

New ICFNJ Board Leadership

The new year brings us a new leadership team for the ICFNJ Board of Trustees. We thank Sharon Landgraf for her dedicated service as Board Chair the past two years. She served over a period of transition in the Fund as we worked through a major leadership transition, a new office location, and then a pandemic that prevented in-person contact among the Board. Thank you, Sharon, for your unwavering dedication to the Fund and to its students. We also thank Steve Aluotto for his dedicated service in the role of Board Vice-Chair. Steve was a constant source of wise counsel and support on the leadership team and we are grateful that he and Sharon will both remain active on the Board.

We are pleased to welcome John Drzymkowski to his new role as Chair of the Board of Trustees. John has been an inspiring leader as the founding Chair of our new Development Committee. John had to define this role, and he has been an outstanding source of innovative ideas and new models of bringing value to the students of the Independent Sector. I could not think of a better person to lead the Board at this time as we adapt to the new fundraising climate of the post-pandemic economy. John will have the privilege to work with Ben Torcivia as the new Board Vice-Chair. Ben has been Chair of our Events Committee, and he has ample experience in Board activities to be a very effective Vice-Chair. We look forward to their leadership at this most critical time.

Insurrection at the Capitol Prompts Response from ICUNJ Presidents

On January 6th, a mob of supporters of U.S. President Donald Trump, stormed the United States Capitol by rioting and violently attacking the 117th United States Congress, in an attempt to overturn his defeat in the 2020 presidential election. These actions prompted statements from the Presidents of several of our member institutions. Presidents of [Princeton University](#), [Seton Hall University](#), [Rider University](#), [Drew University](#), [Fairleigh Dickinson University](#), and [Centenary University](#) publicly denounced the acts of violence that took place against our democracy.

ICFNJ Distributed \$42,000 in CIC/UPS Scholarships to New Jersey Private Colleges and Universities

The Independent College Fund of New Jersey (ICFNJ) has distributed \$42,000 in CIC/UPS Scholarships to assist 13 students at private colleges and universities in New Jersey. The scholarships were made possible by a grant from the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) in Washington, DC, through the CIC/UPS Educational Endowment.

"We are delighted to be part of the CIC/UPS Educational Endowment Program that recognizes highly qualified students for scholarships. We applaud UPS for their long-term commitment to students of independent institutions across the country. There could not be a more appropriate time than the present to support students with scholarship aid, and we are very proud of our 13 CIC/UPS Scholars of New Jersey." said Lou Manzione, president of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in New Jersey.

Nationally, CIC provided more than \$1.5 million in student scholarships through state-based associations to make private colleges and universities more affordable and accessible to under-served students.

Scholarship Donor Mentorship Program

Six (6) of our scholarship donors will offer mentorship opportunities with company volunteers during the scholarship award year. Thanks to the generosity of Engineering and Land Planning Associates, a documentary is being created to help companies and students understand the value of a Mentorship Program. Engineering and Land Planning Associates has dedicated their internal resources to prepare a two-part documentary in support of ICFNJ's scholarship and mentorship programs.

Students Are Welcomed to Campus for Spring Semester

Our colleges and universities have welcomed students back on campus for the Spring Semester with a delayed opening. Universities are focusing on health and safety of students, staff and faculty living and working on campus.

Dr. Bruce Murphy's Virtual Presidential Inauguration

On January 28th, the Board of Trustees of Centenary University held a virtual Presidential Inauguration of Dr. Bruce Murphy, the 14th President of Centenary University. The ceremony featured an inaugural address from Dr. Murphy, as well as presentations from a host of dignitaries, including New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and our very own Lou Manzione, president of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in New Jersey.

A special message was also delivered by Jeanne Murphy, a retired U.S. Army colonel and Dr. Murphy's wife. Other inauguration speakers included the presidents of several New Jersey independent universities and community colleges and representatives of the Centenary University faculty, staff, administration, student body, and alumni association. We join them all as we congratulate Dr. Murphy on this historic inauguration.

Student Voices

Centenary University student, Jersey City resident, and ICFNJ Scholar, Azalee Banks received the CIC/UPS Scholarship in the amount of \$3000, which recognizes outstanding student achievement and is administered through the Independent College Fund of New Jersey. Azalee is majoring in fashion design, and was featured in a WRNJ Radio [story](#).

Prepared by cooperative education, Stevens Institute of Technology Chemical Engineering student, Christina Trinidad '21, has accepted a role with Merck to help assure the quality of life-saving medicines. She is the first engineer in her family and is proud and grateful to be able to [give back through the pharmaceutical industry](#).