



NEW JERSEY

# Association of State Colleges and Universities

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## NJASCU Response to the Governor's Budget Address

March 19, 2018

### NJASCU's Response to FY 2019 Budget Proposal

- First and foremost, we very much look forward to working with the Governor and his new administration, and we remain hopeful that, together, we will address the difficult issues and build a higher education infrastructure in this state that assures opportunity and prosperity for its citizens.
- Regarding the specifics of the Governor's budget proposal, we are disappointed that the tens of thousands of students attending the state's senior public colleges and universities were entirely left out of the plan and that the urgent issues related to state operating support for these institutions remained, yet again, unaddressed. There was also no reference to addressing the all-important capital needs of the institutions.
- We believe the key to achieving that mission of providing affordable, accessible, and high-quality education is a student-centric approach by having the financial aid follow the student irrespective of where he or she chooses to attend college. Therefore, we also were disappointed that there was no recognition given to the very urgent need to reform the TAG program if we are really going to address the issue of college affordability in New Jersey.
- We were pleased to see at least a modest increase for the EOF program, which has been a very important and successful program for students with exceptionally challenging socio-economic circumstances and a wonderful example of a student-centric approach to higher education support.
- In the budget address, Governor Murphy kept referring to the \$50 million in support for community colleges as the first step towards achieving free community college. We are concerned about the Free Tuition program for community colleges primarily because, as presented, it is not embedded within an overall plan for public higher education in the state.

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