

### History Made at Bloomfield College (again)

Newly admitted Fall 2020 Bloomfield College RN to BSN major, James Spivey, is the first African American male to be named President of New Jersey Nursing Students, Inc. (NJNS), the pre-professional organization representing the nursing students of New Jersey. Spivey, who will serve as President of NJNS for the term 2020-2021, said "I am humbled by this appointment and look forward to working alongside the NJNS Board members and representing all nursing students of New Jersey. My goal is to build a Board that embodies the mission of NJNS, namely to advocate for affordable healthcare, contribute to advances in nursing education and to develop nursing students who are prepared to lead the profession in the future."

According to Norma L. Rodgers, president of the New Jersey State Nurses Association (NJSNA) Region 3, Spivey is the first male African American student to serve as president of NJNS, and only the third African American to serve in this capacity. The first African American was Ms. Rodgers herself, a Class of 1999 Bloomfield College graduate, who is serving as Spivey's mentor for his new NJNS president's role.

NJNS is the state constituent of the National Student Nurses Association (NSNA), presently one of the largest constituents in the NSNA with close to 1,000 student members. The pre-professional organization is dedicated to fostering the professional growth of nursing students around the country by aiding in the transition from student nurse to professional nurse. Read the Bloomfield College [announcement](#).

### COVID on Campus

Some of our campuses have been working diligently to contain recent COVID outbreaks affecting students. The staff at [Monmouth University](#) and [Seton Hall University](#) and our other member institutions have executed the procedures they had in place for such a scenario in order to minimize the spread.

### Higher Education Restart Advisory Group

On October 21st, Lou attended the Higher Education Restart Advisory Group (HERAG) meeting representing the independent sector. Lou shared the following pertaining to our institutions:

As of 10/21, COVID-19 positivity rates (3.36%) and retransmission rates (1.14) have been on the rise, reaching 1000 new cases per day. However, the State believes these increases are not tied to in-person teaching. The problem seems to be private indoor gatherings. High School seniors are not getting the guidance they need to focus on and apply to college. Especially a concern for first generation and underserved students. Enrollment drops seems to be particularly affecting students coming from urban high schools. OSHE plans to reach out to incoming Commissioner of Department of Education to address this with the high school guidance counselors before we lose a large percentage of at-risk students.

Survey Question: How much will your in-person teaching change in Spring 2021?

Will teach less in-person: 0%

Will teach same percentage in-person: 32%

Teach a little more in-person: 36%

Will teach much more in-person: 18%

Still determining what to do: 14%

The need for more testing capacity, faster turn-around times, lower costs was expressed by many institutions. OSHE said they hear this need and will process surveys and make decisions as soon as possible on the Binax rapid tests.

The Advisory Group voted to continue to meet monthly into the Spring 2021 semester.

### Fairleigh Dickinson Lowers Tuition

Openly recognizing that cost has been one of the barriers to students applying for enrollment, Fairleigh Dickinson University reduced undergraduate tuition for new students by as much as 25%. President Capuano discusses this decision in an [opinion piece](#) for NJ.com and also in an [Op-Ed](#) that ran in a special edition of the Star-Ledger on October 25th.

### Heroes in Drug Discovery Event with Drew University

On October 27th, Drew University RISE (Research Institute for Scientists Emeriti) honored the Seattle Drug Discovery Team with the "Heroes in Drug Discovery" Award. Drew RISE hosted an interactive Zoom meeting for the event exploring the team's journey for breakthrough drugs in the treatment of cancer. Members of the NJ Independent Science community were invited to attend, and over 60 people were in attendance. The event which was made possible from a grant from Pfizer and was administered by ICFNJ.

### ICFNJ Board

The ICFNJ Board convened for their Fall Trustee meeting on October 16, 2020. President Streubert gave the reopening report for the independent sector, and Lou gave the president and campaign report, and each of the committee heads gave their respective reports. John Drzymkowski was voted as our new Board Chair, and Ben Torcivia was voted Vice Chair. The new roles will be effective on January 1st, 2021.

### 2020 Virtual Economic Outlook Summit with the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce

Mark your calendars! On November 12th, from 1pm - 2pm, ICFNJ and The Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce will co-sponsor the "2020 Virtual Economic Outlook Summit" discussing the Post-Pandemic economy. The event will take place via YouTube and Livestream. This will be a great opportunity to showcase our colleges, promote the Corporate Affiliates Program and seek support for the Emergency Aid Fund. Experts from our institutions will be among the featured panelists. The subject matter is timely and engaging; we hope you'll be able to join us. [Learn more about the event and please register](#).

### ICFNJ Scholarships

Applications are open for ICFNJ Scholarships. Please encourage students in your network from any of New Jersey's independent colleges or universities to apply. These scholarships not only help to reduce financial obligations, but they also allow the applicant to demonstrate their commitment to college education and career, and can also enable applicants to stand out in a job search. The deadlines are passing quickly, please visit [njcolleges.org](#) for more information.

### Student Voices

Congratulations to the Class of 2020 at Georgian Court University who celebrated their in-person commencement on October 17th! The Class of 2020 will go down in history as one of the most resilient.