

**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*



May 2017

Dear Colleagues/Friends:

Welcome to our comprehensive E-newsletter, called *NJASCU News and Notes*. The communication includes not only the compilation of media clips, but also a selection of feature stories highlighting NJASCU-member initiatives, alumni, and state legislative priorities.

Please check [www.njascu.org](http://www.njascu.org) for the most up-to-date information about the New Jersey public colleges and universities, as well as the AASCU "Daily Headlines" service for the national higher education news.

## **State College/University Alumni Profiles**

Each month NJASCU features an Alumni Profile (<http://www.njascu.org/alumni-profiles.html>).

Our most recent Alumni Profile is

**James J. Florio, The College of New Jersey (then Trenton State College)  
Class of 1962**



[Read profile here](#)

## Commencement News

*For coverage of NJASCU-member commencement, click on college/university name.*

### **The College of New Jersey**

<b>Date</b>	May 18, 2017 (undergraduate) and May 19, 2017 (graduate)
<b>Location</b>	The College of New Jersey
<b>Keynote</b>	Geralyn Altmiller, associate professor of Nursing
<b>Details</b>	<a href="http://commencement.tcnj.edu/main-ceremony/">http://commencement.tcnj.edu/main-ceremony/</a>

### **Kean University**

<b>Date</b>	May 16, 2017 (undergraduate) and May 18, 2017 (graduate)
<b>Location</b>	Prudential Center, Newark (undergraduate) and NJPAC (graduate)
<b>Keynote</b>	Kal Penn (undergraduate), actor and associate director in the White House Office of Public Engagement; Norah O'Donnell (graduate), CBS morning news anchor
<b>Details</b>	<a href="http://www.kean.edu/kean-commencement-ceremonies">http://www.kean.edu/kean-commencement-ceremonies</a>

### **Montclair State University**

<b>Date</b>	May 22, 2017 (graduate) and May 25, 2017 (Undergraduate)
<b>Location</b>	NJPAC, Newark (Graduate) / Prudential Center, Newark (Undergraduate)
<b>Speakers/Honorees</b>	Carlos Rodriguez, CEO and president, Automated Data Processing, Inc. (ADP) (graduate)

Savion Glover, tap dancer (graduate)  
 Honorable Ras J. Baraka, mayor of Newark (undergraduate)

**Details**

<http://www.montclair.edu/commencement/>

**New Jersey City University**

**Date** May 24, 2017

**Location** Prudential Center, Newark

**Honoree** Josh S. Weston, former CEO, Automated Data Processing, Inc. (ADP)

**Details**

<http://www.njcu.edu/registrar/commencement>

**Ramapo College of New Jersey**

**Date** May 11, 2017

**Location** Prudential Center, Newark

**Keynote** Ron Cephas Jones, actor of stage, screen and television

**Details**

<https://www.ramapo.edu/commencement/>

**Rowan University**

**Date** May 9, May 10, May 11 (undergraduate) and May 12 (graduate medical degrees)

**Location** Rowan University Green

**Details**

<https://www.rowan.edu/home/commencement>

**Stockton University**

**Date** May 10, 2017 (graduate) and May 12, 2017 (undergraduate)

**Location** Galloway Campus (graduate); Boardwalk Hall, Atlantic City (undergraduate)

**Keynote** The Honorable James Whelan, NJ State Senator (undergraduate)

**Details**

<https://www.stockton.edu/commencement/>

**William Paterson University**

**Date** May 17, 2017 (graduate) and Friday, May 19, 2017 (undergraduate)

**Location** Prudential Center, Newark

**Keynote** The Honorable Paul Sarlo, Deputy Majority Leader, NJ State Senate

**Details**

<http://www.wpunj.edu/commencement/index.html>

## News and Notes

**NJASCU Testifies in Opposition to Proposed Assembly Bill No. 2842**

May 11, 2017

On Thursday, May 11, 2017, NJASCU testified before the Assembly Higher Education Committee in opposition to Assembly Bill No. 2842. It would allow institutions of higher education to offer partial tuition credit to police officers enrolled at the institution, if they agree to be on duty while attending classes.

Even though NJASCU institutions fully support law enforcement and the educational goals of individual police officers, NJASCU has financial and public-safety concerns over this bill. This bill would impose another unfunded mandate upon our institutions. There are already six tuition-waiver programs, including programs for the National Guard, senior citizens, and the unemployed. Further, there are very serious public-safety concerns regarding the implementation of this bill.

Two representatives from Montclair State University, Paul Cell, Chief of Police, and Karen Pennington, vice president for Student Development and Campus Life, also testified in opposition to the bill. Thanks to the strong arguments put forth by NJASCU and Montclair State University, the **bill was held by the committee**. A copy of the bill is available [here](#).

For the full testimony, refer to [www.njascu.org](http://www.njascu.org).

### **Christie Signs 'Snooki' Bill Capping New Jersey College Speaking Fees**

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

May 9, 2017

Gov. Chris Christie signed a bill on May 8, 2017 that limits the amount of state funding used for speakers' fees at public universities and colleges to \$10,000.

The statute, dubbed the "Snooki bill," was signed six years after Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi from MTV's *Jersey Shore* reality show earned \$32,000 for a Rutgers University speaking gig.

But the [bill's prime sponsor acknowledged](#) a few months ago that would not have prevented Ms. Polizzi from being paid that much for her 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. Thus, the new law puts a cap on the amount of state funding that can be used in the future. But it doesn't prevent people from cashing in on their speeches at public universities if the money comes from student fees.

### **The College of New Jersey Students Launch App to 'Handl' Your Tasks, Errands**

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

May 7, 2017

Three TCNJ students created 'Handl,' an app that connects people too busy to complete their chores and errands with those willing to do them and looking to earn extra money in their free time. It works in much the same way that the popular ride-hailing companies Uber and Lyft work. The team won TCNJ's Mayo Business Plan Competition last month, taking home \$30,000 to help with start-up costs and will roll out a beta version of the app in September before fully launching later in the fall.

### **Thomas Edison State University Vice President Named American Council on Education Fellow**

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

May 3, 2017

Dr. Dennis Devery, of Mt. Laurel, NJ, vice president for Institutional Planning and Research at Thomas Edison State University, has been selected to participate in a prestigious, nationally recognized training program designed to strengthen capacity and build leadership in American higher education.

Dr. Devery will serve as a member of the [American Council on Education \(ACE\) Fellows Program](#) for 2017-2018. Established in 1965, this unique program aims to identify and prepare promising senior faculty and administrators for responsible positions in college and university administration. Dr. Devery is one of the 46 Fellows, nominated by the president or chancellor of their institution, selected this year in a national competition.

### **Stockton President Harvey Kesselman to Receive American Association for Access, Equity & Diversity Award**

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

May 2, 2017

Stockton University President Harvey Kesselman will receive the Cesar Estrada Chavez Award from the American Association for Access, Equity and Diversity (AAAED), the organization of equal opportunity, diversity and affirmative action professionals announced today.

The Cesar Estrada Chavez Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated leadership in support of workers' rights and humanitarian issues.

## **William Paterson University Listed Among Top University Sales Programs in the Nation for 2017**

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

May 1, 2017

William Paterson University was recognized in the 2017 list of Top University Sales Programs for its Russ Berrie Institute for Professional Sales in the Cotsakos College of Business. The list, released by the Sales Education Foundation of Dayton, Ohio in their 2017 annual magazine, recognizes William Paterson University for preparing students for successful careers in professional selling and helping to elevate the sales profession. William Paterson has been included in the organization's annual list of top sales programs since it began the list in 2007.

## **Stockton's President to Help Formulate a New National Statement on Shared Governance**

[NJASCU Quicktake](#)

April 28, 2017

Stockton University President Harvey Kesselman is one of 13 experts chosen by the Association of Governing Boards (AGB) of Universities and Colleges to help shape new national statement on shared governance, principles designed to promote collaborative and inclusive decision-making at institutions of higher education.

"The original national statement on shared governance was developed in 1996, and does not deal with the complexities of modern higher education," Dr. Kesselman said. "It was developed before community colleges and some state universities, including Stockton, were even created - and a lot has changed."

"Shared governance is one of the basic tenets of higher education, and yet there is considerable evidence that it is not generally well understood by its primary participants - faculty members, presidents, and members of boards of trustees," according to an AGB report on shared governance earlier this year.

## **In Trump's First 100 Days, Higher Ed Sees More Shadow than Substance**

[Chronicle.com](#)

April 28, 2017

The president and his education secretary, Betsy DeVos, have said little about their higher-education priorities so far. But that doesn't mean their stewardship hasn't been felt.

## **Thomas Edison State University President Discusses Importance of Accreditation at a Congressional Committee Hearing**

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

April 27, 2017

Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State University, shared his concerns about the importance of keeping accreditation an independent, peer-reviewed process during his testimony before the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. Dr. Pruitt, the only New Jersey college or university president to testify at the hearing, told federal legislators that efforts to improve the system must not impose remedies that do more harm than the maladies they seek to cure.

## **Stockton Students March Against Sexual Assault**

[SNJToday.com](#)

April 27, 2017

On April 26, 2017, Stockton University students rallied around their campus to take a stand against "rape culture."

"A lot of people are angry, and this is a problem that's not OK," says Liz Alexander, a co-founder of the March Against Rape Culture. "Why is it still happening if so many people care about it?"

"Yes means *yes*, and no means *no*," is the message that a few Stockton students are trying to spread.

## **NJCU Students Win Big at Science Research Symposium**

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

April 26, 2017

Three NJCU student teams earned accolades for their research presentations at the William Paterson University Biological and Chemical Sciences Research Symposium. Now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year the Symposium provides a forum for undergraduates to present their original research to peers and professors. Students from 34 colleges, universities, and laboratories participated in the competition. Ninety-nine presentations in 11 categories were on display.

NJCU was represented by six teams of biology and chemistry students and took honors three categories: Physiology & Toxicology; Cell, Molecular Biology & Genetics; and Biological Sciences.

## **37.5%: Funded Portion of New Jersey's Pension Liability**

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

April 25, 2017

A new study of 230 public-worker retirement plans released by The Pew Charitable Trusts had some unhappy news for New Jersey. (The study reviewed financial data from 2015.) When comparing total assets to liabilities, the state's public-employee pension system ranked last in the nation, with a funded-ratio of 37.5 percent. Kentucky, at 37.8 percent, and Illinois, at 40.2 percent, were in the bottom three. The new rankings from Pew follow a similar analysis conducted last year by Bloomberg, which also labeled New Jersey's pension system the nation's worst-funded.

## **Return-on-Investment (ROI) Rankings Focus on 20-year Net Return**

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

April 24, 2017

PayScale's 2017 College ROI Report, "Best Value Colleges" focused on a 20-year-net return on investment. Montclair State University and The College of New Jersey were among the top 15 in New Jersey of best ROI schools. The list also factors in financial aid, the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition and more to rank more than 1,500 private and public institutions nationwide. Twenty-year net ROI is the amount of money a student can expect to earn over a 20-year period after graduating from a particular school.

Here are the top 15 colleges in New Jersey (note that in-state and out-of-state tuition play a big part).

1. Stevens Institute of Technology (private)
2. Princeton University (private)
3. New Jersey Institute of Technology (in-state)
4. New Jersey Institute of Technology (out-of-state)
5. University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (in-state)
6. University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (out-of-state)
7. Rutgers University - Newark (in-state)
8. Felician College (private)
9. The College of New Jersey (in-state)
10. Rutgers University - Newark (out-of-state)
11. The College of New Jersey (out-of-state)
12. Montclair State University (in-state)
13. Seton Hall University (private)
14. Montclair State University (out-of-state)
15. Rutgers University - Camden (in-state)

## **NJASCU CEO Michael Klein Leads a Discussion about State Support of Higher Education Institutions**

[NJASCU Quicktake](http://NJASCU Quicktake)

Reprinted from "Packet Online"

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

April 21, 2017

*Affordable education is a beast of a challenge.*

While the 60 audience members were feasting on food for thought and popcorn, the discussion taking place at Princeton's Garden Theatre April 12 was focused on starvation - particularly state-government fiscal starvation of public higher education institutions. The Trenton-based New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities (NJASCU) hosted a free screening of the documentary "Starving the Beast," with a post-screening discussion led by Pennington resident Michael Klein, the CEO of NJASCU.

The film conveys, through a series of interviews with academics, administrators, and governing board officials some fierce and destructive political and philosophical battles being waged at public higher education institutions in Louisiana, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin, and North Carolina. (For entire column, please click [here](#).)

### **Stockton University Breaks Ground on its \$178 Million Atlantic City Residential Campus as Part of Atlantic City's Gateway Project**

[NJASCU Quicktakes](#)

April 20, 2017

The \$220 million Atlantic city Gateway Project "demonstrates that we've turned the corner" in efforts to revitalize the city, said governor Chris Christie on Thursday, April 20, 2017, as he joined state Senate President Stephen Sweeney, Atlantic City Development Corp. (AC Devco) Chairman Jon Hanson, South Jersey Industries President and CEO Michael Renna and Stockton President Harvey Kesselman to break ground for the project, which includes Stockton's new residential campus.

"This city is an extraordinary asset to the region and state," Gov. Christie said. He noted that efforts by the state, city, county, university and private developers are all contributing to its renaissance, after an economic downturn that saw five casinos close.

"We didn't give up on Atlantic City," he said. "We are back to celebrating it."

### **Five NJCU Students and Alumni Receive the Fulbright U.S. Student Awards**

[NJCU.edu](#)

April 20, 2017

Four NJCU students and an NJCU alumna were selected for the highly competitive Fulbright U.S. Student Awards for 2017-2018. The National Screening Committee selected these students from over 10,000 applications from colleges and universities across the United States. All five NJCU semi-finalists were selected in the English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) Fulbright Grant category.

### **Stockton Student Named Volunteer of the Year by Mental Health Association of Monmouth County**

[Stockton.edu](#)

April 20, 2017

Jordan Ramos-Farhat, a senior at Stockton University, has been named the Mental Health Association of Monmouth County's 2017 Volunteer of the Year. Mr. Ramos-Farhat is from Belmar, New Jersey, and is very active both on and off campus.

"Mental health is an area that has many stigmas associated with it, and I wanted to work toward breaking those stigmas so people could seek the potentially lifesaving support they need, said Mr. Ramos-Farhat, who was successfully treated for depression last year.

As the current public relations chair of Alpha Phi Delta and former president, he personally has been an advocate and utilized the fraternity as a resource to aid in mental health support. He has organized fundraisers and other events, and spoken on a university panel about men and mental health every semester. He is also vice president of Order of Omega Honor Society, an intern for the University Relations and Marketing Department at Stockton, has two part-time jobs, and takes the maximum amount of undergraduate classes.

### **Toys R Us Pledges \$100,000 to William Paterson University for Scholarships**

[www.WPUNJ.edu](#)

April 20, 2017

Toys "R" Us, Inc. has committed \$100,000 to William Paterson University in Wayne, New Jersey, for scholarships for its students. The Wayne-based global toy and baby products retailer received the 2017 Distinguished Organization Award at the William Paterson University Foundation's 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Legacy Award Gala on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

"Scholarship support can be transformative for students," says Kathleen Waldron, president of William Paterson University. "We are grateful to David Brandon and Toys "R" Us for this donation which will directly benefit our students. Toys "R" Us has been a wonderful corporate partner to the University and our students and alumni, and we thank them for their continued generous support.

### **Marathon Day of Hacking at Kean University Spawns Innovation**

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

April 19, 2017

Over 100 college and high school students gathered in Kean University's North Avenue Academic Building on April 1 and 2 for the third annual HackKean event, a student-organized hackathon that produces novel solutions across a diverse array of hardware and software platforms. Prizes are awarded in a variety of categories at HackKean. Kean University student Victor Jacobson of Springfield and Middlesex County College student Ganapati Tirumalareddy were awarded first place, for developing an application of the LeapMotion platform designed to facilitate a multiplayer gaming experience.

### **William Paterson University Professor Receives Prestigious Fellowship**

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

April 18, 2017

A William Paterson University philosophy professor is just one of 30 college professors across the country to receive a fellowship from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation. Stephanie Rivera Berruz, a native of Puerto Rico, joined the university in 2014. She specializes in Latin American philosophy, Latina feminism and the philosophy of race, gender and sexuality.

### **Fast Food Payment Solution Wins Business Plan Competition**

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

April 17, 2017

Kean University awarded \$10,000 in prizes to innovative student business plans at the fourth annual International Business Plan Competition April 13, 2017. Finalists include students from Penn State, Wenzhou Kean University and local high school students competing through NJ DECA. Kean University juniors Bridget Parise and Osama Baig were awarded the \$3,000 grand prize for Ez-way, an expedited payment solution for drive-thru restaurants.

"This event attracts brilliant young minds to entrepreneurship and innovation," said Dr. Kai Wang, Assistant Professor of Management, Kean University. "It encourages students to come up with new products and services designed to generate profit in a sustainable way."

### **'Womenomics' Was Focus of Upcoming, Innovative Conference in Jersey City**

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

April 17, 2017

The program "One World: Empowering Women for the Global Conversation" - hosted by New Jersey City University's School of Business from May 17 through May 19 at the Mack-Cali Harborside Complex in Jersey City - focused extensively on "womenomics" and the empowerment and advancement of women in multiple areas, including health care, financial wellness, education, corporate leadership, entrepreneurship and global business. With a strong focus on technology-enabled live conversations with women leaders in India and China, more than 350 members of the business community and university students are expected to attend.

### **State College Faculty and Staff Rally About Contract Negotiations**

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

April 13, 2017

Staff and students at Ramapo College and Montclair State University held New Orleans'-style funeral marches Wednesday, part of a statewide protest calling for a new contract for employees at nine state colleges and universities.

## **Recession is Long Gone, So Where's the Money for NJ Colleges?**

[NJASCU QuickTakes](#)

April 13, 2017

*On Wednesday, April 12th, 60 people attended the NJASCU-sponsored screening of the documentary film "Starving the Beast" at the Garden Theatre in Princeton. After the movie, NJASCU CEO Michael Klein led a discussion with audience members on some of the issues raised by the movie and the relevance to New Jersey's public colleges and universities. Below is NJ101.5 reporter Dino Flammia's account of Mike Klein's commentary on the topic.*

Are public higher education institutions in New Jersey starving for help from the state?

The Garden State is not mentioned during the 2016 documentary film "Starving the Beast" - which analyzes the systematic defunding of higher education nationwide - but New Jersey is no stranger to the trend, according to Michael Klein, executive director of the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities.

According to "Starving the Beast," investment in public higher education peaked in 1980 nationwide when roughly 60 percent of university funding was provided directly from state governments. By 2015, that investment had fallen to an average of 12 percent.

Over the 25-year period from fiscal years 1991 to 2016, state appropriations to New Jersey's state colleges and universities decreased by more than \$8.4 million, or 4.35 percent, Klein said. Per-student funding dropped nearly 40 percent over the same time frame as enrollment at public institutions increased about 58 percent.

Between 2006 and 2007, no state imposed a larger cut on higher education appropriations than New Jersey (2.7 percent), Klein added.

"A great driver of (decreased funding) in the recent past was the recession," Klein told New Jersey 101.5. "New Jersey's been very slow to recover from the cuts that they've made."

And to cover for the shortfall, New Jersey has seen a corresponding increase in tuition rates. But compared to much of the nation, increases in New Jersey have been relatively calm. According to the College Board, public four-year institutions in New Jersey implemented the 10th-lowest increase in tuition (5.85 percent) between fiscal years 2012 and 2017.

"We've got very strong and generous state-provided financial aid programs which students won't even know about if they're scared off by the sticker price itself," Klein said.

Holding somewhat of a line on increased fees for students is the \$750 million bond issue approved by New Jersey voters in 2012, which cleared the way for construction projects and upgrades at dozens of institutions - both public and private. Gov. Chris Christie signed into law in March a bill that allocates the final \$34 million.

Through Fiscal Year 2018, Christie's proposed budget includes flat funding for higher education compared to this and last fiscal year, Klein said. But current numbers represent a 7 percent cut from FY 2015 funds.

A coordinated series of rallies were held at seven state colleges and universities Wednesday to "warn of the potential demise of higher education" in New Jersey due to decreased funding.

The association hosted a free screening of the 95-minute film Wednesday night at Princeton Garden Theatre, followed by a discussion with Klein.

## **BioNJ: NJ Has 'Banner Week' As 4 Companies Move to Properties in NJ, Including Rowan's Tech Park**

[NJBiz.com](#)

April 12, 2017

New Jersey had what BioNJ called a "banner week" last week with four life sciences companies choosing New Jersey as their new home.

An important life-sciences coup for New Jersey is Spanish pharmaceutical HIPRA, a veterinary company which already has a campus in Glassboro, but is establishing its North American headquarters at Rowan University's Technology Park in Mantua Township. The location is roughly one mile away from its current location and is slated to take up about 25 acres of the existing 180 acres in the park, according to a statement from Rowan.

Rowan University made the announcement in conjunction with Senate President Steve Sweeney and Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno. Reportedly 200 new jobs will be created.

### **Andrew Cuomo Adopts a Middle-Class Mantra**

[New York Times](#)

April 12, 2017

The free-tuition plan called the Excelsior Scholarship takes center stage in NY State as Governor Cuomo unveils his plan to help middle-income residents afford to go to public colleges and universities in New York State. But according to this *New York Times* analysis, it's more complicated than it sounds, and it comes with caveats.

### **Liberty Hall Exhibit "Brothers in Arms" Commemorates WWI 100th Anniversary**

[BroadwayWorld.com](#)

April 11, 2017

A treasure trove of never-before-seen World War I letters are now on exhibit through November 10, 2017 at Liberty Hall Museum at Kean University to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States entering the First World War. *Brothers in Arms: Memories of the Great War* tells the story of the service of Captain John Kean, his brother, Congressman Robert W. Kean, as well as their three Roosevelt cousins, George, John and Philip. For the first time, ever, their personal letters written during the war will be on display as well as their uniforms, military handbooks, maps, pictures, and commemorative pins.

### **Student Gets Doctorate Degree at 18 from Thomas Edison State University**

[TheGardenIsland.com](#)

April 11, 2017

Earning a bachelor's degree from Thomas Edison State University after transferring from Chicago State University was a milestone for Thessalonika Arzu-Emby. But she wasn't satisfied yet. Even after graduating from Regent University with her master's degree, the Chicago resident and former Kekaha (Hawaii) resident saw an opportunity to grow more as a student and as a person. So Arzu-Emby enrolled in a doctorate program at Capella University, and is set to graduate this October with a 4.0 grade point average. And she's only 18 years old. While she was raised mainly in Chicago, Arzu-Emby's earliest memories are of the beach with her parents on Kauai when they were stationed at the U.S. Navy Pacific Missile Range Facility in Kekaha 11 years ago. Her mother and father were in the Navy and Air Force, respectively.

### **Democrats, Republicans Dispute Size of Structural Deficit - and What It Means**

[NJSpotlight.com](#)

April 10, 2017

The structural-deficit issue was a point of contention during a recent Assembly Budget Committee hearing, as Democrats zeroed in on the latest calculation prepared by nonpartisan legislative analysts to show that, despite Christie's claims of budgeting prowess, New Jersey is still underfunding its financial commitments by billions of dollars.

And when State Treasurer Ford Scudder tried his best to defend the second-term Republican governor during the hearing, the Democrats persisted, noting that in the latest downgrade of New Jersey's credit rating by Moody's Investors Service there was a warning about the state budget's "persistent structural

imbalance." The Moody's critique seemed to conflict with claims that Christie made only a few weeks ago when he bragged of facing down a "projected deficit of \$10.7 billion."

### **The William Paterson University Jazz Sextet Plays Monk and Ellington**

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

April 10, 2017

William Paterson University of New Jersey has 24 jazz ensembles. [Bill Charlap](#), the renowned pianist who serves as the school's Director of Jazz Studies, brought one of them to perform in the WBGO studio for Jazz Appreciation Month. The ensemble, a sextet, performed three songs for us: "Eronel," by Thelonious Monk; "Sophisticated Lady," by Duke Ellington; and "Grew's Tune," by pianist Mulgrew Miller, who preceded Charlap at the helm of William Paterson's jazz program, before his death in 2013.

### **Editorial: Promising Future for 'America's Playground'**

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

April 9, 2017

Atlantic City's "death" has been greatly exaggerated, and signs of life in the resort's economy are beginning to add up.

Hard Rock International unveiled its plans for the former Trump Taj Mahal casino, which former owner Carl Icahn closed October 10. The sale to Hard Rock closed March 1 and, while no purchase price was announced, the company says it plans to spend \$375 million on the purchase and planned renovations.

Meanwhile, next door at the Showboat, a closed casino that new owner Bart Blatstein is running as a hotel, plans were announced last week for a 150,000-square-foot entertainment facility aimed at millennials to be opened this summer. In a \$32 million joint federal, state and local project, the Army Corps of Engineers is finishing up a new seawall and new section of boardwalk along Absecon Inlet. And, in a project with the most potential to transform Atlantic City, the nonprofit Atlantic City Development Corp., an offshoot of Chris Paladino's highly successful New Brunswick Development Corp., is building a satellite campus of Stockton University, which is based 10 miles inland.

### **Which New Jersey College is Best for Post Grad Job Placement?**

[NJ1015.com](http://NJ1015.com)

April 7, 2017

Zippia, a career-resource guide, recently [performed a study](#) researching what college in each state is the best for post-graduation job placement. According to their study, [The College of New Jersey](#) in Ewing, NJ, is the school in Jersey whose students are most likely to find a job after they graduate. The study looked specifically at the median earnings after six years, the percentage of alumni employed after 10 years of graduation, and the median earnings after 10 years. About 93.51% of TCNJ alumni are employed in the 10 years after graduating; this ranks them 28<sup>th</sup> out of the 50 states. You can read more about it [here](#).

### **TCNJ Launches Partnership with Bryn Mawr's Social Work School**

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

April 7, 2017

The College of New Jersey has launched a partnership with one of Bryn Mawr's graduate school programs that will allow some students to apply as early as their sophomore year and receive a 50-percent tuition break if admitted.

TCNJ students majoring in sociology, psychology, public health and women's, gender and sexuality studies, as well as Bonner scholars, are eligible to apply to the social service master's program at [Bryn Mawr's Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research](#).

### **Sanders' College for All Act**

April 7, 2017

Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT), along with Democrats in the House and Senate, introduced the College for All Act ([S.806](#)). He [introduced](#) the Act last Congress, as well. The College for All Act seeks to eliminate tuition and fees at four-year public colleges and universities for families making up to \$125,000 and make

community college tuition- and fee-free for all. Moreover, the bill would cut all student loan interest rates for new borrowers in half; enable existing borrowers to refinance their loans based on the interest rates available to new borrowers; establish a dedicated grant program to eliminate or significantly reduce tuition and fees for low-income students at historically black colleges and universities and minority serving institutions; double funding for TRIO Programs; and increase funding for the GEAR UP program. Senator Sanders [said](#) the estimated \$600 billion cost of the legislation would be paid for by a separate bill imposing a Wall Street speculation tax of 0.5 percent on stock trades, a 0.1 percent fee on bonds and a 0.005 percent fee on derivatives.

### **Kean University Alumnae Talk On Their Success**

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

April 6, 2017

The Kean University Alumni Association hosted at the end of March a panel and networking event When Women Lead during which women alumni from Kean who are serving in leadership positions throughout the region shared their wisdom with those attending the event. The women on the When Women Lead panel included: Assemblywoman of the 20<sup>th</sup> legislative district Annette Quijano; Associate Research Fellow at Burt's Bees and alumna Abena Antwi; Panelist Regional Public Affairs Manager at PSE&G Sheridan Balmeo; alumna and General Manager of the Business Analysis and Departmental Performance at Port Authority Maria Bordas; alumna, host of "Broken Silence," and Adjunct Professor of Communication at Kean Sanyya Gardez; and Regional Chief Executive Officer of the American Red Cross New Jersey Region Ana Montero..

### **The Daily Show's Trevor Noah Kicks Off Montclair Literary Festival at Montclair State University**

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

April 6, 2017

Organized by the nonprofit Succeed2gether, the Montclair Literary Festival kicked off three days of events with Trevor Noah, author of *Born a Crime* and host of *The Daily Show*. Noah and his editor, Chris Jackson, were greeted by hundreds of smiling faces at a packed auditorium at Montclair State University on March 31. Marcia Marley, president at Blue Wave New Jersey, introduced the event as a discussion about the acclaimed book, set in the last days of Apartheid, and the wrenching account of Noah growing up as a mixed-race child.

### **Crowded Fields, Contested Primaries Come Into Focus as Candidates File**

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

April 4, 2017

Crowded fields for both major parties' nominations for New Jersey governor became official on Monday, with the filings of six Democrats and five Republicans seeking their parties' nods to square off in November to succeed Gov. Chris Christie. The 279 legislative candidates and 11 gubernatorial hopefuls are the largest fields the state has seen in a dozen years.

Democratic gubernatorial candidates are: diplomat and financier Phil Murphy; Sen. Raymond Lesniak (D-Union); Assemblyman John Wisniewski (D-Middlesex); former federal treasury official Jim Johnson; William Brennan, who filed a suit that was later dismissed against Christie over Bridgegate; Tenafly Councilman Mark Zinna round out the Democratic field.

"I think at this point it is near impossible for anyone to defeat (Phil) Murphy in a (Democratic Party) primary," agreed Brigid Harrison, a Montclair State University professor of political science and law, "but I remain convinced that given the broader political context, there is the opportunity for an 'outsider' challenger to enter the race and wreak havoc. Partly this is because (of) polling that indicates a comparative lack of satisfaction with the field as it stands; partly this is because of the broader political climate that shows the 'outsider' message has been a powerful one that has captured the enthusiasm of many voters."

The Republican primary includes: Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, said to be the favorite; Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli of the 16<sup>th</sup> District; Nutley Commissioner Steve Rogers; businessman Joseph "Rudy" Rullo of Little Egg Harbor; and engineering executive Hirsh V. Singh of Princeton.

## **Ramapo Colleges Master of Arts in Special Education Program Launches Partnership with The Forum School**

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

April 3, 2017

Ramapo College's [Master of Arts in Special Education](#) program has launched an innovative partnership with [The Forum School](#), a private, nonprofit, non-sectarian day program for developmentally atypical children from preschool through high school.

Working under the guidance of Professor Julie Norflus-Good, Director of the Master of Arts in Special Education program at Ramapo College, educators at the Waldwick, NJ-based Forum School mapped out a pilot project designed to expand and improve transition services, and at the same time, help prepare the next generation of educators to work with students on the autism spectrum.

## **Ramapo College Students Pledge to End Sexual Assault**

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

April 3, 2017

Student athletes at Ramapo College of New Jersey pledged recently to help end sexual assault as part of the Its On us campaign.

The nationwide campaign is an attempt to recognize that non-consensual sex is sexual assault, identify situations where sexual assault may occur, intervene in situations where consent has not been given and create an environment where sexual assault is unacceptable and survivors are supported.

Several collegiate athletic conferences, international companies and media outlets have partnered together and taken the pledge.

## **Ramapo College Enters Into Transfer Partnership Program with Sussex County Community College**

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

April 3, 2017

Ramapo College of New Jersey and [Sussex County Community College](#) (SCCC) have agreed to partnership in the Archway to Ramapo program, effective fall 2017.

This collaborative partnership program agreement is specifically designed to create opportunities for a seamless two-year to four-year transition for students who begin their undergraduate studies at SCCC. The agreement also provides an alternate route to Ramapo College for students from Sussex county who may not initially meet admissions standards but will benefit from the A.A./A.S. degree at SCCC. The agreement also expands the work Ramapo is doing under its [Educate IPASS grant](#), funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Leona M. and Harry B Charitable Trust, and will allow for a Ramapo transfer advisor to be available on-site weekly at Sussex.

## **Montclair State Students to Show Short Films at Festival in Cuba**

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

April 2, 2017

Students from various departments in the College of the Arts will be traveling to Cuba from April 3 to 9 to attend the International Videoart Festival of Camaguey, Cuba. They will be interacting with filmmakers from all over the world as well as attending discussion panels.

One of the highlights will be the showing of two experimental films by Montclair State students Peter Chapman and William Monahan. Experimental films explore universal truths and contain metaphors and open-ended concepts.

## **Heat Mapping Project Wins \$8,000 in Competition Hosted by Sustainable Jersey, Based at TCNJ**

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

April 1, 2017

The presentations and on-site judging of Sustainable Jersey's ever civic tech competition, Coding for Community, took place recently at The College of New Jersey, which is where Sustainable Jersey is based. Competing teams working with 10 municipalities presented their civic tech solutions to an audience and judges for prizes. [Encore Dev Labs](#) came away with the first-place prize for its project which maps overheating in South Orange Maplewood School District classrooms. AT&T provided \$10,000 to Sustainable Jersey to use for prize money. The winning team received \$8,000, free co-working space at a premiere location and coaching sessions with a venture capitalist and digital marketer.

### **County College of Morris Partners with Montclair to Work on Grant**

[NewJerseyHills.com](#)

April 1, 2017

County College of Morris' Department of Psychology and Education will be partnering with a Montclair State University team that has received a three-year, \$1.1 million National Science Foundation Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program grant for its project "Preparing the Effective Elementary Mathematics Teacher." Eligible Montclair State University mathematics majors will soon take part in an innovative collaborative program that addresses the shortage of high-quality science, technology, engineering and math teachers by preparing them to teach math in the New Jersey elementary schools that need them most.

### **DCO Energy to Develop State-of-the-Art Micro-Grid System at Montclair State University**

[Businesswire.com](#)

March 28, 2017

DCO Energy and Montclair State University are pleased to announce that they are expanding their existing partnership to create and develop a state-of-the-art "Micro Grid" on the institution's campus.

Upon completion of this new project, Montclair State University will be one of only a few educational institutions in New Jersey to have a fully integrated Micro Grid, a localized energy grid with independent control capabilities, including automatic disconnect from the traditional grid if an outage occurs and the ability for the system to operate autonomously.

This project follows the success of the Combined Heating, Cooling and Power (CHCP) project that DCO staff developed and has been operating on the Montclair State University campus since 2012. Results of the CHCP project include lower energy costs related to electric, heating and cooling, improved efficiency and a reduction of the University's overall carbon footprint. The capability for expansion was built into the original system, and has facilitated other new capital projects which have further benefitted the University.

Expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2017, the Micro Grid is a fully integrated, all-inclusive form of power that will create numerous benefits for Montclair State University. Perhaps most noteworthy among them is the fact that, upon completion of the project, the University will be able to operate completely independent of local utilities when required, enabling the institution to control its own power usage and costs while benefitting from more reliable power delivery.

### **Bayonne Board of Ed Trustee and NJCU Alumnus Announces Candidacy for State Assembly**

[NJ.com](#)

March 28, 2017

Christopher Munoz, a Bayonne resident and trustee on the Board of Education, has announced he will run for the New Jersey General Assembly later this year.

Mr. Munoz graduated from Bayonne High School in 1995 and attended New Jersey City University where he earned a bachelor's degree in history and a minor in political science.

He later earned his master's in special education, and got his teaching certificate from Saint Peter's University.

## Teachers Get a Lesson on Bringing Yoga Into Their Classrooms at Rowan Symposium

[NJ.com](#)

March 27, 2017

Seventy teachers of all grade levels learned techniques to incorporate breathing and yoga-based movement into their classrooms during Rowan University's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Yoga and Mindfulness in New Jersey Schools Symposium on March 31, 2017.

"We're trying to give every educator from pre-K to high school and college the tools that allow students to better equip themselves to face daily challenges. That's what today is about and that's what I want for our kids," said Janet Sfaelos, event creator and coordinator of continuing education for non-credit professional development in global learning at Rowan University.

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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