February 22, 2018

Dear Colleagues/Friends:

Below are articles with a focus on: topics specific to NJASCU members; governmental and political happenings in New Jersey; and national higher education issues. *If your institution has any news that you would like to share, please send it to us for inclusion in our distribution.*

**School Specific News**

**The College of New Jersey Launches Pathology-Audiology Major**
www.NJASCU.org/QuickTakes

The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) is launching a speech pathology and audiology undergraduate major beginning in the fall of 2018, in response to the growing global demand for speech pathologists and audiologists.

Reportedly, this need for speech pathologists and audiologists is due to increasing instances of age-related health conditions that cause speech or language impairments. In fact, the U.S. Department of Labor has stated it expects employment in these fields to grow at a pace well ahead of the average for all occupations.

The four-year program will include rigorous coursework, opportunities for field observations and internships with professionals, a selection of specializations, and classes in the areas required as a prerequisite for application to competitive graduate programs.

**The College of New Jersey and Montclair State University Partner on the Jamie Fox Foundation**
www.NJASCU.org/QuickTakes

The Jamie P. Fox Memorial Fund, in partnership with The College of New Jersey and Montclair State University, announces the establishment of two mentorship initiatives designed to cultivate a new generation of public sector professionals (#FoxMentors). The programs, The Jamie Fox Forum on Public Service at Montclair State University and The Jamie Fox Scholars Program at The College of New Jersey, honor the legacy of Jamie Fox, who died in February 2017 and who spent his entire career in public service.

"For Jamie, public service was a life's calling that fueled a thriving 40-year career and spawned many important policy achievements," said Eric Shuffler, a fund trustee. "Jamie was especially passionate about mentoring young people and encouraging careers in government..."
service. These two programs, funded by the Fox Memorial Fund, will provide students with real-life experience and advice that will provide a foundation for more young people to seek, obtain, and succeed in public sector jobs."

**TCNJ School of Business Ranks in Top 50 for Undergraduates**

www.TCNJ.edu

TCNJ's business program placed #44 among undergraduate business programs in the nation, according to rankings released today by Poets&Quants.

"TCNJ's School of Business has consistently placed among the top undergraduate programs in the country," said William W. Keep, Dean of the School of Business. "Our 2017 Poets&Quants ranking further demonstrates the quality, affordable business education we deliver and I thank our faculty, alumni, students, and staff for this remarkable achievement."

As part of the rankings process, Poets&Quants asked members of the Class of 2015 to rate their schools on 15 different prompts, one of which was "Would you recommend the business program to a close friend or colleague?" TCNJ received an A+, the highest possible score, in this area.

**Kean University Invites Distinguished Journalist Bob Woodward as First Speaker in its New Lecture Series**

www.NJASCU.org/QuickTakes

Bob Woodward, a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist best known for his coverage of the Watergate scandal, will speak about the importance of a free press and investigative journalism on Thursday, February 22, 2018, as part of a new distinguished lecture series at Kean University in Union.

An associate editor of The Washington Post and best-selling author, Mr. Woodward is regarded as one of the best journalists in the nation's history and is the ideal person to launch the new lecture series, said Kean President Dawood Farahi, PhD.

"With so much economic, social and cultural change going on in our country and our world today, it is essential to engage our students and others in a dialogue about democracy," Dr. Farahi said. "We want to bring the best minds to campus, so people can be exposed to new ideas and opinions."

**Kean University Hosts Renowned Human Rights Conference**

www.Kean.edu

Every minute, 20 people around the world are forced to flee their homes. They leave behind their communities, their possessions, and often, their families. They are driven out by war, violence, persecution, strife, hunger and poverty.

More than 65 million migrants worldwide are seeking refuge, and the safety, opportunities and chance at survival it brings. Many of them are children and teens who have never known freedom or life outside a war zone. Each one has a story of courage and resilience.

The Kean University Human Rights Institute’s 11th Annual Conference, Seeking Refuge: Immigration and Forced Migration Around the World, on Friday, March 23, in Wilkins Theatre, will shed light on this critical global issue that requires urgent action and challenges us - the peoples and nations of the world - to develop a compassionate and coordinated response.

**U.S. Department of State Awards Three NJCU Students Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to Study Abroad**

www.NJCU.edu

Three New Jersey City University (NJCU) students are among a select group of American undergraduate students from 386 colleges and universities across the United States chosen to receive the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study or intern abroad.
During the 2017-2018 academic year. The announcement was made by the U.S. Department of State.

Gilman Scholars receive up to $5,000 to apply towards their study abroad or internship program costs with additional funding available for the study of a critical language overseas. The Gilman Scholarship supports American undergraduate students of limited financial means to study or intern abroad and, since 2001, has enabled more than 25,000 outstanding Americans of diverse backgrounds to engage in a meaningful educational experience abroad. The program has successfully broadened U.S. participation in study abroad, while emphasizing countries and regions where fewer Americans traditionally study.

The late Congressman Gilman, for whom the scholarship is named, served in the House of Representatives for 30 years and chaired the House Foreign Relations Committee.

**NJCU School of Business Launches Stock index for 50 NJ Companies**
www.NJCU.edu

New Jersey City University's School of Business has launched the **NJCU New Jersey 50 Index** - an index of publicly traded equity securities designed to be a barometer of the New Jersey economy. Developed by the NJCU School of Business and calculated by S&P Dow Jones Indices, the NJCU New Jersey 50 Index is a first for New Jersey and the larger tri-state area that is the country's financial hub, and puts the New Jersey City University School of Business at the forefront of the exchange trade product industry.

**Montclair State Case, Testing State vs. Local Authority, Goes to Supreme Court**
www.Law.com

In a case lodged by Montclair State University over plans for a road construction project, the New Jersey Supreme Court has agreed to take up the issue of how closely state and local government entities must coordinate on such undertakings.

The court in December granted a petition for certification in **Montclair State University v. County of Passaic**, an action lodged by the university after it failed to come to a consensus with local authorities over its proposed project.

In its petition, the city of Clifton, seeking ultimately to overturn a precedential Appellate Division ruling in the case from earlier this year, argued that the decision, if left to stand alone, would allow a state agency "to proceed even with a manifestly unsafe or unreasonable project, over legitimate local concerns and objections, as long as the state agency sits down with the local agency and discusses the local objections but then ignores them."

**Ramapo College Extends President Peter Mercer's Term**
www.NJASCU.org/Quick-Takes

In a special meeting held on January 19, the Ramapo College Board of Trustees approved an amendment to President Peter P. Mercer’s Employment Agreement. The amendment extended President Mercer’s term through June 30, 2021.

"I am pleased to share that the Board of Trustees unanimously voted to extend President Mercer's employment agreement through 2021. We look forward to Dr. Mercer's continued leadership as Ramapo approaches its 50th Anniversary," said William F. Dator, Chair of the Ramapo College Board of Trustees.

Ramapo College will celebrate its 50th year in 2019.

**Ramapo Gets a Million Dollar Grant for Drug Recovery Initiative**
www.NJASCU.org/Quick-Takes
Ramapo College of New Jersey will be receiving a $999,408 grant to provide recovery housing and a comprehensive program for students who are recovering from drug and/or alcohol use. As the region's premier public liberal arts college, the vision of Ramapo is to prepare its students to be successful leaders for a changing world. Thanks to this grant, the college can further enhance that commitment by providing a safe and healthy environment for students in recovery.

Dubbed the "Roadrunner Collegiate Recovery" (RCR) Program, the college will offer a comprehensive program that includes recovery housing for up to 10 residential students and additional resources to help reduce the stigma associated with the disease of addiction on its campus.

**Rowan University to Spend $50M on New Medical School Research Program**
www.NJBIZ.com

Rowan University will spend $50 million over the decade to help create a medical research program at the Cooper Medical School of Rowan University.

The investment will add to the city of Camden's revitalization efforts and create new economic opportunities in the "eds and meds" corridor that the city began promoting earlier this year. The funding will be used, in part, to develop programs, attract top researchers, and provide seed money and startup costs for researchers, said Ali Houshmand, Rowan's president.

**Rowan is First NJ University to Send a Satellite into Space as Part of NASA Program**
www.Rowan.edu

"We're basically sending a Kleenex box into space."

That's how Russell Trafford described a project that three professors and more than 100 undergraduate and graduate students in the Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering have been working on for more than 2½ years.

Size-wise, that was a pretty good take by Trafford, who with fellow PhD candidate Adam Fifth serves as project manager. The heart of the project is a 4x4x4 inch cube.

But content wise, the work that has absorbed teams in and out of Engineering Clinics is a far cry from the little boxes that hold pastel-colored tissues.

They have been developing a CubeSat research nanosatellite, weighing less than three pounds, as part of NASA's seventh round of its CubeSat Launch Initiative. Rowan is the only college or university in New Jersey ever selected for the program.

**Stockton's New STEM Buildings to Open in Spring of 2018**
www.Stockton.edu

Stockton University is on schedule to complete a major facilities expansion that will create a distinctive entrance on the Galloway Campus. Construction for both buildings began in Summer 2016 with a scheduled soft opening in Spring 2018.

The academic quad expansion will include a $33.2 million Unified Science Center 2 (USC2) and a $15.2 million Health Sciences Center, near the existing Unified Science Center and Campus Center. The new buildings will be supported by funding from the Building Our Future Bond Act, which was overwhelmingly approved by New Jersey voters in 2012. The bond act will provide $21.465 million in funding for the USC2 and the University will pay 25 percent or $7.155 million. The Health Sciences Center will receive $13.5 million in funding from the bond issue and the University will pay 25 percent of $4.5 million.

**U.S. Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch Speaks at Stockton University**
www.NJASCU.org/Quick-Takes
U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Neil M. Gorsuch told some 500 students and guests at Stockton University on January 23, 2018 that it is up to the younger generation to understand and continue to uphold the ideas on which America was founded.

"The Founders gave us a republic," he said. "It is up to each generation to keep it."

Justice Gorsuch spoke at Stockton at a special event arranged through the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at the University. Justice Gorsuch and William J. Hughes, Jr. attended school together in their teens in Washington, DC and have remained friends for some 40 years, despite coming from politically different families. The Hughes are Democrats and the Gorsuch family is Republican.

**New Interim Director at Hughes Center Sees Expansion in Future**

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

About a month into the job, the new interim executive director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy - formerly the executive director at the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities - says he wants to expand and preserve the center’s programming and bridge the gap between education and policy. Stockton University at the end of 2017 named Dr. Michael W. Klein, a higher education policy expert, the director of the center. He took over the role on January 8 after more director and center founder Sharon Schulman retired on January 1.

"I certainly want to look at statewide issues," Dr. Klein said during a recent meeting with the editorial board of *The Press of Atlantic City*. "The work itself of the Hughes Center, I think, can incorporate a lot of the academic expertise that already exists across all the different academic disciplines within the university."

**Dr. Merodie Hancock Will Replace Dr. George Pruitt at the Helm of Thomas Edison State University**

[www.NJASCU.org/Quick-Takes](http://www.NJASCU.org/Quick-Takes)

Merodie A. Hancock, PhD, was unanimously elected the fourth president of Thomas Edison State University (TESU) by the institutions’ board of trustees at a special board meeting today. She will take office on March 5, 2018.

"Thomas Edison State University is such a respected pillar among adult-serving institutions in the United States and has been at the forefront of offering degree pathways for busy, working adults since its inception in 1972," said Dr. Hancock, who currently serves as president of SUNY Empire State College in New York. "I hold dear this mission, and am honored to take on the presidency of such a pivotal university."

TESU Board Chair Brian T. Maloney said Hancock's record of accomplishment and commitment to innovation and excellence made her an ideal choice to lead Thomas Edison State University.

**TESU Receives $150K in Grants from Investors Foundations for Expansion of Nursing Programs**

[www.TESU.edu](http://www.TESU.edu)
Thomas Edison State University has recently received $150,000 in grants from the Investors Foundation and the Roma Bank Community Foundation to fund the further expansion of the University’s graduate-level nursing programs. The grant will help enhance the University by expanding the offerings and quality of nursing programs offered to students by the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing.

“We are grateful to the Investors and Roma Bank Community Foundations for their continued support of our nursing programs,” said Dr. Filomela Marshall, dean of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing. “These funds will make it possible for us to continue to provide a superior nursing education to our current students and those looking to complete their degrees, in turn, immersing even more qualified, competent nursing professionals into the field.”

William Paterson Launches Professional Sales Degree Program
www.NJASCU.org/Quick-Takes

The first graduate sales degree in the nation, an Executive Master of Science in Sales Leadership, has been launched at William Paterson University to prepare executives to advance to strategic leadership roles that require a customer-focused perspective.

The accelerated, 11-month online and weekend program is designed to help executives meet the growing demands of business where buying decisions are increasingly analytical. The program, offered through the University’s Cotsakos College of Business in its Russ Berrie Institute for Professional Sales, is 65 percent online and includes six face-to-face weekend residencies with presentations from experts in academia and industry.

WPU Communications Students, Faculty and Staff Travel to Puerto Rico to Help Restore Hurricane-Ravaged Radio Station
www.WPUNJ.edu

On Wednesday morning, January 3, nine students from the William Paterson University department of communication departed Newark Liberty International Airport bound for Vieques, Puerto Rico (via San Juan) on a one-week mission to help restore WVQR 90.1 FM, the community radio station serving Vieques. Organized by Lori Ramos, William Paterson University assistant professor of communication, who has long-standing ties to Vieques, the trip was part of a service-learning course during the winter semester. The students were joined by Diana Peck, professor of communication, Sebastian Escobar ’15, station manager for William Paterson University’s award-winning radio station WPSC 88.7FM Brave New Radio, and William Paterson University audio technician Dante Portella.

WVQR’s studio was hard hit, as was the entire island of Vieques, by Hurricane Maria in September. When the station went back on the air, it lost vital equipment and sustained damage to its transmitter. It played an important role as people on Vieques struggled in the weeks after the hurricane, informing them of where they could obtain supplies and assistance.

New Jersey Universities Collaborate to Host Big Data Career Fair
www.TheJerseyTomatoPress.com

On March 8, 2018 at The College of New Jersey, the New Jersey Big Data Alliance (NJBDA), a consortium of the state’s leading colleges and universities, are hosting a Data Sciences/Computing Career Fair to connect locally and regionally based employers to students who have experience or expertise in data analytics, computer science, or a related discipline. This event marks the first time New Jersey’s higher education institutions have organized a statewide career fair; providing employers with an unparalleled opportunity to recruit the state’s future STEM workforce. The career fair will feature undergraduate and graduate students from twelve NJBDA member institutions, including: Kean University, Montclair State University, New Jersey City University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Rowan University, Rutgers University, Saint Peter’s University, Seton Hall University, Stevens Institute of Technology, Stockton University, The College of New Jersey, and William Paterson University.
New Jersey News

Can Murphy Live Up to His Promises About Higher Education?
www.NJBiz.com
www.NJSpotlight.com
www.nj.com

Gov. Phil Murphy campaigned on tuition-free community college for all New Jerseyans, and he said Tuesday he’s committed to deliver on that promise. But the details on the $200 million proposal haven’t been worked out. "Bear with us," the new governor said at an event on the issue at Rowan College at Burlington County in Mount Laurel. "I don’t think that you get this tomorrow," he said. "(But) we have strong aspirations."

Murphy Ditches 101.5 for New "Ask the Governor" Program
www.njbiz.com

Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy will continue former Republican Gov. Chris Christie's practice of taking calls from constituents every month and broadcasting it. But he'll do it his way. Murphy is ditching the right-leaning radio station New Jersey 101.5 FM (officially WKXW-FM), on which Christie appeared monthly for eight years, in favor of alternating monthly appearances on a cable news channel, News 12 New Jersey, and public radio stations.

New Jersey Congressman Republican Rodney Frelinghuysen is Retiring at the End of 2018
www.CNN.com

New Jersey Republican Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, the chairman of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, announced Monday he will not seek re-election in 2018.

Rep. Frelinghuysen's announcement comes as about three dozen other Republican members and a host of other House chairmen have announced their retirements or plans to run for other offices outside of Congress amid speculation that the 2018 midterms could be a wave election for Democrats.

"Today as I announce my retirement at the end of this session of Congress, I want to use the opportunity to strongly encourage the many young people I meet to consider public service," Rep. Frelinghuysen said in his statement.

RELATED: There is a wave of Republicans Leaving Congress
www.CNN.com

The New Jersey congressman faced a tough re-election bid in 2018 and Republicans had long been worried that Frelinghuysen would retire. But as recently as last week, GOP aides had become more optimistic that he would seek re-election, saying they’d grown less troubled by his fundraising and his staff had become more engaged ahead of a tough re-election battle.

Democrats are running a prized recruit in the Northern New Jersey district in Mikie Sherrill, a formal Naval helicopter pilot and federal prosecutor.

Op-Ed: NJ Clean and Green
www.NJSpotlight.com
Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker, who served on a panel at the 2017 NJASCU Symposium, is the chair of the new Assembly Science, Innovation, and Technology Committee. He gives his assessment of how New Jersey can be a clean and green and prosperous state.

**Education in Transition**
www.NJSpotlight.com

When it comes to education, Gov. Phil Murphy's release of his transition committee's report signaled some early directions - and changes of direction - about what could be one of the high-profile issues of his tenure.

For example, the 11-page report played up Murphy's campaign promise to fully fund the state's school finance law, but also tempered expectations that this would happen overnight.

The Education Transition Report emphasized career and vocational education, especially around so-called STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education, a big issue during the campaign and one that appears to remain a priority of both Murphy and his incoming commissioner, Lamont Repollet, the former Asbury Park Schools Superintendent and a New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities Board Trustee.

**Advocacy Alert: Transition Report - Science and Technology**
www.NJASCU.org/Advocacy-Alerts

In the Technology Transition Report just presented to Governor Murphy: NJ Technology Transition Report to Governor Murphy, there are elements relating to higher education:

♦ Priority: Strengthen links between our universities and innovative sectors
  - o Publicize our universities' intellectual property assets and assist with their commercial distribution.
  - o Create an innovation competition for faculty and students to generate solutions to statewide problems.

♦ Priority: Attract and retain high-tech talent and investment in New Jersey
  - o Create a fellowship program to boost New Jersey's government technology and attract talented professionals to work in state government.
  - o Establish a STEM-specific student-loan forgiveness program.
  - o Encourage all public schools to expand computer science programs.

**NJASCU Response:**

The senior four-year public schools that NJASCU represents have been focused on the priorities of the Technology Transition report for a number of years and look forward to working with the governor and the legislature to enhance those efforts. Many of our schools used the Building Our Future higher education bond money to build much needed state-of-the-art STEM facilities. But the 2012 bond program was the first one for higher education in 25 years. And successful STEM programs require operating support as well - and, the operating support to public institutions have decreased significantly over the past 25 years (40 percent decrease per FTE). In order to continue to offer cutting-edge STEM initiatives, public higher education institutions need consistent operational and capital funding support - and that requires a rational and comprehensive approach to appropriations.

**Advocacy Alert: NJASCU Comments on the Report of the Education, Access, and Opportunity Transition Advisory Committee**
www.NJASCU.org/Advocacy-Alerts.html

NJASCU responds to some of the points made by the NJ Governor's Transition Report on Education - "Report of the Education, Access, and Opportunity Transition Advisory Committee" - with: praise for some of the suggestions; questions about other priorities; and suggestions for priorities not included.
Opinion: Ex-NJ Attorney General: Why NJ Is So Hard to Govern? (Hint: It's in our DNA)
www.NJ.com

John Farmer, Jr., a former New Jersey attorney general and senior counsel to the 9/11 Commission, is a university professor and special counsel to the president of Rutgers University. He writes a piece about the challenges of governing our state and how crucial it is for Gov. Murphy to lead, rather than fall into the rut of doing things how they always have been done. This, then, is Murphy’s moment. The state whose history has been marked by deferring every hard choice must now make them.

He only mentions higher education in the following sentence: Rutgers barely survived an attempt to remove its Camden campus, and its efforts to compete nationally are challenged locally by the transformation of New Jersey’s state colleges into state universities.

Business Task Force Hopes to Transform New Jersey Into Millennial Magnet
www.NJSpotlight.com

New Jersey business leaders have been concerned for a while about the number of millennials that leave the state once they finish high school. After studying the issue more closely over the past year, a business group has come up with a multifaceted plan to keep more millennials in New Jersey, and to even entice those living in other states to move here.

A new report issued yesterday by a task force that was organized by the New Jersey Business & Industry Association lists more than a dozen recommendations to address the state's standing as the worst in the country when it comes to losing high-school graduates to other places.

They range from improving the affordability of a public-college education in New Jersey to just doing a better job of promoting the different well-paying career opportunities that exist here. Other recommendations include widening job-skill training programs provided through community colleges and vocational-technical schools, and encouraging teachers and guidance counselors to help students with basic job skills like resume writing.

The task force's findings generally come back to the issues of "affordability and attract-ability," said Michele Siekerka, NJBIA's president and chief executive, during a conference call yesterday.

Members of the task force include representatives from the business, government and education sectors (including NJASCU), as well as members of the millennial community itself. While some of the recommendations may require cooperation from state lawmakers to enact new policy changes, such a proposed bond issue that would raise funds to expand vocational-technical facilities, others will simply require more collaboration between the business and education communities.

Sweeney and Murphy Not So Perfect Together: Sweeney Takes a Stake to Murphy’s Agenda
www.NJSpotlight.com

Carl Golden in an op-ed explains the difficult Sweeney/Murphy relationship, fueled by Sweeney’s public announcement of his refusal to support the millionaire’s tax. (Carl Golden served as press secretary for Republic Gov. Thomas Kean for eight years and as communications director for Republican Gov. Chris Christie for three years. He is currently a senior contributing analyst with the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton University.)

Residents Continue to Flee NJ, Study Finds
www.NJBiz.com

It is not only students who are out-migrating.
More residents are moving out of New Jersey than are moving in, according to a report released by North American Moving Services. The company has released migration reports since 2011 based on customer movement trends.

According to the report, New Jersey is one of six states with majority outbound migration since 2011. The others include New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois and Minnesota.

New Jersey's outbound migration has mostly been offset by the increase in international immigration, which contributes to some reports suggesting New Jersey will become a minority majority state within the next decade.

**Rape Reports Climb at NJ Colleges: See the Stats for Each Campus**
www.NJ.com

There were 138 reported rapes at New Jersey's four-year colleges and universities in 2016 - a 24 percent increase over the previous year - as many schools stepped up efforts to encourage students to report sexual assaults on campus.

The number of reported rapes rose at about half of the state's 28 four-year residential college campuses, according to an NJ Advance Media review of campus crime reports.

Reports of other sex crimes also rose. There were 70 reports of fondling in 2016 (a 46 percent increase) and 63 reports of dating violence (a 13 percent increase), according to the reports.

School officials said the increases may be a result of national attention on campus sexual assault and efforts on campuses to make it easier for students to file reports.

**Jaffe Communications Summary of the New Governor and His Goals**
Jaffe Communications - morningbriefing@jaffecom.com

*So, who is this new governor that we will be consumed with for four or eight years?*

Well, his name is Phil Murphy. His middle name is "Dunton" and there is potential this working-class Boston native may be a closet Red Sox fan. He may have become a musical actor, the former president of Harvard University's "Hasty Pudding Theatricals Club." Now a millionaire, he pays about $200,000 in property taxes each year on his Middletown mansion, so he certainly feels the pain. He is buddies with Jon Bon Jovi and is the part-owner of Sky Blue FC, a professional women's soccer team that plays in Piscataway. And our new governor has plenty of thoughts about raising taxes, to be dissected and debated in ... (the future).

**Chris Christie's 13 Best Moments as New Jersey Governor**
www.NJ.com

**Higher Education Reorganization**

Where other governors tried and failed, Christie succeeded in 2012 when he signed a merger of the state's higher education institutions.

The sweeping law gave Rutgers University nearly all of University of Medicine and Dentistry - including its medical schools in Newark and Piscataway - in one of the greatest expansions in the state university's history. In South Jersey, Rowan University in Glassboro elevated to a research university and took over UMDNJ's osteopathic medical school in Stratford.

The merger helped bring more research money to the state.

**Dr. Lamont Repollet, Superintendent of Schools for Asbury Park School District, to Head NJ Department of Education**
www.InsiderNJ.com
Kean and TCNJ alumnus Dr. Lamont Repollet, superintendent of schools for Asbury Park School District and NJASCU trustee, is slated to be the nominee for NJ Commissioner of Education.

**Christie Delivers His Final State of the State Address**
[www.NJSpotlight.com](http://www.NJSpotlight.com)

With his legacy still a matter of debate thanks to record-low approval ratings, Gov. Chris Christie used his final State of the State address on Tuesday, January 9, 2018, to emphatically recast his two terms in office, asserting that his tenure was one of consequence that will be viewed more fondly over time.

But Democrat Phil Murphy, who will take over the governor’s office next week, was far less gracious in his response, accusing Christie of painting a "sunny picture" of a state in "dire fiscal crisis." He cited the fact that New Jersey’s economy fell behind other states, despite the national recovery.

**Keeping Tabs on the New Legislative Committee Chair Positions**
[www.NJSpotlight.com](http://www.NJSpotlight.com)

The Democratic legislative leadership’s picks of committee chairs could portend some significant changes in how it will do business this coming year. The lengthy list released by each chamber’s Democratic leadership was full of changes on virtually every committee, as would be expected in the change of legislative sessions. While this year's changes are basically a switch from one Democrat to another; they speak to some of the inner dynamics - and in some cases, power struggles - within the party. A few also come at a critical time when deciding policy with the incoming administration of Governor-elect Phil Murphy.

Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin announced the chairs and Democratic composition of each Assembly standing reference committee for the 218th legislative session, which began on January 9, 2018.

"We are fortunate to have such a dynamic group of individuals with diverse backgrounds in our caucus," said Speaker Coughlin (D-Middlesex). "This has enabled us to put together an outstanding team that will help guide our policy agenda for the next two years. I have every confidence that each chair and their respective members will work tirelessly to shepherd through a progressive agenda that prioritizes the needs of New Jersey's working families while pursuing innovative ways to protect and maximize taxpayer dollars."

The Assembly Higher Education Committee chair position remains with Assemblywoman Mila Jasey. Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker, who was a panelist at the NJASCU Symposium on Higher Education, was appointed chair of a new committee: the Assembly Science, Innovation and Technology Committee.

Senator Sweeney filled the leadership team by selecting Senator Paul Sarlo (D-Bergen/Passaic) as Deputy Majority Leader and chairman of the Budget and Appropriations Committee; Senator Sandra Bolden Cunningham (D-Hudson) as Deputy Majority Leader and chairwoman of the Higher Education Committee; and Senator Nicholas Scutari as chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

The Democratic Majority includes three new members: Senator Joseph Cryan (D-Union), Senator Vin Gopal (D-Monmouth) and Senator Troy Singleton (D-Burlington). The Democratic majority in the upper house increased from 24 to 25 members.
New Jersey College Sued Over Termination of Black Professor Who Supported BLM
www.NewsOne.com

Lisa Durden, the Black professor who was fired from a New Jersey college for defending Black Lives Matter on Fox News in June, was the subject of a new lawsuit filed Wednesday. The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) has started a legal battle against Essex County College for denying requests to release records about Durden's termination. Ms. Durden, who was an adjunct professor at the Newark, New Jersey college, made a strong stand for a BLM group who decided to host a Blacks-only Memorial Day celebration on FOX. "You White people are angry because you couldn't use your White privilege card to get invited to the Black Lives Matter's all-black Memorial Day Celebration," she said during an appearance on Tucker Carlson Tonight on June 6. Essex County College axed her over her comments, a move that was questionable, FIRE said. The foundation filed an information request under the New Jersey Open Public Records Act after her termination. The initial request, along with a subsequent one, were ignored for more than a month. The school did finally respond after receiving an official letter from FIRE's Director of Litigation Marieke Tuthill Beck-Coon, asking for time extensions. When those deadlines passed and went, FIRE decided on legal action.

Brendan Byrne Dies at 93
www.NJSpotlight.com

Brendan T. Byrne, the 47th governor of New Jersey, died on Thursday, January 4, 2018, at the age of 93. Gov. Byrne was a towering figure in New Jersey politics. The last two-term Democratic governor, he shepherded in the state income tax as a way to increase urban school funding; brought casinos to Atlantic City; and created the Meadowlands Sports complex. Known for his wit, Gov. Byrne was also responsible for a number of environmental initiatives, including protecting the Pinelands. In remembrance of Gov. Byrne and his legacy, we've asked some of those who knew him to write a few words. Today, we turn to former reporter and former chief of staff to U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg, Jim McQueeny.

Gov-elect Murphy Will Consider Changing State Property Tax Deduction as Suggested by Christie in Response to New Federal Tax Law
www.Politico.com

Gov-elect Phil Murphy said he's open to pursuing changes to the state's tax code that would allow homeowners to write-off their entire property tax bill - an idea Gov. Chris Christie floated after the new federal tax bill passed.

Gov-elect Murphy, still fuming over passage of the Republican tax bill in Washington, said he was not immediately dismissing the suggestion and thought it could potentially fit into a wholesale response to the federal changes.

Businesses May Start Paying Off Their Workers' Student Debt
www.NJ1015.com

Assemblyman Ron Dancer (R-Ocean), is proposing legislation to reduce New Jersey's outmigration of New Jersey's college graduates by reducing the student college loan debts with New Jersey jobs.

"New Jersey, unfortunately, leads the nation with the number of graduates and millennials in general leaving the state of New Jersey," he said.

Asm. Dancer said under his bill if a New Jersey business hires and retains New Jersey college grads with science, technology, engineering and math degrees, it would receive a $5,000 business credit to contribute toward paying down the worker's college debt.
Under the measure, businesses could continue to collect a tax credit of $5,000/year, paying off their employee's student loan for the same amount up to a maximum of $50,000 in a 10-year period.

**Gov-elect Murphy Will be Appointing Assemblywoman Muoio as State Treasurer**
www.NJ.com

GOVERNOR-elect Phil Murphy will announce Wednesday he will nominate a Democratic first-term state assemblywoman and local government official to become New Jersey’s next state treasurer, two sources with knowledge of the decision confirmed to NJ Advance Media.

Assemblywoman Elizabeth Muoio of Mercer County will be introduced by Murphy, a fellow Democrat, at a noon news conference in Trenton, according to the sources, who asked for anonymity because they are not authorized to publicly discuss the matter.

**Community Colleges Are Lowering the Cost of Education**
www.NJMonthly.com

Consider that, for the 2016-17 academic year, the average cost of tuition and fees at a private college in the United States was $33,480 (rising to more than $50,000 at some schools). For New Jersey residents attending a state college, tuition and fees averaged $13,464. Tuition at the state's community colleges, on the other hand, averaged $4,723. That means that a student who attends a community college for two years, then transfers to a state or private institution, could save $60,000 or more on a bachelor's degree.

**Bergen County Prosecutor Grewal is Gov-Elect’s Choice for Attorney General**
www.NJBMagazine.com

Governor-elect Phil Murphy today nominated Bergen County prosecutor Gurbir S. Grewal to be the state's attorney general. According to Mr. Grewel's official online biography, he was appointed acting Bergen County prosecutor in January 2016, and sworn in as Bergen County prosecutor in November 2016. He oversees approximately 265 persons, and also has "supervisory authority" over about 2,700 law enforcement officers in the country. Mr. Grewal was named prosecutor by Governor Chris Christie. Mr. Grewal previously worked in the United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey from 2010 to 2016, and headed the economic crimes unit there for several years, among an array of other accomplishments.

**The Jaffe Briefing**
www.TapInto.net

If you look at any other college football team in the Big 10, there's a glaring and obvious fact: Lots of Jersey kids playing on those other teams. And it is not highly-recruited athletes being stolen from New Jersey, state officials say, announcing the launch of a study to determine why so many of our super-smart kids attend college elsewhere. The Senate Higher Education Committee wants a study done by the middle of next year, as well as a performance review of every public college and university in the state. In 2014 - the last year data were available - New Jersey led the nation in the outmigration of students. Is it possible - or feasible - to make New Jersey the first choice?

**Stress Test for Pension System**
www.NJSpotlight.com

A bill that cleared the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee earlier this week would require state pension officials to conduct as a matter of law regular "stress tests" to assess the fiscal condition and potential risks borne by the various funds that make up the $76 billion pension system.

The measure, which has broad, bipartisan support, would also require the results of the stress test for each individual retirement fund to be posted on the state Division of Pension and Benefits'
Repeal and Replace GOP Tax Code
www.NJSpotlight.com

With a major, Republican-led overhaul of the federal tax code underway in Washington, DC, a group of Democrats that includes New Jersey Gov-elect Phil Murphy is talking about resisting the deal by taking a page from Republicans and filing a lawsuit to block it.

Murphy, who will take office in mid-January, joined with New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and California Gov. Jerry Brown yesterday to condemn the tax changes that Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate have been pushing in recent weeks. They argued the federal legislation would disproportionately hit their states the hardest by scaling back a key tax write-off known as SALT that’s currently allowed for taxes paid to state and local governments.

The three Democrats said they were worried that the changes will negatively impact the economies of their respective states, which produce an estimated 40 percent of the nation’s total gross-domestic product. Thus, they will do whatever is in their power to block the tax-code revisions if they are ultimately signed into law by President Donald Trump.

Gov-Elect Murphy Outlines a Pro-Tax Policy, But Has No Sales Tax Increase
www.Politico.com

Tax policy took center stage during the gubernatorial campaign after Phil Murphy’s team revealed in August that the Democrat would raise taxes at least $1.3 billion to pay for his policy agenda.

Now that Phil Murphy is the governor-elect, expect taxes to dominate the coming months of political debate in Trenton. His committees include increasing state aid to local school districts "immediately" and fully funding the state’s public employee pension system at some point. During the campaign, Murphy’s team outlined several changes to the tax code - a millionaire’s tax, a tax on legal marijuana and closing corporate loopholes - to generate revenue to help pay for his programs. But increasing the sales tax is not part of the Murphy strategy.

Essex County College Could Lose Accreditation
www.NJSpotlight.com

Essex County College (ECC) has been placed on probation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and is in danger of losing its accreditation. It has until March 2018 to fix problems the commission found with matters of "institutional resources" and "leadership and governance." (Essex County College has joint admission agreements with the following four-year institutions:

- John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- Kean University
- Montclair State University
- New Jersey City University
- New Jersey Institute of Technology
- Rutgers University
- St. Peter’s College
- Seton Hall University
- Thomas Edison State University
- William Paterson University

ECC rapidly expanded in recent years but racked up a catalog of problems. During the past two years, the president and college attorney were fired along with 21 employees, $150,000 was stolen from the athletic department, and a disturbing lack of financial oversight came to light.
Anthony Munroe, the college's new president, says the commission's concerns are "administrative issues," not "the academic integrity and the teaching and learning." He said the college is working to fix the problems, but that it needs more financial help from Essex County.

**Feds' One-Two Tax Punch for NJ Would Hurt Financing of Public University Buildings in Partnership with Private Developers**  
www.NJSpotlight.com

As Congress is working to advance an ambitious plan to rewrite the federal tax code, most of the attention in New Jersey has been focused on a proposal to scale back or even eliminate the SALT deduction for state and local taxes. But many communities across the state could also see a big impact from new tax rules that are being proposed for investment in major building projects.

A largely overlooked section of the tax-overhaul legislation the U.S. house of Representatives passed earlier this month calls for an ending of the tax-exempt status of so-called private-activity bonds, which are often used to finance things like hospital facilities, university buildings, affordable housing, and infrastructure projects.

New Jersey, with its high population density, is particularly linked to the types of projects that have benefitted from such tax-exempt financing, with the recent redevelopment of the Hahne & Co. building in Newark and the rebuilding of the Goethals Bridge between Elizabeth and Staten Island among those that have used private-activity financing in recent years.

While the proposed new tax rules wouldn't prevent governments themselves from issuing tax-exempt bonds, local leaders are concerned they could make it a lot harder and more expensive to finance the type of private-sector investment that is often encouraged as part of an overall economic-development strategy. The local governments, meanwhile, could also get hit by another part of the tax legislation that would affect debt-refinancing issues. Financial experts warn the tax overhaul could also hold back the construction of industry if some building projects end up being shelved altogether.

**Can Garden State GOP Play Well with Others?**  
www.NJSpotlight.com

Democratic Governor-Elect Phil Murphy’s arrival will provide less incentive for the type of bipartisan negotiations that have given the Republicans a chance to help shape numerous pieces of legislation during current Governor Christie’s two terms in office. Faced with that predicament, Assembly Republican Leader Jon Bramnick (R-Union) has promised his minority caucus will still pursue an agenda that will be based on the issue of affordability, something that Christie also emphasized during his tenure. But in the Senate, longtime Minority Leader Tom Kean, Jr. (R-Union) has already offered to work on a bipartisan basis with Murphy and the Democratic leaders, suggesting he minimum-wage issue - which is a key priority for Democrats - is one area where they can find compromise.

**Michigan: Free Tuition for Students in 15 Communities Among Bills Signed Into Law by Gov. Snyder**  
www.FreeP.com

The prospect of free college tuition for students in 15 communities in Michigan is one of the highlights of the 58 bills recently signed into law by Gov. Rick Snyder (R). The Michigan initiative is of great interest to New Jersey elected officials who are exploring free community college. The Promise Zone legislation expanded the number of communities eligible from 10 to 15 and the community has already raised roughly $3 million of a $5 million goal for the tuition promise. The program allows communities to capture a portion of property taxes to be used to provide at least two years of free tuition at state schools.

**A Fast-Growing New Jersey College Builds a Town to Go With It**  
www.Philly.com

Usually, the developments referred to as "Instant Urbanism" pop up on the fringes of metropolitan areas, most often near some freeway interchange that wound up sprouting an edge city. These
developments, like those now taking shape in King of Prussia, are designed to inject the things young Millennials and their aging Baby Boomer parents both find increasingly desirable into the auto-centric suburban landscape: streets lined with stores, apartments over those stores, sidewalks made for strolling, outdoor cafés, you get the idea. In the sleepy South Jersey borough of Glassboro, a chunk of Instant Urbanism has sprung full-blown from what had been a residential neighborhood right smack in the center of town, well away from any freeway. It’s called Rowan Boulevard, and the reason it’s there is to keep the university at the edge of town from swallowing it whole.

**My Administration Made NJ Better**

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

Governor Christie writes about his legacy - with no mention of higher education. New Jersey’s unemployment rate is down by more than half since 2012, from 9.8% to 4.7%. We restored the state’s private sector to health, with 318,000 new jobs created since 2010. More Garden State residents are currently employed than at any other time in New Jersey’s history. My administration has made progress in other areas as well. We doubled the number of charter-school seats and passed tenure reforms allowing principals to fire ineffective teachers. Our criminal-justice reforms have reduced the prison population in New Jersey and enabled the closing of two state prisons. Finally, we stopped all kinds of bad ideas coming out of the Democratic legislature, vetoing a record 584 bills so far, without a single override. Of course, my administration couldn’t fix all the problems we inherited.

**National Higher Education News**

**The State of Retention and Completion in Higher Education in United States is Not Pretty**

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

The United States has one of the highest college dropout rates in the industrial world according to an Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) 2014 report. Administrators are acutely aware that it’s not enough to just get students into college. Once they have enrolled, how and why they depart matters just as equally. But data suggests the situation is improving slowly.

Overall, U.S. full-time student retention is 74.4% for full-time students. At 81.6%, four-year private not-for-profit colleges had the highest retention of all education sectors.
Higher Ed Groups Criticize House GOP’s Financial Aid Bill

With their attention occupied by tax reform last year, the higher education lobby had a muted response to the GOP’s first crack at overhauling the student aid system and how it keeps college accountable.

That’s begun to change over the last month as major higher ed associations have issued forceful criticisms of the PROSPER Act, as Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives have labeled their update to the Higher Education Act, while also alerting member institutions about perceived serious problems with the bill.

The timing may seem odd, with the groups only becoming engaged on the bill about a month after it advanced out of committee. But over the last few weeks, major lobby groups have had their first chance to seriously examine the legislation, which overhauls the system of federal student loans and grants and curtails benefits for graduate students in particular. The nearly 600-page bill would also scale back accountability measures introduced by the Obama administration while opening up Pell Grants to more sort-term programs. The full implications of a new loan repayment benchmark for colleges, as well as a graduation-rate requirement for minority institutions that receive targeted funds, are unclear.

State Appropriations to Higher Ed on Average Nationwide Grew Just 1.6 Percent for FY 2017-2018

According to data set to be released Monday on the bigger picture around state funding in higher education, nationwide, appropriations increased by 1.6% this fiscal year - a number which falls short of the 2.1% inflation rate, and represents the lowest annual growth rate in five years.

Most of the meager uptick was thanks to increases in California, Florida and Georgia, which buoyed the rest of the country with 24 percent, 23 percent and 10 percent of the national gains, respectively.
More states (19) decreased higher education appropriations that increased (18), and several remained flat.

Many higher ed advocates are worried about the impact that the federal tax bill will have on state appropriations in 2018 and beyond, fearing tax cuts at the federal level will trickle down and increase mandatory spending obligations at the state level. Additionally, changes to the state and local tax deductions will put an additional revenue squeeze on local jurisdictions where legislators don’t want to be seen as raising taxes after cuts to the federal tax rate. In Missouri, for example, American Association of State Colleges and Universities director of state relations and policy analysis Tom Harnisch told an audience of higher education government relations officials that "71% of revenue ... is generated through the income tax, but with changes to federal tax deduction, there could be as high as $700M loss in there, or other projections as high as $1 billion." As he pointed out, "Now they could always change at the state level .... But you'll have some governors who will say 'hey, my citizens just got a huge tax cut, and I'm not going to raise taxes. We're just going to have to make cuts.'"

Big Wins for Public Institutions in Fundraising Game
www.EducationDive.com

Eight of 19 charitable donations of $100 million or more went to public institutions in 2017, including the Helen Diller Foundation's $500 million gift to the University of California at San Francisco - the largest gift in the UC system's history, reports The Chronicle of Philanthropy. Public institutions this year have projected 3.9 percent growth in fund raising, while private college and universities may only see a .8 percent gain, according to a survey of education administrators by Council for Advancement and Support of Education. The rise in gifts to public schools could be explained by donors wanting to give their money to help those institutions with access and social mobility missions, according to The Chronicle, citing an expert. Other reasons include greater investment in appealing to wealthy donors, having more alumni to reach out to, and promoting the need for fund raising beyond just "keeping the lights on."

Former NJ Governor Whitman to Chair National Task Force to Fix U.S. Democracy
www.NJSpotlight.com

Former New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman, a vocal critic of Donald Trump and his administration, is doing more than just speaking out against him. She is co-chairing a national task force whose mission is to fix American democracy. The National Task Force on Rule of Law and Democracy, spearheaded by the Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University School of Law, launched on Monday with the goal of developing "implementable solutions to restore trust in government," according to its website. The nonpartisan task force is being headed by Whitman and Preet Bharara, the former U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York who was controversially fired from his post when he refused Attorney General Jeff Sessions’ request to resign.

Testimony of Anthony Carnevale, U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions - Reauthorizing the Higher Education Act: Accountability and Risk to Taxpayers
www.Georgetown.edu

Anthony Carnevale, research professor and director of the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, a position he held since he founded the center in 2008, testified before the United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions at the "Reauthorizing the Higher Education Act: Accountability and Risk to Taxpayers” hearing.

His testimony focused on the critical importance of transparency surrounding the Return on Investment (ROI) of college programs. The old rules of thumb - go to college, graduate,
and get a job - are no longer enough to navigate today's world. Today, 65% of all jobs require at least some postsecondary education. With the growing need for more education comes the increased need for transparency and accountability for higher education institutions and their programs. The variety of postsecondary credentials - including degrees, certificates, and certifications - has multiplied rapidly in recent years. If students are investing more to go to college, they need to have the answers to basic questions about the value of postsecondary education programs. Read his full testimony.

**How Leaders Can Effectively Manage Controversy While Protecting Free Speech**
www.EducationDive.com

The challenge in these cases (of insensitive and incendiary expressions of free speech) as a leader, Dr. Lawrence said, is trying to find that sweet spot at the intersection of upholding the First Amendment rights of campus members, maintaining an environment of inclusiveness, and establishing standards that proactively manage controversy before the potential for escalation - a feat that she said isn't easy.

www.Chronicle.com

The biggest concern for state higher-education policy in 2018 isn't the continuing economic volatility, the questions about affordability for students, the disputes about free speech on campuses, or the difficulties in preventing and punishing campus sexual assaults.

Instead, the top issue for states is the uncertainty created by the federal government, according to an annual report from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

Policy changes enacted by lawmakers in Washington last year will continue to influence state policy in 2018, the report said, "and new proposals expected to be under consideration in Congress will only add to ambiguity and political division in statehouses." The annual list was written by Thomas Harnisch, the association's director of state relations and policy analysis, and Dylan Opalich, the assistant director.

The big question mark for states will be the impact of the recently enacted overhaul of federal taxes, which could also change the amount of revenue that many states collect, the association said. Another recent report, from the National Association of State Budget Officers, lays out some of the complexities and possible outcomes for states as a result of the new tax law.

In addition, Congress is set to consider a major overhaul of the nation's primary law governing higher education, and colleges have big concerns about President Trump's decision to end the protected status for people who were brought into the United States illegally as children - the program called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

**New York Governor Signs BSN in 10 Into Law for Nurses**
www.Nurse.com

New York's Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed into law a requirement that nurses earn a BSN within 10 years of initial licensure. The new law has many implications for RNs in NY, as well as across the country. The Institute of Medicine's Future Nursing Report calls for 80 percent of RNs to hold bachelor's degrees by 2020, noting the need for higher education in RNs to take care of the higher complexity patients in our healthcare system.

**How the GOP Tax Plan Can Affect Higher Education**
www.EducationDive.com
Higher ed leaders are watching closely to see how impacts to itemized deductions will impact charitable giving, and many are concerned a number of changes would decrease state appropriations while increasing the tax burden for the industry’s largest institutions. While tuition waivers are saved from taxable income and the committee agreed to preserve the ability to deduct student loan interest, there are still a number of provisions that will impact institutions if this bill is passed.

**West Virginia Plans for Free Community College**
www.InsideHigherEd.com

The West Virginia Legislature is considering a free community college policy that would require recipients of the tuition-free scholarship to remain in the state for two years after graduation, according to the *Charleston Gazzette-Mail*.

The WV Invests Grants would require students to enroll in at least six credit hours and pay for and pass a drug test prior to each new semester. Students would also have to maintain a 2.0 grade point average in order to renew the grant prior to earning a degree. The grant would also require students to repay the state, either wholly or partly, including interest, if they choose to reside outside West Virginia within two years of obtaining a degree or certificate. The residency requirement would exclude graduates serving in the military or pursuing full-time studies at another institution.

Advocates for free community college have been critical of work and residency requirements in tuition-free plans, which evolve into a loan if students fail to complete those requirements.

www.AASCU.org

This paper provides a review of higher education policy issues that legislators and governors are mostly likely to discuss this year. This 11th annual assessment of state higher education policy issues includes a mix of new issues - such as federal policy change and longstanding policy debates, such as budgets, guns on campus, performance funding and immigration. Newspaper articles, economic forecasts, gubernatorial addresses, and the 2017 state legislative sessions informed this analysis.

**Statement on DACA from AASCU**
www.AASCU.org

Due to a federal court order, USCIS has resumed accepting requests to renew a grant of deferred action under DACA. Until further notice, and unless otherwise provided in this guidance, the DACA policy will be operated on the terms in place before it was rescinded on September 5, 2017.

Individuals who were previously granted deferred action under DACA may request renewal by filling Form I-821D (PDF), Form I-765 (PDF), and Form I-765 Worksheet (PDF), with the appropriate fee or approved fee exemption request, at the USCISA designated filing location, and in accordance with the instructions to the Form I-821D (PDF) and Form I-765 (PDF). USCIS is not accepting requests from individuals who have never been granted deferred action under DACA. USCIS will not accept or approve advance parole requests from DACA recipients.

If you previously received DACA and your DACA expired on or after September 5, 2016, you may still file your DACA request as a renewal request. Please list the date your prior DACA ended in the appropriate box on Part 1 of the Form I-821D. If you previously received DACA and your DACA expired before September 5, 2016, or your DACA was previously terminated at any time, you cannot request DACA as a renewal (because renewal requests typically must be submitted within one year of the expiration date of your last period of deferred action approved under DACA), but may nonetheless file a new initial DACA request in accordance with the Form I-821D and Form I-765 instructions. To assist USCIS with reviewing your DACA request for acceptance, if you are filing a new...
initial DACA request because your DACA expired before September 5, 2016, or because it was terminated at any time, please list the date your prior DACA expired or was terminated on Part 1 of the Form I-821D, if available.

Deferred action is a discretionary determination to defer a removal action of an individual as an act of prosecutorial discretion. Further, deferred action under DACA does not confer legal status upon an individual and may be terminated at any time, with or without a Notice of Intent to Terminate, at DHS’s discretion. DACA requests will be adjudicated under the guidelines set forth in the June 15, 2012 DACA memo (PDF).

Additional information will be forthcoming.

**Republican Tax Plan Hurts Colleges in Blue States Most**

Call it the liberal (arts) penalty.

This year's tax overhaul slapped a 1.4 percent levy on the annual investment income of the wealthiest private university endowments. Republicans targeted the measure so narrowly that it ended up as a tax almost entirely on elite blue-state institutions.

Twenty-two of the 28 colleges that are likely to be subject to the tax reside in Democratic Congressional districts, and those schools could pay 90 percent of the $200 million a year the government expects to collect.

**Wither Humanities Jobs**
[www.InsideHigherEd.com](http://www.InsideHigherEd.com)

Job ads published with the Modern Language Association declined for a fifth straight year in 2016-2017, reaching another new low, according to a preliminary report from the MLA.

The association’s *Job Information List* - a proxy for the tenure-track (or otherwise full-time) job market in English and foreign languages - included 851 jobs last year in English, 11 percent (102 jobs) fewer than the year before. The foreign language edition list included 808 jobs, or 12 percent (110 jobs) fewer than the year before.

The declines of the past five years bring the number of total jobs advertised to another new low, according to MLA, below the dip seen between 2007-2008 and 2009-2010.

**Is Betsy DeVos Devaluing Four-Year College Degrees?**
[www.InsideHigherEd.com](http://www.InsideHigherEd.com)

But Education Secretary Betsy DeVos this month provided as a clear a sense as observers have yet seen of her vision for her department’s role in, and agenda for, postsecondary education, with a set of comments signaling a shift in emphasis from education to training. In two separate forums this month, she said students have for years received a message that “the only path for a successful life” is through a four-year degree. But the increasing diversity of the student population - and the relatively small proportion of students enrolled full-time at four-year institutions - points to the need for greater attention to alternatives involving skills training, she said.

**State College/University Alumni Profiles**

Each month NJASCU features an Alumni Profile ([http://www.njascu.org/alumni-profiles.html](http://www.njascu.org/alumni-profiles.html)).
Bonnie Watson Coleman, Thomas Edison State University, Class of 1985
Civility in Government & Politics Award

A Stockton University Hughes Center program on Thursday, November 9, 2017, highlighted the extraordinary civility and integrity of the program’s honorees and the need to restore these qualities in government today. TESU alumna Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman received this Civility in Government and Politics Award. She is pictured with former vice president Joe Biden, who gave the keynote address for the event.

Retired Major General Maria Falca-Dodson, The College of New Jersey, Class of 1975

Retired Major General Maria Falca-Dodson, New Jersey Air National Guard, in the course of three decades in the military, has "soared," reached "new heights" and "lifted" others to new heights, according to various media accounts. No matter how others say it, with or without the puns, Major General Falca-Dodson, an alumna of The College of New Jersey credits her nursing education at TCNJ (then Trenton State College) with providing the fuel that enabled her life to take off.

New Jersey State Senator Troy Singleton, Rowan University, Class of 2005

New Jersey Senator Troy Singleton (D-District 7), who last year was known as New Jersey Assemblyman Troy Singleton (D-District 7), identifies himself as a progressive who believes in getting the most out of every dollar spent. Getting the most bang for the buck was a principle instilled in him, not only by his family, but also by his college education.

He is one of the few people in New Jersey who with one bachelor’s degree could have been awarded three bachelor degree certificates - one from Glassboro State College, one from Rowan College and one from Rowan University. When he started college in 1992, the college was Glassboro State College, which then became Rowan College, which shortly afterwards became Rowan University.

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