

**Boston Consulting Group's (BCG) Higher Education Leaders Round Table**

On December 16th, BCG held a Higher Education Round Table, focusing on Spring semester COVID management, including lessons learned and best practices from this fall, as well as BCG's perspective on vaccine distribution and strategies for managing 2021. The Round Table was hosted in partnership with several independent colleges associations – CCIC, CICU, AICUM, AICU-RI, and AICUNJ – as well as NEBHE, the New England Board of Higher Education. There were over 70 leaders who joined the call, a combination of about 50% presidents, and 50% president designates.

**Higher Education Restart Advisory Group (HERAG)**

On December 16th, Lou attended the HERAG meeting. A few noteworthy points were made at the meeting, including the fact that the rate of noncooperation among individuals contacted by contact tracers statewide currently remains at 78%; and predictive modeling by the New Jersey Department of Health and the Office of Innovation indicate the worst-case-scenario peak of new COVID-19 cases could occur mid-January to early-February. Other important topics raised included addressing both student and faculty/staff concerns on mental health and material hardships; and addressing COVID-19 fatigue and fostering safe behaviors during the spring 2021 semester.

**More "Firsts" for Bloomfield College**

NJ Spotlight News recently profiled President Marcheta Evans, the first African-American and First Woman President of Bloomfield College. Dr. Marcheta Evans, who has taken the helm of the 151-year-old college, recognizes the challenges — and opportunities — for this 'hidden gem'. Take the time to read the inspiring [write-up](#) in its entirety.

**Affinity Group Meetings**

This month the Financial Affairs Affinity Group (AICUNJ CFOs), the Academic Affairs Affinity Group (AICUNJ Provosts), the Enrollment Management Affinity Group (AICUNJ Enrollment Managers), and the Human Resources Affinity Group (AICUNJ HR Directors), met to network, share best practices, and discuss current topics relevant to their respective roles at their institutions and within our sector. The quarterly meetings took place virtually via Zoom, and the four groups plan to meet again in March.

**New Professorship at Princeton University**

Princeton announced a new professorship of Indigenous studies — endowed by a \$5 million gift from Wendy Schmidt and her husband, Eric Schmidt, a 1976 alumnus — which will be used to build on Princeton University's interdisciplinary strengths and expand its faculty expertise in an area of study that is critically important to the school. The Princeton gift aligns with the foundation's growing grant making in support of Indigenous communities, primarily funding Native-led nonprofits like the First Nations Development Institute and providing direct support to tribes to advance self-determination through food sovereignty, movement building and land stewardship. Read more about this historic [announcement](#).

**Happy New Year!**

The year 2020 was not at all what we expected it to be when planning at this time last year. We are grateful to have been able to partner with our member institutions and trustees to effectively and necessarily pivot and make the best of every situation we've encountered in order to best serve our students. All of us at the Independent Colleges and Universities of New Jersey look forward to continuing this important work with you in the new year and wish you and yours a very Happy and Prosperous 2021!

