

Introducing Saint Elizabeth University

Congratulations to Saint Elizabeth University (formerly the College of Saint Elizabeth) on earning University status. Dr. Helen J. Streubert, President of Saint Elizabeth University, discussed the [university name change in this video](#).

New Interim President Announced for Drew University

The Drew University Board of Trustees announced today the appointment of [Thomas J. Schwarz](#) as interim president beginning August 1st, 2020. Schwarz served as president of Purchase College, SUNY, from 2002 to 2019 and, shortly following his retirement, was appointed President Emeritus of Purchase College in recognition of his 17 years of distinguished service to the college. He will take over the position held by President MaryAnn Baenninger, who will step down at the end of the month at the close of a transformative six-year tenure. The search committee, comprised of Drew faculty, staff, trustees, administration and alumni, spent two months identifying and interviewing candidates for the role, looking for “an individual who shares our enthusiasm and our passion for Drew,” according to Angela B. Gerken P’15, who chaired the 10-person committee.

Student Voices

Join us in congratulating ICFNJ Scholar, Shweta Sapkota of Caldwell University. Shweta was awarded 1st place in the Health and Medicine Category by the NJ Academy of Science at its most recent annual meeting. Shweta says “I wouldn’t have been able to conduct my research if it was not for ICFNJ and my beloved professors. This would not have been possible without any of your continuous involvement, encouragement and support.” Shweta was also kind enough to share her research with ICFNJ as part of our promotional series for the 2019-2020 ICFNJ Undergraduate Research Symposium. Learn about some of Shweta’s work in this [video](#).

FALL 2020 At Our Institutions

The Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE) has issued standards for institutions of higher education as they begin restarting campus operations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The standards align with the stages of New Jersey’s phased “The Road Back: Restoring Economic Health Through Public Health” plan and provide a framework of critical standards. Guidance for consideration when formulating plans, and examples of safeguarding practices are outlined in 10 key on-campus functional areas: 1) Instruction, 2) Residential housing, 3) Computer laboratories, 4) Libraries, 5) Research, 6) Student services, 7) Transportation, 8) Dining, 9) International travel, and 10) Athletics. The [guidance](#) states that in-person classroom instruction, labs, and other curricular activity are allowed within the state’s established occupancy restrictions in Phase 3 of the NJ State reopening plan. We are currently in Phase 2 where most in-person instruction remains limited to instances where a waiver supported by a compelling rationale is obtained (labs, clinical rotations, and hands-on instruction with restrictions and safety measures in place). Most of our institutions are hoping that the state will move to Phase 3 prior to the start of the school year, but in the interim have put in place three methods of instruction, and are prepared to pivot as the guidance mandates. Our institutions have planned for some mix of remote class instruction, hybrid flexible class instruction, and in-person class instruction.

Higher Education Restart Toolkit Series

The Independent Colleges and Universities for New Jersey is in the process of developing a toolkit to assist its member institutions with their restart plans. The expertise, resources and innovative solutions offered by our member businesses address this complex endeavor and will be shared through a series of informational sessions and resource launches.

The first event in our Restart Toolkit Series was a webinar sponsored by [Pennoni](#), a multidisciplinary consulting engineering firm, and [Kognition](#), a leading expert in Artificial Intelligence screening and fever detection. The webinar, entitled, “Reopening Campuses: Controlling COVID Spread Through Innovation” discussed options for industrial cleaning and AI screening and fever detection as they pertain to college reopening amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Attendees agree that it was both informative and relevant as decisions are currently being made regarding the reopening of our colleges and universities. If you missed it, or simply wish to review what was discussed, the presentation is available for your perusal. To connect with Pennoni directly, please call 855.754.3595; and to connect with Kognition directly, please call 484.690.4698.

The second event in our Restart Toolkit Series was a webinar sponsored by [Langan Engineering](#), entitled, Leveraging Digital Solutions for Facility and Venue Operations. Experts from Langan discussed ways in which colleges and universities could leverage digital solutions for facility and venue operations in a COVID-19 world. The webinar was informative and highlighted some very innovative technology that could be used on campus (such as wearable devices similar to those used at Disney World or by the NBA this season). The presentation will be made available on this website soon for those who were unable to attend the webinar. To connect with Langan Engineering directly, please contact Brett Milburn, Director of Applied Technologies at bmilburn@langan.com.

The third event in our Restart Toolkit Series was a webinar sponsored by [Kimmel Brogrette Architecture + Site](#). This webinar discussed planning and design options for a healthy and safe return to campus. This informative webinar also featured useful restart information from representatives from Trane and Sanders Filters as well.

We will continue developing this toolkit in August as well. The next scheduled webinar will be on August 6, 2020 at 10am, and will be sponsored by [Trane Technologies](#). The webinar will discuss Indoor Air Quality and best practices to get campuses ready for reopening. [Learn more about this webinar and register](#) today. Following the August 6th Webinar, [Donnelly Construction](#) and [FSG](#) will present a webinar on Disinfecting Schools with UV and Ionization.

NJ Legislative Assembly Higher Education Committee Hearing

On July 9th, AICUNJ president, Dr. Bruce Murphy from Centenary University, Dr. Patrick Leahy from Monmouth University, Dr. Gregory Dell’Omo from Rider University, and Dr. Helen Streubert from Saint Elizabeth University, advocated for their universities and the NJ Independent College and University sector by giving their testimonies at the NJ Legislative Assembly Higher Education Committee Hearing regarding higher education reopening amid the COVID pandemic. The presidents urged for liability protection and flexibility that would allow them to balance strong academic engagement with safety.

Higher Education Event with CIANJ

On July 22nd, AICUNJ and The Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey (CIANJ) held a Higher Education Zoom event entitled, “Bridging the Continuing Education Gap Between Business and Higher Ed: Meeting the 21st Century Needs of Employers.” Both organizations discussed what Higher Education will look like in the Fall with a focus on continuing education for professionals. Business representatives from various sectors were present to discuss continuing education needs for their respective industries and businesses, and University representatives from Centenary University, Fairleigh Dickinson University, and Saint Peter’s University were on hand to discuss university offerings.

AICUNJ Title IX Webinar with Judge Francine Schott

On July 23rd, AICUNJ hosted a webinar entitled “The New Title 9 Regulations: A New Paradigm for the Investigation, Adjudication and Resolution of Sexual Harassment Complaints” discussing the new federal Title IX regulations scheduled to take effect on August 15th. The webinar was presented by former NJ Superior Court Judge Francine Schott and offered to our institution presidents and staff. Judge Schott highlighted some of the major changes made and obligations imposed by the new regulations in the areas of investigation, adjudication and resolution of complaints of sexual harassment. This webinar, like the first two - on tuition refund lawsuits and employee issues related to returning to campus - was informative and well received.

As always, we thank you for your commitment to student success and for your dedicated support of the Independent College Fund of New Jersey.