



December 2016 - January 10, 2017

Dear Colleagues/Friends:

Happy New Year, and welcome to the latest edition of 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 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 Profiles are:

Dr. Kenneth Lacovara, Class of '84, Rowan University





News and Notes

Background to Christie State of State: High Unemployment, Property Taxes

www.NJSpotlight.com

January 9, 2017

After seven full years with Christie in office, New Jersey property taxes remain the most expensive in the nation while rebates have been reduced. That state's unemployment rate remains higher than the national average, and the public-employee pension system is also still in big trouble despite Christie's one-time reform efforts. The Christie administration has become the latest in Trenton to be tarnished by scandal.

A Promising Proposal for Free Tuition

www.NYTimes.com

January 5, 2017

Gov. Andrew Cuomo raised an exciting possibility on Tuesday when he unveiled a proposal that would cover tuition at public universities and colleges in New York State for families earning up to \$125,000 by 2019. The plan, which requires legislative approval, recognizes that middle-income families that might not be eligible for student aid based on current measures of need are grappling with student debt, too. But public higher education officials who favor the idea in principle are worried that the Cuomo administration might be lowballing the cost to sell the program.

The Year NJ Colleges Upped the Competition

www.Philly.com

January 4, 2017

A new business school under construction at Rowan University in 2015. Stockton University's first, failed plan for an Atlantic City campus at the Showboat site was driven by a desire to get ahead of Rowan.

A storm was brewing last January. As a massive blizzard barreled toward New Jersey, college

administrators were preparing for a vote that would pit two-year against four-year schools: Should two community colleges be allowed to confer nursing bachelor's degrees?

Some saw the proposal as narrow and relatively harmless: Just one degree, just two colleges.

Others called it an attack on the very nature of higher education in New Jersey.

"It's going to open up a whole unnecessary debate that in my opinion is going to ultimately undermine the integrity of higher education as we define it in this country," the president of Rowan University said in the days leading up to the vote.

The four-year college presidents narrowly won a "no" vote, though the final decision on the nursing bachelor's was left to the state. The debate exposed a rift between four-year and community colleges. In the months following, colleges began to compete more openly and aggressively.

Ramapo College, Working With Employers, Adds Master of Science in Accounting Program

News from the Campuses

January 3, 2017

Ramapo College of New Jersey's Anisfeld School of Business has added a Master of Science in Accounting Program to the College's graduate degree offerings. Applications are being accepted for the Fall 2017 program.

Sizing Up the 17 Possible Candidates Running for NJ Governor in 2017

www.NJ.com

January 3, 2017

Check out the names of some familiar and not so familiar potential candidates for governor in an intense election year for New Jersey in which all legislative seats - 80 members of the Assembly and 40 members of the Senate - are also up for grabs.

Stockton University and Atlantic Cape Community College Are Hospitality Partners Focused on Culinary Arts and Tourism

News from Campuses

December 21, 2016

Stockton University and Atlantic Cape Community College signed an agreement for a partnership in Hospitality Studies designed to benefit students of both institutions as well as the residents of Atlantic City.

The College of New Jersey and Ramapo Are Among the 'Best Value' Colleges in NJ

NJ.com

December 20, 2016

Kiplinger, a personal finance magazine, **released its annual rankings on the nation's "best value" colleges**. The 300 schools were selected from a pool of 1,200 colleges based on both their academic quality and their affordability. The New Jersey colleges that made the list of the top 300 "best value" schools in the nation were: Princeton University (3rd in the nation); The College of New Jersey (113th); Ramapo College (184th); Rutgers University-New Brunswick (148th); and Steven's Institute of Technology (194th).

Leading Democratic Lawmakers Derail Fast-Track Bills Favored by Christie

NJSpotlight.com

December 20, 2016

The governor's failed to get his book deal, and newspapers will still earn revenue from publishing official legal notices (for now). Governor Chris Christie was handed one major defeat and at least a partial setback when Democratic legislative leaders, on the final day of the 2016 legislative calendar, balked at relaxing ethics rules so the governor could profit from a book-publishing deal. They also put on hold a bill seeking to reverse a transparency law that was expected to hurt the bottom line of New Jersey newspapers.

Stockton University Graduates Nearly 600 at its Fall Baccalaureate Commencement

Stockton University
December 19, 2016

Stockton University is a family - one that gives its members a lot of support and expects them to do their best. This theme was repeated throughout the Fall Baccalaureate Commencement as nearly 600 graduates celebrated their achievements along with families, friends, university officials, faculty and staff.

Sonia Gonsalves, director of Academic Assessment and professor of Psychology, gave the keynote address in the Sports Center in Galloway at what is expected to be the university's final December Commencement.

"We're living in a time of rapid, unprecedented and unpredictable change," said Dr. Gonsalves. "When I attended my first Stockton commencement 25 years ago, human beings didn't tweet and 'Google' wasn't a verb."

Will NJ's Undocumented Students Be Punished for Following the Rules?

NJSpotlight.com
December 18, 2016

In 2013 New Jersey allowed undocumented students to qualify for in-state tuition, and a new federal deferred action program was put in place. A presidential executive order deferred legal action against undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children or young teens. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) allows undocumented immigrants who were between 16 and 30 in 2012, and who entered the United States before their 16th birthday, to apply for work authorization and a two-year delay of potential deportation by federal Department of Homeland Security. The program allows DACA recipients to apply for renewal after the two-year protection expires. They signed up for a program that deferred deportation - one that President-elect Trump wants to dismantle. Will the government use their personal data to track them down?

Highly Regarded Registered Nurse EJ Darling, RN, BSN, MBA, will be Presented in the Worldwide Leaders in Healthcare

PRNewsChannel.com
December 16, 2016

The International Nurses Association is pleased to welcome EJ Darling, RN, BSN (from Thomas Edison State University), MBA, to their prestigious organization with her upcoming publication in the Worldwide Leaders in Healthcare. EJ Darling is a Registered Nurse and Director of Home Health Care for Redlands Community Hospital, Redlands, CA. With over 50 years of experience and an extensive expertise in all facets of nursing, she is a specialist in Home Health and Hospice nursing and an expert in nurse leadership.

Kean University Students Volunteer in Union County's Warinanco Park

Patch.com
December 16, 2016

A large group of student volunteers from the Kean University Center for Leadership and Service braved the cold last weekend to work on a stream habitat in Union County's Warinanco Park.

NJCU Partners with Jersey City for Arts Advisory Board

NJ.com
December 15, 2016

A new partnership with New Jersey City University and the City of Jersey City will bring art workshops and series to the area over the next year.

The newly-formed Arts Advisory Board is aimed at having a "greater impact on cultural vitality in Jersey City," NJCU announced in a statement.

Rowan Plans to Demolish, then Build

CourierPostOnline.com
December 15, 2016

Rowan University has taken a first step toward construction of a new academic building. Trustees of the Glassboro school voted Wednesday to spend up to \$5 million for planning of the new building on the main campus.

DHGate.com CEO Names Wenzhou-Kean University Primary APEC CBET Network Academic Partner

ITBusinessNet.com

December 14, 2016

Dean of the business school at Wenzhou-Kean University, Dr. Cao Jiang, heads initiative to develop a learning platform for e-commerce knowledge.

Kean University Students Collaborate with PR Firm to Aid Trinitas Hospital

NJ.com

December 13, 2016

Students from the Kean University chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) recently partnered with Hip New Jersey, a Montclair-based public relations, marketing and special events firm, on a fundraising campaign for Trinitas Regional Medical Center's new emergency department.

How Can NJ Stop Young Adults from Fleeing the State

NJ1015.com

December 12, 2016

Michele Siekerka, president of the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, in an interview (see print and hear audio) pointed out Garden State taxpayers spend on average \$19,000 per year per pupil times 13 years for a K-12 education in New Jersey and then these students leave New Jersey to go to college and never return. She cites "affordability" issues (cost of living and college-related expenses as in tuition and fees) as being the reason for the outmigration. NJASCU CEO Michael Klein has written [extensively on this topic](#) and has noted that the senior public institutions of higher education are filled with New Jersey students who are graduating with a modest amount of debt. He sees the real driver of outmigration to be capacity - lack of it - at New Jersey's public institutions. The state's dramatically declining fiscal support for these institutions thwarts the colleges and universities ability to accept more New Jersey students.

We' McDonald One Round Away from Winning 'The Voice'

NorthJersey.com

December 10, 2016

The stakes are high for Paterson phenom We' McDonald - one more stellar performance and she could walk away with fame, the title of 'The Voice' and a record deal in her pocket. McDonald, who has impressed week after week on the show under the wing of coach Alicia Keys, started as one of the thousands who auditioned to make the field of 48 contestants - she's now the youngest of the remaining four finalists, showcased McDonald, who's a freshman in the jazz program at William Paterson University from the start. Her blind audition was shown during a special preview episode of the season following the closing ceremonies of the Summer Olympics. Her cover of Nina Simone's classic "Feelin' Good" got all four judges - Alicia Keys, Miley Cyrus, Adam Levine and Blake Shelton - to turn their chairs and make a plea to coach her.

Stockton Professor Receives State Environmental Award

ShoreNewsToday.com

December 8, 2016

George Zimmerman, a professor of environmental studies at Stockton University, was recognized Wednesday, December 7 with the 2016 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award in the healthy ecosystems category. Dr. Zimmerman was the lead for Stockton's Forest Management Plan passed by the New Jersey Pinelands Commission in 2013. The plan is a model of forestland management for the state.

Food Insecurity: The Hunger Problem in Campuses

UniversityHerald.com

December 7, 2016

Aside from the overwhelming cost of college tuition, students are also facing another issue that may prove to be detrimental to their health: food insecurity. Food insecurity is the feeling of not knowing where one's next meal will come from as well as the lack of access to inexpensive, healthy food. Montclair State University's food pantry opened in April and is helping students. The pantry was created after administrators found out that some students did not have enough money for food.

Why NJ Colleges That Serve Illegal Immigrants Refuse to Call Themselves 'Sanctuary Campuses'

[New Jersey 101.5 FM Radio](#)

December 7, 2016

Members of the New Jersey Senior Public Colleges and Universities, including Kean, TCNJ, Montclair, Rowan, Thomas Edison, Ramapo, Stockton, New Jersey City University, and William Paterson [released a statement](#) similar to the one released by Rutgers that promised to protect their students - without calling themselves 'sanctuary campuses' - a designation that has no basis in law. Colleges and universities have no authority to exempt any part of their campuses from the nation's immigration laws. But the schools reaffirmed that they would require legal action to release "personally identifiable information."

Psst, South Jersey Innovators, Need Capital? Rowan Has a \$5M Venture Fund

www.PhillyVoice.com

December 7, 2016

Rowan has \$5 million set aside in its [Innovation Venture Fund](#), thanks to the largesse of engineer, inventor, businessman Henry Rowan.

Seniors Test Their Memories

NorthJersey.com

December 6, 2016

William Paterson University nursing students volunteered to help implement a memory screening event inspired by National Memory Screening Day on November 16. Home Care Options, a health and social services provider, hosted the memory screening event. Registered nurses from Home Care Options administered the screenings. Senior nursing students from William Paterson University volunteered at the event. The students were overseen by Dr. Susan Jackson from William Paterson's Department of Nursing.

The STEM Solution: NJ's Universities Deliver on Workforce Needs of Today and Tomorrow Via STEM Initiatives

www.InnovationNJ.net

December 6, 2016

The need for more and better prepared graduates in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics - collectively called STEM - has been a major focus this century. President Obama has called for 100,000 new teachers in those fields by 2022. A Business Roundtable "Change the Equation 2014 Survey on US Workforce Skills" found that employers are looking to fill 1.6 million jobs needing some level of STEM mastery within five years.

The Latest PARCC Data for the Class of 2016

NJSpotlight.com

December 5, 2016

The debate over New Jersey's high school graduation requirements flared up again this week with the release of the latest data for the Class of 2016, which showed that few students passed the state's standardized tests to meet graduation requirements.

The Christie administration's release on Friday showed that just one in 10 graduates - 9,000 students overall - met the requirements by passing the controversial PARCC tests, which in four years will be the benchmark exam to receive a high-school diploma.

According to the state's data, half the students met their graduation requirements by passing substitute tests like the SAT, which will not be part of the requirement come 2021. And 6 percent - or nearly 6,000 students - relied on a portfolio appeal, which also faces an uncertain future.

The administration in its release indicated that 96,284 students graduated overall in 2016, a slight increase from 95,149 in 2015.

Why Some Want to Take the Name off TCNJ's Stately Admissions Building

Philly.com

December 4, 2016

Everyone at TCNJ knows Loser Hall, the stately brick building with white columns where the admissions office is housed. What many didn't know was some of Paul Loser's history: As superintendent of schools for the Trenton School District from 1932 to 1955, Loser had supported segregated schools, arguing against integrating black and white middle school students. Last week, academic research into the Loser legacy in a class at TCNJ crashed headlong into the messy politics of real world activism when two students distributed hundreds of fliers urging TCNJ to change the name of the admissions building.

No immediate action will be taken. The administration has publicly welcomed the students' findings and top administrators, including the president, provost, chief diversity officer, and vice president for student affairs, are scheduling to meet with the students to discuss next steps.

SCCC President Promotes Change at Inauguration

NJHerald.com

December 2, 2016

Sussex County Community College President Jon Connolly, just over a year into the job, was lauded by dignitaries and peers at his presidential inauguration ceremony for initiating bold new changes over the past year - even as he all but promised more changes to come. While disavowing change for change's sake, President Connolly suggested the college needed to continue investing in practical programs to meet the needs of adult learners while also maintaining its traditional focus as a two-year institution for degree-seeking students.

Record-Breaking Number of Prospective Students Turn Out for William Paterson University's Fall Open House

www.wpunj.edu

December 2, 2016

Interest in William Paterson University continues to climb with a record number of prospective students - 1,025 - attending the University's Fall Open House on Sunday, November 20.

New Jersey Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen Elected Chairman of House Appropriations Committee

www.innovationnj.net

December 2, 2016

Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ-11) has been elected as incoming Chairman of the powerful U.S. House Appropriations Committee.

Record-Breaking Number of Prospective Students Turn Out for William Paterson University's Fall Open House

www.wpunj.edu

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NJ College Names Lester Holt Broadcaster of the Year

NJ.com

December 1, 2016

Montclair State University's School of Communication and Media has named Holt 2016's recipient of the Allen B. DuMont Broadcaster of the Year Award, an annual recognition it has doled out to prominent journalists every year since 1985.

Guest Column: The Importance of Institutional Researchers to Policymaking

NJASCU Executive Director Michael W. Klein, JD, PhD, contributed the following column to the



Many important issues face higher education in New Jersey, including enrollment capacity, institutional costs, and student success. It is institutional researchers who collect the data related to these issues and interpret the material for campus leaders and policymakers, helping them to make informed decisions. While institutional researchers may work behind the scenes at our colleges and universities, the implications of their efforts are front and center in policy deliberations. .

William Paterson Senior is a First Place Winner in the National Sales Challenge

at WPU

[QuickTakes!](#)

December 1, 2016

The Russ Berrie Institute for Professional Sales (RBI) at William Paterson University's Cotsakos College of Business hosted the 10th Annual National Sales Challenge, an intense series of selling competitions and workshops held at the University's campus in Wayne, N.J., from November 16 to 18, 2016.

University of Wisconsin-Parkside took top honors among professional sales teams. Victoria Reyes, a senior at William Paterson University, was the first place overall individual winner.

Ramapo College Harnesses Power of #GivingTuesday

[NorthJersey.com](#)

November 30, 2016

Ramapo College capitalized on the global charitable trend #GivingTuesday to bolster its endowment and inspire philanthropy among its student body.

Stockton Students Win Honors at National Model United Nations Event in Japan

[QuickTakes!](#)

November 30, 2016

Stockton University students representing the United Kingdom at the National Model United Nations (NMUN) program in Japan this week were named a Distinguished Delegation by a vote of their peers, while four team members received awards for outstanding position papers and two were named best delegates.

About 20 percent of the delegates to the international event, run by the non-profit National Collegiate Conference Association, receive awards each year. Delegations were judged on how well they remained in character, participated on committees and properly used procedures.

Three Plus One Equals Affordable NJ Higher Education - Opinion

[NJ.com](#)

November 27, 2016

What we need is creativity. What we need is collaboration. What we need is continued commitment to provide the best education possible - the best affordable education possible - for New Jersey college students. As the president of the four-year institution that introduced 3+1 programs to New Jersey, Dr. Ali Houshmand describes the mechanics and benefits of the collaborative and creative program that lives up to the goals outlined in the report from the NJ College Affordability Study Commission.

More Change Ahead for Camden's Broadway

[CourierPostOnline.com](#)

November 25, 2016

A university partnership, already developing a \$70 million health sciences center on a Broadway block, now is advancing plans for a \$65 million complex across the street.

College Students Fear Deportation or Loss of Rights

[www.Philly.com](#)

November 21, 2016

Philly.com reporter interviewed officials at TCNJ and Rowan, a student at Rowan, and NJASCU Executive Director Michael Klein about the anxiety being felt by undocumented students on college campuses since the election of Donald Trump.

He said it is important for colleges to assure students who are undocumented that they cannot be deported immediately and have statutory and constitutional rights. He pointed to a 2011 Immigration and Customs Enforcement policy on enforcement actions at "sensitive locations," which include schools and churches. The policy states any enforcement action at a sensitive location requires prior approval from certain officials, except in specific circumstances, including a national security or terrorism matter and cases involving an imminent risk of death or violence.

33%

www.NJSpotlight.com

November 21, 2016

Thirty-three percent represents the increase in immigrants in NJ between 2000 and 2014. The Migration Policy Institute estimates that there are nearly 2 million immigrants living in New Jersey (22 percent of the population), and that total grew [33 percent](#) since 2000.

Can Quarterly Payments Help Rescue NJ's Underfunded Pension System?

www.NJSpotlight.com

November 21, 2016

Christie gets bipartisan plan that he calls 'more fair than the previous proposals,' but it offers no constitutional guarantee enforcing payments. The measure - which legislative leaders say they are confident Gov. Chris Christie will eventually sign - would help the \$73 billion pension system by breaking up the annual state pension contribution into smaller installments that the sponsors hope will be easier for the state to afford than the lump sum that administrators typically try to make at the end of each fiscal year.

The List: Tracking NJ's 10 Credit-Rating Downgrades Under Governor Christie

www.NJSpotlight.com

November 21, 2016

When S&P Global Ratings, a major Wall Street credit-rating agency, announced it was lowering New Jersey's debt grade by one step last week, it marked the 10th downgrade announcement for the state since Gov. Chris Christie took office in early 2010.

Rutgers Confronts Its Ties to Slavery in Detailed Report

www.NJ.com

November 20, 2016

In an effort to control its historical ties to slavery and address concerns raised by students, Rutgers University has compiled research that sheds new light on its beginnings. Published in a book titled, "Scarlet and Black," the detailed report released to coincide with the university's 250th anniversary shows how intertwined slavery is with the early history of Rutgers, a common theme among America's colonial colleges.

NJCU Students Join National Protest to Create 'Sanctuary Campuses'

NJ.com

November 17, 2016

A few dozen demonstrators on November 16 called for New Jersey City University's administration to turn the campus into a sanctuary by protecting students of every race, ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation regardless of their migration status.

Op-Ed: What Can Be Done to Increase College Value and Student Success?

www.NJSpotlight.com

November 15, 2016

Dr. Darryl Greer writes how a strong partnership among government, business and labor, and universities can make college more valuable by providing students with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed.

Since 2012, the Higher Education Strategic Information and Governance Project (HESIG) at Stockton University has conducted surveys and convened forums focused on college value and outcomes. The

research strongly indicates that the single most important reason for citizens to attend college is to get knowledge and skills leading to a good job. For graduates, starting a good career is viewed as the most important college outcome. Research shows clearly that the top skills graduates and employers expect from a college education are higher-order writing, speaking, and problem-solving abilities.

These studies reinforce that colleges need to change business and educational practices, principally to provide more practical experiences tied to academic studies that help students succeed in lifelong learning and the workplace. While there is broad agreement among students, educators, and employers about skills, abilities and outcomes, there is an apparent disconnect between expectations and the means of achieving them.

S&P Global Downgrades NJ's Credit Rating Again

www.NJSpotlight.com

November 15, 2016

New Jersey's financial reputation took another hit yesterday, with S&P Global, one of the Big 3 Wall Street credit-rating agencies, announcing it has once again lowered the state's debt grade by one step.

The downgrade is another setback for Gov. Chris Christie, a Republican who has now suffered through more credit-rating reductions than any New Jersey governor - despite emphasizing fiscal reform since taking office in early 2010.

The specific issues raised by S&P - including concerns about public-employee pension funding and the potential impact of a package of new tax cuts that Christie and Democratic legislative leaders agreed to enact last month - also show that New Jersey's financial problems will remain a formidable challenge as the state gets ready to elect a new governor next year.

Officials from the state Department of Treasury yesterday reacted to the credit-rating downgrade by saying it emphasizes the need to enact new reforms to lessen the cost of funding public-employee pensions and health benefits. But several Democrats instead pinned the blame for the downgrade directly on Christie's own decision making. And Senate President Stephen Sweeney (D-Gloucester) seized on the announcement to call for support for new legislation that would require the state to begin making pension payments on a quarterly basis, something Christie has previously opposed.

Montclair State University Moving Toward Becoming a Tobacco-Free Campus

TapInto.net

November 14, 2016

Montclair State University officials have announced the receipt of a \$19,415 grant to take measures toward implementing a smoke and tobacco-free campus.

As part of the American Cancer Society and the CVS Health Foundation's Tobacco-Free Generation Campus Initiative (TFGCI), the multi-year program is intended to accelerate and expand the eventual adoption and implementation of 100 percent smoke-and-tobacco-free campus policies.

The University is among the first 20 institutions nationwide to receive the funding, and is the only grantee in New Jersey to receive part of this \$3.6 million allotment.

Op-Ed: What Trump Might Mean for Higher-Ed Finance

www.chronicle.com

November 10, 2016

Regardless of what happens, the idea of [tuition-free public college](#) is dead for the next four years. Trump did discuss federal student loans on the campaign trail ... but Trump is more likely to spend money in other areas (such as infrastructure plans or unwinding Obamacare) than bringing back guaranteed loans.

A more interesting market-based system for federal student loans would set different rates based on a student's field of study in an effort to encourage students to major in high-demand fields. (Now all students receive the same rate regardless of major.) I don't expect Congress to pass legislation setting different rates based on a student's major, but [risk-sharing legislation](#) that could require colleges to pay back a portion of unpaid loans could have a similar effect. A similar premise also underlies income-share agreements (such as the [pilot program at Purdue](#)), in which the percentage of future income students pay is based on their major. The Trump administration is likely to look favorably

upon income-share agreements as a way to hold colleges accountable through the private market.

Yet Trump has also discussed implementing a [broad income-driven repayment system](#) for students with federal loans.

As for higher-education accountability, the Trump administration appears likely to take a step back, as Trump has discussed reducing regulatory burdens as a key higher-education goal. He cited a [study from Vanderbilt University](#) finding that the university spent \$150 million on regulatory cost in a single year - even though 80 percent of this cost was related to research rather than student instruction. Colleges can expect fewer new regulations coming from the Department of Education over the next few years - and perhaps a pause to the growth in negotiated rule-making as a key policy lever.

How President Trump Will Alter New Jersey's Policies and Programs

[NJSpotlight.com](#)

November 10, 2016

The election of Donald Trump to the presidency, together with a Republican-led Congress, will impact many of the programs New Jerseyans have either come to rely on in the past or had hoped to work with in the future. To get an idea of what state leaders are considering when they look toward 2017, we asked a number of them to talk about changes we might expect next year. Healthcare, Transportation, Environment, Public K-12 Education, and the Economy are the areas of greatest potential change, but Higher Education is not explored in this article. But anti-regulatory sentiment falls into Trump's goals, so it may spill over into higher education.

Transfer Center and Veterans' Lounge Open at Ramapo

[www.RamapoNews.com](#)

November 9, 2016

Ramapo celebrated the grand opening of its brand new Transfer Center and Veterans' Lounge on Wednesday. Located in E-221, the center has been more than two years in the making. "[This] is really a great day for us, the opportunity to be opening a Transfer Center and a Veterans' Lounge, which will serve as really a central point for those two important student groups here at Ramapo College," said provost Beth Barnett.

The center is meant to be a place to offer transfer students and veteran students their own space on campus as well as offer them academic and technological resources.

"Today really is an exciting day for the college, one that comes after many discussions with student leaders about how we might continue to facilitate and foster their success here on your campus," said Chris Romano, vice president of enrollment and student affairs.

Ramapo welcomes 900 transfer students each year. The opening of the center is one of the many ways the college invites them to be part of the community along with the arching ceremony, welcome week and the Transfer Connections program.

Ballot Questions: Voters Reject Casinos Outside AC, Approve Fuel-Tax Dedication

[NJSpotlight.com](#)

November 9, 2016

New Jersey voters yesterday resoundingly rejected a ballot question seeking to end Atlantic City's longstanding monopoly on casino gambling in the state. They also appeared to narrowly approve a question seeking to protect state fuel-tax revenue from being spent on anything other than transportation projects.

[Public opinion polls](#) had foreshadowed the likely failure of the casino expansion question, and with nearly 100 percent of the votes counted as of early this morning, more than 2.2 million votes were cast against the proposal compared to just 643,000 in favor of it.

The result means those who want to see legalized gambling in north Jersey will now have to wait at least two years before they can try again to convince voters the state needs new casinos to recapture revenue being lost to those in neighboring states like New York and Pennsylvania. The ballot question's failure also served as a big win for Atlantic City, where leaders in the struggling seaside resort feared permitting new casinos to open in north Jersey could deliver a final, fatal blow to the

local economy.

Students Can Earn an Associate Degree Through Reverse Transfer at ACCC

CapeMayCountyHerald.com

November 8, 2016

As a strategy to encourage student graduation, Atlantic Cape Community College offers a "reverse transfer" option in its Dual Degree Program with Stockton University. While most students in this program earn their associate degree, then seamlessly transfer to Stockton as juniors; some students transfer before earning their associate degree, and others do not earn enough credits to graduate from Stockton with a bachelor's degree.

Trump University? NJ Colleges Embrace Election-Themed Classes

NJ.com

November 8, 2016

Every four years since 1996, The College of New Jersey professor David Blake has taught an elective literature course called "The Art of Politics."

Blake asks his students to consume political-based books and movies to discuss in the context of current events. This year, more than most, parallels between art and reality are overflowing, he said. In one class, students discussed the 1992 film "Bob Roberts," in which a celebrity turned rebel conservative runs for office. In another, they dissected the novel "The Plot Against America," a book that predicts what would have happened if political outsider Charles Lindbergh won the 1940 presidential election.

"This year has been interesting because we are kind of searching for vocabulary to grapple with what we are seeing," Blake said. "There have been certain texts that I frequently teach that this year take on a new resonance."

Professor David Blake teaches a literature course at The College of New Jersey called "The Art of Politics." (Courtesy of Sarah Ratner, The College of New Jersey)

As Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton campaign for the presidency in a race sure to rewrite American history books, colleges in New Jersey and across the country are tapping into the 2016 election to teach courses in music, literature, journalism, history, and, of course, politics.

At Rider University, there's "The Making of a President 2016," a communications course that analyzes how the candidates disseminate their message to voters.

Princeton University offers a course on politics and the media that asks students to analyze print, television, and online reporting on the campaigns.

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,

Pamela Hersh

Director, Communications & Marketing

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