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. Some of our news articles are reprinted in full; most are summaries with the full article accessible by clicking on the headline.

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 Special News

**Thomas Edison State University to Offer New Doctoral Program in Business Administration**

**NJASCU QuickTakes**

Thomas Edison State University (TESU) will launch its second doctoral program, a Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) with courses that begin next January. The program, with specializations in General Management, Organizational Leadership or Human Resource Management, can be completed with 48-credits, including an end-of-course Scholar-Practitioner Field Project final degree submission. All requirements can be met online. The doctoral program will be the second for the University, which currently also offers a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) with a specialization in Systems-Level Leadership.

The DBA degree is designed to enable business students and professionals to advance their careers toward becoming executive leaders, educators and consultants.
"This degree is at the core of what we do here at Thomas Edison," said President Merodie A. Hancock, PhD. "Professionals pursuing the DBA will be able to infuse their learning immediately into workplace situations: applying knowledge and leadership and understanding the outcomes in real time. This applied scholarship and experiential learning are a powerful combination that will benefit today's working professionals who seek to advance their careers and become leaders in their fields."

School of Business and Management Dean Michael Williams notes that the 21st century global market offers unprecedented career opportunities. But as the workplace evolves, the need for highly educated executives skilled in leadership is paramount.

"Professionals earning the DBA degree will be prepared to fill or create their next occupational role," Williams said. "The intentionality, discipline and capabilities necessary to earn the DBA are powerful professional differentiators enabling a competitive advantage."

Sometimes referred to as an "applied doctorate" or a "professional doctorate," the DBA degree can be completed part-time and is appropriate for practicing professionals in a variety of occupations especially industry, higher education administration and consulting.

"With the launch of the DBA, our qualified students can now seamlessly transition from baccalaureate and graduate-level study to a doctoral degree," said Williams.

A generous grant from the Thomas Edison State University Foundation helped support the cost of developing low or no-cost course materials for the DBA to minimize the costs to students.

The University plans to admit up to 20 applicants in its initial cohort in order to remain focused on intensive, doctoral-level education and assure that students meet the program's rigorous requirements. Classes for the first cohort are scheduled to being in January 2020.

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**According to a Stockton Survey, Odds are that Students Prefer Slots, but Gamble More Frequently on Sports**

NIASCU QuickTakes
July 16, 2019

Slots are the most popular form of gambling by area college students. But students who bet on sports gamble more frequently, according to a recent survey of Stockton University students conducted by The Lloyd D. Levenson Institute of Gaming Hospitality and Tourism, of Stockton University (LIGHT) in conjunction with Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey.

Students at Stockton University participated in the voluntary survey, which was distributed online during the spring 2019 semester. The report is based on responses submitted by 502 students, a majority (71%) female.

The survey found that 64% of participating college students report having gambled in the past. Among college-aged gamblers, the most popular forms of wagering were: land-based casino slots (52%), lottery (43%), casino table games (30%), and sports betting (28%).
Kean History Honors Students Receive National Award for their Work on NJ Governor Livingston
www.Kean.edu

Two Kean University history honors students have published a paper about founding father William Livingston on a Columbia University Libraries blog dedicated to the papers of John Jay.

It is the latest honor for Nicole Skalenko and Victor Bretones, who will be seniors in Fall 2019. They were also a part of a group of history honors students who received the Undergraduate Research Award at the Humanities Education and Research Association (HERA) annual conference in Philadelphia earlier this year for their work on Livingston.

Skalenko, from Freehold, said she was shocked when Robb Haberman, the associate editor of The Selected Papers of John Jay blog, asked them to submit an edited version of their HERA paper to the blog.

"The entire experience has been incredibly rewarding and has opened a lot of opportunities for me in terms of research and being able to present our work in a more public sphere," Ms. Skalenko said.

Their blog post, William Livingston: Eighteenth-Century Media and Propaganda, explores how Livingston, New Jersey's first elected governor, used the power of the press, proclamations and propaganda to sway New Jerseyans to support independence.

How TCNJ Equipped Breana Stringer for an Unexpected Internship at the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness
www.TCNJ.edu

When Breana Stringer came to The College of New Jersey, she was sure she wanted to be an FBI agent.

Stringer, a criminology major and Arabic minor, developed a passion for criminology at an early age watching her mother work as a probation officer. "Watching her love what she did made me love what she did, too," she says.

During her sophomore year at TCNJ, she stumbled upon an internship opportunity for the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness while reading the criminology department's newsletter. She quickly submitted a transcript, resume, and writing sample and soon after, she got a call - that she had been accepted as a communications intern.

"Communications was not even a box I checked," she says. "When they called me and told me I got the job, they said, 'I know you didn't pick this one, but the communications office gets to work with every other office, so you'd still be doing what you wanted to do.'"
So, she did. And she credits the college’s liberal arts approach with giving her the confidence to accept such an unexpected opportunity.

New Jersey City University Alumnus Sherouk Hassan Receives NIH Fellowship
www.NJCU.edu

Sherouk Hassan, an NJCU graduate in May 2019, received a Post-Baccalaureate appointment as a Fellow with the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. Ms. Hassan was a chemistry major, and a scholar in the NJCU Honors Program.

Her NIH position will be with an NIH clinical center lab that studies the neurobiology of pain and nociception using models of sickle cell disease and models that display abnormal social behavior.

While an NJCU undergraduate, Sherouk worked with Dr. Yufeng Wei in his lab where she studied protein-protein interactions and performed basic Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR) research focused on exploring the diversity of bacterial resistance in soil samples across the area of New York and New Jersey.

"Dr. Wei has been a great support to me and prepared me very well for this NIH opportunity. I feel that if I am being recognized, he deserves to be recognized as well because I wouldn’t have been able to receive this opportunity if he hadn’t given me the chance to work in his lab and teach me many lab techniques."

Ms. Hassan has a two-year appointment and expects to enter medical school after the NIH experience.

Stockton, Camden CC Establish Transfer Agreement
www.Patch.com

Students at Camden County College now have a smoother transition to Stockton University's bachelor’s degree programs after the college presidents announced a new agreement on July 10, 2019.

The Transfer Pathways agreement offers multiple opportunities for students to affordably pursue associate and bachelor’s degrees at the two institutions of higher education, the presidents announced.

"Camden County College has the lowest tuition in the Delaware Valley, and among the most expanded articulation agreements with schools such as Stockton University," Camden County College President Donald Borden said. "We offer our students a quality education at an affordable rate and make it easy for them to transfer to any school of their choice to meet their educational goals."

Noteworthy: New Jersey Issues

Rutgers President Robert Barchi Will Step Down in 2020
www.NJ.com

Rutgers University President Robert L. Barchi will step down after the upcoming school year, according to a university official with knowledge of the president’s plans.
The resignation, expected to be announced this week, will end a more than seven-year tenure during which Rutgers joined the Big Ten Conference and completed the largest higher education merger in American history.

A board-certified neurologist and former president of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, Dr. Barchi, 72, came to Rutgers in 2012 with the state university on the verge of historic changes.

His arrival ushered in an era of expansion as Rutgers merged with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and transformed its New Brunswick campus with a new honors college and a series of sparking modern buildings.

However, Dr. Barchi’s administration was also rocked by multiple athletics scandals. Those controversies, combined with hapless on-field performances, made Rutgers' expensive foray into big-time college sports a recurring punchline.

Still, through it all, the profile of America's eighth-oldest college grew. The university's endowment surged. Funding for research increased. More out-of-state students chose Rutgers, and former President Barack Obama agreed to speak at the 2016 commencement ceremony.

President Barchi, the 20th president of Rutgers, made a five-year commitment when he came to the university, leading to speculation about his future ever since that initial commitment was fulfilled.

He agreed last September to remain president through the 2019-2020 academic year.

Dr. Barchi, who makes more than $700,000 in base salary with incentives to earn more, is allowed to take a one-year sabbatical at his presidential salary whenever he steps down, according to his hiring agreement. He then has the option to return to Rutgers as a distinguished professor.

**The Budget Bear is Coming**

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

While Gov. Phil Murphy figured out a way to balance the latest state budget by making last-minute spending cuts and putting some appropriations in reserve, that task will only get harder next year as costs continue to rise amid an increasingly uncertain revenue outlook.

High on the list of rising costs will be another big increase in funding for the public-worker pension system. A record $3.8 billion contribution was just written into the fiscal year 2020 budget.

The contribution for the FY 2021 budget is scheduled to be around $4.5 billion, and at the moment, there is no plan in place to cover that hefty increase.

Things also won’t be getting any easier on the revenue side of the ledger as 2021 will be the first fiscal year in which a reduction of the top-end rate for the corporate-business tax - one of the state’s biggest sources of tax revenue - will be in effect for a full 12 months. The tax surcharge was enacted just last year, but its sunset provision will begin to take effect within a matter of months. It’s unclear how much that will impact future tax collections.
Those looming fiscal challenges also don't take into account the significant impact that a recession could have on the state budget. Economists have begun warning such a downturn is likely coming within the next few years.

**Opinion: GASB, OPEB, Unfunded Pension Liability: The State Has a Major Problem**

www.NJSpotlight.com

New Jersey's total healthcare liability for active and retired state employees climbed by a precipitous $54 billion over the past two years. That shocking increase can be traced to changes in the way the state is required to report these liabilities. But as regular columnist Richard F. Keevey reports, the bump has everything to do with what's deeply flawed in the state's finances. The state's total health benefit liability rivals its $99.6 billion unfunded pension liability. What's behind this $54 billion increase? Is it a harbinger of future problems?

New Jersey recently released "Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)," which includes the annual audit for fiscal year 2018, contains some bad news about the long-term liabilities of state-supported health benefits for employees and retirees.

Specifically, the report discloses a large increase of $54 billion in the total liability for Other Postemployment Benefits and Active Employee Health Benefits (OPEB), which is separate from pension liabilities. OPEB includes liabilities related to accrued sick time and vacation for current employees, but the dominant component is future costs related to health benefits for active and retired employees.

**Noteworthy: National Issues**

**According to Moody's, College Revenue Growth Lagged in 2018**

www.EducationDive.com

Decreases or low growth in tuition revenue was a key cause of declining revenue overall at public and private colleges in 2018, Moody’s Investors Service said in a pair of reports on higher ed finances.

At public institutions the situation was compounded by lagging state support, while private colleges struggled to curtail expenses. Revenue growth was below 3% at more than half of public colleges, with a median value falling to 2.4% from 2.9% a year ago. Private colleges' median revenue growth held steady at 2.4% year-over-year, though it trailed a median 2.9% increase in expenses for the third-straight year. Larger institutions outperformed their peers in both sectors as the combination of declining enrollment, slow recovery of public funding and rising tuition stressed revenue.

**Riding the Free College Proposals**

www.InsideHigherEd.com

Inside Higher Ed in mid-July hosted a conference on the "Future of Public Higher Ed." New Jersey’s Secretary of the Office of Higher Education was one of the presenters. She described the challenges of New Jersey's decentralized higher education structure, and within this structure the challenges of implementing New Jersey's vision of more accessible, affordable, quality education with a goal of fulfilling New Jersey’s needs for a
The attached link is presented by keynote speaker Chris Newfield, the University of Southern California, Santa Barbara, professor, who is renowned for his book "Unmaking the Public University." He argues that an essential American dream - equal access to higher education - was becoming a reality with the GI Bill and civil rights movement after World War II. But this vital American promise has been broken. Christopher Newfield argues that the financial and political crises of public universities are not the result of economic downturns or of ultimately valuable restructuring, but of a conservative campaign to end public education's democratizing influence on American society. Unmaking the Public University is the story of how conservatives have maligned and restructured public universities, deceiving the public to serve their own needs.

Summer Reading: How Colleges are Helping Adult Learners Succeed
www.EducationDive.com

Colleges see an opportunity with the adult learner community, particularly as stagnating enrollment threatens tuition revenue. Two- and four-year colleges are looking to expand their enrollment of these students, though the former may be better suited to doing so as they've long served working adult students.

In fact, two-year institutions can be instructive to four-year ones on how to target curriculum and support these students, who tend to have work and family commitments outside of school that can interrupt their learning trajectory.

The Dangers of Donations to Universities Occur When the Gifts are used for Reputation Laundering
www.NYTimes.com

The perils of donations to universities for the purpose of laundering a slimy reputation have become particularly obvious thanks to Jeffrey Epstein and his philanthropy towards Harvard University.

Mr. Epstein "found Harvard's doors open to him once he opened his wallet, with donations starting in the early 1990s that eventually totaled at least $7.5 million," the article says. And although he was then a convicted sex offender with a fortune of mysterious origins, Mr. Epstein was able to parlay his access to Harvard into relationships with famous academics like Steven Pinker, Stephen Jay Gould and Alan Dershowitz.

Those relationships helped give him an aura of social acceptability - a benefactor rather than a predator. Far from being shunned, he was lauded as an important donor, praised on Harvard's website, and given special treatment at conferences. That reputation seems to have helped reassure others in New York society that Mr. Epstein was still a member in good standing of the see-and-be-seen set. And perhaps that reputation helped him escape, for many years, the criminal charges that he now faces for sexual abuse of young girls.

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