

ICUNJ and March Madness

Since the NCAA Tournament began on March 15, the nation's attention has been focused on the remarkable team from Jersey City and its historic run to the Elite 8. Of the 68 teams in the Tournament, the Saint Peter's University Peacocks outlasted 64 of them. Simply amazing. However, what should not be lost in this remarkable story of success is how [several teams from the Independent Colleges and Universities of New Jersey \("ICUNJ"\)](#) directly and indirectly contributed to this run and that others had memorable victories of their own on the hardwood this season.

'A seminal moment in our history': Saint Peter's president talks March Madness impact

Saint Peter's University President Eugene Cornacchia was able to fully appreciate the magnitude of what the Peacocks' men's basketball team accomplished this past weekend, winning two NCAA Tournament games and becoming the Cinderella darling of the sports world. He [spoke with USA TODAY NETWORK New Jersey](#) about the experience and its impact on the small Catholic university.

Seton Hall's Miraculous Season Ends with WNIT Championship loss to South Dakota State

In a season full of immense highs and disastrous lows, the Seton Hall Women's Basketball team willed their way to the [WNIT Championship](#) after a late-season surge. Earning a 16-2 record over their past 18 games, the Pirates were prepared to take on a well-coached, dominant South Dakota State team that lost just one game during their non-conference schedule. The late-game scare in the WNIT Final Four against Middle Tennessee almost ended the season, but it was the Jackrabbits that put the Pirates away in the Saturday afternoon match up, 82-50.

The Pirates played in this tournament for the fourth time under current coach and Seton Hall alum Anthony Bozzella, who's been in charge since 2013. They went to the third round in 2014 and were bounced in the first round in 2018 and 2019. They made consecutive NCAA tournament appearances under Bozzella in 2015 and 2016, but lost in the first round both times. That includes the 2014-15 season, in which Seton Hall went 28-6 and won the Big East. That title ended a streak of seven straight Big East losing seasons for the Pirates.

Rider University's business training program for veterans returns for 9th year

Veterans, their spouses and dependents who are considering starting or growing a business can apply to [Rider University's Veterans Entrepreneurship Training program](#) now through May 12.

Offered through Rider's Center for Entrepreneurial Studies, the program, which runs from May 16 to June 29, will provide a platform for developing a business concept and exploring its feasibility. Participants will conduct market research, draft a market plan and study operations and financials for their business.

Now in its ninth year, the [free program](#) offers: Individualized attention and feedback from faculty in Rider's Norm Brodsky College of Business; Eligibility to apply for one year of continued mentoring upon completion of the program; The option to take the program for college credit; and Access to Rider University library resources.

Fairleigh Dickinson University places second in HSI Battle of the Brains

A Fairleigh Dickinson University interdisciplinary team of students from the Florham and Metropolitan Campuses placed second in the second annual [Hispanic Serving Institutions \(HSI\) Battle of the Brains national competition](#). The team won a \$15,000 grant!

The HSIBOTB 2022 competition assigned a real-life problem for student participants to solve – draft a plan to help KPMG reduce their carbon footprint. To solve this problem, each team was given 24 hours to develop a solution based on the business challenges presented. After 24 hours, the team's proposed solution was judged based on the following criteria. "With the shared goal, motivations, and efforts, our FDU student team won 2nd prize! This achievement was possible because eight FDU students effectively collaborated with each other by leveraging their different skill sets and knowledge to create a business and an accordant technology solution.

Bloomfield College President is Recipient of Excellence in Education Award

Bloomfield College President Marcheta P. Evans, Ph.D., was the recipient of the "[Excellence in Education Award](#)" from the Suburban Essex Chamber of Commerce at its awards banquet held March 4, 2022 at The Chandelier, Belleville, New Jersey.

"Dr. Evans is a highly engaging and respected, 30-plus year educator who has authored numerous articles and book chapters focusing on issues of diversity, multiculturalism, women's issues and leadership. And, she has presented over one hundred times at state, regional, national and international levels," said Suburban Essex Chamber of Commerce Executive Administrator Donna M. Pietroiaccovo. "The Chamber is thrilled to honor Dr. Evans for her many contributions as a college faculty, college administrator, counselor, and, of course, for her leadership as the first woman and African American president of Bloomfield College, located within our county."

Newark Launches Guaranteed Education Pilot Program With Saint Elizabeth University

Saint Elizabeth University (SEU) and Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka announced a [pilot program](#) to guarantee a debt-free four-year college education for 40 at-risk Newark students.

The pilot program, "Guaranteed Education," will enable the selected students to attend Saint Elizabeth University in Morristown, N.J., for four years through the \$1 million grant from the City of Newark, led by Mayor Baraka.

Seton Hall Law ranked best in N.J. by U.S. News

Congratulations to Seton Hall Law School for being ranked as having the [best law school in the state of New Jersey](#), according to the graduate school rankings released by U.S. News & World Report on Tuesday.

Georgian Court University Sells 42 Acres to Expedite the Launch and Expansion of GCU's Master Plan

After two years of discussion, Georgian Court University has reached an [agreement](#) to sell 42 acres of mostly unused and undeveloped land to the Beth Medrash Govoha (BMG) Lakewood yeshiva.

The relationship between GCU, a Catholic university, and BMG, an orthodox Yeshiva, is what makes this transaction different than many other land sales currently occurring across the country. This isn't just about the exchange of land for equity; it is another step forward in strengthening the long-standing relationship between the two institutions of higher learning, both of which are committed to creating outstanding learning opportunities for their students and to improving the Lakewood community at large. Through this deal, both institutions will be able to more quickly meet their goals for future growth and expansion.

"As a Catholic university, we are called to be responsible for each other and care for the common good," said Georgian Court University [President Joseph Marbach, Ph.D.](#) "This mutually beneficial partnership reflects our commitment to our core values and the Mercy tradition. It enables both communities to forge ahead to a better and brighter tomorrow."

Montclair State University and Bloomfield College Announce Efforts to Forge a Permanent Relationship

Montclair State University's Board of Trustees today authorized the University to provide financial support to Bloomfield College, if needed, to ensure the College can remain open through the 2022-23 academic year while the two institutions work toward their goal of establishing a permanent relationship.

As New Jersey's only four-year Predominantly Black Institution (PBI), as well as a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) and Minority Serving Institution (MSI), Bloomfield College provides students from these underrepresented communities with the education they need for social and economic mobility. Recognized as one of the most diverse national liberal arts colleges in the United States by U.S. News & World Report, the College offers the lowest tuition among the private four-year institutions in New Jersey. Specifically, the [agreement](#) will allow the University to furnish Bloomfield with a source of additional funds, if needed, to ensure that the College can complete the 2022-23 academic year. Any loans made under this agreement will be secured by a lien on real estate owned by the College.