Dear NJASCU Colleagues/Friends:

Welcome to this week’s edition of NJASCU’s "Noteworthy" compilation of a feature story, advocacy report, and news item(s), reflecting the interests and happenings among New Jersey's senior public colleges and universities.

We would love your feedback and suggestions. Please keep sending press releases, many of which will be included in our "Noteworthy" compilation.

Thank you,

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

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**NJASCU Advocacy Alert**

**Governor Murphy's Proposed Budget Makes Higher Education a Priority**

On March 5, 2019, Gov. Phil Murphy delivered his FY 2020 budget address. The FY 2020 budget totals $38.6 billion, with "more than $2.57 billion in direct support to higher education institutions and for programs that provide financial assistance to students." Affordable, accessible, and very high-quality higher education for New Jersey continues to be a top priority for the Murphy Administration.

The Governor is proposing a new Outcomes-Based Funding formula for the four-year public colleges and universities, which includes the "redistribution" of $15 million in current operating aid and an additional $20 million in new funding. Six million dollars of the FY 2019 "legislative additions and a supplemental allocations" for the higher education public institutions was eliminated.

To access the state appropriations portion of the $2.57 billion, colleges and universities will be required to commit to the Student Bill of Rights, the Financial Aid Shopping Sheet, etc.
Keith Bostian, PhD, pictured on left, is ILSE founder and dean of Kean University’s NJ Center for Science, Technology and Mathematics. Thomas Richardson, PhD, on right is ILSE president.

and “other principles in the forthcoming student-centric state plan for higher education.” These other principles refer to “elements of completion,” i.e., the total number of degrees awarded; the number of degrees awarded to underrepresented minorities; and the percentage of enrolled students, who qualify for need-based funding. It should be noted that the completion criteria are based on actual numbers NOT graduation rates. Community colleges are NOT subjected to the Outcomes-Based Funding formula.

Specific appropriations figures were unavailable in the preliminary budget document, but Higher Education Secretary Smith-Ellis reached out to each school a few days after the budget address with the proposed appropriation for each institution. The formal appropriations spread sheet should be accessible within two weeks. Secretary Smith-Ellis indicated that the colleges and universities will "essentially" retain their FY 2019 state appropriations support, with additional funding being allocated on the basis of the above outlined criteria.

The FY 2020 fringe benefits cost decreased because of savings from the negotiated changes in health benefits.

The Free Community College program is being expanded. But the Governor now seems willing to go along with a need-based/last-dollar program, rather than a free-for-all, regardless-of-need program. The Governor is asking for an additional $33.5 million (for a total commitment of $58.5 million) to help approximately 18,000 students obtain a two-year degree at no cost.

Tuition Aid Grants allocation will increase by $5.03 million for a total of $437.9 million. This money will go for new grants. Educational Opportunity Program, now in its 50th year, will increase by $2.25 million for a total of $47.572 million to "support the pursuit of higher education for low-income students."

The Institute for Life Science Entrepreneurship at Kean University (ILSE) is joining the CARB-X Global Accelerator Network, an international consortium of committed scientists and experts working to develop new antibiotics, vaccines, diagnostics and other products to fight drug-resistant superbugs.

ILSE and CARB-X (Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacterial Biopharmaceutical Accelerator) signed a 3-year agreement under which ILSE will serve as an accelerator, providing drug discovery and diagnostics expertise, business strategy and other support to CARB-X’s growing portfolio of innovative antibacterial development projects.

"ILSE’s agreement with CARB-X will bring increased innovation and companies from..."
"Scientists conducting research are central to combating the worldwide crisis of drug-resistant antibiotics. We at ILSE help them identify the most promising development strategies and provide assistance to reach the next milestone."

New antibiotics, rapid diagnostics, vaccines and other products are needed urgently to treat bacteria that are increasingly resistant to existing antibiotics. According to the World Health Organization, an estimated 700,000 people die each year worldwide from bacterial infections. In the United States, an estimated 23,000 people die each year from drug-resistant bacterial infections, according to the CDC.

ILSE is the only accelerator in the mid-Atlantic region and is one of only five U.S. organizations in the Global Accelerator Network.

"Each accelerator in the CARB-X Global Accelerator Network delivers tremendous knowhow, and as a group, our accelerators represent an invaluable source of knowledge and expertise in support of the CARB-X portfolio and a forceful ally in the global fight against drug-resistant bacteria," said Kevin Outterson, executive director of CARB-X and Boston University professor of law.

### Montclair State Partners with Newark Public Schools to Launch the Teacher Education Academy

National and local education leaders took the first step at the end of February 2019, towards creating a pipeline to educate, train and prepare future teachers, and diversify the teacher workforce with the launch of Newark Public Schools Teacher Education Academy. The launch of the Academy was led by Newark Board of Education (NBOE) and Superintendent Roger Leon, Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka, President of Montclair State University (MSU) Dr. Susan A. Cole and President of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Randi Weingarten. John Abeingon, President of the Newark Teachers Union, legislators, educators and students also participated in what will be New Jersey’s largest school district’s first teacher academy.

Superintendent Leon said, "When I became Superintendent, I made a commitment to transform educational opportunities for our students and to identify partners who shared our passion to expand our community of student scholars. Today represents the beginning of a new chapter for our schools, as we launch this, the first in a series of high school academies that will connect Newark Public School students to promising futures, starting with the Newark Teaching Academy. Together we are preparing our students to be the best teachers in Newark, in New Jersey and anywhere in America." He added, "Thank you to President Cole of Montclair State University, President Weingarten from the American Federation of Teachers, Mayor Baraka and everyone here for being our partner to transform Newark Public High Schools and create pipelines of progress."

The Teacher Education Academy will be located at Newark’s East Side High School. The launch begins the planning phase for The Teacher Academy, which is expected to open in 2010.

Additional high school academies will be announced over the coming months. Read full article.
Not all four-year college students follow the same path. Some live on campus, some commute. Some get a meal plan, some do not.

And some are hungry. Not for snacks and munchies, but basic, life-sustaining food.

Awareness about food insecurity among college students, and even homelessness in some cases, has been expanding in the past few years. And on Monday, February 25, 2019, The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) will do their part, opening a food pantry for students.

Other colleges and universities have opened similar ones in the past few years. They all operate differently, and TCNJ's will also be open to the local community.

Starting off, it'll be open Mondays and Wednesdays for a few hours each day, offering non-perishable food and drinks. It's called The Shop @ TCNJ and like others, items are free, and no questions asked.

These other colleges give students free food, no strings attached. Students at colleges across the state weren't getting enough to eat. Now, they have a new option. The idea came from students.

"Over the past three years, the TCNJ CARES program has received increased requests from students to provide emergency aid to those struggling to eat consistently or find adequate housing, especially during times when the college is on extended breaks," according to Beth Gallus, associate dean of students.

TCNJ CARES is the college's support network, which provides an array of wellness programs, from intellectual and physical, to emotional and social. Gallus said national data shows 30 to 40 percent of college students have some level of food insecurity.

Moreover, a 2016 study by the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness found 48 percent of students had experienced some type of food insecurity within 30 days of being surveyed, with 22 percent qualifying as "hungry" due to low levels of meal stability.

Students of color and first-generation college students were even more likely to struggle with hunger.

Gallus said it's another way to keep students focused on education.

"For students, this type of support can decrease the barriers preventing them from peak performance both in and out of the classroom," she said.

A number of agencies are partnering on the pantry, including the Mercer Street Friends Food Bank, TCNJ Campus Police, the Bonner Institute and TCNJ's student and academic affairs offices.
The Shop @ TCNJ is located in the TCNJ police substation in Campus Town, behind the fitness center in the north side of building 700. Campus police donated a dedicated parking space for the pantry.

It opens Monday, February 25, and will be open Mondays from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Wednesdays from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The college said special arrangements can be made if someone needs to use it outside of the regular hours.

Kevin Shea may be reached at kshea@njadvancemedia.com. Follow him on Twitter@kevintsha. Find NJ.com on Facebook.

### Noteworthy: New Jersey Issues

**Burzichelli & Jasey Bills to Better Regulate Proprietary Schools Clears Assembly Panel**

www.InsiderNJ.com

Aiming to protect students in pursuit of a higher education from being taken advantage of by for-profit colleges, two bills sponsored by Assembly Democrats John Burzichelli and Mila Jasey to provide further oversight and regulation of proprietary schools was approved Thursday by the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

"On the surface, proprietary schools may seem like a viable option for students who cannot go to a traditional college or university. Often times, they are not what they seem to be," said Burzichelli (D-Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem). "These schools may offer flexible scheduling, online classes, and convenient locations - all appealing to non-traditional students - but there have long been concerns about the quality of education offered by these for-profit institutions and a student’s chance of earning a viable degree from these programs. It’s time we take a closer look at how they operate."

The first bill ([A-5140](#)) would expand the New Jersey College Student and Parent Consumer Information Act to include proprietary schools, thus subjecting them to the same standards related to transparency as four-year public colleges and universities. Each proprietary school would be required to annually disclose on its website student graduation rates, school costs, and student loan indebtedness, among other indicators of school quality.

The second bill ([A-5141](#)) would establish the Proprietary Institutions Student Tuition Protection Fund in the Department of the Treasury. The fund would provide for a system of equitable refunds in the event a proprietary school would close.

**Kean/Cunningham Bill Investing in Student Innovators Advances**

www.InsiderNJ.com

Bipartisan legislation sponsored by Senate Republican Leader Tom Kean and Senator Sandra Cunningham, Democratic chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee, to establish the "Supporting Educational and Entrepreneurial Development" (S.E.E.D.) Program, to invest in innovative college student projects passed the Senate Higher
"New Jersey's college students are participating in truly groundbreaking research projects," Sen. Kean said. "We should encourage these pioneers to continue to partner with their college advisers - and we need to get our schools to create more opportunities for them as well. The S.E.E.D. program will attract prospective students from across the world, reinvigorating New Jersey's reputation as the "Innovation State."

**S-3273** establishes "Supporting Educational and Entrepreneurial Development" (S.E.E.D.) Program within the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education. The program's purpose is to support original student-led projects, by providing the initial funding necessary to support the development of promising new concepts, products, or companies led by the next generation of researchers.

**Murphy Admin Announces Tentative 4-Year Agreement with State Workers**

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

The Murphy administration announced on Thursday a tentative $120 million labor contract agreement with the Communications Workers of America and the AFL-CIO.

The agreement spans the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023 and covers approximately 32,000 state workers, giving employees two percent raises each year under the new deal.

Gov. Phil Murphy also said the deal includes about $70 million in savings from changes to health benefits.

"From day one, I've promised that we'd build a stronger and fairer economy by negotiating in good faith with our workforce," said Murphy. "Our tentative contract agreement provides fair wages, allows for CWA members to enter a new health care plan that generates significant savings for the State of New Jersey and taxpayers, and provides a fair premium share for members. Together, we're turning the page from the failed approaches of the past toward a new chapter of mutual respect and dialogue with our workforce."

The contract is subject to ratification by the CWA which will be completed this month.

The agreement also streamlines grievance and discipline arbitration processes to ensure adjudication of workplace disputes occurs in a cost-effective and timely fashion, benefitting both workers and management.

The total projected state costs of the contract are approximately $120 million incrementally over the term of the contract. The fiscal year 2020 state cost of $20 million is already accounted for in the governor's fiscal year 2020 budget.

**Noteworthy: National Issues**

**Georgetown CEW Report - Measuring the Economic Value of Programs vs. Institutions**

[cewgeorgetown@georgetown.edu](mailto:cewgeorgetown@georgetown.edu)

Education beyond high school is the biggest investment students make in their transition...
from youth dependence to adult independence. But skyrocketing tuition costs and limited information about outcomes have made investing in American higher education a risky bet.

If students are investing more to go to college, they need to have answers to basic questions about the value of postsecondary education. They need better information to make decisions that have lifelong economic consequences.

Our research suggests that programs - not institutions - are the fundamental units that transmit economic value to students. The student’s major has the strongest relationship with the kind of career she pursues after college. The variation in earnings across college programs is far greater than the variation in earnings among colleges.

In other words: What students study is more important than where they study it. That’s why some workers with less education earn more than those with a bachelor’s degree.

We need to deliver usable consumer information and define outcomes-based standards at the program level.

We can do this by:

1) Building program-level information systems at a level of aggregation that ensures individuals' privacy, and
2) Unleashing public and private innovation in program development to transform that aggregated, open-source information into user-friendly formats.

More and more states are creating tuition-free college programs, signifying the growing importance of college. It is clear that the time is ripe for breaking down the silos between K-12, higher ed, and the workforce to better connect the dots for students between college and careers. We need to do better if we want to lead students to career and life success.

Democratic Take on the Higher Education Act
www.InsideHigherEd.com

Senates education committee's top Democrat, Patty Murray, says new higher ed law must take comprehensive approach and tackle college affordability. Senator Murray said on February 28, 2019, that an overhaul of the Higher Education Act should tackle college affordability directly by addressing state investment in public colleges and boosting federal spending on need-based aid programs like Pell Grants.

Murray's call for a partnership between the federal government and the states reflected a growing recognition among many in Washington that spending more on aid like Pell Grants will have a limited impact on the cost of attending public colleges if state support diminishes.

"I just don't think there is a way forward to actually make college affordable for students that does not engage states to encourage them to fund higher education," said Zakiya Smith Ellis, New Jersey's secretary of higher education, in comments immediately after the speech.

"Senator Murray and I have been working for the last several years towards reauthorizing and updating the Higher Education Act. I always welcome and pay attention to her ideas,"
said Senator Lamar Alexander, the GOP chairman of the education committee. "We have a good history of working together to find areas of agreement, and I expect that we will be able to do the same this year. My hope is that working together our committee can produce a recommendation to the full Senate before summer."

**Op-Ed: The Sweet Spot on Free College: Why 14 is the New 12**


Pretend you're a politician running for office. You're in a town hall meeting in front of a camera surrounded by an audience of typical voters assembled to test your fitness to lead. An earnest citizen rises and asks: Are you in favor of free college? You're ready for this one.

You know that most of your audience would agree that a high school diploma is no longer enough to launch a sustainable career. Only about 20 percent of high school graduates can get a good job without additional education, and those are mostly young men who can land a spot in the declining blue-collar economy. You also know that as many as half of the people in the room and watching on television believe that college is not necessary for everyone. They are sure their children are deserving and qualified for a four-year degree, but the children of many other people are definitely not.

You're ready to respond, but you need a new way to describe the solution. Here's what you say: 14 is the new 12!

In other words, 14 years of education ought to be the expectation for all students, rather than 12 years. Students would have the freedom to make choices about how and where to take these additional years of education. They could study online or at community colleges, four-year private or public colleges, for-profit colleges or in job-training programs. The education is what's important, not the format or the provider.

Advocating that 14 is the new 12 recognizes that a high school diploma is no longer enough for gainful employment but that not everybody needs a four-year degree. At the same time, it doesn't block anyone with the talent and drive to get a bachelor's degree from obtaining one.

Some people would argue that we don't need free college. They would say we should just bring vocational education back to high school. But 14 as the new 12 avoids that sticky debate. A major reason high school vocational education was eliminated starting in the early 1980s was because it encouraged race, class and gender tracking. Male students of color from low-income families were invariably tracked into vocational programs, and hardly anyone else ever was. Even a scent of race, class or gender bias will set off alarms with a large share of your audience.

You would need to add some bells and whistles to close the deal with voters and to get the policy wonks on board. For starters, anything you propose needs a credible mechanism to end the current "pay and pray" system of college funding. Right now, we pray for the best from a college education and write a big check. We have little insight into the return on investment of college programs. Any new approach must require transparency and accountability regarding the cost, graduation rates and employment effects of every college program.
Diversifying learning for children must be included in this new approach, as well as earlier exposure to applied learning and career paths. All students would engage in applied learning, beginning in middle school. If all students take it, none is being tracked into it. All students would move on to an expansion in applied curriculums, structured work experience and high school internships. These would be connected to focused career pathways in college.

You still need to tip your hat to the bachelor's degree because it is the aspirational gold standard in U.S. education. For those who correctly point out that bachelor's degrees disproportionately go to affluent whites and that minorities and students from lower-income families are increasingly stuck in underfunded community colleges, you may need to add more funding to encourage strong transfer policy. In the end, the system you are trying to create has multiple educational and career pathways with carefully posted on-ramps and off-ramps, no dead ends and no absolute barriers to the BA.

Free college sounds like an unwarranted giveaway to most people. They picture the government sending good money after bad, chasing runaway college costs. Flip the script. Tell people that you want 14 as the new 12 - an accountable approach to making sure all students have a clear path to where they want to go.

Anthony P. Carnevale is director of the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce.

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