

State operating support tripled from current levels

The recently enacted state budget will provide \$6 million in operating aid to the fourteen institutions. This is three times the \$2 million provided in the current year. The increase is due to an additional \$3 million provided by the legislature and approved by the Governor. We thank Senate President Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, Majority Leaders Weinberg and Greenwald, Budget Committee Chairs Sarlo and Pintor-Marin, Higher Education Committee Chairs Cunningham and Jasey, and other supporters. This \$6 million is the largest amount of operating aid provided since 2009 when \$16.4 million was provided.

Nearly 11,000 students will share nearly \$115 million in state provided financial aid

The recently enacted state budget will also provide nearly \$115 million in state financial aid to nearly 11,000 students that attend our fourteen institutions. Most of these funds are provided under the Tuition Aid Grant program which will provide an average grant of approximately \$10,000 and a maximum grant of nearly \$13,000. The NJ TAG program is considered the most generous in the nation for students attending independent institutions with grant levels that are more than double our neighboring states. The combination of the state financial assistance and federal student aid along with the over \$1 billion in institutional aid helps make a college education more affordable for low income students.

New Jersey's Independent Colleges Remain Strong, Resilient and Persistent

As conversations about the challenges faced by higher education before and after the pandemic permeate the news cycles, incoming Independent Colleges and Universities of NJ board chair and Georgian Court University president, Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D. pens an [opinion piece](#) on the strength, resilience, and persistence of New Jersey's independent colleges. He speaks to how our institutions and students pivoted quickly and effectively, taking measures to deal with the changing dynamics of higher education in New Jersey. Independent colleges and universities in NJ have always excelled in the face of challenges.

Merger Approved

The Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of New Jersey and the Independent College Fund of New Jersey have officially completed the merger – to the single non-profit organization, Independent Colleges and Universities of New Jersey (ICUNJ) to build upon synergies and to more efficiently and effectively advocate on behalf of the students who are served by independent colleges and universities in New Jersey. The merger was officially approved by State of New Jersey, and the new merged organization will go into effect on July 1st, 2021.

Steve Reynolds named New President of ICUNJ, the Independent Colleges and Universities of New Jersey

Stephen R. ("Steve") Reynolds has been named by the members of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in New Jersey (AICUNJ) and the Independent College Fund of New Jersey (ICFNJ) to serve as the [new President](#) of the Independent Colleges and Universities of New Jersey (ICUNJ). Reynolds has had a long and successful career serving in prominent roles as a corporate lawyer and litigator and brings over 35 years of management, leadership, and negotiation skills to ICUNJ. He is also a direct and repeated beneficiary of the value of independent higher education in New Jersey, with a passion for "paying forward" what has been given to him.

Reynolds succeeds Louis T. Manzione, Ph.D., who will continue to lead the organization until his retirement on July 23, 2021. Manzione was named president of the sister organizations (AICUNJ and ICFNJ) in July of 2018.

Reynolds holds a bachelor's degree in history from Princeton University, and a juris doctorate from Fordham University School of Law. Additionally, he has served as a member of the ICFNJ Board of Trustees for 15 years.

Golf Outing- Save the Date!

We are excited to announce the return of our Annual ICFNJ Golf Outing on Monday, September 13, 2021 at Cedar Hill Golf & Country Club in Livingston, New Jersey. By returning to Cedar Hill, we hope to offer golfers an enjoyable and great day of golf. To safeguard our golfers, we are limiting the total number of foursomes and following guidelines for safe play. Scoring will be individual plus best ball. Our member colleges are also encouraged to participate in the Collegiate Challenge and compete for honors and a championship trophy.

Your registration covers brunch, green fees, cart, a combined cocktails/dinner reception and a chance for some great prizes. Please consider a sponsorship, coordinate a foursome, play a round of golf, or just attend the after tournament cocktail/dinner reception. Contribute to the proud tradition of offering students a choice in the college or university they attend and the educational equity that promotes the realization of their dreams. Contact [MaryAlice](#) to reserve your spot and support level.

Welcome to Dr. Gary B. Crosby, Eighth President of Saint Elizabeth University

On July 1, 2021, Gary B. Crosby, Ph.D. will take the helm as [president of Saint Elizabeth University](#). Dr. Crosby, formerly vice president for student affairs at Alabama A&M University (AAMU), has been unanimously selected by the Saint Elizabeth University 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. Recognized for his student-centered, mission-oriented and transformational leadership, Crosby brings nearly 20 years of innovative and progressive administrative experience in higher education.

Crosby succeeds Helen J. Streubert, Ed.D., who will retire on June 30, 2021. Streubert was appointed the first lay president of then-College of Saint Elizabeth in 2013. During her eight-year tenure, Streubert guided Saint Elizabeth University through a period of dramatic transformation focused on continuing to provide a high-quality education to those who may not have had access to one. This included transitioning to fully coeducational in 2016 with a platform that furthered the commitment to the development of women's leadership, the addition of health care programs and becoming a university in July 2020.

As Corporate America Seeks Diversity, It Should Look to Black Colleges

Bloomfield College President, Dr. Marcheta Evans calls attention to Corporate America, telling them that PBIs must be part of any corporate recruitment that aims to change the economic future of those harmed by systemic racism. Her [OpEd](#) on the topic was published in NorthJersey.com.

Monmouth University adds to list of NJ's independent institutions mandating vaccinations

Monmouth University joins the growing list of institutions that [will require all students and staff to be fully vaccinated](#) for the fall semester, and will mandate mask-wearing inside classrooms and labs at all times. The requirement includes a provision for exemptions on religious or medical grounds, but only on a case-by-case basis.

"The university has carefully considered the role that COVID-19 vaccinations will play in safeguarding the overall health and safety of the university community," Monmouth President Patrick Leahy said in a statement. "We acknowledge that reaching a high vaccination level among our community is the most important factor in resuming in-person activities across campus this fall.

The other ICUNJ institutions mandating the vaccine are [Drew University](#), [Fairleigh Dickinson University](#), [Princeton University](#), [Rider University](#), [Saint Elizabeth University](#), [Saint Peter's University](#), [Seton Hall University](#), and [Stevens Institute of Technology](#). This effort will help to ensure that students returning to campus are protected from the virus, and will lend to a more vibrant campus life than last year.

Student Corner

Congratulations to ICFNJ Scholar, Geisha Tiburcio, Felician University, Class of 2021! Geisha graduated in June as a biology major and was the recipient of the Novartis Science Scholarship. Geisha says "Receiving the ICFNJ scholarship has made the increasing costs that come with higher education more feasible. As a student, the biggest obstacle should be your classes, not if you're able to afford the upcoming semester." Geisha hopes to work hands on in a professional lab after graduation where she can learn more about the industry. We wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.