[NJ.com](#)

July 21, 2016

The Bent Spoon in Princeton is the readers' choice winner in NJ.com's NJ's best ice cream shop showdown. The acclaimed Palmer Square ice cream shop outdistanced Latteria in Swedesboro, Das' Creamery in Budd Lake and Royale Crown Homemade Ice Cream and Grille in Hammonton. The Bent Spoon, named after an object in "The Matrix," has appeared on statewide and national best-ice cream lists shortly after opening in 2004. The owners, Gabrielle Lawrence and Matthew Errico met while students at The College of New Jersey and translated their interest in food into an ice cream store. Seems like Carbone always had ice cream on her mind; she had an ice cream making by age 14.

### **Body Cameras Coming to Rutgers Police**

[NJ1015.com](#)

July 19, 2016

The cameras will be used by campus police at the Rutgers University's locations in Camden, Piscataway, New Brunswick and Newark, according to NBC 4.

**Artwork of Kean Professor is Featured in Smithsonian Museum Exhibit, Washington DC**

NJASCU [QuickTakes](#) Feature  
July 20, 2016

Kean University Professor Jennifer Crupi's fine art jewelry is featured in the newly reinstalled permanent collection of the Renwick Gallery, the Smithsonian American Art Museum's branch for contemporary craft and decorative arts. The new exhibit, housed in this national historic landmark, opened to the public July 1 and is on view indefinitely.

### **NJCU Appoints a Transformative Leader as Dean of Its College of Arts and Sciences**

NJASCU [QuickTakes](#) Feature  
July 20, 2016

The new dean of New Jersey City University's (NJCU) William J. Maxwell College of Arts and Sciences is Dr. João Sedycias, as of August 1, 2016. A transformative teacher and scholar with international experience in North and South America, Dr. Sedycias will also assume a faculty position as Professor in the Department of Modern Languages.

### **Undocumented Students Eligible for In-State Tuition Not Enrolling in Colleges Due to Cost, Study Says**

[NorthJersey.com](#)  
July 19, 2016

A push to pass legislation that would offer state financial aid to New Jersey students living in the country illegally continued Monday after a new study was released showing that undocumented students eligible for in-state college tuition are not enrolling in four-year colleges and universities because of the cost. The study, by New Jersey Policy Perspective, a think-tank based in Trenton, counted 577 tuition equity students who were enrolled in state public colleges and universities in the fall of 2015, which represented less than 1 percent of the total undergraduate population. The study found that more undocumented students would benefit from college if New Jersey allowed them to apply for state financial aid and if public universities engaged in more outreach activities. "In 2013, New Jersey finally joined 18 other states in offering qualified New Jersey high school graduates the opportunity to attend its public colleges paying the same in-state tuition rates as their peers," Gordon MacInnes, president of New Jersey Policy Perspective, said in a telephone conference with reporters. "That was an important step but not effective enough, since almost all undocumented students come from families earning only enough income to barely hang on."

### **Calls Grow for Equal Access to Tuition Aid**

[NorthJersey.com](#)  
July 19, 2016

A push to pass legislation that would offer state financial aid to New Jersey students living in the country illegally continued Monday after a new study was released showing that undocumented students eligible for in-state college tuition are not enrolling in four-year colleges and universities because of the cost.

### **Democrats Revive Plan to Give Undocumented Students Tuition Aid at NJ Colleges**

[NJSpotlight.com](#)  
July 19, 2016

Undocumented residents already have the right to pay in-state tuition, but few can afford to do so, effectively shutting them out of a college education. A compromise forged between Gov. Chris Christie and Democratic legislative leaders several years ago let undocumented immigrant students living in New Jersey qualify for in-state tuition rates at state colleges and universities. But many haven't been able to take advantage of the lower rates since they continue to be locked out of state-administered financial-aid programs. A bill that's been introduced in the state legislature attempts to fix the college-affordability issue for undocumented students by allowing them to tap into financial aid and other support from New Jersey's Higher Education Student Assistance Authority.

### **Group Hoping to Revitalize Trenton Names Founding CEO**

[NJ.com](#)  
July 18, 2016

The [public-private nonprofit that was launched last fall to spur economic development in the capital city](#) has named veteran real estate executive George Sowa as its founding CEO. Mr. Sowa, a native

Trentonian whose family has roots in the city dating back over 100 years, has already been on the job for two weeks. The nonprofit's aim is to help coordinate economic development projects; provide one-stop support and information for investors interested in taking on new projects; provide reach out to potential residential, commercial and retail investors and tenants; support and promote existing downtown initiatives; engage downtown stakeholders in a strategic economic development plan; and develop investment marketing strategies. Great Trenton's board of directors, which made a five-year financial commitment of nearly \$2 million, is made up of NJM Insurance Group, Bristol Myers Squibb, Princeton Area Community Foundation, Investors Bank, TD Bank, Capital Health, PSE&G, Thomas Edison State University, Wells Fargo Bank, Princeton University and Janssen Pharmaceuticals.

### **Once Homeless, On the Fast Track to Graduate from College**

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

July 16, 2016

Zachary Logan was homeless last year and didn't know what to do, but then he found Anchor House. A year later, he is a college student majoring in information technology at Montclair State University. He has made the dean's list every semester and has a 3.78 grade point average and hopes to graduate in 2017. He works at ShopRite 30 hours a week while taking five summer courses, and will begin working at Montclair State's information technology department later this month. He plans to become a certified ethical hacker, testing security within computer networks.

### **Christie Won't Be VP. Now What? 5 Things to Watch For**

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

July 15, 2016

Donald Trump made it official Friday, July 15, 2016: Governor Chris Christie will not be the presumptive Republican presidential candidate's running mate. That vote of confidence went to Indiana Governor Mike Pence, with Trump tweeting out his choice Friday morning after postponing an announcement event in the wake of Thursday's massacre in Nice, France. So what does this mean for Christie and New Jersey now that the governor won't be paired up with Trump? According to some sources in the state's business community, this is far from the end for Christie and his political career.

### **South Jersey University Gets Nearly \$2M to Increase Engineering School's Diversity**

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

July 14, 2016

Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey, has received a \$1.92 million grant from the National Science Foundation to increase diversity in its engineering school and increase numbers to be more representative of the general population. In the U.S., women make up about 13 percent of the civil engineering workforce, and minority workers just under a quarter. The initiative will include everything from changes to admission standards, to developing a mentoring program, and curriculum adjustments.

### **Everything is Coming Up Roses, Perhaps, But Also Rare Plants at WPU**

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

July 14, 2016

William Paterson University in Wayne has a rare plant that bloomed on July 2, 2016. The University's College of Science and Health greenhouse is home to a corpse flower, *Amorphopallus titanium*, a plant that blooms for a short period of time, and sometimes only once every few decades. While in bloom, the plant emits a pungent odor similar to that of a decomposing corpse or rotten meat.

The plant was purchased as a bulb and planted in the greenhouse in 2012 to enhance the University's collection of plant specimens which support academic courses in the sciences. While it has twice previously sprouted leaves, this will be the first time it blooms.

The corpse flower is an inflorescence, a stalk with multiple flowers, that grows to 10 to 15 feet in height with leaves up to 13 feet wide. The plant was first discovered in Indonesia in the late 1800s, and is native only to tropical areas of Asia. It can warm itself to 98 degrees Fahrenheit and uses its temperature, smell and size to attract carnivorous pollinating insects that will ensure the species' continued existence. Following its bloom and pollination, the flower collapses. Though not yet

endangered, the corpse flower has become increasingly rare due to deforestation and various environmental factors.

### **NJ Spotlight Roundtable: Solving New Jersey's Public-Pension Crisis**

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

July 14, 2016

How do you reform a system that's at least \$44 billion in debt and saddled with retiree healthcare costs that are spiraling out of sight? Due to years of underfunding, New Jersey's public-employee pension system is at least \$44 billion in debt. The retiree healthcare system is an even bigger hot spot, as costs spiral out of control. With baby boomers retiring and the costs of the system threatening to strangle all discretionary spending, officials are searching for a way to solve these problems. Democrats are looking to bolster the system with guaranteed payments. Republicans are hoping to transform the system using 401(k)s. Both parties are looking at ways to create lower costs through efficiencies in the health system.

### **Bearing the Burden of Student Loans**

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

Letters to the Editor

July 14, 2016

New Jersey's unforgiving regulations to ensure repayments of the loans are unacceptable and, in some circumstances, inhumane. The Christopher Bryski Student Loan Protection Act is a proposal I've introduced with Senator Robert Menendez that establishes additional protections and disclosures for students and co-signers with respect to student loans. Named for Christopher Bryski, a Rutgers student whose parents faced a similar circumstance with a private lender after his death from a traumatic brain injury a decade ago, Christopher's Law would prohibit the lender from taking any adverse action in the case of the borrower's becoming disabled, declaring bankruptcy or dying. (US Congressman Bill Pascrell)

### **California to Offer Four-Year Degrees at Community Colleges**

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

July 13, 2016

California is preparing to launch four-year degree offerings at some of its community colleges, but some critics say the student groups that need the most help will not benefit from the new initiative. Latino and black students are outpaced by white and Asian students in degree completion in the state, and research indicates that half of the 15 community colleges selected to award four-year degrees are most likely to reach white students. Most community colleges do not have the faculty or service capacity to adequately serve an influx in enrollment, or to meet the demands of certain four-year programs.

### **Children of Immigrants Benefit from Higher Education Loan Change**

[NJTVOnline.org](http://NJTVOnline.org)

July 13, 2016

Thelma Carrera's federal student aid application sailed through the approval process, but when it came time for The College of New Jersey student to apply through New Jersey's student loan authority? Denied. Although Thelma was born in New Jersey and has U.S. Citizenship, her mother does not.

"I had to write a letter, with Maria's help, stating that I am a citizen, I am a student and my mom's citizenship status does not have anything to do with me getting grants," Ms. Carrera said.

Maria is Maria Juega, the Executive Director at the [Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund](#). She's helped lead the charge to change the application process at New Jersey's [Higher Education Student Assistance Authority](#). For the first time in its history, the loan agency will no longer automatically deny the applications of students who can't produce a social security number for their immigrant parents.

### **TCNJ Ranks 1st in NJ and 39th Overall Among Public Colleges and Universities, Says MONEY Magazine**

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

July 12, 2016

MONEY Magazine is out with its annual ranking of "Best Colleges for Your Money" and once again, TCNJ excelled. Nationally, the college placed 39<sup>th</sup> among public colleges and universities and 94<sup>th</sup> overall. Closer to home, TCNJ ranked 1<sup>st</sup> among public colleges and universities and 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in the state.

### **Transportation Stalemate Affecting Long-Term Projects**

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

July 10, 2016

As hundreds of large and small transportation projects grounded to a halt Friday due to the state's inability to fix its depleted Transportation Trust Fund, several long-range projects with years of planning and studies behind them continue to languish. Thousands of new housing units plus retail space and a new western campus of New Jersey City University are envisioned for the area between Route 440 and the Hackensack River on Jersey City's western edge if the rail line is extended.

### **Close Up: Sharon Schulman of Stockton University**

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

July 10, 2016

Sharon Schulman is special adviser to the president and executive director of the William J. Hughes Center for public policy at Stockton University. This cabinet position builds and supports institutional relationships and coordinates strategic projects of institutional interest on behalf of the president. She also has overall strategic responsibility for the Hughes Center's program expansion, fundraising efforts and execution of its mission.

### **Christie's Executive Order Freezes ... Funding, Could Spur Litigation**

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

July 9, 2016

In the order, Christie gives the State Health Benefits Plan Design Committee and the School Employees' Health Benefits Program Design Committee 30 days to identify \$250 million in savings. "In the event that the (committees) fail to satisfy the first condition set forth in this paragraph, by approving less than \$250 million in health benefits savings for FY 2017 within the specified time period, the state treasurer, in consultation with the Division of Pensions and Benefits and the Division of Budget and Accounting, shall identify cost-saving measures that will result in FY 2017 state health benefits savings totaling \$250 million, or such lesser amount as the state treasurer shall determine," the order said.

"Throughout the budget process, the Governor failed to detail how he would achieve \$250 million in health care savings, and now he is holding these vital programs hostage as a result," said NJ Assemblyman John McKeon. "Throughout the budget hearing process, my committee asked the departments of Treasury, Health, and Banking and Insurance how they intended to achieve these cost savings and they were unable to produce any tangible recommendations. Now, the Governor has passed this responsibility off to an unelected commission that is accountable to no one while crucial programs remain in limbo, programs such as transitional aid that provides a crucial lifeline to struggling cities like Paterson and Trenton, as well as the Educational Opportunity Fund, the Cancer Research Commission and the Cancer Institute of New Jersey, the Holocaust Survivor Assistance Program, and CASA and Project S.A.R.A.H, which help abused and neglected children and victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse, respectively."

### **America Can Fix Its Student Loan Crisis. Just Ask Australia.**

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

July 9, 2016

Other countries such as Australia have students who borrow as much as US students for college, but have a far less crippling debt burden because of the way the repayment is structured.

### **Ray Bateman Celebrated as 'Visionary, Statesman and Family Man'**

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

July 9, 2016

About 1,000 people - including past governors, congressmen, the state's lieutenant governor, the state senate president and other state legislators, municipal and county officials, judges and members of

the public - came to the Edward Nash Theatre at Raritan Valley Community College to celebrate the life of the former state senator, a lifelong resident of Somerset County, who served as chairman of the college's board for more than a quarter century. Senator Bateman co-authored legislation creating New Jersey's community college system. More than 350,000 students now attend community colleges across the state each year.

Speakers noted that while he had a special love for the county college, he worked to support all the state's colleges and universities with the goal of an affordable education for all.

### **Montclair State eRefund Is Live - Montclair State University**

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

July 9, 2016

Montclair State University now takes advantage of the TouchNet's eRefund system. This new, free system allows students to set up an eRefund Direct Deposit Account for a transfer of funds directly to an individual student's checking or savings account at a participating bank, savings and loan association or credit union.

### **What AC Needs to Do for the Gateway Project to Succeed**

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

July 9, 2016

Atlantic City must become a real city with a bigger population to fulfill the promise of the Atlantic City Gateway Project, according to the head of the organization behind it. People of all economic and educational backgrounds must live there, and it must develop a diverse economic base appealing to the young and educated, said Atlantic City Development Corp. President Christopher Paladino. Site work began earlier this month on the \$210 million Gateway project, which includes a new Stockton University campus and South Jersey Gas headquarters on and around the former Atlantic City High School site. When it is completed August 1, 2018, it will transform the Chelsea section of the city, Paladino told *The Press of Atlantic City's* editorial board Thursday.

### **Stockton Tuition to Increase 2 Percent**

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

July 9, 2016

Tuition and fees at Stockton University will rise 2 percent, or about \$256 per year, for the 2016-2017 academic year.

### **When Can Students Have Sex? NJ College Defines 'Consent'**

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

July 8, 2016

The College of New Jersey is trying to end any ambiguity about when a student is alert enough to agree to have sex.

The public college this week revised its definition of sexual consent, emphasizing that students cannot grant their consent for sexual activity if they are sleeping or incapacitated.

It's a revision based both on federal guidance and on experience; alcohol is involved in many of the sexual assaults reported to the university, administrators said.

### **NJ Makes It Easier for Kids of Unauthorized Immigrants to Get College Aid**

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

July 8, 2016

It is about to get a lot easier in New Jersey for the children of immigrants living in the country illegally to get state and federal aid to go to college.

The Higher Education Student Assistance Authority - the state agency that oversees state grants and loans for college - is changing a controversial rule that automatically denied applications from U.S.-born students who could not produce a valid Social Security number for their immigrant parents.

The change comes after years of [legal fights with the American Civil Liberties Union](#) and other groups who said New Jersey's application process was unfair to immigrant families who filed the Free

### **Will Employers Gain Influence in Rating the Quality of a College Degree?**

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

July 8, 2016

While a plethora of college rankings serve as a crude proxy for quality among thousands of colleges in the U.S., most students don't attend the brand-name institutions that tend to top the rankings. In reality, students are often limited by finances, academics, or family and job obligations and have just a few choices about where to go. [According to a recent study by the American Council on Education](#), the average freshman at a public university attends a campus that is within 100 miles of home. [JetBlue Scholars](#), a new program started by the airline takes the place of the traditional tuition benefit. JetBlue Scholars is designed to get employees with at least 15 credits to complete their degree. The airline works with just seven pre-approved providers, including Straighterline and [Saylor.org](#). They evaluate credits that can be awarded for workers' previous work experience or military service and offer one course at a time to employees. All the costs are covered by JetBlue. The course work is completed virtually at Thomas Edison State University in New Jersey, which awards the degrees. Some 400 employees are enrolled in the program. Their average age is 42.

### **An Alexander Hamilton Tale Too Tall? Group Disputes Tomcat Story**

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

July 8, 2016

Twenty miles from the Broadway theater where fans spend thousands of dollars to see the show, a group dedicated to studying the nation's first treasury secretary gathered at Kean University on July 8, 2016 to unveil new artifacts and retrace a piece of history they hope can soften some of Hamilton's rough edges. Hamilton lived at the former home of New Jersey's first governor, William Livingston, and it is now a museum on the campus of Kean University. They believe the tomcat story and talk of Hamilton's relationship with women have been used through the years to undercut what they say was his vital work for the country.

### **Ramapo College Wins National Grant to Support the Jane Addams Papers Project**

NJASCU [QuickTakes](#) Feature

July 7, 2016

The National Historic Publications and Records Commission, a department of the National Archives, has awarded the Jane Addams Papers Project a one-year grant of \$108,240 to support the project's work at Ramapo College. The Jane Addams Papers started work at Ramapo in September 2015, with the goal of creating a digital edition of the correspondence and writings of the founding mother of American social work.

### **LOOSE ENDS: Kean University Will Make Educational Platforms Out of Properties Owned By Michael Graves**

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

July 7, 2016

Three Princeton properties that include an architect's world-famous home and studio just sold for \$20, quite an affordable housing coup. According to *The New York Times*, it will cost about \$40,000 per year to maintain and \$300,000 to renovate for the use specified by the seller, but the properties are valued at \$3.2 million. Michael Graves, the Princeton-based architect and Princeton University professor, helped found the Michael Graves College at Kean University. The college consists of the Robert Busch School of Design and the School of Public Architecture. David Mohney, dean of the recently established Michael Graves College, is a Princeton University graduate alumnus (class of 1981) and was mentored by Mr. Graves.

### **These are NJ's Top 10 Colleges, Forbes Says**

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

July 7, 2016

Princeton University trails only two other schools in a new national ranking of America's best colleges, based on return on investment. The Ivy League university ranked third in [America's Top Colleges 2016](#), a list generated by Forbes magazine. Only Stanford University and Williams College, a private liberal arts college in Massachusetts, are ranked higher than Princeton. Forbes compiles the list annually with a focus on return on investment. It's designed to give prospective students a snapshot of the best schools to attend if they want to get a good job and graduate on time without

incurring substantial debt. No other New Jersey college or university is ranked in the top 100 nationally, but Rutgers and The College of New Jersey both ranked within the top 200.

### **Upward Bound Reunion Honors Two Former Participants Who Gave Back**

[NJ.com](#)

July 7, 2016

Two former participants in the Upward Bound Program who later returned as mentors were honored in Jersey City recently at the Upward Bound second annual Reunion & Network night. Franklin Walker, who participated in the St. Peter's University/Montclair State University chapter as a high school student from 1967 to 1970, and Alfred Bundy, who participated as a high school student at Glassboro State University, were feted at the event at the Afro-American Historical Society Museum on June 28. Walker - a graduate of Montclair State, where he captained the football and lacrosse teams - went on to earn a master's degree in urban studies at New Jersey City University and become a teacher, coach, principal, administrator and then superintendent of schools in the Jersey City Public School system. He is currently the associate superintendent of Student Life & Services.

### **Peace Train 2016 Tour Making a Stop in Jersey City**

[NJ.com](#)

July 7, 2016

The Jersey City International Television & Film Festival (JCITFF) will present the "Peace Train 2016 Tour Across America: Putting the 'United' Back in the USA," on Sunday at 5 p.m., at Liberty State Park. The Peace Train's original, multicultural, 100-voice youth choir - one of the highly successful projects which supported Nelson Mandela's vision of unity - was formed during the civil war in South Africa in 1992. It toured America for the first time in 1995, and performed worldwide for decades following. New Jersey City University will house the students in their new campus dorms at West Campus Village during their stay in Jersey City.

### **William Paterson University Class Studies What Makes the Earth Move**

[NorthJersey.com](#)

July 5, 2016

The Great Falls in Paterson, a quarry in Pompton Lakes, a cemetery in Totowa - these served as classrooms for a group of William Paterson University students taking an unusual course on geomorphology in recent weeks. The students also visited the Ramapo River in Mahwah, the Delaware Water Gap and the abandoned town of Centralia, Pennsylvania, where seams of anthracite coal have been burning underground for half a century. The course is a cross between geology and detective work. It looks at the physical characteristics of the Earth's surface, and tries to discern which forces - both natural and human- have caused the landscape to look the way it does. The undergraduate course has been taught several times by Jennifer Callanan, who heads William Paterson's environmental science department.

### **Christie's Executive Order Freezes Health Care Funding, Could Spur Litigation**

[NJBiz.com](#)

July 5, 2016

The order to freeze funding for health care initiatives was issued Thursday evening and freezes transitional aid and health care funding because the budget failed to identify \$250 million in health savings measures.

"The legislative majority wants to thoughtlessly spend down the state's surplus by \$160 million," Christie said in a statement. "Worse, however, is their shameless inclusion of a \$250 million savings in public employee and retiree health care costs which I called for in February, but which the Legislature did absolutely nothing to embrace, negotiate or achieve. The savings was penciled in on paper, but completely nonexistent."

In the order, Christie gives the State Health Benefits Plan Design Committee and the School Employees' Health Benefits Program Design Committee 30 days to identify \$250 million in savings.

"In the event that they (committees) fail to satisfy the first condition set forth in this paragraph, by approving less than \$250 million in health benefits savings for FY 2017 within the specified time period, the state treasurer, in consultation with the Division of Pensions and Benefits and the

Division of Budget and Accounting, shall identify cost-saving measures that will result in FY 2017 state health benefits savings totaling \$250 million, or such lesser amount as the state treasurer shall determine," the order said.

### **One in Four College Freshmen Won't Return This Fall. Here's How Schools Are Trying to Bring Them Back**

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

July 5, 2016

"There needs to be support services," said Stockton University President Harvey Kesselman. "You can be really strong in one aspect of your education and not as strong at another, but at the collegiate level they all count." Colleges have long had an array of student support services, including tutoring and academic advising. In recent years, those services have been expanded, driven in part by a growing emphasis on driving down student costs. "Institutions are becoming much more proactive and trying to identify the students that are at risk of leaving," said Michele O'Connor, associate vice provost for undergraduate studies at Temple University. "They're reaching out to them and trying to get them to respond." In New Jersey, the three schools with the lowest 2014 to 2015 retention rates - Kean, New Jersey City and William Paterson Universities - had about one in four freshmen not return as sophomores.

### **Christie Line-Item Vetoes Even Modest Adds Democrats Made to Budget Plan**

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

July 2, 2016

A budget bill that Democratic legislative leaders sent to Gov. Chris Christie earlier this week included more money for preschool education, senior property-tax relief, and several other safety-net programs - all with the goal of providing more help to New Jersey's most vulnerable residents.

But Christie used his line-item veto pen just hours before the state constitution's deadline for a new budget last night to slash that new spending. The second-term Republican blamed his cut of nearly all of the monies added to his original budget proposal on the Democrats, faulting them for taking an irresponsible approach to the budget. He said they used inflated revenue projections and were willing to drain surplus to help pay for the increased spending that they proposed.

What was left after the dust settled is a \$34.5 billion spending plan that went into effect after midnight as the state started its new fiscal year. The actual difference between the two budgets was minimal in the scheme of things, as Christie slashed \$292 million from the Democrat's budget, while they had added only \$275 million to his original proposal. Christie did not hold a public-signing ceremony to announce his plans, but instead issued a statement through his press office.



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We are now on Facebook and would love for you to follow us:  
<https://www.facebook.com/NJASCUorg>

Thank you,

Pamela Hersh  
Director, Communications & Marketing  
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](mailto:pjhersh@njascu.org)

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