

NJ Independent Colleges eNews

May 2022

Inauguration of James W. Crawford III, the Sixth President of Felician University

Congratulations are in order for Felician University President James W. Crawford, III, who celebrated his historic [inauguration](#) to the post on April 29, 2022 after a week long celebration at the University. A former Navy officer and judge advocate general, President Crawford was named the sixth president of Felician University in June of 2021 and had been serving as Interim president since September 2020. President Crawford is the first Black president at Felician University and the first male to hold the position.

Chris Swenson, chair of the university's board of trustees, said of Crawford, "His hands-on experience in steering the university during one of the most challenging periods in its history enables him to step into the role of president fully prepared to take us to new heights."

Felician was the rare private university that saw an enrollment increase during the pandemic year, a time when other colleges have lost students.

2022 Undergraduate Research Symposium

Throughout the Fall and into the early weeks of the Spring semester, students eager to bring innovation to current issues engaged in research. To encourage independent research and continued engagement in STEM majors, ICUNJ offered select students up to \$1000 for resources, stipend and other associated expenses and an opportunity to participate in its annual [Undergraduate Research Symposium](#). The Symposium kicked off April 4th with past student participants sharing lessons learned as they continued through advanced degrees and onto employment. Our thanks go out to Olivia Blondheim, '18, Drew University; Flobater Fawargi, '21, Monmouth University; and Theresa M. Kucinaki, '16, Drew University for sharing their appreciation for the undergraduate experience and the value of mentorship, making career course adjustments and building strong communication skills. Twenty-one student projects were reviewed by virtual panels of industry professionals, research faculty and Board of Advisors members over the next three days. Research ranged from testing a new and facile route to build the aflatoxin core to exploring the production of a more water soluble form of melanin to food intake and body weight impact during time restricted feeding. These topics were covered by the top performers earning high marks in communication, use of presentation resources, and research ownership. Congratulations to top scorers Shanid Shrestha, '22, Caldwell University; Daniella Marrero, '22, Caldwell University; and George Afoakwah, '23, Rider University respectfully.

Governor Murphy Welcomes the Saint Peter's Men's Basketball Team to Drumtacket

With their incredible March Madness run, Saint Peter's Men Basketball team showed the nation what it means to be from New Jersey. Governor Murphy [graciously hosted the Peacocks](#) at Drumtacket, the New Jersey Governor's Mansion, to celebrate their historic achievement.

ICUNJ Commencement Speaker Announcements

Commencement season is upon us and ICUNJ institutions have announced their honorary degree recipients and commencement speakers for their in-person graduation ceremonies this year, and the list is quite impressive.

The Honorable Jose L. Linares, a retired judge and practicing attorney who broke ground as the first Hispanic to serve as Chief Judge of the United States District Court of New Jersey and as the first Cuban-born District Court Chief in the United States, along with Mailissa "Bisa" Yamba-Butler is an award-winning professional artist who has garnered national praise for creating fiber art recognized as historically significant in telling and celebrating the history of African Americans will receive honorary degrees and address the Class of 2022 at [Bloomfield College's](#) 149th Commencement Ceremony. Yaman Thapa, who will be receiving a chemistry degree, and Patricia Valerio, who will be receiving a Master of Business Administration degree from [Caldwell University](#) will be the undergraduate and graduate ceremony speakers, respectively. Three-time Olympic gold medalist and former US Women's National Soccer Team (USWNT) member, Heather O'Reilly will deliver the address at the 147th commencement of [Centenary University](#). Dr. Luis Jódar, Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Pfizer Vaccines, and Dr. Kimani Paul-Emile, Professor of Law, Associate Director and Head of Domestic Programs and Initiatives at Fordham Law School's Center on Race, Law & Justice, and faculty co-director of the Fordham Law School Stein Center for Law & Ethics, will speak at the College of Liberal Arts at [Drew University](#), the Rev. Dr. Wolf, author and an active member and executive with a number of prison and nonviolence groups, will deliver an address at the Drew Theological School ceremony. John E. Harmon, Sr., IOM, the founder, president, and CEO of the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey will deliver the address at [Fairleigh Dickinson University](#). Jeh Charles Johnson, former Secretary of Homeland Security during the Obama Administration will be the keynote speaker at the Felician University's Commencement. Bob Garrett, the CEO of Hackensack Meridian Health, will be the commencement speaker at Georgian Court University. Jack Ford, Emmy and Peabody Award-winning host of Metro Focus on PBS and CBS News Correspondent for 60 Minutes Sports, will deliver the commencement address at Monmouth University. [Princeton University's](#) Class of 2022 has selected Dr. Anthony Fauci, the Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, as this year's Class Day Speaker. Entrepreneur Paul Muller, NJ DoH Commissioner Judith Persichilli '80 and NEA director Ann Meier Baker to be honored and will give commencement addresses at [Rider University's](#) Undergraduate, Graduate, and the Westminster Choir College ceremony, respectively; Jacqueline Fortune Carter, the Director of Community Engagement of Harris County Sheriff's Office in Houston, Texas will give the commencement address at Saint Elizabeth University. Rev. DeForest B. Soaries, Jr., D. Min., pastor Emeritus at First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens and former secretary of State of New Jersey, will address the Class of 2022 at Saint Peter University's commencement exercises. His Excellency António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General, will deliver the commencement address at [Seton Hall University's](#) 166th baccalaureate commencement ceremony; and Hall of Fame baseball player, philanthropist and best-selling author, Cal Ripken, Jr. will deliver the commencement address at [Stevens Institute of Technology](#).

Caldwell Partners with St. George's University School of Medicine and Essex County College

Caldwell University has entered a [partnership with St. George's University and Essex County College](#) to streamline admission for eligible students to St. George's University School of Medicine. Accepted students will complete two years at Essex County College and one year at Caldwell University before pursuing a four-year medical degree at St. George's.

Students in the 2+1+4 program must successfully complete their first two years of undergraduate study at Essex County College with an associate's degree in biology. Then they must complete one year of undergraduate study at Caldwell University. After that, they'll move on to the four-year medical degree program at St. George's University in Grenada. They'll also have the opportunity to spend their first year of medicine at Northumbria University in the United Kingdom, which maintains a special partnership with St. George's University. In order to remain eligible for the program, students must maintain a 3.4 grade point average while enrolled at Essex County College and at Caldwell. They must also register a competitive score on the MCAT.

Students accepted to the 2+1+4 program will receive a \$10,000 scholarship upon matriculating at St. George's University. They will receive their Bachelor of Science degree from Caldwell upon successfully completing the first year of the SGU's MD program.

Bloomfield College Game Design Program Ranked Highest in New Jersey

For the fourth year in a row, The Princeton Review has named Bloomfield College a [top undergraduate school for Game Design](#). Bloomfield College is ranked highest in New Jersey and #37 nationally among undergraduate schools offering programs in game design.

Bloomfield College's Bachelor of Arts in Game Design within the Creative Arts & Technology Division is a practice-orientated program focused on core principles, concepts, methodologies and skills that are reinforced through the creation of hands-on projects. Many courses also involve students working on collaborative team-based projects that mimic real-world game development environments. Theoretical knowledge and practical methods converge within these environments to provide students with the experience they need to truly understand and overcome the complexities involved in making games.

"We enthusiastically recommend Bloomfield College to students considering a career in this burgeoning field," said Rob Franek, Editor-in-Chief for The Princeton Review. "Together with the other exceptional schools on our 2022 list, their facilities are state-of-the-art, and their alumni include many of the industry's most successful artists, designers, developers, and entrepreneurs."