

### Diversity is Front and Center at NJ Colleges and Universities

In response to national discussions about social justice and diversity, New Jersey's colleges and universities are taking a hard look at how to create meaningful change on their campuses. AICUNJ issued a [press release](#) examining how NJ's independent colleges and universities have dedicated efforts toward diversity, equity, and inclusion. Lou was recently [interviewed](#) by NJ 101.5 to further discuss the topic.

### 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 June.

### ROI Influencers Women in Business Named to the 2021 Higher Education Power List 2021

Congratulations are in order, as six ICUNJ women were named to the ROI Influencers [2021 Higher Education Women in Business Power List](#). The "Power List" rankings include the 30 most influential women in Higher Education in the state of New Jersey. Congratulations to Kathleen Boozang, Dean of Seton Hall Law School; Dr. Marcheta Evans, President of Bloomfield College; Beth McGrath, Chief of Staff and Vice President of University Relations at Stevens Institute of Technology; Katia Passerini, Provost at Seton Hall University; Deborah Prentice, Provost at Princeton University; and Ramona Romero, General Counsel at Princeton University.

### NJ Independent Colleges Stand in Solidarity with the Asian American Community

In response to the national surge of racist attacks and threats against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in our country, and the recent shooting of six Asian women in the Atlanta metropolitan area on March 16th, the presidents of NJ's independent colleges and universities [have spoken out](#) against these crimes and are encouraging their campus communities to stand in solidarity with the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

### Caldwell University makes New Jersey History

Caldwell University Athletics has announced the addition of women's acrobatics and tumbling as an intercollegiate sport for the 2021-2022 academic year, increasing its varsity sports opportunities to 17. Caldwell becomes [the first institution in the state of New Jersey](#) to add acrobatics and tumbling as a varsity sport. Scholarships will be available for the acrobatics and tumbling program.

### PBIs are where people go when they dream of something better; they need greater support.

Dr. Marcheta Evans, president of Bloomfield College, pens a heartfelt [opinion piece](#) advocating for her students and all students attending Predominately Black Institutions. These institutions create pathways for low-income Black students and other people of color to earn a higher education degree and need greater federal and state support.

### Monmouth and Georgian Court Presidents Remain Optimistic

Both higher education institutions in Monmouth and Ocean counties have [weathered the COVID storm](#) fairly well, the presidents contend. They have changed their recruitment campaigns to target more local students and boost interest among those who have a better chance of getting into a small college, and are looking forward to a brighter future.

### Gary B. Crosby Named Eighth President of Saint Elizabeth University

Gary B. Crosby, Ph.D., vice president for student affairs at Alabama A&M University (AAMU), has been unanimously selected by the Saint Elizabeth University (SEU) Board of Trustees to serve as the institution's [eighth president](#). Crosby is the first African American and first male president in the University's 121-year history. Crosby will succeed Helen J. Streubert, Ed.D., who will continue to lead the University until her retirement on June 30, 2021. Streubert was appointed the first lay president of then-College of Saint Elizabeth in 2013.

### Rider University nationally recognized as First-gen Forward Institution

Rider University was selected to the [2021-22 First-gen Forward cohort](#) by the Center for First-generation Student Success. Only 58 institutions were selected for the cohort. The designation recognizes institutions of higher education who have demonstrated a commitment to improving experiences and advancing outcomes of first-generation college students. "We are honored to be recognized nationally as an institution dedicated to supporting the success of first-generation students," says Dr. Leanna Fenneberg, vice president for student affairs.

### Colleges Intend to Open in-person in the Fall

Our member institutions are busy planning for an in-person Fall inviting students to return to campuses. We are all hoping COVID numbers remain manageable, and state guidance permits. Some of our institutions such as [Seton Hall University](#), [Princeton University](#), [Rider University](#), and [St. Peter's University](#) have already made announcements, and the sector is excited for their campuses to begin to return to normal.

### Bloomfield College President, Dr. Marcheta P. Evans Voted as ACE Women's Network-NJ Presidential Sponsor

President of Bloomfield College, Marcheta P. Evans, Ph.D., was recently voted to serve as [ACE Women's Network-New Jersey's Presidential Sponsor](#) effective February 19, 2021. ACE-NJ Presidential Sponsors serve as advisors and mentors to the Chair and Board members on program planning and implementation, and support and develop strategies that meet the specific needs of women within New Jersey higher education. "I am pleased to serve in this important capacity to emphasize and support women in higher education leadership roles," said Dr. Evans in accepting the nomination. "It took a village for me to reach my goal of serving as a college president, and I am eager to continue to pay it forward as a mentor to other women who seek advancement within higher education. It's critical that women see other women who look like them succeeding in these roles."

Evans became the first female and African American president of Bloomfield College on June 1, 2019, where she leads one of the most diverse liberal arts colleges in the nation and New Jersey's only four-year Predominantly Black Institution (PBI) and Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). Congratulations, Dr. Evans!

### Undergraduate Research Symposium

We have been busy preparing for the [2021 Undergraduate Research Symposium](#). The Independent Colleges and Universities for New Jersey (ICFNJ) is pleased to announce the URS opening program which will take place on April 12th at 9am. The one-hour virtual session with career professionals from BD will be moderated by Dr. Lou Manzione, president of ICFNJ. Each of the professionals have achieved career success pursuing different career paths. During the Virtual Opening Program for the Undergraduate Research Symposium, they will share in a discussion of the factors contributing to their success, how they overcame challenges, and what they see for the next generation. We invite you to join us for this [informational program](#).