

### ROI Influencers Named to the 2021 Higher Education Power List 2021

Congratulations are in order, as five ICUNJ presidents were named to the ROI Influencers [2021 Higher Education Power List](#). The “Power List” rankings include the 30 most influential people in Higher Education in the state of New Jersey. Congratulations to Fairleigh Dickinson University president, Dr. Chris Capuano; Monmouth University president, Dr. Patrick Leahy; Princeton University president, Christopher Eisgruber, Seton Hall University President, Dr. Joseph Nyre, and Stevens Institute President, Dr. Nariman Farvardin.

### NJ College Presidents of Color Encourage Vaccine

NJ Higher Education Presidents of Color jointly authored an Op-Ed educating and encouraging populations of color to get the COVID-19 vaccine. The jointly signed op-ed, [“Standing Together to Save Lives”](#) was shared widely in hopes of using these collective voices to be advocates for trust in the science that developed the vaccines for all New Jerseyans, but especially the Black and brown communities who reports are showing are more reticent to get vaccinated.

The public letter was signed by six college presidents: Augustine A. Boakye of Essex County College; James W. Crawford III of Felician University; Marcheta P. Evans of Bloomfield College; Barbara Gaba of Atlantic Cape Community College; Jonathan Holloway of Rutgers University; and Lamont O. Repollet of Kean University.

### NAICU 2021 Annual Meeting & Advocacy Day

*Your Voice, Your Future*, was the theme of NAICU’s Annual Meeting and Advocacy Day which was held virtually February 8-10, 2021. The theme reflected the critical need and urgency for private college and university leaders to engage on public policy and legislative issues to help shape the future of private, nonprofit higher education.

Presidents and staff, as well as Lou and Dave from AICUNJ, participated in the annual meeting programs and participated in the annual advocacy day on Capitol Hill. The NAICU conference program prepared participants with strategies about advancing a positive policy agenda that benefits our students and families as the priorities of the new Biden Administration and the 117th Congress come into view.

Presidents, campus staff and AICUNJ staff participated in virtual meetings with the entire NJ delegation on the Hill in separate meetings. They met with staff from United States Senators Menendez and Booker as well as meetings with Representatives Gottheimer and Sherill and staff from the other ten members of the House of Representatives. Participants thanked the members for the federal assistance that has been provided to date and advocated for more funding to meet the over \$220 million in costs and revenue losses associated with COVID-19. Focus was also placed on the need to double PELL grants and to make sure that private colleges are not left behind as discussions on affordability and free public college continue.

### Career Exploration Series for Students and Industries

ICFNJ will launch the Career Exploration Series for Students and Industries on March 4th with a [webinar](#) focused on Project Management from an architecture, engineering and construction perspective. Through the series, ICFNJ is partnering with industries and corporations to help student explore career paths they may not have considered. Presenters will share industry specific and general information. All student participants will have an opportunity to present their resumes, ask questions about internships, hiring practices, continuing education needs, and expectations for college to career hires. Students will be able to build a professional network of peers and industry leaders invested in the next generation of leaders and innovators.

### Bloomfield College Designated as an Institutional Affiliate in CIC Project Exploring the Pervasive Legacy of Slavery

Bloomfield College has been designated as an [Institutional Affiliate on a multi-year project](#) with the Council on Independent Colleges (CIC), “Legacies of American Slavery: Reckoning with the Past.” This initiative is designed to help CIC member institutions, their students and their communities explore the continuing impact of slavery on American life and culture.

As one of 12 Institutional Affiliates, Bloomfield College will play a foundational role in developing regional and national networks in support of the CIC project. The project is led by seven Regional Collaboration Partners who, along with Institutional Affiliates, will support campus-based research, teaching and learning as well as community-based programs about the multiple legacies of slavery while contributing to a national conversation about race, equity, freedom, political power and cultural resilience.

### Rider University president elected to NAICU board of directors

Rider University President Gregory G. Dell’Omo, Ph.D., has been [elected to the board of directors](#) of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU). The three-year term will begin in July, with Dell’Omo set to represent the region that includes New Jersey, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland and New York. He will serve alongside other presidents from accredited private, nonprofit colleges and universities who make up NAICU’s institutional membership. NAICU is one of only six major presidential higher education associations and the only national organization solely focused on representing private, nonprofit higher education on public policy issues in Washington, D.C. Dell’Omo will serve on the Committee on Policy Analysis and Public Relations.

### An Unconventional First for Centenary University

Dr. Bruce Murphy was recently inaugurated as the 14th President of Centenary University. This was the first virtual inauguration for the University, and possibly the first Higher Ed Virtual Inauguration in New Jersey, but it was [not the first unconventional inauguration](#) for Dr. Murphy. The [virtual inauguration](#) was a great success with over 538 views the day of, and more than \$35k raised for the President’s Initiative Fund and Inaugural Service Project supporting Veterans. Centenary University extends their gratitude to all who sent in videos.

### Dept. Of Education Drops Investigation Into Princeton University

Last September, the DoE informed the university in a letter that it was opening an investigation into its non-discrimination practices. The investigation came after President Eisgruber wrote a letter to the university highlighting steps it was taking to combat “systemic racism” on campus. The U.S. Department of Education (DoE) has closed its investigation into the university over charges of racial bias. The investigation was closed on Jan. 13.

### Drew University Holds a Vigil of Hope For Missing International Student

Ajay Sah, a Drew University junior from Nepal was reported missing since mid-January. He has been active in many facets of life at the Madison campus where he is majoring in math with a minor in physics. A resident adviser to his dorm, Sah also is a familiar face at Tilghman House, where he is an ambassador of sorts to his fellow international students. A [Vigil of Hope](#) was held in his honor as the search for Ajay continues.

### Student Voices

Lana Hannineh, a sophomore biology major and pre-med student in the College of Arts and Sciences at Seton Hall University received a \$2,500 PSE&G Scholarship for Advancing STEM Majors. The scholarship recognizes her contributions to environmentally focused research conducted at Seton Hall.

Distributed through the Independent College Fund of New Jersey (ICFNJ), PSE&G funds this scholarship to assist talented students with a committed interest in “building environmental stewardship and developing meaningful sustainability initiatives.” You can learn more about Lana’s work [here](#).