



April 2017

Dear Colleagues/Friends:

Welcome to our comprehensive E-newsletter, called *NJASCU News and Notes - featuring noteworthy items from the prior month.* 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 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

Nelida Valentin, Stockton University, Class of 1986:



[Read profile here](#)

Events/Activities

NJ Association of State Colleges and Universities Hosts Free Screening of Documentary on the Defunding of Public Higher Education on April 12, 2017

The New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities (NJASCU) invites you to a **free** screening of the higher education documentary (2016) film

Starving the Beast on

Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 7:30 p.m., Princeton Garden Theatre. The thought-provoking film about the systematic defunding of public higher education throughout the country will be followed by a discussion with NJASCU CEO Michael Klein.

According to the March 25, 2016 review in the *Huffington Post*: "No film better exposes the coordinated assault on public higher education that is going on right now." Dr. Klein will relate the movie's content to the declining state funding for New Jersey's senior public higher education institutions. Significantly reduced state support impacts college affordability and access for New Jersey's students, as well as the economic health of the state.

The New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, created by state law in 1985 to support and advocate on behalf of New Jersey's senior public institutions of higher education. www.njascu.org

The Garden Theatre is a nonprofit, member-supported arthouse dedicated to the community film-going experience and the preservation of the historic theater.

*For parking/directions to **the Wednesday, April 12, 7:30 p.m. screening at the Princeton Garden Theatre please go to:** <http://princetongardentheatre.org/parking>*

News and Notes

William Paterson University Examines Cyber Security and Big Data Analytics at its Annual Conference

NorthJersey.com

April 1, 2017

William Paterson University hosted the Third Annual Cyber Security and Big Data Analytics Symposium, "Understanding Trends Across Industries," which explored how cyber security is a critical part of organizations' security strategies. Big data analytics, the process of examining large data sets to uncover patterns and trends, helps professionals detect and prevent advanced cyber threats. David Rossi, cyber security architect for IBM z System, IBM gave the keynote address.

Stockton Sets Date for Island Campus Groundbreaking

SNJToday.com

March 31, 2017

Stockton University is ready to celebrate the groundbreaking of its Island Campus in Atlantic City.

The Atlantic City Gateway Project, which includes the University's new Island Campus, will have an official groundbreaking on Thursday, April 20th, at 11:30 a.m. The event will take place at the project site which is located at South Albany Avenue and the Boardwalk. Governor Chris Christie will be speaking.

The Gateway Project is a public and private partnership between the Atlantic City Development Corporation, South Jersey Industries, and Stockton. The completed site will feature Stockton's highly anticipated Atlantic City residential campus, along with new offices for South Jersey Gas and a parking garage.

Stockton officials say they plan to have the [campus open in 2018](#).

Trevor Noah Talks About Importance of Laughter at N.J. College

NJ.com

March 30, 2017

The Daily Show host Trevor Noah shared his words of wisdom about the art and value of positive thinking at a March 28, 2017 event hosted by New Jersey City University's School of Business.

Kean University Furthers East/West Cultural Exchange with "China in the World" Conference

Kean.edu

March 29, 2017

Kean University, which operates a full scale additional campus in Wenzhou, China, on March 29 held its second annual *China in the World* conference at its main campus in Union, NJ, as a way to highlight China's influence on the world of fashion and culminate in a live fashion show. Noted fashion scholar Valerie Steele, the director and chief curator of The Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology, led a panel discussion on Chinese fashion at the event, along with fashion designer Ruiping Guo.

New Research by Professors Ahn and Haines on Couples Finds that Women Overwhelmingly Assume Responsibility for Keeping Track of their Partner's To-Do Lists

www.wpunj.edu

March 29, 2017

Decades' worth of research on couples points to the disproportionate frequency with which women perform housework compared to men. But a groundbreaking series of new studies from William Paterson University and Columbia Business School suggests that women also take on more couples' "mental housework" - the remembering of daily errands and to-dos.

Stockton to Host Two Gubernatorial Primary Debates

NJSpotlight.com

March 29, 2017

New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) named Stockton University as host of two New Jersey gubernatorial primary debates this spring - final dates still unknown. ELEC has also chosen NJ Spotlight, in partnership with NJTV Public Television for two other debates.

Moody's Investors Service Downgrades New Jersey's General Obligation Rating from A2 to A3

Moodys.com

March 28, 2017

Moody's Investors Service has downgraded to A3 from A2 New Jersey's general obligation rating. The ratings on the state's appropriation-backed debt, other GO related debt, moral obligation debt, intercept programs and certain special tax bonds that require state appropriation have also been downgraded by one notch. The downgrade affects approximately \$37 billion of rated debt. The outlook on the state's ratings has also been revised to stable. The downgrade to A3 reflects the continued negative impact of significant pension underfunding, including growth in the state's large long-term liabilities, a persistent structural imbalance, and weak fund balances. Despite the state's significant increases in pension contributions since fiscal 2012, contributions remain well below the actuarial recommended contribution and unfunded pension debt continues to grow. The downgrade also reflects the expectation that the statutory pension contribution schedule will be increasingly difficult to meet given the lack of structural budget adjustments to incorporate General Fund tax reductions that took effect in January 2017 (Chapter 57) and the state's reliance on optimistic revenue growth assumptions to balance the budget. Without balancing actions, the recent tax cuts will reduce revenues by \$1.1 billion by fiscal 2021 and strain the state's ability to resolve its large structural imbalance in the near term.

New Jersey Resources Appoints TCNJ Alumna Nancy A. Washington Senior Vice President and General Counsel

Finance.Yahoo.com

March 28, 2017

New Jersey Resources (NJR) today announced the appointment of Nancy A. Washington of Sea Girt, NJ as senior vice president and general counsel. In this role, Ms. Washington will be responsible for developing and directing the corporate legal function and overseeing corporate compliance.

A graduate of The College of New Jersey, Ms. Washington received her undergraduate degree in accounting in 1986. She went on to study law at Seton Hall University School of Law and earned her juris doctor degree in 1989. She is a member of the American Bar Association, Federal Bar Association, New Jersey State Bar Association, International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation and Executive Women of New Jersey.

HFF Arranges Financing for First Phase of NJCU Project

NJBiz.com

March 27, 2017

University Place, a joint venture between the Hampshire Cos., Claremont Cos., and Circle Squared Alternative Investments in Jersey City, was able to obtain financing with the help of Holiday Fenoglio Fowler, HFF recently announced.

Montclair State to Discuss Sexual Assault on College Campuses

NorthJersey.com

March 25, 2017

On April 6, Montclair State University will host a discussion titled "Sexual Assault on Campus: What No One's Talking About," in the university's conference center at University Hall. The event, coinciding with Sexual Assault Awareness Month, is free and open to the public.

Free Warehouse Operations Training Program Offered in Jersey City

NJ.com

March 25, 2017

New Jersey City University and WomenRising are sponsoring a free four-week warehouse operations training program for men and women. The program includes classes leading to certifications in OSHA, forklift operations, and fundamentals of warehousing.

Rowan Food Pantry Combats Campus Hunger, Stigma

CourierPostOnline.com

March 24, 2017

Graduates look back on their undergrad years as their poorest, scraping pennies together for insanely cheap packages of microwavable Ramen noodles and mac and cheese.

The joke isn't funny anymore. Rowan University student Rbrey Singleton said Wednesday as he stood between aisles of canned goods in the school's first student food pantry he founded. The SHOP - Students Helping Other Profs - opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 23, 2017.

That 'Snooki' College Speaker Fee Bill Wouldn't Have Stopped Her from Cashing In

NJ.com

March 24, 2017

Six years after "Jersey Shore" star Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi earned \$32,000 for a Rutgers University speaking gig, state lawmakers on Thursday approved a bill that would cap how state money is used to pay for speeches at public universities. But the bill's primary sponsor acknowledges the legislation would not have prevented Polizzi's appearance. The reality TV star's honorarium was paid for by student fees after the Rutgers University Programming Association, a student group, extended the invitation.

A NorthJersey.com article also on March 24, 2017 had the following comment by Gov. Chris Christie about the "Snooki" college speaker bill. Christie ridiculed lawmakers for spending time on it, although he didn't rule out signing it into law. "This is what happens when you have a part-time Legislature that is looking for things to do," he said. "I've got much bigger issues to be concerned about in a state with a \$35 billion budget, with all the different challenges and opportunities we have, than to be worried about micromanaging what universities in the state decide to pay their commencement speakers."

William Paterson University Presents 'Explorations 2017' Research, Scholarship and Creative Expression Across All Academic Disciplines with Series of Events in April

WPUNJ.edu

March 24, 2017

Explorations 2017: Research, Scholarship and Creative Expression, a series of events showcasing research across all five colleges at William Paterson University in Wayne, will be held from April 4 through April 28, 2017. Events include lectures, presentations of faculty and student research and awards, Honors Week student presentations, a faculty authors celebration and poster sessions.

Businesses Worry That Too Many Millennials Headed Out of New Jersey

NJSpotlight.com

March 23, 2017

Last year, the size of the nation's millennial generation grew enough to top baby boomers and become the largest of the five living generations. But in New Jersey, business leaders are tracking a different trend as millennials have been leaving the state at a higher rate than other groups. The New Jersey Business and Industry Association (NJBIA) hosted a daylong conference on March 21, 2017 in East Windsor on the issue of millennials and the state workforce. Among the presenters were Dr. Sue Henderson, president of New Jersey City University, and Dr. Ali Houshmand, president of Rowan University. NJASCU CEO Michael Klein was part of the NJBIA-led planning committee for this event.

Good Financial Stewardship Means Fulfilling Our Educational Missions

EducationDive.com

March 22, 2017

This piece is an op-ed contributed by Daniel Julius, Senior Vice President and Provost of New Jersey City University.

Greater fiscal stability for the nation's colleges and universities can be achieved right inside our classrooms. That's the important finding of a new paper [released this month](#) by the American Council on Education (ACE). The report, *Instructional Quality, Student Outcomes, and Institutional Finances*, demonstrates that efforts to improve instructional quality lead to stronger rates of student retention and graduation, generating tuition revenue that outweighs the cost of the investment. This report could not be better timed. The erosion of financial support for public higher education institutions over the past decade is starting to look permanent. For example, here in New Jersey the governor's executive budget keeps our operational funds flat, at levels 23% below what they were in 2008.

Ramapo Readers Program Honored by the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey and COMMERCE Magazine

Ramapo.edu

March 22, 2017

Ramapo College of New Jersey was recognized for its volunteer efforts when the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey (CIANJ) and COMMERCE Magazine recently hosted its Fourth Annual Chairman's Reception - paying tribute to the kindness and generosity of the business community.

The College's Ramapo Readers program was among the thirty-nine entities, including leading manufacturers, retailers, hospitals, banks and colleges and universities, who were honored as "Champions of Good Works" at the gala reception, attended by more than 260 business executives.

"The Ramapo Readers Program is fueled by the good will, compassion, and contagious energy of the students, faculty, and staff of Ramapo College. It is initiative of what I am proud to be a part and one that I trust will continue to grow," said Peter P. Mercer, president of Ramapo College.

Fulop Stresses Development, New 5-Acre Park in Ward A State of the City

HudsonCountyView.com

March 21, 2017

Jersey City Mayor Steve Fulop in his State of the City tour of Jersey City recognized that Greenville section of Jersey City has long been overlooked when it comes to economic development. He subsequently touted that two of the most important projects in the city are happening right in Greenville - the expansion of the New Jersey City University Campus and the Bayfront Project, which he claimed will have positive economic impacts similar to Newport's impacts in the 1980s. The project calls for thousands of new residential units on the Hackensack River on a former industrial site. "This once contaminated site will also include three incredible public parks, additional open space, new transportation options and extensive retail and office space," exclaimed Mayor Fulop. "This incredible transit oriented development will spark the creation of Jersey City's second Gold Coast, and will bring new opportunities that this neighborhood will benefit from. This project will be to the West Side of Jersey City what Newport was to downtown in the 1980s."

Pricey NJ College Gets Stung by Credit Agency Junk Rating

NJ.com

March 21, 2017

New Jersey's [second-most expensive college](#) has been losing money and faces a difficult path to regaining financial stability, according to a Wall Street credit rating agency. Moody's Investors Service on Friday

downgraded [Drew University](#), a private college of about 1,800 students in Madison, for [the second time](#) in 15 months. The downgrade reflects "the continued weakening of the university's financial viability," Moody's reported. Drew, which costs more than \$47,000 a year in tuition and fees, is operating with unsustainable deficits and relies on loans or money from its diminishing endowment to cover its bills, the agency said.

NJRA Teams Up With Thomas Edison State University for Staff Development

[NJBiz.com](#)

March 21, 2017

The New Jersey Redevelopment Authority (NJRA) is hoping to boost its effectiveness through staff development, partnering with Thomas Edison State University to help employees complete college degree programs. Thomas Edison and NJRA said in a news release that a recent survey found that 61 percent of employers offer undergraduate tuition assistance, while 59 percent offer graduate tuition assistance. "The partnership with Thomas Edison allows the NJRA employees to continually grow in their respective roles to serve the community," Leslie Anderson, NJRA's executive director, said in a prepared statement. "Providing the staff the opportunity to grow personally and professionally strengthens our effectiveness as an organization."

NJCU Hosted Conference on 'Redefining Risk Family Businesses and Global Growth'

[NJCU.edu](#)

March 21, 2017

The New Jersey City University (NJCU) School of Business Institute for Dispute Resolution hosted a scholastic conference, *Redefining Risk for Family Businesses: Global Growth in the 21st Century*, on Tuesday, March 21, 2017.

In an increasingly interconnected world, New Jersey is poised to become a center of international trade and dispute resolution of business specific conflict. New Jersey recent passed legislation entitled the *International Arbitration, Mediation and Conciliation Act*, which makes mediated settlements binding as if they were judgements of the court. New Jersey is one of only six states in the country to pass such a law.

Opening remarks were made by **Jersey City Mayor Steven Fulop**, **NJCU President Sue Henderson**, and **Choose New Jersey President and CEO Michele Brown**. Three panel discussions followed. The conference concluded with remarks from **State Senator Sandra B. Cunningham** and a keynote discussion with **State Senator Thomas H. Kean, Jr.**

\$34.3 Million

[NJSpotlight.com](#)

March 21, 2017

With the signing into law of S-2897, sponsored by Senator Tom Kean, \$34.3 million has been made available to fund capital improvement projects at public institutions of higher education statewide. The money represents the remaining funds available through the Building Our Future Bond Act, also sponsored by Kean and signed into law in 2012.

The projects funded by S-2897 include reconstruction of the William Paterson University Hunziker Building for laboratories and general use classrooms; a new life sciences and engineering research facility at NJIT; state-of-the-art technology-equipped instructional and research building at Stevens Institute of Technology; renovations to the Edison Science Building at Monmouth University; new Art Therapy facility at Caldwell University; and new Health Sciences Building at Union County College.

\$34 Million Boost for NJ Colleges and Universities Now Law

[NorthJersey.com](#)

March 14, 2017

Gov. Chris Christie signed a [law](#) Monday that appropriates \$34 million for facility improvements at New Jersey colleges and universities, including the renovation of an academic hall at William Paterson University and the conversion of a vacant warehouse owned by Passaic County Community College into a technology center. The sum represents the balance of a \$750 million general obligation bond issue that voters approved in 2012 as part of the Building Our Future Bond Act, which dedicated \$300 million to Rutgers, Rowan and the New Jersey Institute of Technology and the remainder to other state colleges and universities, county colleges and private institutions. NJASCU worked with the reporter to provide the analysis and facts for this story.

Barbara Harmon-Francis Articulates Passionate Support for NJ Educational Opportunity Fund Program

[NJASCU QuickTakes](#)

March 21, 2017

An alumna of The College of New Jersey's Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Program, who now heads Ramapo's EOF program, testified on Tuesday, March 21, 2017, at a NJ Senate public hearing (held at Rutgers University, Newark) on the budget proposed by Governor Christie in February. Below is her compelling story and argument for restoring the \$3.6 million in EOF funding that was cut in the governor's proposal.

I would like to start by thanking the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee for taking the time to hear my testimony. My name is Barbara Harmon-Francis and I am an alumna of The College of New Jersey's Educational Opportunity Fund's Program and the current Director of the Ramapo College of New Jersey EOF Program. The Educational Opportunity Fund, also known as EOF, was started in 1968 to help people like myself attend and graduate from New Jersey's colleges.

The National College Access Network states that the biggest determining factor as to why an individual will or will not attend college is a student's zip code. A zip code. It's really hard to believe, but it's true. A student like myself, who was attending Orange High School, was less likely to attend college, simply because of where I lived, my income level, and my school district. Read more [here](#).

William Paterson University Celebrates 50th Anniversary of Its Nursing Program

[NJASCU QuickTakes](#)

March 20, 2017

William Paterson University in Wayne, New Jersey, which offered its first baccalaureate degree in nursing in 1966 and has grown to be a leader in nursing education in New Jersey, is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its nursing program.

"We are proud of our long history and the outstanding reputation of our program," said Kathleen Waldron, president of William Paterson University. "More than 3,600 health professionals have graduated from William Paterson's nursing program. Our highly-trained faculty, building on their own clinical experience, are demanding of their students and have helped them obtain some of the top nursing positions in the region." William Paterson alumni are employed at nearly every major hospital and medical center in New Jersey and beyond. Read more [here](#).

Stockton University Hosted the Jersey Shore Science Fair

[PressofAtlanticCity.com](#)

March 18, 2017

Stockton University hosted the Jersey Shore Science Fair with nearly 600 students from 43 middle and high schools from across New Jersey competing on Saturday. Over 545 projects submitted by students in sixth through 12th grades was judged on criteria including creative ability, scientific thought/engineering goals, thoroughness, skill and clarity.

NJCU Launches Master's Degree in Business Analytics and Data Science

[NJASCU QuickTake!](#)

March 17, 2017

The School of Business at New Jersey City University (NJCU) has launched a Master of Science degree program in Business Analytics and Data Science designed to prepare students for careers in the burgeoning field of data analytics. The Master of Science in Business Analytics and Data Science program will prepare students with the skills needed to gather, store, analyze and interpret large amounts of "Big Data" to facilitate informed business decision-making. Read more [here](#).

Student-Produced Advertisement Aired in Times Square

[TheMontclarion.org](#)

March 16, 2017

Rocky the Red Hawk made his debut in Times Square this month as the star of an entirely student-produced ad.

The 30-second clip chosen as the winner of the Feliciano Times Square Challenge will be aired on the largest digital surface LED screen in New York City, and will be Montclair's first ad campaign in Times Square.

Back in 2015, the benefactors of the Feliciano School of Business bid on Times Square ad space at a benefactor dinner. When they presented it as a gift to the school of business, Dean Gregory Cant created a student competition for the best ad.

Over a dozen teams entered the contest, which presented students with this challenge: design and produce a 30-second ad highlighting the business school's proximity to New York City and its role as the hub of innovation for the campus. The teams had to be comprised of at least one business student and one student from a different department, thus fostering an interdisciplinary project.

Kean University Introduces Minor in Sustainability Sciences

[NJASCU QuickTakes](#)

March 16, 2017

Kean University is embarking upon a major expansion of its "green" offerings with a new Minor in Sustainability Sciences. The 18-credit undergraduate program teaches students the basic principles and tools of sustainability science through hands-on research and activities based on real-world situations and practical solutions.

"There is a growing demand for energy, water and food, and that puts stress on natural systems and elevates tensions between nations, industries and communities," said Dongyan Mu, PhD, program coordinator and professor in Kean's School of Environmental and Sustainability Sciences. "Dealing with these problems requires knowledge across disciplinary boundaries and collaborations among engineers, and social and natural scientists. The sustainability science major was developed in response to those demands." Read more [here](#).

Trump Budget Proposal Protects Pell, HBCUs Amid \$9.2 Billion Ed Dept Cut

[EducationDive.com](#)

March 16, 2017

In his first budget proposal as president, Donald Trump safeguards the federal Pell grant program, and protects funding for historically black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions, even amid a proposal that would deliver some of the steepest cuts the U.S. Department of Education has ever seen. However, \$3.9 billion in Pell reserves, which many had hoped would go support summer Pell, has been eliminated. Among the proposed cuts is the elimination of the \$732 million Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant program, and a \$200 million reduction in funding to the TRIO and GEARUP programs, which help promote college preparedness for disadvantaged students, but which the administration argues there has been "limited evidence on the overall effectiveness in improving student outcomes." Federal Work Study programs, which the president says are poorly allocated, are also to see reductions. The FY 2018 budget request would cut \$9.2 billion from the department he's also mentioned eliminating - a 13.5% reduction from the Cabinet-level agency.

Fears for New Jersey if Federal Budget is Slashed

[NJSpotlight.com](#)

March 16, 2017

Looming large over this year's legislative review of Gov. Chris Christie's latest budget proposal is the uncertainty of federal budget cuts. Yesterday, advocate after advocate told lawmakers that state programs and appropriations will be in danger if the federal budget is slashed as deeply as many expected. Lawmakers are in the midst of a series of public hearings on Christie's proposed budget for the state's next fiscal year, a process that in the last few years has influenced several changes made to the governor's original spending plan.

What exactly gets hits and how deep the cuts will be largely remains to be seen though more information could be released as early as today. But with New Jersey's fiscal year beginning on July 1, and the federal fiscal year starting on October 1, the impact of the potential federal cuts was on the minds of many who testified during a hearing held yesterday to collect public comments on Christie's proposed \$35.5 billion spending plan for the 2018 fiscal year.

Rider University Announces 1st Doctorate Program

[NJBiz.com](#)

March 14, 2017

Rider University announced that it will offer its first doctorate program in the school's 152-year history. The 51-credit program for a [doctor of education in educational leadership](#) will begin in July with 12 to 15 candidates. It is designed to be completed in three years and includes coursework on campus and online and two summer residencies.

GetEducated.com Releases 2017 Best Buy Rankings of Regionally-Accredited Online Human Services Bachelor's Degrees

[PRWeb.com](#)

March 13, 2017

[GetEducated.com](#), a consumer group that publishes rankings and reviews of the best online colleges, has released their Best Buy report ranking the best colleges offering regionally-accredited online bachelor's in Human Services on the dimension of college affordability.

Thomas Edison State University, ranked #1 on the [GedEducated.com online bachelor in human services, counseling, and social work program rankings](#) with the average student paying \$25,723 for an online Bachelor of Science in Human Services. By comparison, the average cost for a regionally-accredited online human services degree in the recent, national survey was \$50,221.

The [GetEducated.com](#) online college rankings is based on a survey of higher education costs at 58 regionally accredited universities offering 70+ online programs.

NJCU Offers Free Workshops to Support Local Arts Organizations

[NJCU.edu](#)

March 13, 2017

NJCU Center for the Arts and the NJCU Arts Advisory Board are sponsoring a series of three free workshops, beginning in March, as part of a larger effort to support local arts organizations and artists and encourage dialogues to shape the cultural landscape of the arts in Jersey City and the region.

The series opened on Thursday, March 16 with a program on *Capacity Building for Arts Organizations*. The workshop, intended for those who wish to grow their arts organization, will provide a roadmap of best practices in marketing, fundraising and board development for small to mid-sized non-profit art organizations, and for all who are interested in attending.

State Approves Mullica Hill Hospital Next to Rowan University

[CourierPostOnline.com](#)

March 12, 2017

N.J. Health Commissioner Cathleen D. Bennett has [approved Inspira Health Network's application](#) to build a new 204-bed hospital on Routes 322 and 55, next to property owned by Rowan University in Mullica Hill. In a statement released Saturday, Inspira's president and CEO, John DiAngelo, called the approval a "significant step" in the process to build a new medical center in Gloucester County. The \$326 million hospital will replace Inspira's existing hospital on North Broad Street in Woodbury, about 10 miles away.

NJ Colleges Ask: Why Does Christie Want to Cut Student Success Program?

[Philly.com](#)

March 13, 2017

To the dismay of many New Jersey colleges, Gov. Christie has proposed a funding cut for a respected financial aid program that provides intensive support for educationally and economically disadvantaged students and has helped tens of thousands graduate since its founding almost 50 years ago.

The [budget Christie proposed](#) February 28 lists an 8.4 percent cut to the Educational Opportunity Fund, a \$3.6 million decrease from the \$42.4 million the program is receiving this year. The Legislature must [approve a budget](#) by July 1.

"It's hard to understand why each and every year it's always fighting for its existence," said Harvey Kesselman, president of Stockton University.

Stockton Student Veterans Travel Greece Odyssey March 2017

[Stockton.edu](#)

March 10, 2017

Eighteen student veterans from Stockton University will be following in the footsteps of the legendary Greek king Odysseus when they travel to Greece this week for a specialized seminar with a travel component that is uniquely relevant to the veteran experience. "To Ithaca: A Soldier's Journey Home," is a groundbreaking pilot program that provides military veterans adjusting to civilian life with a portion of much-needed recovery in an uncommon learning environment.

"This is a one of a kind program" said Tom O'Donnell, assistant dean of Students and director of Veteran Affairs. "I am so proud that Stockton once again leads the way for our wonderful veterans."

William Paterson University Student-Run Radio Station Named Nation's Best

Fios1News.com

March 8, 2017

Intercollegiate Broadcasting System at its annual conference in NYC has given the best-in-nation award to William Paterson University's student-run station WP 88.7 FM - this is the third time in the past six years that the WPU station has received this honor.

Rowan College at Gloucester County Wants to Change the Two-Year School Paradigm

EducationDive.com

March 8, 2017

Rowan College at Gloucester County is looking to change the paradigm of community colleges, with expansion plans that seek to transform the traditional commuter school into a residential campus. The plans, still in the infancy stage, would add seven new buildings, including student apartments, according to the [Philadelphia Inquirer](#). Partnerships with the local hospital system to expand health programs at the school as well as provide a new facility open to the public, and additions for retail space are all on the table in the new proposal. Rowan College at Gloucester County, entering its fifth decade, is rethinking itself. A plan unveiled by its president Tuesday would expand the community college's campus with seven new buildings, including student apartments to make the school a residential college.

"Community colleges are commuter schools. What we're proposing is to change that paradigm," Frederick Keating, the college's president, said. He emphasized that the plan was in its earliest stages, and a feasibility study will run through June. Information on cost will not be available until the study is complete, but Keating said funding would not come from students or taxpayers.

Candidates for Governor Struggle to Qualify for Public Funds to Take on Murphy's Millions

NJBiz.com

Politico.com

March 8, 2017

New Jersey's primary campaign for governor is well under way, with at least 10 candidates running for the Democratic and Republican nominations. But some of those candidates are struggling to raise enough money to receive public financing from the state, which is crucial to getting their messages out in the nation's first and fourth most expensive media markets - and even more crucial when the front-runner has vast resources at his disposal.

So far, just two candidates have met the \$430,000 threshold: [Republican Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno](#) and [Democrat Jim Johnson](#), a Montclair attorney. The deadline to qualify in the primary is April 3.

Senate Overturns Obama-Era Regulations on Teacher Preparation

WashingtonPost.com

March 8, 2017

The Senate voted 59 to 40 Wednesday to overturn Obama administration regulations meant to ensure that new K-12 public school teachers are ready for the nation's classrooms. The House [has already](#) approved the measure, and the White House has indicated that President Trump intends to sign it.

NJCU Gains National Ranking Improving Students Economic Futures

NJCU.edu

March 8, 2017

New Jersey City University (NJCU) received high marks for improving the upward mobility and economic futures of its students, according to a recent study of the role of colleges in intergenerational mobility released by The Equality of Opportunity Project. According to the national study, titled, "Mobility Report Cards: The Role of Colleges in Intergenerational Mobility," NJCU ranked 23rd for intergenerational mobility within a group of 369 selective public colleges. This means NJCU graduates have a considerably enhanced likelihood of moving up two or more income quintiles into the middle or upper classes.

With 44.8 percent of the University's student body drawn from the lowest 40 percent of household incomes, the EOP findings - coupled with the University's Debt Free Promise - affirm NJCU's commitment to improving the financial futures of its graduates. Launched one year ago, the NJCU Debt-Free Promise Program is designed to make college education accessible and affordable for New Jersey residents who are pursuing their first undergraduate degree as incoming, full-time freshmen students.

Montclair State Receives \$1.1 Million NSF Grant for Innovative Teacher Training Program

[NJASCU QuickTakes](#)

March 6, 2017

A Montclair State University team has received a three-year, \$1.1 million National Science Foundation (NSF) Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program grant for its project "Preparing the Effective Elementary Mathematics Teacher."

Eligible Montclair State mathematics majors will soon take part in an innovative collaborative program between the College of Science and Mathematics and the College of Education and Human Services that addresses the shortage of high-quality science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) teachers by preparing them to teach math in the New Jersey elementary schools that need them most. Read more [here](#).

Stockton Poll Finds Strong Distrust of News Media Among New Jersey Adults

[NJASCU QuickTakes](#)

March 6, 2017

New Jersey residents for the most part believe news media across the spectrum is biased, and a large majority of them are concerned about fake news, according to a Stockton Poll released today.

Most New Jersey adults (87 percent) say they pay some or a great deal of attention to the news, and majorities say print newspapers, cable news broadcast news, online news sites and radio do a good or excellent job of keeping them informed. Read more [here](#).

Report on Adult-Serving Colleges and Alternative Credentials

[InsideHigherEd.com](#)

March 6, 2017

A new study examines how six adult-serving institutions are defining and using alternative credentials such as badges, noncredit certificates and those issued for successful completion of MOOCs or coding and skills boot camps. The [30-page report](#), which was released today by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC), the Presidents' Forum and the Online Learning Consortium (OLC), seeks to shed light on how colleges with a deep background in prior learning assessments are dealing with new and emerging forms of credentials. However, the report suggests, the six colleges, which include Thomas Edison State University and SUNY Empire State College, likely have a leg up compared to other institutions when it comes to assessing student learning that occurs on the job or outside the traditional academic classroom.

Here's How Much Christie Gave Rutgers, Other Colleges in Final Budget

[NJ.com](#)

March 6, 2017

Gov. Chris Christie's [final budget proposed](#) that the 10 traditional four-year colleges plus Thomas Edison State University would see flat funding, sharing about \$700 million in state aid.

Unlike New Jersey's K-12 school funding there's [no special formula](#) that determines how much each college gets. State funding for colleges is based largely on how much schools have received in the past regardless of enrollment growth or other changes on campus.

The article gives the proposed state funding amounts for each of the public institutions. But it does not go

into other aspects of the budget, such as the \$3.6 million cut to Educational Opportunity Fund program and the suggested use of NJ Lottery money to pay for funding the pension when those lottery moneys by law are allocated to meet needs (including higher education) other than pensions.

Editorial: Crackdown on Immigrants Could Shake Up New Jersey

NJBiz.com

March 5, 2017

According to a new study by the personal-finance website WalletHub, New Jersey ranks second in the nation (after California) in the overall positive economic impact of foreign-born residents. WalletHub studied 18 indicators - things such as the median household income of immigrants and the jobs generated by immigrant-owned businesses - to come up with its rankings. Not only was New Jersey ranked second overall, but it tied for first in its percentage of foreign-born STEM workers, was No. 2 in the percentage of jobs generated by immigrant-owned businesses and No. 3 in the median household income of its foreign-born population.

Professors Plan Spring Rally in Response to Installed Contract Negotiations

KUTower.com

March 4, 2017

Full-time professors at Kean University have been working without a master contract for over a year and a half. Negotiations towards a contract have been ongoing for almost two years. The current contract expired on June 30, 2015.

"We are planning for a series of actions statewide during the course of the spring semester," said Dr. James Castiglione, President of the Kean Federation of Teachers, in an interview with The Tower. "Things have yet to be finalized but there will be a day of action."

There are plans to rally on public university campuses statewide to raise awareness among students and the community about the lack of a contract. Faculty and staff believe working without a contract negatively affects students' education. Dr. Castiglione believes it also negatively impacts the recruitment of talented teachers and staff members. Also, it makes retention of those teachers and staff members difficult.

A Closer Look at the Contradictions in Christie's Proposed Budget

NJSpotlight.com

March 3, 2017

The new budget that Gov. Chris Christie proposed earlier this week for New Jersey's next fiscal year counts on state revenues growing by about \$1 billion even as a round of phased-in tax cuts enacted last year will continue to take hold.

Christie's relatively rosy revenue outlook comes as his administration has slightly downgraded the tax-collection forecast for the current fiscal year, and after the Republican governor called for an extra \$400 million in spending on road, bridge, and mass-transit projects within the next 100 days.

Several states that have enacted ambitious tax-cutting initiatives in recent years like Louisiana and Kansas have been struggling to close sizable revenue shortfalls this year. But Christie's administration seems confident that a strengthening state and national economy will help to sustain another spending increase in New Jersey even as the cuts to the sales tax and several other state revenue sources are widening.

Whether that outlook will hold true remains to be seen, but if it doesn't, any problems will likely fall to the next governor since Christie is due to leave office in early 2018. With crucial April income-tax collections for the current fiscal year looming, lawmakers say they're reserving judgment on Christie's growth estimates for now.

In all, Christie's \$35.5 billion fiscal year 2018 budget projects increases in all three of the state's "Big 3" revenue sources, which are the income, sales, and corporate-business taxes. Despite widening tax cuts impacting both the income and sales taxes, Christie is projecting income-tax revenue to improve by nearly \$500 million and sales-tax collections to rise by more than \$150 million during the 2018 fiscal year, which begins in July.

A Real-Life Sustainability Experiment at Stockton

March 2, 2017

A project at Stockton University is working toward giving students a real-life, tangible profession. Students can work on the Stockton farm as interns, earning credits for courses, and learning skills that they could use professionally. The longer-term goal is to learn how to farm as efficiently as possible on the land that is available in the area, and to pass that knowledge on to students. With a \$40,000 loan for tools, and one to two acres, it should be possible to pay back that money within a couple of years.

"Land is not hard to get to farm - it's hard to get to own, but it's not hard to get to farm," said Ron Hutchison, an associate professor of sustainability and biology who also helps coordinate Stockton's Sustainable Farm. "We'd really like to send our students out with a checklist of things that they need: If you can get a loan from the bank for \$40,000 and you have access to land, here's the tools you need, have at it."

Is Teacher Preparation in New Jersey Failing Students with Disabilities?

NJSpotlight.com

March 2, 2017

The need for teachers who have both the knowledge and the ability to teach special education students is more critical today than ever before. A national push to take students with disabilities out of isolation means most now spend the majority of their days in general education classrooms, rather than in separate, special education classes. That means general education teachers are teaching more students with disabilities. But training programs are doing little to prepare teachers.

Kean Human Rights Institute Exhibit Presents Student Perspective on Today's Human Rights Issues

News on Campus - Kean.edu

March 2, 2017

A new exhibition at Kean University, *I Learn America: Explorations Into Diversity, Identity and Inclusion* on display at the gallery of the Human Rights Institute at Kean University through Friday, May 12, reflects how students perceive immigration, cultural differences, selfhood and interconnectedness.

"Kean's Human Rights Institute provides programs, conferences and other initiatives year round that raise public awareness of human rights violations, challenge stereotypes and celebrate diversity," said Janice Kroposky, director of the Diversity Council and Holocaust Resource Center at Kean.

The Transgender Issue of Bathrooms

RamapoNews.com

March 1, 2017

Jullian Todd Weiss, a Ramapo College professor and the Executive Director of the Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund, recently appeared on Fox News in a discussion on Obama's transgender bathroom policy. When asked about whether or not gender identity was an easy and static change, Dr. Weiss, who is a transgender person, responded by saying "People make this decision after a lot of serious consideration. They see medical doctors, there's psychologists involved. There's a lot to think about. It's not an easy process."

At Ramapo College some students are advocating for more inclusiveness. Grace Maute, a junior at Ramapo, is currently working with the institution to install additional gender inclusive restrooms on campus. Currently, there are eight restrooms that have this designation, but according to Ms. Maute there is an absence of facilities in the Student Center. Ms. Maute indicated that her efforts would be directed toward installing gender inclusive facilities on the second floor of the Student Center.

No New Taxes, Spending in Christie's \$35.5B Budget, But He Floats Some Novel Plans

NJSpotlight.com

March 1, 2017

Gov. Chris Christie put forward a plain-vanilla, \$35.5 billion state budget yesterday that calls for no new tax increases or tax cuts, and only flat funding in a number of key areas, including for schools, property tax relief programs, municipalities and colleges and universities.

But Christie, in the final budget address of his two-term tenure, also shook up the State House by floating a series of new proposals along with the new spending plan, including one that would see lottery revenues redirected to the grossly underfunded public-employee pension system. He also called on Horizon Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the state's largest health insurance company, to voluntarily contribute to his efforts to fund addiction services.

Editorial: U.S. Constitution Still Finds Respect in New Jersey - For Now
[NJ.com](#)

By Times of Trenton Editorial Board
March 1, 2017

The Times of Trenton Editorial Board is opposing the frightening concept of a proposed bill in the Iowa State Legislature - and being considered by other states - to force faculty members seeking jobs at public universities to state their party affiliation before being hired. The Des Moines Register and other media organizations report that the Republican-sponsored bill would direct the office of the Secretary of State to provide voter registration lists to colleges to allow them to check before the hiring process gets under way. The law would impose a hiring freeze until the number of registered Republicans and Democrats fall within 10 percent of each other.

This would be merely a wacky idea if it were not so chilling - and so insidious. Excuse us for believing that universities should be free to hire the best academics for the job, no matter what their politics are. Imagine if the administrators at The College of New Jersey, New Jersey Institute of Technology and Stockton University, among other fine examples of the state's higher ed system, had to operate under those restrictions.

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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