

**LLL New Jersey Association of
LLL State Colleges and Universities**



New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities—the leading voice for public higher education in New Jersey



July 7, 2017

Dear Colleagues/Friends:

Dear NJASCU Board Members and Secretaries to the Boards of Trustees:

Below are recent articles with a focus on the Garden State, and higher education from around the country. *If your institution has any news that you would like to share, please feel free to send it to us for inclusion in our distribution.*

Governor's FY 2018 Budget News

Below are clips telling the politically dramatic story of the FY 2018 New Jersey State Budget approval. NJASCU CEO Michael Klein kept NJASCU members informed throughout the July 4th holiday weekend about the situation as it pertained to the state colleges and universities. The approved budget of \$34.7 billion includes a proposal to dedicate lottery revenues to the State pension. The budget retains the over \$300 million additional spending added by the legislature to the proposed governor's budget. The \$300 million includes \$5 million for the Education Opportunity Fund (EOF) and \$6.5 million for the Tuition Aid Grant (TAG) program. Please see [NJASCU website](#) for the most up-to-date information about how this budget -- including the governor's line-item veto -- will affect the state colleges and universities.

Gov Touts Lottery as Answer to NJ's Pension Problems, but Critics Deride Plan

[NJSpotlight.com](#)

July 6, 2017

Under the transfer that was enacted earlier this week, the Lottery enterprise goes into the pension system with a valuation of \$13.5 billion, according to an outside firm's estimate. And it is also projected to produce \$37 billion in revenue for the pension system over the next 30 years.

Because the state constitution restricts how Lottery proceeds can be used, the shift will only benefit the retirement funds for teachers (TPAF), general state workers (PERS), and state-employed police officers and firefighters (PFRS). Under the administration's estimates, 78 percent of the Lottery revenues will go to the teachers' fund, 21 percent to the general public-workers' fund, and 1 percent to the police and firefighters. As a result of the shift, funds from the general state budget are now covering programs Lottery proceeds have previously paid for, including higher education, veterans, psychiatric hospitals, and programs for the developmentally disabled.

Despite Budget Drama and Deadlock, School Funding Changes Survive

[NJSpotlight.com](#)

July 5, 2017

Central to the budget agreement reached by Christie and Democratic leaders in the state Senate and Assembly late Monday night was an additional \$181 million in school funding and, just as important, the first meaningful move in nearly a decade to follow the state's school funding law.

Explainer: The Horizon Law that Helped Trigger a State Shutdown, up Close

[NJSpotlight.com](#)

July 5, 2017

Sen. Joe Vitale (D-Middlesex), who spearheaded the legislation, said the measure is modeled on a law Pennsylvania enacted more than a decade ago to establish a range of reserves for Blue Cross/Blue Shield plans operating in that state. Maryland, Michigan, and Rhode Island have also implemented regulations designed to control the level of surplus accumulated by these health insurance providers.

With Budget Signing, State is Back in Business - Just in Time for the 4th

[NJSpotlight.com](#)

July 4, 2017

The key breakthrough came as the Democratic leaders of the state Assembly and Senate met face-to-face on Monday with the chief executive of Horizon Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the mammoth New Jersey insurance company that Christie had targeted for reform for the better part of 2017.

Budget Deadlock Stretches into Day 3, Thousands of State Workers Idled

[NJSpotlight.com](#)

July 3, 2017

State Government Goes Dark

[NJSpotlight.com](#)

July 1, 2017

Working against a midnight deadline, lawmakers negotiated into the night, hoping to dislodge a budget deadlock and prevent the state government from shutting down at 12:01 a.m. July 1.

New Jersey Faces Government Shutdown for First Time Since 2006

[NJSpotlight.com](#)

June 30, 2017

Lawmakers are trying to resolve a political stalemate that is holding up passage of the next state budget, splitting Democrats in the State House and threatening the position of Assembly Speaker Vince Prieto. If not resolve, it will trigger the first state government shutdown in over a decade, meaning state parks and beaches will be closed over the long July 4th weekend.

Op-Ed: Switching Lottery Profits to Pensions, Another Reckless Budget Gimmick

[NJSpotlight.com](#)

June 23, 2017

An op-ed column from New Jersey Policy Perspective President Gordon MacInnes raises the question that NJASCU has been asking for the past several weeks: Gov. Chris Christie is pushing hard on the Legislature to approve his bait-and-switch proposal to use the state Lottery's profits for paying off pensions. There's a problem with this idea that has received little attention from the administration or Legislature: Where will New Jersey find the shifted \$1 billion to help finance education and institutions?

Putting New Jersey on the Road to Financial Stability and Fairness

[NJSpotlight.com](#)

June 5, 2017

Moody's Investors Service, the important credit-setting agency, recently issued a scathing 10-page report calling New Jersey's fiscal situation untenable and in dire need of a radical course correction. Moody's Vice President Baye Larson wrote, "Any plan to stabilize New Jersey's finances is not feasible without implementing significant fiscal policy changes," and asserted that "a multi-pronged approach is more likely to close the sizeable \$3.6 billion gap by fiscal year 2023."

Christie's Lottery Plan Could Be a Winner, Democrats Say

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

May 22, 2017

Gov. Chris Christie's plan to fold the New Jersey lottery into the cash-starved pension system for public workers is gaining some steam in the Legislature, with a leading New Jersey Democrat - Senator Paul Sarlo - saying he will likely be a sponsor.

This Year's Budget Blunder: Projected \$527 Million Shortfall

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

May 17, 2017

Gov. Chris Christie's administration is once again scrambling to close a projected budget shortfall in the final weeks of the state's fiscal year, this time a \$527 million gap that will be fixed in part by shifting the pain to municipal governments. This year's budget scramble could also foreshadow more trouble ahead, since Christie's administration has decided not to scale back its revenue projections for the upcoming fiscal year, which begins on July 1. Instead, Scudder announced yesterday that the revenue forecast has been bumped up by nearly \$200 million, boosted in part by a plan to launch a series of new tax-collection initiatives, like more aggressive audits and targeting of tax delinquents. But if that effort comes up short, it will likely be the next governor's problem to solve, since Christie is due to leave office early next year under the state constitution's gubernatorial term limits. And the gloomy budget news is also a setback for lawmakers who were hoping for a windfall that would allow them to boost aid to local school districts. It will now be tougher for them to do so responsibly, unless the lawmakers are willing to make cuts elsewhere in Christie's proposed \$35.7 billion spending plan.

Democratic Hopefuls Dismiss Scheme to Funnel Lottery Profits Into Pensions

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

May 15, 2017

Gov. Chris Christie's administration has detailed how he plans to have the New Jersey Lottery help ease some of the financial burden on the state's beleaguered public-employee pension system.

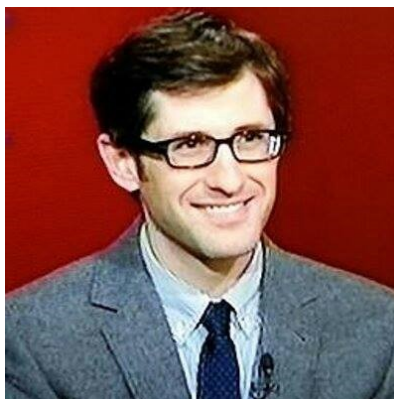
And while State Treasurer Ford Scudder labeled the proposal a "true win-win-win" at last week's briefing, some Democrats are less than impressed.

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

John Reitmeyer, The College of New Jersey, Class of 1997



[Read profile here](#)

Campus Specific News

Thomas Edison State University President Pruitt's Retiring after 35 Years of Service to the University

[NJASCU QuickTakes](#)



Thomas Edison State University's (TESU) longtime president, Dr. George A. Pruitt, effective December 31, 2017, after 35 years of leading New Jersey's only college or university dedicated exclusively to serving adults. Under his leadership, the university helped redefine higher education in the U.S. and made degree completion more accessible for working adults, including active duty military service members and other nontraditional learners.

He will take a year's sabbatical in 2018 and then serve as a distinguished fellow at TESU's John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies.

"Serving as president of this wonderful university has been the single greatest privilege of my professional life," Dr. Pruitt said in a prepared statement. "I have no words to express my appreciation to the trustees, past and present, as well as my colleagues who have joined in the work of transforming the lives of the students we serve."

Brian Maloney, chair of the board of trustees, said the board will form a committee that will oversee a nationwide search for a successor. Dr. Pruitt formally notified the board of his retirement earlier this week, according to a TESU statement.

"It is hard to imagine Thomas Edison State University without George Pruitt as our president," Mr. Maloney said in a statement. "The impact that he has made on our university and on higher education in this country is extraordinary. We are grateful for Dr. Pruitt's remarkable leadership and his record of accomplishment over the past 35 years." Read more [here](#).

Dr. Henry Pruitt, Jr., Serving on William Paterson University Board for 33 Years, Retires and is Named Trustee Emeritus

[NJASCU QuickTakes](#)

Dr. Henry J. Pruitt, Jr., who is retiring from the William Paterson University Board of Trustees after 33 years of service, has been named trustee emeritus by the board. He is the longest-serving board member in the University's modern history.

Dr. Pruitt, who joined the William Paterson board in 1983, has served in numerous leadership roles, including chair of the board from 1991 to 1993, and chair of several key committees, including the Educational Policy and Student Development Committee, the Finance and Audit Committee, the Minority Affairs Committee, and the Personnel and Compensation Committee. Beyond the University, Dr. Pruitt served as chairman of the board of the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities (NJASCU), the agency that advocates on behalf of public higher education in New Jersey.

NJASCU Executive Director Michael Klein participated in the farewell ceremony and presented a resolution on behalf of the NJASCU board.

"I leave this college in good hands and I am confident that any issues of concern that might arise will be handled efficiently and effectively," said Dr. Pruitt. "I wish William Paterson University the

best and I will be watching as this institution continues to prosper in the future." Read more [here](#).

[Kean's New College of Liberal Arts Shines Spotlight on Developing Critical Thinking Skills](#) **[NJASCU QuickTakes](#)**

Kean University recently launched a new College of Liberal Arts, encompassing programs formerly under the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the College of Visual and Performing Arts. The College reflects Kean's dedication to student success and to liberal arts education as a core component of any undergraduate degree program.

The Kean University College of Liberal Arts will provide current and future generations of students with affordable access to a liberal arts education. Areas of study include journalism, English, psychology, history, political science, sociology, economics and the performing and fine arts. Read more [here](#).

[Stockton is Responding to Big Data in a Big Way - a New Master's in Data Science and Strategic Analytics](#) **[NJASCU QuickTakes](#)**

Harnessing "Big Data" - the vast sea of digital information generated daily by business, science, entertainment and education - is a challenge but also an opportunity, and Stockton University is launching a new degree program this fall to prepare graduates for this fast-growing field.

The first classes for the Master of Science in Data Science and Strategic Analytics within the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (NAMS) will be held in September with approximately 12 students to start and enrollment is expected to grow to a maximum of 25 in future years.

"This new program is an excellent example of how Stockton is staying current to best serve our students and prepare them for the world in which we live," said Lori Vermeulen, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. "Big data is everywhere and knowing how to use massive amounts of data in meaningful ways is a vital skill." Read more [here](#).

[NJCU School of Business Launches Pilot Program with Harvard Business School](#) **[NJCU.edu](#)** May 22, 2017

The New Jersey City University (NJCU) School of Business has launched a pilot program with Harvard Business School's digital learning initiative - HBX.

The pilot program will utilize HBX's online platform to prepare entering graduate students with a non-business background for graduate studies in business. The program will engage NJCU's MBA students with the HBX Credential of Readiness (CORe) program, which offers an interactive, social and case-based education in business analytics, economics and financial accounting. The HBS CORe program focuses on understanding and solving real-world problems, requires students to play an active role, individually and with each other, emphasizing engagement, discussion, and peer-to-peer learning.

[Montclair State University to Create Affordable-Housing Training Program](#) **[Wall Street Journal](#)** (wsj.com) May 15, 2017

A real-estate industry veteran Phil Cali, Jr., is teaming up with business-school professors at New Jersey's Montclair State University to create an affordable housing training program. Philip Cali Jr., who comes from a family of builders and developers, has formed a nonprofit called Pristine Sustainable Affordable Homes Inc. to work with commercial real estate students from the Feliciano School of Business and New Jersey municipalities to develop housing for low- and moderate-income residents, according to the nonprofit's representatives.

"Our local communities face a crisis in providing affordable housing to area residents," said Mr. Cali in a written statement. "At the same time, too many adults in this state cannot find meaningful work, despite advanced academic credentials."

In collaboration with Pristine Homes, the university will offer a program that includes a minimum 18-month paid internship. Students will participate in assignments such as financial analysis and project and business management. The nonprofit will serve as the developer, said Anthony Palazzo, a clinical specialist at the business school.

The goal: Develop 1,000 units for low- and moderate-income residents by 2020, committing 10% of the units to veterans and people with special needs.

Ramapo Team Scores in National Competition

Ramapo.edu

June 27, 2017

Ten students representing from Ramapo College Enactus (Entrepreneurial, Action, Us) participated in the Enactus United States Regional Competition in Washington, D.C., where they were named Regional Champions for their outstanding work with local organizations and positive impact on the community. This regional championship qualified them to participate in the National competition in Kansas City, Missouri, in May where they competed with 105 colleges and universities from all over the country. Ramapo's team, under the guidance of Tammi Redd, Assistant Professor of Management in the Anisfield School of Business, offered an in-depth audiovisual presentation on the projects Enactus members undertook this academic year. The projects included:

- *Oasis, a Paterson, N.J.-based safe haven for women and children;*
- *New City Kids, an after-school program for underserved school children in Paterson, N.J.* Ramapo students created Food Science Day to help children learn about nutrition. Students gained interest in STEM and many expressed interest in attending college. This project was funded through a grant from the Ramapo College Foundation.
- *Bergen County Horse Rescue, home to 22 horses in Mahwah, N.J.*
- *Young Vision Africa, founded by a Ramapo international student from Sierra Leone, works to educate and empower individuals in the African nation.*
- *Ramapo Readers, an organization on the College campus, dedicated to increasing literacy through book donations to local schools and community groups.* Enactus helped in collection and distribution of more than 4,000 donated books.

Rowan University's College of Education is Now a Member of the Prestigious Carnegie Project on Education Doctorate

rowan.edu

June 23, 2017

Rowan University's College of Education was recently accepted as a new member of the Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate (CPED). Headquartered at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Education, CPED is both a collaborative effort to promote excellence for the educational doctorate (Ed.D.) and a design-based research project. Rowan will join 21 other new institutions and 80 existing members committed to learning together and engaging in a process of innovation.

"CPED is prestigious and selective. Being accepted is a mark of distinction for Rowan University," explains Associate Professor Monica Reid Kerrigan. "This greatly benefits our Ed.D. program because we will now have the opportunity to learn and grow through collaboration with the other CPED member institutions. We are now part of a community focused on studying and improving practice, which will allow us to make our already strong program even stronger and more rigorous."

Through involvement in CPED, Rowan's faculty will work with consortium members as they together explore ways to continue to improve Ed.D. programs. "CPED is focused on innovation, improvement, and collaboration--always with a focus on rigorous improvement for practice," says MaryBeth Walpole, professor and chair of Rowan's Department of Educational Services and

Leadership. "It connects us with other programs similarly focused on rigorous approaches to practice."

Offered since 1997, the Doctor of Educational Leadership program was Rowan's first doctoral program. Students are educated to become reflective practitioners who not only understand and evaluate professional research and literature, but also learn how to translate research and theory into practice in order to transform educational institutions to meet society's challenging needs. The program offers tracks in Higher Education, P-12, Nurse Educator and a Community College Leadership Initiative. Depending on the track, the program is offered as a hybrid, online, or in a blended format.

The above is a sampling of the significant news from each of the campuses. For more comprehensive coverage, please see the websites of the individual colleges and universities:

www.tcnj.edu

www.kean.edu

www.montclair.edu

www.njcu.edu

www.ramapo.edu

www.rowan.edu

www.tesu.edu

www.wpunj.edu

General News

Federal News

Congress Considers Overhauling Higher Education Act

EducationDive.com

June 26, 2017

Both U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos and several members of Congress have expressed a desire to completely revamp the Higher Education Act of 1965, which has been re-authorized eight times and is due for another reauthorization, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education. Supporters of the idea say a significant retooling of the legislation could help address issues with student debt and accreditation, as well as issues regarding the lack of comprehensive and accessible data for students and parents to make informed college choices. However, crafting a new piece of legislation that is as wide-ranging could be very difficult in a political climate marked by partisan gridlock and low public approval ratings.

Year-Round Pell Grants Will Be Available This Year

[Education Week](http://EducationWeek.com)

June 20, 2017

Pell Grants for low-income college students can now be used for summer studies. The U.S. Education Department announced on June 19, 2017 that year-round Pell Grants will be available starting July 1, allowing students to take summer classes and graduate sooner. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos says the decision "is about empowering students and giving them the flexibility and support needed to achieve their goals." Pell Grants have traditionally been used to pay for a student's fall and spring terms, but demand for a year-round option has grown as more students take summer courses.

DACA Students Won't Be Deported - For Now

EducationDive.com

June 19, 2017

President Donald Trump's administration announced that undocumented individuals who benefited from the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program will not be immediately

subject to deportation. The Trump Administration will not be immediately rescinding the protections offered by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program to undocumented immigrants who entered the United States as children, although this could change in the long term. The program affects approximately 800,000 individuals in the country, often known as "Dreamers."

Higher Education Department Backing Off Gainful Employment Rule?

[Chronicle.com](#)

June 8, 2017

The Education Department recently gave the clearest indication to date that it may roll back, or at least alter, the hotly contested [gainful-employment regulation](#). The rule, an initiative of the Obama administration, was billed as a way to better hold career-oriented programs accountable. In a [letter obtained by The Chronicle](#), James Manning, acting under secretary of education, wrote to Democrats in the Senate that the department had "some level of concern" regarding the rules and that officials were reviewing them carefully.

Under the gainful-employment rule, institutions are considered to be "failing" when graduates' annual loan payments exceed 12 percent of their annual earnings or 30 percent of their discretionary income. If a college was found to be in violation of that debt-to-earnings ratio in two of three consecutive years, the institution could become ineligible for some types of student aid, including Pell Grants and several forms of federal loans.

College Transparency Act of 2017 Aims to Improve Data Reporting

On May 14, 2017, U.S. Senators Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) [introduced](#) the [College Transparency Act of 2017](#). This bipartisan bill is aimed at simplifying higher education data reporting for institutions and ensuring that students and the public have access to accurate information on outcomes and other higher education metrics, including information on transfer and part-time students. Additionally, the bill would: require the collection of data on all students; upgrade the privacy and security of the information collected and reported; and most notably, repeal the current ban on a Federal student data system. This bill is expected to be considered as part of the overall Higher Education Act reauthorization effort (rather than as free standing legislation) that the Senate HELP Committee is expected to begin later this year. House members Paul Mitchell (R-MI) and Jared Polis (D-CO) [introduced](#) a companion measure in the House of Representatives. Both Mitchell and Polis are Members of the House Education and the Workforce Committee. AASCU released [this statement](#) in response to the legislation.

State News

Decline in Number of NJ High School Grads Seeking College Degree Should be Alarming for New Jersey Leaders

[NJASCU QuickTakes](#)

The following column by Darryl Greer appeared as an op-ed in NJSpotlight.com on Friday, June 2, 2017.

Darryl G. Greer, PhD, is senior fellow for Higher Education Strategic Information and Governance at the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy of Stockton University.

New Jersey will experience about a 20 percent decline in the number of high school graduates through 2030, according to a recent report, "Knocking at the College Door," by the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (WICHE). That will mean a drop to 90,000 from a current high of about 111,000 graduates annually, and more of these students will be from lower-income families and less-prepared academically for college.

That has important economic consequences for colleges, students, businesses, and the state - which need to be considered, now. Historically, 70 percent to 80 percent of New Jersey high

school graduates enroll in college. Obviously, fewer students paying tuition places stress on colleges' financial operations. This is especially true, because about 70 percent of public colleges' revenue comes from student tuition and fees. Add to this increasing competition for New Jersey students from surrounding states, such as Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Massachusetts, which also face declining enrollments. Pile on another dilemma in a no-growth environment: New Jersey already leads the nation as the number one net exporter of college-bound students. We lose about 30,000 students annually to other states. Regional competition for well-prepared New Jersey students who are able to pay for college will be at an all-time high. Not every university in the state can compete effectively for students in this environment. Read more [here](#).

Suicide Third Leading Cause of Death for New Jerseyans Ages 10 to 24

[NJSpotlight.com](#)

June 26, 2017

New data in a report published by the State Department of Children and Families shows suicide is the third leading cause of death for New Jersey youth ages 10 to 24. Medical professionals caution defining specific factors, though they point to things like increased rates of anxiety and depression, more academic and social pressure, the rise of social media and online bullying, and greater access to drugs and alcohol.

Recent College Grads Are Leaving New Jersey in Record Numbers. Â Here's Why.

[NJ.com](#)

June 25, 2017

As another college graduation season comes to an end, and a whole new set of millennials enter the job market, the prospect of recent graduates simply moving out of their parents' homes is dimmer than ever. According to Census data, 47 percent of 18-to-34-year-olds in New Jersey were still living with their parents in 2015, [the highest rate in the country](#).

NJASCU CEO Michael Klein Challenges Assumptions in a June 5, 2017, WSJ Op-Ed

June 23, 2017

To the Editor:

Richard Vedder and Justin Strehle ("[The Diminishing Returns of a College Degree](#)," June 5) ask: "[How] does knowing a lot about, say, anthropology, make one a more productive worker?" The answer is skills like communication, organization, teamwork, critical thinking, social skills, creativity, and adaptability. These so-called "soft skills" are prized by employers ("[The Soft Skills Employers Are Looking For](#)," August 30, 2016) and increasingly recognized and rewarded in liberal arts and humanities majors ("[Hunting for Soft Skills, Companies Scoop Up English Majors](#)," October 25, 2016).

How to Go to College Tuition-Free in New Jersey

[NJ.com](#)

June 14, 2017

New York students began applying this month for the state's highly-touted new "Excelsior Scholarship" program that [will give residents free tuition to the state's public colleges](#).

The program, which has been praised by education advocates as [a model for other states](#), will provide free tuition at public colleges and universities for New York families that earn less than \$100,000 a year. In exchange, recipients agree to live in New York after graduation for the same number of years they received the scholarship.

There are no plans to bring a similar, widespread "tuition-free-college" program to New Jersey. But, the Garden State also offers several smaller programs that [offer ways for New Jersey residents to go to college tuition free](#).

University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education, which has been tracking the growing number of "free college" programs nationwide, enumerated seven free college tuition opportunity programs in New Jersey.

NJASCU CEO Mike Klein responded to this article for the omissions of key tuition free programs in New Jersey. The result was that the original NJ.com article - including its headline - was updated to reflect Mike's comments.

To the editor:

Your article on [7 Ways to Go to College for Free in NJ](#) overlooked three important institutionally financed programs:

New Jersey City University's [NJCU Debt-Free Promise Program](#) offers a scholarship covering tuition and fees to New Jersey students with a family household income of \$60,000 or less who are admitted from high school and attend full-time, after federal and state financial aid is awarded.

Rutgers University-Camden's [Bridging the Gap](#) program provides New Jersey residents enrolled as first-year students on a full-time basis who have an adjusted gross income of \$60,000 or less with a grant covering the cost of tuition and the general Campus Fee that is not already covered by federal and state grants.

Rutgers University-Newark's [Talent and Opportunity Pathways Program](#) provides a scholarship covering the cost of in-state tuition and mandatory school fees to residents of the City of Newark, or graduates of a New Jersey county college, who have a household income of \$60,000 or less after all federal, state, and internal and external scholarships and grants have been applied.

For all state residents, New Jersey is a national leader in offering need-based financial aid. New Jersey provides the sixth-highest amount of grant aid per full-time undergraduate student (\$1,320), according to a [national study](#). According to the same study, 20 percent of New Jersey's state support for higher education goes toward grant aid, the 10th highest percentage in the country.

While we continue to work to make a college education more affordable in New Jersey, our current efforts should be recognized.

[To Close Skills Gap, Entire Higher Ed Business Model Must be Reconsidered](#)

[EducationDive.com](#)
June 9, 2017

Institutions and departments can no longer afford to work in silos to set curricula or even graduation pathways. Working closely with those who will be hiring the eventual graduates to develop internships, apprenticeships and hands-on training opportunities for students is critical. And, involving those same employers to make sure the competencies and skills being taught are in line with the current workforce needs is essential as well. But just as important as working with industry is promoting a cross-departmental approach to curricular design that ensures students are not only training for specific competencies, but are prepared as thinkers and analyzers to tackle whatever jobs they may encounter along their career paths.

[Colleges and Universities Weather the Storm of Challenges Facing Higher Ed](#)

[EducationDive.com](#)
June 8, 2017

Higher education is trying to balance learner populations and increased competition in the industry, according to *The New York Times*. Though education funding is rising, it remains behind the pace of pre-recession levels, and pension obligations are cutting into public college allocations. Colleges and universities also face external pressure from alternative education programs, including software coding academies, as well as a handful of studies claiming that higher education may no longer be a wise investment, and employers are increasingly hiring applicants without a college degree.

[Pushing Meningitis B Vaccine to Protect Residential College Students](#)

[NJSpotlight.com](#)

June 5, 2017

After several meningitis B outbreaks at New Jersey college campuses in recent years - one that lead to the death of a visiting student - state lawmakers are advancing a measure to better protect young adults pursuing higher education.

Op-Ed: In NJ, as in Nearby States, Competitiveness Drives Affordability

NJSpotlight.com

May 30, 2017

NJBIA CEO Michele Siekerka discusses New Jersey's outmigration problem - and the need to make the state's economic and tax policies competitive with its neighbors. "Our current economic paradigm is not sustainable."

Higher Education is Stepping in to Fill Cybersecurity Gaps

EducationDive.com

May 26, 2017

In recent weeks, a [pervasive ransomware attack](#) affected systems throughout the world, causing chaos in National Health System hospitals in Great Britain and continuing to cripple hundreds of thousands of computers.

The increase in cyberattacks has led to an increase in demand for qualified cybersecurity employees in government and private industry. Colleges and universities throughout the country are responding by offering degrees, certificates and tutorials in the burgeoning field.

Editorial: "Sarlo Solution" Could Actually Resolve Hospital Tax Flap

NJBiz.com

May 27, 2017

Successful assault on hospital tax exempt status may be precursor to ramped up efforts by municipalities to get funds out of tax exempt higher education entities without raising taxes on the voters.

Manhattan Institute Explores Connection Between Rising State Pension Costs and Dwindling State Support for Higher Ed

Manhattan-Institute.org

May 15, 2017

America's public colleges and universities have long served as engines of upward mobility, intellectual innovation, and economic growth. But these critical institutions are increasingly under financial stress. From 2000 to 2016, public universities lost 25% of their state funding per student. During the same period, tuition and student debt skyrocketed.

Spending on public-worker pensions is driving these budget cuts. In the wake of the Great Recession, all 50 states enacted pension reforms of some kind. Unfortunately, these reforms didn't go nearly far enough, and pension debt has continued to rise steadily since 2008.

Higher Ed Sees Tuition Discounting Increases in Past Year, Report Finds

EducationDive.com

May 16, 2017

Colleges and universities continue to offer increased rates of tuition discounting for students at school, despite the fact that tuition revenue is not quite as strong and enrollment in higher education institutions is struggling, according to the 2016 Tuition Discounting Study from the National Association of College and University Business Officers.

Inside Higher Ed analyzed the report, which indicated the average tuition discount rate for first-time, full-time students was 49.1% in 2016-2017, a 1.1% increase from the prior year - and the discount rose from 43% to 44.2% for undergraduates.

Other Sectors:

Lawmakers Nudge Along Idea of Giving Students More Say at Rutgers

1015.com

June 13, 2017

At nine of 11 of New Jersey's public four-year colleges and universities, there's a student with a vote sitting on their top governing body. One of the exceptions is Rutgers University - but lawmakers are advocating for that to change.

Camden Pilot Program Aims to Save College Tuition Costs by Having HS Seniors Take College Courses

WSJ.com

June 8, 2017

A pilot program featuring a partnership between Rutgers University-Camden and the LEAP Academy University Charter School in Camden has all 12 graders at LEAP taking only college courses with the goal of finishing college in three years and saving on tuition costs. Michael Sepanic, spokesman for Rutgers in Camden, said the pilot project fit with its mission of increasing access. "We wouldn't enter into this if we thought there was no way to support the kids," he said. Rutgers is offering courses in business and the humanities, including African-American history and cultural anthropology.

Essex County College Gets a New President

NJ.com

May 17, 2017

A new president has been selected to lead [Essex County College](#). The college's [Board of Trustees](#) on May 16, 2017 selected Chicago professor and education consultant Anthony Monroe after conducting a national search to replace [former president Gale Gibson, who was unanimously fired by the board last year](#). Mr. Monroe, 52, heads his own consulting company which works with higher education and health care institutions and is a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Sociology at DePaul University of Chicago.

Adding It Up: Economic Impact of New Jersey's Private Colleges, Universities

NJSpotlight.com

May 11, 2017

New Jersey's independent colleges and universities generate an estimated \$3.5 billion in economic impact for the state, according to a new study released by a group that represents the 14 nonprofit schools. Ranging from the Ivy League's well-known Princeton University to the tiny College of Saint Elizabeth in Morristown, the independent schools have more than 18,000 employees, and they pay more than \$1 billion in direct wages to their workers.

(The member institutions of NJASCU -excluding Rowan - estimated in 2016 to have an economic impact of \$2.4 billion with a workforce of an estimated 14,500, but NJASCU will be updating this calculation by July 1, 2017.)

Election News

As Democrats Regroup, Spotlight Turns to New Jersey Governor's Race

NYTimes.com

June 8, 2017

In a party searching for direction in the populist era sparked by President Trump, Phil Murphy is something of a throwback to the pre-Occupy Wall Street period. A former Goldman Sachs banker who won his first political job - ambassador to Germany - by raising millions of dollars for the Democratic Party, he looks at first glance more like a traditional Democrat. As he seeks to navigate a party confronting anti-Wall Street populism and the liberalism embodied by Senator

Bernie Sanders of Vermont, Mr. Murphy, 59, has opted to steer an uneasy course, somewhere to the left of Hillary Clinton but bearing right of Mr. Sanders.

Wins for Murphy, Guadagno Demonstrate Power of County Organizations
[NJSpotlight.com](#)

June 7, 2017

Democrat Phil Murphy, a 59-year-old former Goldman Sachs executive will square off this November against Republican Kim Guadagno, the 57-year-old Lt. Governor to Chris Christie, in this year's gubernatorial contest. The vote turned out to be an easy win for the regular county political organizations, as both Mr. Murphy and Ms. Guadagno were clear favorites of their respective political machines.

"The walk-away from this election is the importance of political parties in New Jersey," said Brigid Harrison, professor of political science and law for Montclair State University. "Primary voters vote the line here."

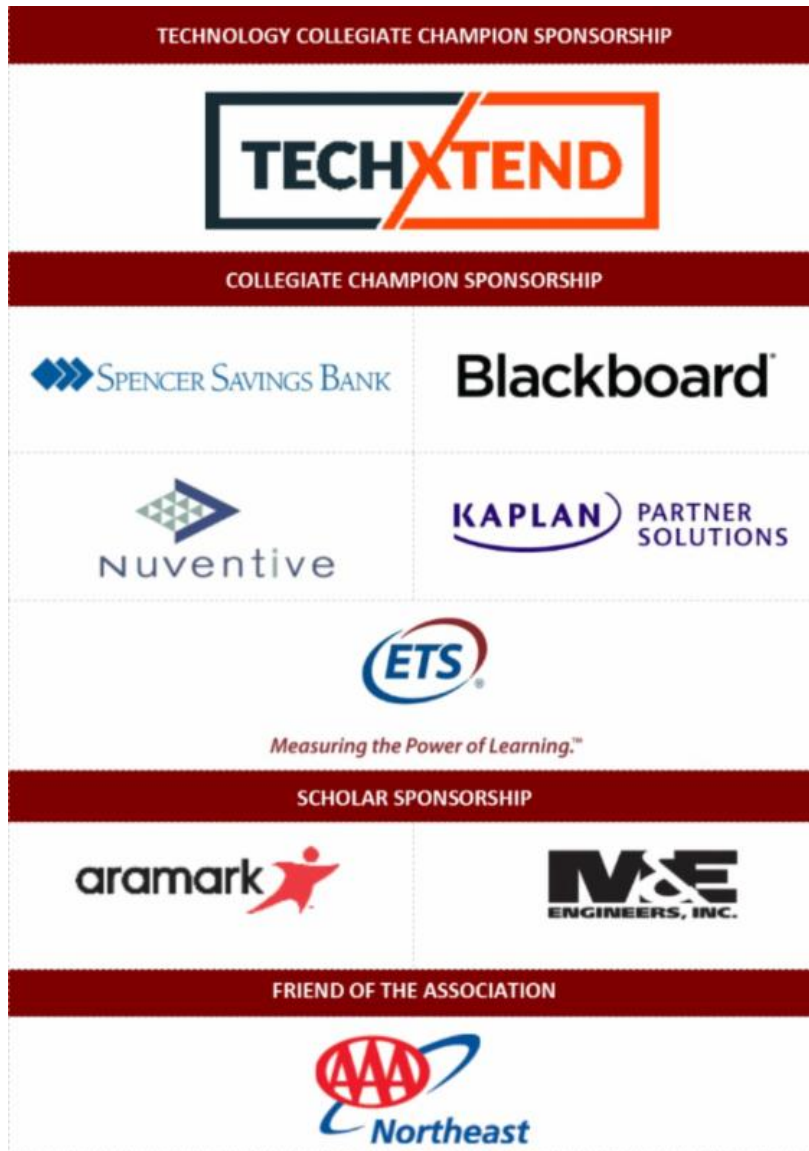
If you have not subscribed to "Daily Headlines" from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (a daily news service) and are interested, you can sign up at <http://www.aascu.org/policy/publications/subscriptionform/>. We have found "Daily Headlines" to be well targeted to the interests 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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