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QuickTakes!

Montclair State University and The College of New Jersey Partner in the James P. Fox Memorial Fund Mentoring Initiative

The James P. Fox Memorial Fund Launches Two Initiatives to Cultivate Public Sector Careers

February 1, 2018



The James 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.”

The Jamie Fox Scholars Program at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) was launched in January. Five TCNJ students have been named Jamie Fox Scholars. Each will receive one-on-one mentoring and field-based training and participate in a half-day symposium at TCNJ that will feature public sector leaders, keynote address, panel discussion, roundtables, and a networking reception.

The Jamie Fox Forum on Public Service at Montclair State University, to start in the Fall of 2018, will give 25 students from colleges and universities throughout New Jersey access to training with public sector professionals. Those selected through a competitive process will be called Fox Fellows, assigned a mentor, and work with the mentor throughout the year. Other components include an annual forum, called The Fox Forum, hosted by Montclair

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Kean University
Montclair State University*

*New Jersey City University
Ramapo College of New Jersey
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State. The forum will consist of a panel presentation, workshops, and a networking reception. Fox Fellows will also gather as a group several times a year and participate in a webinar, called "Preparing for a Career in Government Service."

"We are beyond excited and grateful to these two institutions for working with us in developing these dynamic programs, which honor Jamie's wish to fund educational opportunities for students, particularly in government and other public-sector professions," says Tom Fox, Jamie's brother and fund trustee. "Jamie deeply believed in the higher purpose of government service and in delivering results to the people of New Jersey. These two programs give students concrete ways to explore how they too can make a difference through public service."

"Jamie was an extremely talented public servant whose loyalty, honesty, and respect for others earned the admiration of both parties," said TCNJ President R. Barbara Gitenstein. "As a tribute to his lifelong commitment to public service, we have created this program to promote a similar commitment among generations of students who will pursue careers dedicated to the public good."

"Jamie's long-standing commitment to the State of New Jersey and his remarkable ability to create bi-partisan alliances for the good of the public sets a powerful example for students interested in government service," said Montclair State University President Susan A. Cole. "Having worked with him for many years to increase support for, and expand access to, public higher education, I am delighted to honor his legacy. We are confident that this program will engage and inspire talented students to become the next warm-hearted and kind human being, and I am sure he would be really pleased to know there were Fox Fellow Scholars out there in the world."

Donations to The James P. Fox Memorial Fund, Inc. can be sent to River Crossing Strategy Group, 128 West State Street, Trenton NJ 08608. The fund is a 501c3 nonprofit and donations are deductible to the extent permitted by law.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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About Jamie Fox

James Patrick Fox, a loyal son of New Jersey, passed away on Monday, February 20, 2017, at age 62. Jamie, as he was known since childhood, was born in Elizabeth, NJ, on October 30, 1954.

Jamie's entire life was spent in the public sector, and he was surely one of the giants of NJ politics. In 40 years of service, he twice served as the Commissioner of Transportation, once under Democratic Governor Jim McGreevey and then under Republican Governor Chris Christie. Earlier Jamie was the Chief of Staff or advisor to four NJ Governors: McGreevey, Florio, Cody, and Corzine. In addition, he was Chief of Staff to Senator Robert Torricelli, as well as a former Director of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

In 2008, Jamie spearheaded the successful Florida presidential campaign for Barack Obama. Jamie was involved in many important NJ public policy achievements of the past 30 years, including NJ's assault weapons ban, restrictions on ocean dumping, the preservation of the Highlands, overhaul of the EZ pass system and the NJ Division of Motor Vehicles, and the consolidation of the Turnpike and Parkway. Because of his life's work, NJ is a better place.

Jamie will also be remembered as a man of integrity who lived by his word, subscribed to an old school code of respect and loyalty, and who made an everlasting imprint on others. Few citizens of NJ have been as widely admired across both sides of the political spectrum. Giving generously of his time, Jamie informed a new generation of political strategists and leaders, sharing with them his insights, counsel, and stories – and building through them a lasting legacy. In the last decade, Jamie and his long-time friend, Eric Shuffler, shared a business, River Crossing Strategy Group.

He was a graduate of Saint Patrick High School and a proud graduate of Villanova University.