Dear NJASCU Colleagues/Friends:

Welcome to this edition of NJASCU’s "Noteworthy" compilation of a feature story, advocacy report, and news item(s), reflecting the interests and happenings among New Jersey’s senior public colleges and universities. Some of our news articles are reprinted in full; most are summaries with the full article accessible by clicking on the headline.

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

Thank you,

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NJASCU Advocacy Alert

Treasury Releases Nearly Half of Spending Placed in Reserve Under Governor Murphy's Executive Order

The Department of Treasury on Thursday, October 17, released $114 million of the $235 million in spending that had been placed into reserve in July to help maintain a balanced budget and a responsible surplus pursuant to Executive Order No. 73 signed by Governor Murphy.

The Executive Order (EO) was deemed necessary after the Fiscal Year 2020 (FY 2020) budget sent to the Governor included up to $235 million in unassured savings items and additional spending initiatives outside the budget that were not adequately funded.

Consequently, the EO authorized the Director of Treasury's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to place items of appropriation into reserve in an amount sufficient to ensure that the state budget remains in balance while maintaining a responsible surplus balance and protecting the state's Rainy-Day Fund deposit.

Additionally, the EO authorized the OMB Director to release items of appropriation from reserve upon notification from the Treasurer that amounts in excess of the targeted fund balance are
anticipated to be available for expenditure.

After careful review of the first quarter of FY 2020, it has been determined that $114 million in spending is appropriate for release based on a number of factors, including an improved year end fund balance for FY 2019; and the expectation that approximately $50 million of the $235 million that the Legislature booked in the budget will be achieved through the Administration’s efforts, such as the recent announcement of $13 million in savings through the consolidation of Department of Correction youth facilities.

As a result, the OMB Director has authorized the release of the following funds today:

**EO #73 - Releases, October 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount (in thousands)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transitional Aid to Localities</td>
<td>53,712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essex County - County Jail Substance Use Disorder Programs</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooper Medical School of Rowan University</td>
<td>7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essex County SNAP Administration</td>
<td>7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essex County Recidivism Pilot Program</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowan/Cooper Medical School Operations Support</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essex Crime Prevention</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJ Agricultural Experiment Station</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union County Inmate Rehabilitation Services</td>
<td>1,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Jersey Cancer Program - Camden</td>
<td>1,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJ Hall of Fame Foundation</td>
<td>1,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carteret Arts Center</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJSHARES S.M.A.R.T Program</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Bound</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battleship NJ Museum</td>
<td>500</td>
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<tr>
<td>NJ Hemp Farming Fund</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Name Hospital, Teaneck - Palliative Care Pilot Program</td>
<td>396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rutgers University - Camden-Mental Health and Well Being</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJ Historic Commission - Celebration of America</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governor’s Literacy Initiative</td>
<td>125</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunters Helping the Hungry</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jersey Fresh</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rutgers Equine Science Center Operating Support</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grand Total** $114,000

“I am pleased that we are able to release a significant portion of the funding that had been placed into reserve this summer,” said State Treasurer Elizabeth Maher Muoio. “We will continue to closely monitor revenue collections and additional savings initiatives booked in the budget and hope to be able to release additional funds as expeditiously as possible. In the interim, we have asked all state departments to continue to keep apprised of any potential financial hardships on the horizon in relation to spending items placed in reserve.”

The funds being released were selected using the same criteria laid out in the Governor’s EO, which include, but are not limited to:

- The amount of the item of appropriation;
- The likely statewide or localized impact of the item;
- The history of state support for the item;
- The timing during the fiscal year of any payment(s) in support of the item; and
- The ability to delay payment until later in the fiscal year while monitoring overall budget performance.
Pursuant to the EO, the Treasurer will continue to monitor whether other savings initiatives materialize, and take into consideration monthly revenue collections and other factors, in order to ensure a responsible Fiscal Year 2020 fund balance.

The Treasurer and OMB Director are also authorized to place additional appropriation items in reserve throughout the fiscal year if the conditions that necessitated the EO persist.

**NJASCU Special News**

**HESAA Publishes a New Edition of its "Going to College in New Jersey"**

*NJASCU Quicktakes*

"Going to College in New Jersey" is a publication of the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA), the administrator of New Jersey's student financial aid programs for postsecondary education.

HESAA's mission is to provide students and families with the financial and informational resources for students to pursue their education beyond high school.

Below is a link to the publication, as well as the announcement from HESAA.

http://gtcinj.com/

**The Newest Edition of "Going to College in New Jersey" is Now Available**

"Going to College in New Jersey" is available for electronic distribution to college-bound students. This helpful resource is a quick-reference guide for students and their families as they consider the depth and diversity of options for postsecondary education here in the Garden State. In addition to summary pages on more than 50 institutions of higher education, this guide includes a comprehensive, indexed list of different programs of study offered at institutions across the state.

Please share this guide with college-bound students - and please add this link to your website's list of resources: **CLICK HERE**

Printed versions in magazine form will soon be delivered to high schools throughout New Jersey. Additional hard copies are available upon request via email at [Client_Services@hesaa.org](mailto:Client_Services@hesaa.org).

**State Colleges/Universities**

**William Paterson University Enhances its Masters in Education Curriculum to Help Teachers STEAM Ahead**

*www.WPUNJ.edu*

This fall, William Paterson University is launching a revamped version of its Master of Education in Curriculum and Learning program, now offering an innovative concentration in "STEAM," which adds the arts to K-8 science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) instruction. William Paterson University is the first and only institution in New Jersey, and one of only a few universities nationwide, to offer STEAM education at the graduate level.
"Research shows that arts integration in elementary and middle school STEM coursework can bolster student engagement and learning," says Amy Ginsberg, dean of William Paterson University's College of Education. "Adding the arts makes STEM more accessible to more K-8 students - particularly those that sway heavier to such interests and skills or those who have previously faced inequities in STEM education due to socioeconomic, racial, or linguistic factors, among others."

The new concentration is geared toward previously certified K-8 teachers, aiming to enhance their competence and confidence to adequately teach and guide STEM subjects for all learners, according to professor Heejung An, director of the master of education in curriculum and learning. The 33-credit program, which can be completed in 24 months, employs project-based learning, an inquiry-based research study, and leadership development courses so that candidates are prepared to meet the evolving needs of schools and districts in positions as STEAM teachers or coordinators, instructional leaders, or curriculum developers.

The College of New Jersey Prepares to Launch Crisis and Suicide Prevention Hotline
www.NJ.com

The College of New Jersey has begun training for its student-operated crisis and suicide prevention hotline, a first for the school.

The Ewing-based college started training a group of some 34 students in September to answer calls at the school’s first prevention hotline, which is specifically for TCNJ students. Students will be trained in compassionate listening skills, telephone crisis and suicide prevention.

"We have always promoted a variety of national and local hotlines to students on a variety of different topics, but this will be the first time that we have one dedicated specifically to TCNJ students," said Mark Forest, director of mental health services. "We certainly know from data that mental health issues are rising around the country for everybody, but certainly in the college-age population, and we want to be doing everything that we can to address that and to make sense of it and to be able to have honest, compassionate conversations with each other about that," he said.

Stockton Poll: Residents Statewide Say Climate Change a Major Problem in New Jersey
NJASCU Quicktakes

Two-thirds of New Jersey residents believe climate change is a crisis or a major problem and almost three-quarters believe it is affecting New Jersey now, according to a Stockton University poll released today.

The telephone poll of 807 adult New Jersey residents, conducted September 18-29, 2019 by the Polling Institute of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton, shows 67 percent believe climate change is a crisis or a major problem. A larger group, 73 percent, believe it is already affecting New Jersey.

For full poll results, go to Poll Results.
Kean University Receives $1.5 Million Federal Grant for Student Academic Support

Kean University’s Supplemental Instruction (SI) program has received a $1.5 million federal grant to fund a major expansion of the program, which offers specialized, peer-to-peer academic support to students enrolled in traditionally difficult gateway courses such as chemistry and mathematics.

The grant from the Department of Education will also fund the renovation space and the addition of cutting-edge technology in the Learning Commons to accommodate Supplemental Instruction classrooms. The funds will roll out over five years.

"This expansion will have a direct impact on our students' success," said Neva Lozada, EdD, director of the Kean Office of Student Success and Retention, who applied for the grant and will oversee the expansion. "I am thrilled that a program that began as a pilot program about a year ago will expand more than eightfold by the Spring semester. I am excited about what’s to come." See more.

New Jersey City University Launches the State’s First Master of Science Degree in Financial Technology

The New Jersey City University (NJCU) School of Business recently launched the first Master of Science in Financial Technology program in the state. In addition to being the first of its kind in New Jersey, it is also one of only a handful in the U.S. to focus on this rapidly growing sector of the finance industry.

The new MS in Financial Technology aims to produce graduates who are adept at problem solving and providing real-world solutions to today’s - and tomorrow’s - business challenges. Students will learn about the latest financial tools and techniques and engage in hands-on practice with leading technologies in artificial intelligence, blockchain and more. They may apply these skills to work in a variety of financial technology specialties, such as improving tools for banking consumers, designing proprietary financial systems, using artificial intelligence to optimize investments or working with cryptocurrencies. No matter what they decide to pursue professionally, students also benefit from studying at the business school’s location in Jersey City’s Exchange Place district, the financial hub of New Jersey.

"Jersey City is emerging as an innovative, world-renowned epicenter for financial technology," said Bernard McSherry, dean of the NJCU School of Business. "Our school is dedicated to providing graduates with the practical skills they need to succeed in today’s rapidly evolving global workplace. Our focus on degree programs that are important drivers of global trade and technology, such as Business Analytics and Data Science,
Financial Technology, as well as Supply Chain, Logistics and Maritime Port Management, has marked us as one of the most innovative business schools in the state and region.

Prospective students may apply now to begin the MS in Financial Technology degree program in the spring of 2020. For more information, visit the NJCU Financial Technology degree webpage.

**Stockton Poll: 52 Percent in New Jersey Support Trump Impeachment Inquiry**

*NJASCU Quicktakes*

A small majority of New Jersey adults support the impeachment inquiry started against President Donald Trump in the House of Representatives, although they are split about whether Trump should be impeached at this point, according to a Stockton University poll released today.

The poll of 544 adult state residents, conducted by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton University from Oct. 3-7, 2019, found 52 percent supporting the House impeachment inquiry and 40 percent opposed. Four percent were neutral, and 4 percent were unsure or not answering. The poll has a margin of error of +/- 4.2 percentage points.

For full poll results, go to [Poll Results](#).

**Kean Distinguished Lecture Series Features Former Diplomat Samantha Power and Political Strategist David Axelrod this Fall**

*NJASCU Quicktakes*

The Kean University 2019-2020 Distinguished Lecture Series will feature former U.N. Ambassador Samantha Power, political strategist David Axelrod, civil rights activist Martin Luther King III, and futurist Jamie Metzl.

Former Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power and political strategist David Axelrod will speak at Kean University this fall as Kean University’s Distinguished Lecture Series returns for its third year.
Civil rights activist Martin Luther King III and futurist Jamie Metzl will round out the 2019-2020 speaker’s lineup when they come to campus in the Spring 2020 semester.

All of the lectures are free and open to the public. Reservations are required.

"With the Distinguished Lecture Series, we are bringing internationally acclaimed thought leaders to Kean’s campus to challenge and broaden our perspectives on contemporary issues," said Kean President Dawood Farahi, PhD. "The speakers this year are outstanding and will undoubtedly give us unique and informed insights on current events."

Ms. Power, who was ambassador to the United Nations in the Obama administration, will speak on the theme "The State of the World: Challenges and Opportunities" at Kean's STEM Building on Monday, October 28, 4:30 p.m.

One of TIME Magazine’s "100 Most Influential People," Ms. Power is a professor at Harvard Kennedy School and Harvard Law School, as well as a Pulitzer Prize-winning author. In her latest book, The New York Times bestseller "The Education of an Idealist," she chronicles her life from her earliest days as an Irish immigrant in the U.S. to her rise as a principled and outspoken diplomat.

Following her speech, Ms. Power will meet with guests and sign books at Ursino Steakhouse & Tavern, also in the STEM Building. Admission to that event is $50, and includes light hors d’oeuvres, beer and wine, and a copy of the book. Guests can also purchase a copy of the book, with a ticket to the lecture, for $30.

On Thursday, November 21, 4:30 p.m., at Kean's STEM Building, Mr. Axelrod, a former chief strategist and senior advisor to President Obama, will discuss "The Evolving Media and Political Landscape" in the run-up to the 2020 presidential primary season. Mr. Axelrod currently serves as founding director of the University of Chicago’s non-partisan Institute of Politics and as a CNN political commentator.

Martin Luther King III, who carries on the social justice work of his father, slain civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., will speak on campus on Thursday, February 13, 2020. Futurist Jamie Metzl, whose work focuses on issues where technology, economics and global politics intersect, will speak on Monday, April 27, 2020.

All lectures are scheduled to be held at Kean’s STEM Building, 1075 Morris Avenue in Union at 4:30 p.m. Admission is free, but tickets must be reserved in advance. Ticket reservations are available 30 days before each event at kean.edu/lectureseries.

The first 300 guests will be seated in the auditorium, and the overflow audience will view the live streaming feed of the event on the 6th floor of the STEM Building.

For more information, visit kean.edu/lectureseries.
Election Day 2019 is less than a month away, but in most parts of New Jersey, there is little or no evidence of the battle for control of the state Assembly.

Yet in seven legislative districts, the major parties are engaged in heated struggles, already running ads on cable television and sending mailers to registered voters touting their candidates or berating their opponents.

At stake is control of the lower house of the Legislature, where all 80 seats are up for grabs. Republicans want to put a check on Gov. Phil Murphy and the Democrats who control both the Senate and Assembly. That's a tall order, though, because it would require the GOP to flip 15 seats. At most, they may have a chance of picking up eight. But they also need to defend six seats that Democrats in turn are trying to flip to their side.

"The Democrats have truly maximized the effectiveness of the current legislative districts map," said Ben Dworkin, founding director of the Institute for Public Policy and Citizenship at Rowan University. "They have the Republicans playing defense in three previously solid Republican districts. They are able to make these races competitive because they have the resources to do it."

He added that the Democratic Party has made huge gains in voter registration over the last decade. Between 2007 and last month, the number of registered Democrats in the state almost doubled, while the number of registered Republicans rose by about half and the number of voters who are unaffiliated with either party has remained virtually the same. At the same time, the Democratic Party has increased its registration advantage over the GOP from about 300,000 to close to 1 million.

"All those newly registered Democrats have to live somewhere," Dr. Dworkin continued. "Where they are living is in Burlington County, eastern Morris County, Somerset and Union counties."

Those are where the longtime red districts with vulnerable incumbents are located, and where some heavy campaigning has already begun.

**Noteworthy: National Issues**

**The Unequal Race for Good Jobs: How Whites Made Outsized Gains in Education and Good Jobs Compared to Blacks and Latinos**

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

Inequities in access to good jobs by race and ethnicity have grown in past decades. The Unequal Race for Good Jobs: How Whites Made Outsized Gains in Education and Good Jobs Compared to Blacks and Latinos explores how White workers have relied on their educational and economic privileges to build disproportionate advantages in the educational pipeline and the workforce. Black and Latino workers, on the other hand, have strived to overcome discrimination, racism, and other injustices that continue to perpetuate earnings inequality. Policy changes can help narrow these equity gaps; otherwise, they will continue for generations to come.

**Where Top Democratic Presidential Hopefuls Stand on College Affordability**

[www.EducationDive.com](http://www.EducationDive.com)
The 2020 presidential election is more than a year away, but several Democrats vying for their party’s nomination have already staked out their positions on key higher education issues. Several initiatives have emerged as Democratic priorities: some version of free college, simplifying the FAFSA and expanding funding for colleges and universities. However, the details vary widely among the proposals put forth by the 19 candidates, as of publication time, in the primary race. To help make sense of it all, here is what some of the top candidates have proposed so far, and what higher education experts have to say about their plans.

**Coursera Opens its Course Catalog for Colleges to Scale Gen Eds, Add Training**

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

MOOC provider Coursera is making its courses available for colleges to include in their academic programs through a new platform called Coursera for Campus.

The announcement follows a pilot in which more than 20 institutions worldwide used the new offering, which includes LMS and API integration and plagiarism detection.

While Coursera is optimistic that the platform will fill a gap for colleges, how institutions will make use of it and other recent attempts to scale shareable, credit-bearing courses is uncertain.