

CARES Act Funding

The Murphy Administration announced a second tranche of CARES Act funds distribution that will total \$80M. NJ independent institutions will get a fair share of these second round funds based on FTE as well as additional funds for our minority serving institutions. Our institutions will receive \$13.4 million. In addition, there may be unused funds from the first \$150M tranche that could be redistributed.

Home for the Holidays

Many of our institutions will move their on-campus and hybrid classes to on-line after the Thanksgiving break, and all students complete their semesters virtually. As COVID cases rise in our state, this plan will prevent further spread as students will have left their campus "pods" to be with family.

Virtual Economic Outlook Summit: The Post-Pandemic Economy

On Thursday, November 12, 2020, over 350 attendees joined the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in New Jersey as they hosted the 2020 Virtual Economic Outlook Summit: The Post Pandemic Economy. This informative event gave attendees great insight from a panel of economic experts from Ernst & Young, Stevens Institute of Technology, and Princeton University. Learn more about the panelists in the [event recap](#) that was shared on our website, and if you missed it, the event can be viewed on [YouTube](#).

Higher Education Advisory Restart Advisory Group (HERAG)

On November 18th, Lou attended the HERAG meeting. Dr. Smith Ellis reported that although numbers are as high as the spring outbreak, the situation is much better because testing is much greater, treatments are better, and capacity of beds and equipment is better. New Jersey's plan is still based on using specific case data to make specific decisions (surgical approach). For example, if data shows that indoor youth sports cases are spiking, that will be shut down rather than a wider shutdown.

With regard to what might happen for the Spring 2021 semester, she indicated that it is simply too difficult to predict what might happen with the virus in 2 months. If the positivity rates are in the 20's, then there might be actions, recommendations, and shutdowns, but there is no telling what numbers will trigger those actions.

The new 10-person indoor limit does not apply to in-person instruction. The classroom environment has special controls and compliance that make it not subject to the indoor limits that were set and recently reduced to 10. It does apply to other non-instruction gatherings such as a campus club or a social gathering.

20th Annual Diversity Issues in Higher Education Conference

Each year the American Conference on Diversity partners with institutions of higher learning to host the Diversity Issues in Higher Education Conference. This year, the 20th Annual Diversity Issues in Higher Ed Conference took place virtually on three consecutive Fridays in November: Nov 6, 13, and 20th, and a few members of our staff attended the conference. Dr. Johnathan Holloway, President of Rutgers University, was the keynote speaker, along with several other noted speakers and informative panels from some of our member institutions.

The first Friday, Dr. Holloway stressed the importance of storytelling to help people better understand how each individual fits in the matrix of our country. He encouraged the audience not to let other people's shortsightedness be your hindrance, and emphasized the importance of acknowledging each other's similarities and differences. Dr. Holloway's keynote address was followed by a student panel. Students from Berkeley College, Seton Hall University (4), Montclair State University (2), Essex County College (2), and Rutgers University discussed some of the challenges they faced at school as a minority pre- and during COVID, and what they felt some of their most pressing needs were.

The second Friday of the conference featured a Presidential Laboratory Panel with presidents from Essex County College, Saint Elizabeth University, and Berkeley College. Dr. Streubert represented our sector well and reminded the audience of the importance having a diversity dialogue, encouraging students, listening to their stories, and meeting them where they are. The presidents discussed ways in which education - largely because of COVID - is forever changed, and explored actions that could be made to better serve the students and the university.

On the final Friday of the conference, we heard from a Faculty and Staff Laboratory Panel. On the panel was Assemblyman Nicholas Chiaravalloti, faculty and staff from Kean University (3), and faculty from Seton Hall University (2). The panel members shared first-hand experiences they've had with students dealing with the many effects of the pandemic, and shared what they believed students needs were.

Overall the conference was very insightful and inspiring.

AICUNJ Board Meeting

On November 20th, the AICUNJ board convened for their Trustee meeting. Lou gave the President's report detailing the happenings of the Association, and Dave gave the Trenton Report, an overview of what was happening on the government side. An update was given on the Strategic Plan, specifically regarding the Government relations committee and leveraging the relationship with ICFNJ.

NJ Colleges Race, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement

As race, equity and inclusion will be the theme for our fundraising campaign next year, we have decided to highlight ways in which our organization and member institutions have been tackling this issue. We have adopted a statement of principal regarding racial equity, and will soon update our website with a [page](#) dedicated to diversity, equity and inclusion in our institutions. The Independent Colleges and University statement reads as follows:

The Independent Colleges and Universities for New Jersey, much like the collection of institutions that make up our membership, continue to be committed to living, cultivating, and preserving a culture of diversity, equity, inclusion, and connectedness.

We value the unique contributions that each of us bring. Doing so is not only the right thing to do, but it also makes our organizations, our institutions, and ultimately our great state of New Jersey stronger. We stay true to our mission by ensuring that there is a New Jersey independent college that is a good fit for the individuals that make up the diverse world that we live in.

Board Campaign/Giving Tuesday

The spirit of the holiday season is not created in what we receive but rather in the hope, encouragement and opportunity we can provide to others. As a friend of NJ Independent Colleges, you have an opportunity to hear the stories of talented and committed students striving to improve life for themselves, the community and the world. You have a chance to support a dream and make an significant impact one student at a time. It is an opportunity that should not be missed.

The annual board campaign provides funds to help our colleges create safe and supportive environments for learning, growth and talent development. You need only look to some of your fellow trustees who are alumni of our colleges to see the value of this investment over time. It is a gift that keeps on giving.

Even small donations add up to amounts that make a real difference for students and keep them on track for degree completion. Please give generously using our secure [link](#) for Giving Tuesday and every day.

Thank you for your support of our students.

Happy Holidays!

All of us at the Independent Colleges and Universities of New Jersey wish you and yours a very safe and happy holiday season!