

INDEPENDENT  
COLLEGE FUND  
OF NEW JERSEY

[www.njcolleges.org](http://www.njcolleges.org)



# Imagine the Possibilities

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



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#### **ICFNJ Mission**

The Independent College Fund empowers deserving students to realize their goals by strengthening New Jersey's independent colleges and universities with support for strategic investments in programs, scholarships and education. The Independent College Fund of New Jersey partners with the corporate and philanthropic communities to support its 14 member institutions.





## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



As I write this letter in late May, we are in the midst of an extraordinary time in New Jersey, the nation and the world. For many, it has been a time of sadness and sacrifice. Students learned they would not be returning to their campuses for the remainder of the spring semester. Graduating students and their families learned that May commencements would be postponed or held virtually. COVID-19 has impacted us all and I'd like to express my deepest condolences to everyone who has experienced the loss of loved ones during this difficult time.

For 66 years, the Independent College Fund of New Jersey has been fostering synergies among our member institutions and the diverse businesses that span our state. We understand the importance of developing an educated citizenry, which leads to a strong workforce and a vibrant economy. At the core of our mission, the Independent College Fund wants all of our students to **imagine the possibilities** as college graduates. Therein lies the theme for this year's Annual Report.

With these students in mind, the Independent College Fund implemented a new strategic plan in 2019, launching two new programs. The Corporate Affiliates Program was born out of an exciting luncheon event at Bell Works in Holmdel. College presidents and business leaders spent time finding the common ground in promoting tomorrow's leaders. The Mentorship Program was brought to life with support from Novartis. This exciting initiative offered new possibilities for scholarship recipients to gain insight into industry, the corporate environment and career options. Employee/mentors fostered their professional growth by expanding their communication skills and promoting internal relationships. Thank you, Novartis, for supporting this initiative.

For the 2019-20 academic year, the Fund administered 139 awards providing \$457,000 in financial support from donors. On the pages that follow, you will meet some of the students who have benefited from the generosity of our partners. They are each inspiring and all are well on their way to achieving their possibilities.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to my Board of Trustee colleagues for all that they have done this past year to help our students. I'd also like to offer a heartfelt thanks to all of our corporate partners for their ongoing generous support of our students.

During this extraordinary time, our students are in even more need than ever. The Board of Trustees remains dedicated to supporting our member colleges and universities and will continue to look for new and innovative ways to bring together corporate partners for mutual benefit. We are all in this together. We are resilient. And I am hopeful that together, we will bring even greater possibilities to our students in the future.

Stay safe.

Sharon Landgraf  
Chair  
Board of Trustees

# Imagine the Possibilities

**At the Independent College Fund of New Jersey, we dare to dream big. One question drives our work: Imagine if every student had the opportunity to reach their full academic potential?**

**In New Jersey, more than 64,000 students are doing just that at the state's 14 independent colleges and universities. They are bright visionaries who will one day lead, in New Jersey and beyond.**

**Every single gift to ICFNJ ripples across our 14 member campuses, building a stronger future for thousands of students and our nation.**



## ICFNJ PROFILE

### History

The Independent College Fund of New Jersey (ICFNJ) was founded in 1953 as a cooperative effort involving business and academic leaders of New Jersey in order to broaden financial support for and increase awareness of the value independent higher education brings to the state.

### Annual Campaign

The Independent College Fund of New Jersey conducts an annual fundraising campaign, which runs from January 1 to December 31, to provide a channel for the business and foundation communities to invest in New Jersey's private colleges and universities and their students. ICFNJ offers four investment options: unrestricted giving, scholarships, special projects and designated gifts.

### Membership

Membership comprises 14 regionally accredited, independent, nonprofit, four-year degree granting colleges and universities in the State of New Jersey.

### Distribution of Funds

Since its first allocation in 1954, ICFNJ has raised and distributed close to \$76 million in support of its member institutions. Undesignated contributions to ICFNJ are used to supplement the operating budgets of the member institutions and are distributed using a formula established by the member institutions: unrestricted money is distributed 60 percent equally and 40 percent by enrollment. A donor can also designate a gift specifically to one or a combination of members, though it is the unrestricted gift which benefits the entire independent educational community.

### National Affiliation

ICFNJ is affiliated with the Council of Independent Colleges ([www.cic.edu](http://www.cic.edu)). The national partner is a network of 27 state and regional councils whose aim is to broaden corporate and philanthropic support of independent higher education.

### Tax Status

ICFNJ is a tax-exempt, nonprofit New Jersey corporation and has been ruled "not a private foundation" by the Internal Revenue Service. It is a 501(c)(3) organization and all gifts to it may be tax deductible under present federal law.

# Imagine the Impact

ICFNJ is renewing its commitment to student success with a new **Development Committee** to:

**Reignite** our donor base

**Recruit** new donors

**Renew** our support for talented students

## 2019 Fast Facts

**\$457,000**

in scholarships awarded

**6 million**

gross impressions generated by ICFNJ's branding campaign on NJTV

**21**

donors increased giving

**16**

new donors supported our mission





[www.njcolleges.org](http://www.njcolleges.org)



# Imagine the Future

## Scholarships from ICFNJ's corporate sponsors are helping to shape the future of our world. Meet three scholarship recipients who are already making a difference.



### **"Suitcase Full of Passion"**

**Christabel Osei-Du '21**

Caldwell University

Partners for Health Edward A. Smith Memorial Nursing Scholarship 2019-20

Novo Nordisk Scholarship 2018-19

"My dream to become a nurse was born in Effiduase, the village in Ghana where I grew up. There were no clinics and hospitals nearby. Whenever someone got sick, the immediate solution was to resort to traditional home remedies. People could not afford to travel long distances on the bad roads to the city for treatment unless in emergency situations.

"I had a neighbor who died in childbirth with her unborn baby. It was at night when she went into labor, and without transportation to travel to the city hospital to give birth, she had to give birth at home, just like many other women in the village. She lost a lot of blood and the traditional midwives could not save her. As young as I was, I wished there was something I could do to help. Two years later, I got malaria. Efforts to use home treatments were futile and I was rushed to the city hospital. During the very long drive, I lost consciousness and went into a coma for many months. I almost lost my life. I am very fortunate that I had the chance to get to a hospital and have trained nurses assist in my healthcare.

"My passion to become a nurse fueled my relentlessness to build academic discipline and endurance. The women in my

family didn't have the support to attend college—or even high school. From my village, no girl ever had the opportunity to study abroad. Amidst these odds, I had the courage to keep pushing. I got accepted into one of the best high schools in Ghana, after which I ventured to come to the US to study. I wanted a better education and the chance to achieve my dream. Now, in Caldwell University's Health Science and Nursing Program, I am preparing to become a stellar nurse through outstanding classes and research opportunities.

"I came to the U.S. with my suitcase full of passion, momentum and a dream to become a nurse; now I am so close. I am thankful for the path that has brought me here. More importantly, I am thrilled that my success will be for my whole village. I hope to become a mentor to all the young girls in my family and village, and to build a clinic in my village to help reform the healthcare system in Ghana."



**Paying it Forward:** "Christabel is passionate about helping others and wants to make the world a better place. She wants

to become a nurse so that she can return home to Ghana and improve the healthcare system there. She is dedicated to bettering the welfare of people in Ghana by inspiring them to seek out routine medical checkups. Christabel is willing to take the steps and hard work necessary to prepare herself for her future."

—Darryl Aucoin, Ph.D., Caldwell University, assistant professor of natural sciences



## “Envision a Better Future”

**Alyssa Sileo '22**

Drew University

Lyrics for Lucas Foundation Scholarship 2019-20



“My mantra is that artists must be the caretakers of equality and warriors of generosity. I aim to utilize what I believe to be the biggest virtue of an artist—resourcefulness—to forward positive change. Whether it is analyzing the creative projects I am a part of or engaging with the community around me, I channel my current experiences in order to reimagine the past and envision a better future.

“As a theatre arts major at Drew University, I am focused on performing, playwriting, directing, dramaturgy and theatre history. One of my most gratifying experiences has been involving myself in the Plays in Process (PIPs) program, which supports playwrights and gives them a chance for growth. Lending our minds and hearts to help realize an artist's vision validates every playwright's dreams and goals, which have the power to change lives. This fits with my long-term goal to write outreach into the theatre cannon, because I believe there is an activism platform inside every creative work.

“To foster that outreach and advocate for hate crime awareness, I founded an international initiative, The Laramie Project Project (LPP), a network of worldwide performances of the acclaimed Tectonic Theater Project play, which aims to break down systems of oppression and marginalization. I have since united over 70 performances from 25 states and four

other countries to raise money, foster discussion and jumpstart production companion projects run by students. I have also created The Urinetown Project (UP), a network of *Urinetown* performances to raise money and awareness for the people in Flint, Mich. who are still facing a water crisis. The characters in the musical have to ‘pay to pee;’ cast and audience members donate to use the restroom. UP productions have raised over \$2,000 in two years.

“As a member of the Drew Civic Scholars program, I have practiced and studied community engagement as an intern at The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, a nonprofit organization dedicated to making classic works of theatre accessible to all audiences, including local students. I also take part in ADVANTAGEARTS, a collaboration between students from Drew and Newark high schools to create theatre pieces about identity. Together, we can harness the power of the arts to build a better future.”

**DREW** *Compassion Counts: “Alyssa’s dedication to art and art for others is a model for the field. In addition to her outstanding work in the classroom, Alyssa has dedicated herself to two community-based projects that directly combine artistic endeavors with her passion for social justice. She is a model for sensitivity and compassion in her teamwork. Her additions to conversations are consistently well reasoned, with a sense of justice always in mind. Alyssa’s creativity, intellect, and devotion to the arts and social justice make her stand out as a theatre maker and scholar.”*

—Sarah Lucie, Drew University, adjunct lecturer, theatre arts and dance







## “They Lift Me Up”

**Gineen K. Abuali '21**

Saint Peter's University

PNC Barry Gillman Memorial  
Scholarship for Humanitarian  
Service 2019-20

PNCBANK

“As a history and political science major at Saint Peter's University, I am passionate about expanding my horizons. In my classes, I ask hard and challenging questions that get to the core of issues. I ask these questions because I believe they will better our understanding of the world by helping us to improve it.

“While at Saint Peter's, I've learned that some students do not have access to healthcare. Many students, including me, have concerns about how to pay for college. Through several internships, I have seen how these issues manifest themselves on a larger scale in our society. I interned with an organization called Dress for Success, which helps men and women find professional clothing and learn workplace skills. There, I came across many single mothers who were escaping terrible situations or going into the workforce for the first time. Their stories inspired me; they made me determined to do well in school so that one day I could give back. They lifted me up with their words of encouragement.

“During another internship, with New Jersey Senator Cory Booker, I saw how the law is used to solve issues faced by communities. The senator's staff would take note of common issues that arose, and they would work to find solutions to bring to the senator's attention.

“These experiences have strengthened my commitment to become an attorney. I want to use the law to be a helping hand and resource to my community. In my life, so many different people have helped me move forward and I believe it is only right to do the same for others. I would not be where I am without my family, peers and professors who have lifted me up, supported me and given me access to new opportunities. Through law, I can continue this cycle by making sure that the policies enacted on our behalf lift us all up and give us access to success. When I graduate, I want to be able to call myself a global citizen who is doing everything in my power to improve the world around me.”



**Saint Peter's**  
UNIVERSITY

**Leading with Passion:** “I have been working with student groups for over 30 years. There have been many great leaders. However, I can say without hesitation that Gineen Abuali is by far the most outstanding student leader I have met and one of the best people I have had the pleasure to work with. Gineen's leadership as president of the Muslim Student Association—which in itself is internally diverse—has taken a group that had been dormant to undoubtedly the most impactful student group on campus. I will never forget her speech to the campus community after the shootings in New Zealand. She taught us about forgiveness and love rather than hate or fear. It was by far the most moving student speech I have ever heard.”  
—David Surrey, Ph.D., Saint Peter's University, professor of sociology/anthropology

## Imagine the Outreach

At no time in our 66-year history has the role of independent higher education been more vital to New Jersey than during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to pivoting quickly to ensure that students could finish the spring semester safely online, ICFNJ's 14 member institutions stepped up to serve critical needs in their local communities.

From providing high-level thought leadership on public policy to feeding the hungry to contributing personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect front line workers, our colleges and universities demonstrated their commitment to their neighbors. As the nation moves toward a new normal, New Jersey officials and employers will continue to rely on independent colleges

and universities to help rebuild local and state economies.

"Independent educational institutions have emerged as beacons of light during a very difficult time for our state," said Louis T. Manzione, Ph.D., president of ICFNJ and president and CEO of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in New Jersey (AICUNJ). "Our colleges and universities have lifted the spirits of New Jersey residents while making important contributions to the health of our residents and future of our state."

Already a technology leader, New Jersey will experience an enhanced need for well-trained leaders in STEM fields, according to Dr. Manzione. "Before the pandemic, the state had already seen

a surge in demand in STEM fields," he noted. "Now, there will be accelerated interest for lab workers, researchers, data analysts and healthcare workers. New Jersey's independents are prepared to grow their programs to meet this burgeoning demand."

With community service an important component of independent higher education, our member institutions are also poised to continue making meaningful contributions to their communities. Even more importantly, moving forward, our students will someday be the leaders who will build a stronger, healthier New Jersey.

Here are six ways independent institutions made a difference during the crisis.



### 1. Thought Leadership

Major media outlets turned to presidents of independent colleges and universities—as well as our researchers, scientists, educators and more—to help shape the conversation around COVID-19. In addition, many ICFNJ college presidents testified before a New Jersey Senate Higher Education Committee hearing on reopening campuses this fall.

At **Monmouth University**, the renowned Monmouth University Polling Institute gauged public sentiment on various aspects of the pandemic through surveys on public opinion that were cited nationally.



### 2. PPE Donations

With the healthcare system gearing up quickly to handle the pandemic, personal protective equipment (PPE) was in short supply. Our institutions rallied support, donating their own supplies such as hand sanitizer, 3D printed face shields, ventilator splitters, N95 face masks, cloth face masks, surgical gloves, gowns, booties/shoe covers, swabs, tongue depressors, hair bonnets and safety goggles.

**Centenary University's** Fashion Department crafted facemasks for front line workers, and the University's Theatre Department donated 3D face shields made on the department's printer.



### 3. Meals

Food insecurity took centerstage during the pandemic, as many New Jersey residents were furloughed or unemployed. ICFNJ member institutions held contactless food drives, while countless students and alumni partnered with nonprofits to host off-campus food drives.

Throughout the quarantine, **Rider University's** Dining Hall served as the preparation hub for Meals on Wheels of Mercer County, while other universities have provided meals for first responders. Alumni from several of our universities are also mobilizing their services at local nonprofits to assist with higher levels of food insecurity.



### 5. Trained Personnel

Industry and government have long turned to New Jersey's independents to provide a ready source of well-trained employees. This became critical during the pandemic, with thousands of our alumni and students on the front lines serving as doctors, nurses, EMTs, police officers, firefighters, social workers and grocery store personnel.

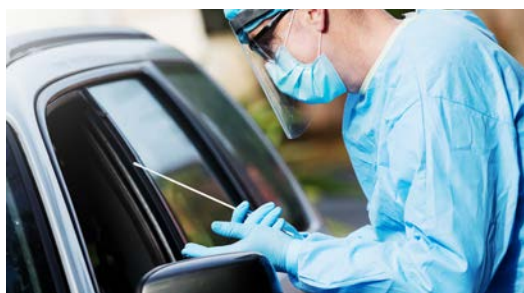
At **Seton Hall University**, nursing and biology students are working at area hospitals, providing much needed assistance during the pandemic while gaining valuable career experience.



### 4. Student Support

College students around the nation have experienced increased financial stress caused by the pandemic. They and their parents have lost jobs and many faced unanticipated costs to move home quickly and study online. ICFNJ's member institutions are administering federal funds from the CARES Act to help bridge the gap, and many have also dedicated their own funding to assist students.

A fund called GCU Cares at **Georgian Court University** has provided everything from computers and hardware for remote learning to emergency travel home and food for students experiencing financial hardship during the pandemic.



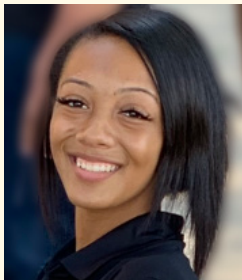
### 6. Facilities

Some of our institutions redeployed student housing, recreational spaces and on-campus healthcare centers to provide additional space and equipment for use by healthcare workers. Out-of-state medical personnel—including travel nurses, doctors and EMS workers—found a warm welcome on our campuses.

**Fairleigh Dickinson University** made one of its on-campus parking lots available for administering drive-through COVID-19 testing in Bergen County, one of the nation's first hot spots.







## Bloomfield College

**Students Enrolled\*: 1,685**  
**Student/Faculty Ratio: 15:1**

Bloomfield College has been ranked among the best institutions in the U.S. at moving students forward in economic standing, and was also cited as one of the nation's most diverse liberal arts colleges. The College has the lowest tuition rate among New Jersey private four-year institutions. Located just 15

miles from New York City, Bloomfield College offers Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees, as well as master's degrees in accounting, fine arts and education.

### Jada-Simone Davis '21

CIC/UPS Scholar

Major: Psychology

Jada-Simone Davis believes in the power of family. Inspired by her grandmother—a college psychology major and social worker—Jada-Simone chose to major in psychology at Bloomfield College. Like her grandmother, she also wants to strengthen families. Her career goals include attending graduate school, serving as a family therapist in an urban area and being elected to public office in her community. Jada-Simone says: "I believe that the foundation of society begins with the family structure and if you help the families you are helping society."



## Caldwell University

**Students Enrolled\*: 2,189**  
**Student/Faculty Ratio: 12:1**

Caldwell University's campus life is centered around its core values of respect, integrity, community and excellence. Rooted in the Catholic Dominican tradition of its founders, the University provides a strong liberal arts core curriculum and an education that inspires the pursuit of truth and a spirit of serving

others through graduate programs in fields such as art therapy and applied behavior analysis to benefit those on the autism spectrum. The University offers 15 sports, including football.

### Maria Lesniewski '20

Schering-Plough Undergraduate Research Scholarship

Major: Chemistry and Mathematics

When Maria Lesniewski enrolled at Caldwell University, she didn't want to pigeonhole herself into one field. So she chose to double major, while gaining a strong foundation in the liberal arts. That strategy has paid off with a full-time job right after graduation as a chemical specialist at L3Harris Technologies, Inc.: "It was my liberal arts education—core classes, public speaking and knowledge on a variety of topics—that impressed employers. Technical details are different at every job and must be re-learned, but communication is a golden skill."



## Drew University

**Students Enrolled\*: 2,263**  
**Student/Faculty Ratio: 10:1**

Founded in 1867, Drew University is dedicated to exceptional faculty mentorship, experiential learning and a strong link between campus and community. Noteworthy opportunities for undergraduates include the Charles A. Dana Research Institute for Scientists Emeriti (RISE), the Drew

Summer Science Institute, the Center for Civic Engagement, international semesters and study in New York. Drew is the home of 2015 Nobel Prize Winner for Medicine and Drew Fellow William Campbell.

### Shivani Mody '21

BD Healthcare Scholarship

Major: Neuroscience

Minor: Chemistry

Volunteering at a rehabilitation facility for the elderly helped to cement Shivani Mody's decision to major in neuroscience. At Drew University, Shivani was invited to participate in several research projects, gaining valuable lab experiences while preparing to apply to medical school this fall. The aspiring doctor says, "Being a first-generation college student and the eldest daughter of a single parent makes the scholarship a much bigger comfort for me. I remain dedicated to securing acceptances into medical school and paying this scholarship forward."



## Fairleigh Dickinson University

**Students Enrolled\*: 11,354**  
**Student/Faculty Ratio: 13:1**

Founded in 1942, Fairleigh Dickinson University is New Jersey's largest private university. It offers over 100 undergraduate and graduate degrees, including doctoral programs in pharmacy, nursing practice, clinical psychology and school psychology, as well as

an AACSB-accredited business school. The University has two New Jersey campuses, Madison and Teaneck, and two international locations, Wroton College in England and the Vancouver Campus in Canada.

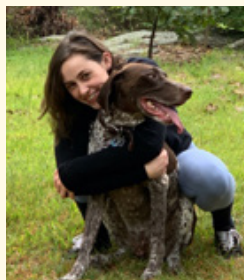
### Heather Clapp '20

BD/C.R. Bard Nursing Scholarship

Major: Nursing

As a child, Heather Clapp battled and overcame a hematological disorder. The outstanding care she received inspired her to pursue a career in nursing. After completing a summer externship at Morristown Medical Center, Heather says, "Nurses provide comfort in our most vulnerable moments. They are there with us from the moment we take our first breath and in the moment that we take our last. They are the backbone of healthcare. To me, nursing isn't just a major. It is my calling in life."

# ICFNJ Scholars



## Centenary University

**Students Enrolled\*: 1,802**  
**Student/Faculty Ratio: 14:1**

Centenary University emphasizes real-world education through hands-on assignments and internships. The liberal arts provide a strong foundation for new programs such as medical laboratory science, data analytics and a 4+1 BS/MBA to meet local and global workforce demands. As a result, 97% of alumni have jobs

or pursue master's degrees nine months after graduation—28% higher than the national average.

### **Sarah Sturges '21**

**Celgene Corporation Sol J. Barer Scholarship for Life Sciences**

**Major: Biology**

An aspiring veterinarian, Sarah Sturges knows that Centenary University was a great college choice. The University has an outstanding record for veterinary school acceptances—plus a few other important benefits. Chief among those is small class sizes, which translate into closer relationships with professors and other students. "Everyone knows someone who can help me get closer to achieving my goals," Sarah says. "Initially, I didn't realize how many doors would open for me at Centenary. These connections and opportunities are experiences I am extremely grateful for."



## College of Saint Elizabeth

**Students Enrolled\*: 1,186**  
**Student/Faculty Ratio: 9:1**

The College of Saint Elizabeth (CSE) is a community of learning in the Catholic liberal arts tradition for students of diverse ages, backgrounds and cultures focused on engaged learning for leadership in service to others. Located in Morristown, N.J., CSE was established 120

years ago by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth as a four-year Catholic college for women and became fully co-educational at the undergraduate level in 2016. Nationally recognized, CSE is ranked third among private schools in New Jersey on *Money* magazine's "Best Colleges in 2018" list and *U.S. News & World Report* lists CSE among "Best Ethnic Diversity" colleges.

### **Angela Federico '21**

**Novo Nordisk Scholarship**

**Major: Foods and Nutrition**

**Concentration: Dietetics**

With a family history of diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer, Angela Federico understands the effects of nutrition on the body. She is passionate about the power of food to heal and plans to someday open a private practice focusing on pediatric nutrition. Angela says, "Observing the ways food can fuel our bodies and its pivotal role in overall health is extremely fascinating to me. The food that we consume plays such an influential role in rehabilitation from, inhibition of, and prevention of various illnesses and diseases."



## Felician University

**Students Enrolled\*: 2,004**  
**Student/Faculty Ratio: 14:1**

Felician University, the Franciscan University of New Jersey, is a coeducational Catholic institution specializing in the liberal arts. Founded in 1942, the University welcomes a diverse student population on its campuses in Rutherford and Lodi, offering more than 75 bachelor's, master's and doctoral certifications

in the arts, sciences, business, nursing and education, as well as 14 NCAA Division II sports programs. For over 75 years, the values upon which Felician was founded inspire all those who study and work there.

### **Teresa T. Lusto '22**

**CIC SAGE Scholar**

**Major: Photography and New Media**

The COVID-19 pandemic is the latest backdrop for the photography of Teresa T. Lusto. A class called Film and Video Art during the spring semester allowed her to use her camera in a transformative way. "I focused on the isolation and dramatic changes that were created during this pandemic," Teresa says. "It helped relieve some of the stress from the COVID-19 'chaos.'" Next up for this talented artist: a trip to Florence, Italy next summer to hone her skills in preparation for a career as a photojournalist.







## Georgian Court University

**Students Enrolled\*: 2,458**  
**Student/Faculty Ratio: 11:1**

Sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, Georgian Court University is central and south Jersey's only Catholic university. The University expands possibility for students of all faiths and backgrounds and offers more than 35 undergraduate majors and 10 graduate

programs. In 2018, GCU was named a Best College for Your Money by *Money Magazine*. GCU has also been recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* and Colleges of Distinction and was one of about 100 colleges nationwide that made Phi Theta Kappa's 2019 Transfer Honor Roll.

### Julia Strother '21

Johnson and Johnson Discover Nursing Scholarship

Major: Nursing

Minor: Integrative Health

A decade ago, Julia Strother's mother was diagnosed with an autoimmune disorder. Julia saw what a difference the nurses made in her mother's care and decided then to become a nurse. At Georgian Court University, the University's affiliation with Hackensack Meridian Health has helped Julia to advance her goal to become a labor and delivery nurse, and someday, to work in the NICU. She says, "I also intend to pursue travel nursing and work to help OB patients in developing countries around the world."



## Saint Peter's University

**Students Enrolled\*: 3,452**  
**Student/Faculty Ratio: 13:1**

Saint Peter's University is one of 28 Jesuit colleges and universities in the U.S. dedicated to the development of the whole student. The University is proud of the individual attention provided to students to help them discover who they are and where they want to go in

life. With more than 50 majors to choose from, rigorous academics are just part of the equation. Students will find more than 50 clubs and student organizations and a Division I athletics program. They will join a community of individuals in a family-like atmosphere where they can focus on realizing their full potential.

### Mariah Sepulveda-Toczynski '21

CohnReznick Accounting Scholarship

Major: Accounting

Minor: Business Law

Receiving a scholarship through ICFNJ has sparked a commitment to philanthropy in Mariah Sepulveda-Toczynski. The opportunity has lifted her financial burden, allowing her to focus more on her studies. Now, as the first-generation college student advances her career goal to be a certified public accountant, she has also resolved to pay it forward to future generations of students: "I had always planned to someday help students financially and as a mentor. This opportunity strengthened that by showing me personally the impact a scholarship can have on a student's life."



## Monmouth University

**Students Enrolled\*: 6,167**  
**Student/Faculty Ratio: 13:1**

Monmouth University provides an education that is both distinctive and transformative. With a primarily residential campus, the University is committed to offering a challenging academic experience grounded in the liberal arts. A variety of experiential, technological, collaborative and innovative programs, including specialized

institutes in real estate, the music industry, urban coast, entrepreneurship and social work provide Monmouth students with solid skills to transition to a robust and engaged life after graduation.

### Lauren Kelly '20

PSEG Scholarship for Advancing STEM Majors

Major: Marine and Environmental Biology and Policy

Lauren Kelly has always loved the environment, especially the ocean. At Monmouth University, she transformed that passion into a career to protect endangered and threatened marine animals. A key part of Lauren's education has focused on studying various species of fish and marine life during hands-on experiences, including aboard the University's research vessel: "I've realized how much I enjoy learning and researching. My dream job is researching and rehabilitation of marine animals to protect them and increase their population. I want to make a difference in this world."



## Seton Hall University

**Students Enrolled\*: 10,162**  
**Student/Faculty Ratio: 14:1**

One of the country's leading Catholic universities, Seton Hall serves nearly 10,000 students with more than 90 academic programs, and has been singled out by *The Princeton Review*, *U.S. News & World Report* and *Bloomberg Businessweek*. The South Orange campus offers many employment,

internship, cultural and entertainment opportunities. Its Interprofessional Health Sciences campus in Clifton and Nutley houses nursing, medicine and other related programs.

### Brielle Johnson '20

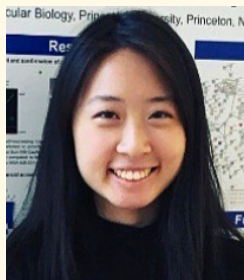
Partners for Health Foundation Nursing Scholarship

Major: Nursing

Brielle Johnson is deeply committed to serving others. While attending Seton Hall University, she explored the wide variety of career paths nursing offers. Through several service trips, Brielle has developed an interest in someday working as a nurse with an international mission or nonprofit. She says: "Experiencing different cultures and different environments, and especially the way health care is performed in other countries, has been such a valuable and eye-opening experience. I have no doubt as I start my career that I will fall more in love with nursing."



# ICFNJ Scholars



## Princeton University

**Students Enrolled\*: 8,374**  
**Student/Faculty Ratio: 5:1**

Chartered in 1746, Princeton University provides students with academic, extracurricular and other resources—in a residential community committed to diversity—that prepare them for positions of leadership and lives of service in many fields of human endeavor. Living up to its unofficial

motto, "In the Nation's Service and the Service of Humanity," Princeton has educated two U.S. presidents, hundreds of U.S. and state legislators and 44 governors, including 11 New Jersey governors.

### Lillian Xu '20

**Novartis Science Scholarship**

**Major: Molecular Biology**

**Minor: Engineering Biology**

At Princeton University, Lillian Xu has valued opportunities to explore how fundamental biological mechanisms can be applied to improve human health. For the future physician-scientist, her favorite class in Biomolecular Engineering demonstrated that the design of biological systems is vital to research and industry. Lillian's college experience has also taught her that learning continues for a lifetime. She says, "There is so much to explore in this world. I am so grateful for the generosity of ICFNJ and Novartis. Both have emboldened and enabled me to pursue my dreams."



## Stevens Institute of Technology

**Students Enrolled\*: 6,929**  
**Student/Faculty Ratio: 10:1**

Stevens Institute of Technology, The Innovation University®, is a premier, private research university in Hoboken, NJ. Stevens is home to three national research centers of excellence, as well as interdisciplinary research in healthcare, biomedical

engineering, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, financial systems and technologies, data science, complex systems, information systems and resilience and sustainability. It is consistently ranked among the nation's elite for return on investment for students, career services programs and mid-career salaries of alumni.

### Daniel Gulko '21

**J&J Pre-Professional Healthcare Scholarship**

**Major: Pre-Med Track, Business and Technology**  
**Concentrations: Management and Biotechnology**

Future physician Daniel Gulko knows that practicing medicine requires strong analytical skills, as well as a deep understanding of the social context of his patients' lives. Stevens Institute of Technology has provided Daniel with outstanding educational opportunities, enabling him to double major in pre-med and business. He has also enriched his classroom experiences volunteering with the Hoboken Ambulance Corp. "My ultimate goal is to be a physician, hopefully leading cutting-edge clinical trials," Daniel says. "College has helped me to develop new perspectives from which I can analyze problems."



## Rider University

**Students Enrolled\*: 4,824**  
**Student/Faculty Ratio: 11:1**

Engaged Learning is the common, unifying thread that runs throughout a Rider education, yet it's a deeply personal and destiny-shaping experience for every student. Rider provides resources, inspiration and support to help students determine which opportunities to seize, driven by their own interests, goals and motivation. Through internships, study

abroad, community service, research with faculty, participation in the arts and more, Rider students forge their own pathways and embark on exciting futures with the support of meaningful connections made at the University.

### O Aung '21

**ICFNJ Undergraduate Research Symposium Grant and Schering-Plough Undergraduate Research Scholarship**

**Major: Biology**

Through two ICFNJ-administered research awards, O Aung has learned how to apply information gleaned from classroom lectures to real-life issues. At Rider University, he met his research advisor and designed his first independent research project. The aspiring doctor says, "These scholarships gave me a chance to design my own experiment, analyze the outcome and interpret what occurred. It gave me a deep appreciation of how complex and fascinating science can be and taught me that I am capable of achieving the goals that I set for myself."



## Reimagining the Undergraduate Research Symposium

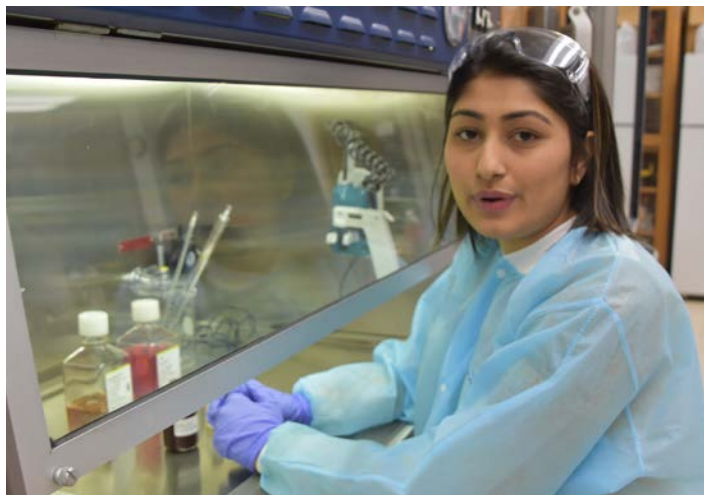
### Students maintain commitment to research conducted over months despite COVID-19 interruption to Symposium presentations

The pandemic may have disrupted the student presentations, but it did not preclude the learning experience of an independent research project. The poster presentations could not be held, creating missed opportunities for students and industry leaders alike. However, our students did not falter, providing their final abstracts and posters for viewing in their own virtual tours via the ICFNJ website.

Each year, the Undergraduate Research Symposium offers students the chance to explore the unknown and demonstrate key knowledge and skills for career placement or acceptance into an advanced degree program. Research project topics are as diverse as the students themselves. As always, this year's projects were submitted by students in a variety of STEM majors addressing topics that impact the health and well-being of our lives. The process begins with students posing a question and ends with a resolution presented in a series of interviews with career professionals from some of New Jersey's most notable companies.

Agnes Berki, Ph.D., of Caldwell University, an associate professor in the Department of Natural Sciences, is dedicated to helping students chart their paths to success at the symposium. She has watched students grow in confidence over the course of their research projects compared to that first tentative day in the lab. These intensive projects begin with writing a proposal, establishing a budget and introducing new responsibilities. Students must commit to heading into the lab Friday afternoons, on weekends and during spare hours to perform experiments, work as part of the research team and troubleshoot obstacles. Dr. Berki notes, "The significance of the work takes on new meaning after students make the personal investment in independent research."

Research spanned a spectrum of topics including *Identifying New Targets in Colon Cancer by Gene Expression Following ERK Kinase Inhibition* by Joanna Kopko of Stevens Institute of Technology, *Machine Learning Applications—Opioid Epidemic and Diabetes Diagnosis* by Shalin Mehta of Fairleigh Dickinson University and *In Vitro Creation of Mouse Cardiac Tissue Using Mouse Embryonic Stem Cells* by Shweta Sapkota of Caldwell University.



Shweta Sapkota '20 of Caldwell University

A biological science major, Shweta shared her semester-long exploration of using stem cells to develop a way for the body to generate new cardiomyocytes (cardiac muscle cells) following a heart attack. Through monthly videos, we witness her transformation from a beginning researcher to a self-assured investigator, as well as her commitment to helping people who suffer from heart attacks.

In the videos, Shweta outlines her progress, taking us into the lab, under the hood and through the microscope lens to track results and learn with her. The preparation included literature study and hours in the lab perfecting delicate skills before working with the mouse stem cells. In the final video, Shweta is a self-assured researcher who eloquently relays the project she has undertaken and the process that has become a significant part of her college life. While it was a daunting concept to capture her work in short clips, Shweta shared that she is grateful because it pushed her to be disciplined and accountable. One of her mentors, Roksana Korbi, a biology major and past symposium participant, also shared her gratitude for the opportunity to work as part of the research team because it taught her to be a leader in the lab, a skill she has applied to other campus roles.

## SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPANTS

**Venisse Abanilla '22 & Sudeep Khadka '21**

Caldwell University

**Ghaith Abdallah '21**

Drew University

**Prithy Adhikary '20**

Caldwell University

**Zamin Akmal '20**

Stevens Institute of Technology

**Claudio Amaya '20**

Saint Peter's University

**O Aung '21**

Rider University

**Carolina Balcazar '20**

Saint Peter's University

**Jaylah Bennett '22**

Bloomfield College

**Jaret Bujacich '20**

Georgian Court University

**Sidney Cooper '20**

College of Saint Elizabeth

**Hannah Craft '22**

Monmouth University

**Stephanie Donah '20**

Felician University

**Edward Feeney '21**

Rider University

**Michael Freddy '20**

Seton Hall University

**Caitlin Gartley '21, Ruby Pasupuleti '21**

**& Selam Woldegerima '21**

Seton Hall University

**Matthew Gregory '20 & Revti Patel '20**

Seton Hall University

**Troy Handlovic '20**

Fairleigh Dickinson University

**Tess Horvath '20**

Centenary University

**Junhui Huang '20**

Drew University

**Masiel Infante '21**

Saint Peter's University

**Nancy Jimenez '20**

Seton Hall University

**Joanna Kopko '21**

Stevens Institute of Technology

**Roksana Korbi '20**

Caldwell University

**Keith Kyewalabye '21**

Caldwell University

**Ariana La Rosa '21**

Saint Peter's University

**Tori Lange '20**

College of Saint Elizabeth

**Maria Lesniewski '20**

Caldwell University

**Matheus Macena de Carvalho '21**

Drew University

**Lea Marjana '20**

College of Saint Elizabeth

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**We graciously acknowledge the support of our generous research symposium sponsors and the inaugural year supporters.**

On behalf of the students who benefit from participation in the Undergraduate Research Symposium, thank you. Your support has provided access to research opportunities emphasizing new explorations in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields. The research experience bridges the gap between students' interests, classroom knowledge, and current lab opportunities. The intersection of these key elements promotes retention in STEM majors.

**Thank you.**

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### Inaugural Year Supporters



THE COUNCIL OF  
INDEPENDENT COLLEGES







# New Trenton Office: LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

We've moved—and our new location promises to bring heightened awareness of our mission to strengthen independent higher education in New Jersey. Our office in Trenton, the state's capital, provides greater visibility for the Independent Colleges and Universities for New Jersey, the parent organization of the Independent College Fund of New Jersey (ICFNJ) and the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in New Jersey (AICUNJ).

"Our new space is centrally located in Trenton, making it more conducive for our staff to attend legislative sessions and interact with elected officials," explained Louis T. Manzione, Ph.D., president of ICFNJ and president and CEO of AICUNJ. "Now more than ever, it's vital for key influencers to view our independent institutions as a driving force behind New Jersey's economy."

The move is part of a broader initiative to strengthen the organization's brand, with a clear emphasis on how the state's 14 independent institutions create opportunity for students and economic success for New Jersey's business community. To that end, we also launched a new website redesign that illustrates the relationship between independent education and the state's economy.

"Our goal with the website was to demonstrate that donor gifts make a tremendous impact on individual students and on New Jersey," said MaryAlice W. Breuninger, vice president of ICFNJ. "The contributions of New Jersey's independent colleges and universities ripple across our economy through research, community development and relevant degree programs that meet the state's workforce needs."

*To check out our new website and view contact information for our staff members, go to [njcolleges.org](http://njcolleges.org).*

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Trenton, NJ 08608**

**Main Phone Numbers**  
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609-498-0055 (fax)

**General Emails**  
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AICUNJ: [aicunj@njcolleges.org](mailto:aicunj@njcolleges.org)

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[ypanella@njcolleges.org](mailto:ypanella@njcolleges.org)

## ANNUAL EVENTS

The annual **Spring Dinner** in June 2019 provided an opportunity for ICFNJ to highlight our outstanding scholarship students, who also conveyed their appreciation to the generous donors who fund our work. Student speaker Marta Suazo of Seton Hall University shared her compelling story of discovery through her participation in the Undergraduate Research Symposium. The dinner raised more than \$25,000 through event sponsorships and honored Grey J. Dimenna, Esq., Monmouth University; Mary J. Meehan, Ph.D., Seton Hall University; and Richard A. Levao, Esq., Bloomfield College.



Marta Suazo '19 shared her story of finding unexpected career possibilities through opportunities provided by ICFNJ.



Donors enjoy the camaraderie of friends while raising funds to enhance the academic experience.

The 2019 **Annual Meeting** focused on the value of partnerships between industry and higher education. The event featured a keynote address by Jose Lozano, president and CEO of CHOOSE: NEW JERSEY. A panel discussion of women students who benefited from ICFNJ scholarships and research opportunities was a highlight of the meeting. Milestone donors were also recognized for their years of giving: PNC Bank for 60 years and William and Neva Stiller for 25 years. The following event sponsors helped to make the day a success: **TD Bank, EWMA, Gibbons, Langan Engineering and Verizon.**

**The 2019 Golf Outing** was a day of celebration, with 24 foursomes venturing out at Cedar Hill Golf and Country Club to enjoy a round of golf, network and raise money for an important cause. For the first time in the 18-year history of the event, a player got a hole-in-one on the 10th hole. A highlight of the annual event, the Collegiate Challenge, went to Fairleigh Dickinson University. As always, the event concluded with a dinner. Title sponsor **PwC** provided generous support to help this event raise scholarship funding, this year netting over \$29,000.



Nancy Jimenez '20, biochemistry, Seton Hall University; Pier Semanchik '21, biology & equine pre-vet, Centenary University; and Christabel Osei-Du '21, nursing & health sciences, Caldwell University, celebrated how ICFNJ partnerships provided them with new possibilities.



From Trane's meeting and training facility, a talented panel revealed factors impacting the college-to-career transition.

The **Talent Pipeline** conference presented opportunities for educators and industry leaders to share insights on assisting students to build workplace knowledge and develop skills that are in demand by today's employers. Hosted by Trane, the event featured presentations by representatives of **Trane/Ingersoll Rand, the Passaic School District, Samsung and Solix Inc.** Additional workshop sessions were Accenture's *Skills to Succeed*, which was later offered free of charge to students at all ICFNJ member institutions, and Academic Partnerships of Portfolium. The Talent Pipeline was supported by **Trane, Accenture** and the **Council of Independent Colleges.**

## Two New Programs Launched

ICFNJ met a key strategic goal with last year's introduction of a Corporate Affiliates Program (CAP), which seeks to identify positive synergies formed among business and community through the use of resources in innovative ways. Launched at Bell Works in Holmdel, this event spotlighted the Bell Works method, as presented by Ralph Zucker, president of **Somerset Development**, as a model to roll out CAP.

**Kimmel Bogrette Architecture**, which has been part of a similar program in Pennsylvania, attended the launch and representatives offered to meet with ICFNJ officials to discuss how the program works in our neighboring state and to help kick off the program. Robert Gerard, **Holt Construction**, helped to orchestrate a subsequent meeting with the Development Committee in 2020.

Attended by college presidents, trustees and guests, the CAP launch also highlighted ICFNJ's new Mentorship Program, an initiative sponsored by **Novartis** to enhance face-to-face interactions between donors and scholarship recipients. This new program encouraged Novartis to increase the number of annual awards it provides to ICFNJ students from 10 to 15. The Mentorship Program had a kickoff event at Novartis in East Hanover.

# HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

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# 2019–2020 ICFNJ Administered Scholarships

Last year, ICFNJ distributed \$457,000 in scholarships. These awards help lessen the impact of rising tuition costs, provide students with more time to focus on their studies, decrease the number and amount of loans needed to complete college and teach philanthropy.

## Designated Scholarships

CIC SAGE Foundation\*  
CIC/UPS\*  
Neil D'Amelio Memorial\*  
Deloitte Accounting  
Dr. Joseph V. Doria\*  
Joseph V. Doria, Jr. Community Service\*  
Roland L. Lewan, Jr. Memorial\*  
NJ Sales & Marketing Executive Association /Nicholas R. Vecchio Memorial\*  
NY/NJ Snowflake Youth Foundation  
Schering-Plough Undergraduate Research\*  
Frank J. Tricarico Fund\*  
Wilson Silver Anniverary\*

## Competitive Scholarships

BD Healthcare  
Celgene Sol J. Barer for Life Sciences  
CohnReznick Accounting  
C. R. Bard Foundation Nursing  
Johnson & Johnson Discover Nursing  
Johnson & Johnson Pre-Professional Healthcare  
Lyrics for Lucas Performing Arts  
Novartis Pharmaceuticals Science  
Novo Nordisk  
Partners for Health Edward A. Smith Memorial Nursing  
Partners for Health Foundation Nursing  
PNC/Barry Gillman for Humanitarian Service  
PricewaterhouseCoopers/Martin R. Sullivan Memorial Accounting\*  
PSEG Foundation Advancing STEM

*\*Endowed scholarships*

High School students are introduced to possibilities of a STEM career through Johnson & Johnson funded College Pathways Reinforcement (CPR) programs



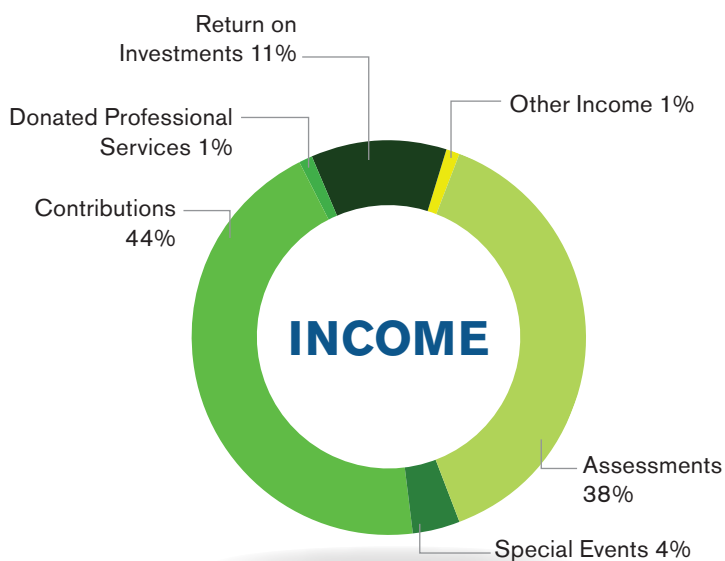
College of Saint Elizabeth *Explorations in Science*



Drew University New Jersey Governor's School in the Sciences

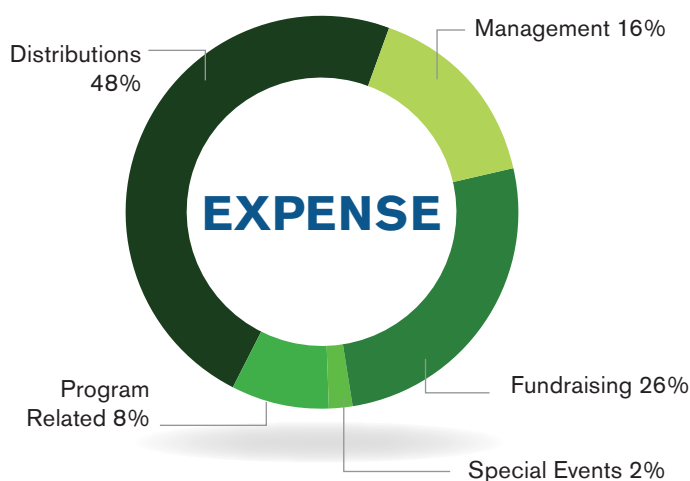


Princeton University's Princeton University Preparatory Program



## Income

Assessments .....	\$579,985
Special Events.....	\$68,725
Contributions.....	\$670,490
Donated Professional Services .....	\$22,028
Return on Investments .....	\$176,351
Other Income.....	\$18,482
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$1,536,061</b>



## Expenses

Management .....	\$218,730
Fundraising.....	\$348,027
Special Events.....	\$31,058
Program Related.....	\$108,083
Distributions.....	\$638,724
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$1,344,622</b>

Copies of complete financial statements of the Independent College Fund of New Jersey, which are audited by Sobel & Co., LLC, are available upon request.

## ICFNJ 2019 Distributive and Cumulative Shares to Member Colleges and Universities

	Distributive	Cumulative
Bloomfield College	\$54,172	\$4,415,481
Caldwell University	\$57,186	\$3,477,583
Centenary University	\$25,030	\$4,244,592
College of Saint Elizabeth	\$49,764	\$3,197,045
Drew University	\$61,639	\$3,885,450
Fairleigh Dickinson University	\$39,983	\$8,285,334
Felician University	\$36,723	\$2,521,764
Georgian Court University	\$45,308	\$2,995,795
Monmouth University	\$53,914	\$4,192,869
Princeton University	\$39,675	\$4,545,952
Rider University	\$44,490	\$6,120,208
Saint Peter's University	\$71,983	\$6,032,017
Seton Hall University	\$64,542	\$6,608,484
Stevens Institute of Technology	\$31,401	\$4,550,634
Non-member Institutions	\$18,500	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$694,311</b>	<b>\$65,073,208</b>
Average Full Share to Members	\$48,272	
2019 Total Contributions		\$758,062
Total 66-Year Aggregate		\$75,889,188

## At a Glance

Total Enrollment .....	64,849
New Jersey Residents Enrolled .....	73%
Female/Male Enrollment .....	56%/44%
Minority Enrollment.....	36.2%
Number of Alumni .....	628,990
Alumni Living in New Jersey.....	51%
Baccalaureate Degrees Conferred .....	10,538
Advanced Degrees Conferred .....	7,610
Financial Aid Recipients (Grants and Loans).....	95%
Total Institutional Aid Provided .....	\$959.2 million

2019 numbers sourced from institutional research.

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