

### Inaugural Presidents' Networking Reception

On the evening of Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ICUNJ had the distinct honor of hosting the ICUNJ [Inaugural Presidents' Reception](#) in the beautiful Erlanger Gardens at Monmouth University. It was an opportunity for College Presidents, higher ed decision makers, our Board of Advisors, corporate sponsors, and other friends and supporters to meet and mingle while we showcased some of the important work that we do for the 14 private institutions in New Jersey. It was truly a beautiful evening all around.

Monmouth President Patrick Leahy welcomed our group to his beautiful campus, and ICUNJ President Steve Reynolds gave additional welcoming remarks thanking those in attendance for joining us, and acknowledged three retiring board members. The honored retirees are Sharon Landgraf, Senior Vice President of PNC Bank, Karen Jezierny, Director of State Affairs at Princeton University, and Frank D'Amelio, Executive Vice President of Business Operations and Chief Financial Officer at Pfizer. Our board is happy to welcome Gina Spinelli, Relationship Manager at PNC will fill Sharon Landgraf's vacancy, and Hilary Parker, Princeton University Vice President and Secretary who will fill Karen Jezierny's vacancy. ICUNJ VP MaryAlice Brueninger introduced three ICUNJ students who were present at the reception and introduced a Student Testimonial video featuring the top three high scoring 2022 URS Scholarship recipients who discussed how their scholarships have helped them.

### What the New Jersey 2023 State Budget Means for Our Sector

The recently adopted FY 2023 State budget continues to provide support to our institutions and their students. The budget provides \$10.5 million in operating aid, an increase of \$3.5 million, or 50%, over the prior year. Over the past two years operating aid has increased from \$2 million to \$10.5 million. This investment reflects a path to reaching the \$16.5 million that was provided in FY 2010 and ultimately towards the statutory level of \$28 million. The over 10,000 students that attend our institutions and receive a state Tuition Aid Grant (TAG) will likely receive at least a two-percent increase in their award which will raise the average award to over \$10,500 while the maximum award will increase to nearly \$13,500. We thank Governor Murphy, Senate President Scutari, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, and all legislators for their consideration and support of our institutions and the nearly 63,000 students that attend our institutions.

### Felician University's INX22 brings leaders and students together in the name of innovation

Earlier this month, an impressive group of leaders and students gathered at American Dream and Felician University for the inaugural [Innovation Knowledge eXchange of 2022 \(INX22\)](#).

The two-day forum, which was organized by Felician University's Lenke Family Center for Innovation, its Center for Academic Technology, and its Buildings & Grounds Department, plus the Royal Academy of Science International Trust, focused on developing groundbreaking and sustainable solutions to some of the world's top challenges.

### Seton Hall Pirates End 12th Straight Year With Record-High GPA

Seton Hall student-athletes are some of the best and the brightest in the nation, and for a 12th consecutive year, [Seton Hall Athletics is concluding the academic year with a record-high cumulative grade point average](#). After Spring 2022, Seton Hall student-athletes have combined for a 3.506 cumulative GPA, which improves upon the 3.491 the department had after Spring 2021. All 14 varsity programs concluded 2021-22 with cumulative GPAs above 3.0.

The continued ascent in the department's grades now dates back to the end of the 2010-11 academic year, when the department's cumulative GPA was at 3.174.

In addition, 154 student-athletes made the Seton Hall Dean's List during the Spring 2022 semester, representing 53 percent of the student-athlete population. To achieve Dean's List designation, students must have a 3.4 GPA or higher during the semester.

### New Ranking Confirms Stevens Is a Top Choice in 'Best Colleges in America'

A [new ranking from Money](#), "Best Colleges in America," places Stevens Institute of Technology at No. 36 nationally for overall value and at No. 4 nationally for highest early career salary out of more than 600 ranked colleges and universities, confirming the value of a Stevens education. Money also ranks Stevens at No. 16 nationally in its "Best Colleges for Engineering Majors" ranking.

"When choosing a college or university, students and their families focus on the return on their investment and heavily weigh the published outcomes of the investment," says Susan Gross, Stevens' assistant vice president for enrollment management. "This ranking, along with many others, illustrates the value of a Stevens education, and undoubtedly contributes to the growth in applications for our undergraduate programs." Year over year, 97 percent of Stevens graduates secure jobs or admission to graduate school within six months of graduation. For the Class of 2021, the average starting salary was \$75,400, with salaries for software engineering and computer science majors topping \$90,000.

### Princeton University will name building in honor of Laura Wooten, the longest serving U.S. poll worker

Princeton's Board of Trustees has approved [naming a University building for Laura Wooten](#), who was recognized as the longest serving election poll worker in the United States, in honor of her outstanding service to the nation and to humanity. Wooten was a longtime resident of Princeton, New Jersey, and worked in Campus Dining for more than 27 years. She died in March 2019 at the age of 98.

Marx Hall will be renamed Laura Wooten Hall effective July 1. The building, located along Washington Road, houses the University Center for Human Values, academic offices, a department library and teaching spaces. Plans for a formal dedication will be announced at a later date.

The naming of Laura Wooten Hall is intended to honor her extraordinary contributions and emphasize the importance of civic engagement at all levels.

President Christopher L. Eisgruber said: "I am grateful to the Naming Committee for this inspiring recommendation, and I am delighted that Princeton will honor Laura Wooten for her extraordinary contributions to our nation and the democratic process."

### Rider named a 2022-23 College of Distinction

Rider University was recognized once again for its commitment to helping undergraduate students learn, grow and succeed by Colleges of Distinction, a guide for college-bound students.

In addition to being named a [national and state 2022-23 College of Distinction](#), Rider received special recognition in the categories of business, education, career development, equity and inclusion, and military support.

"We're inspired by the ways in which Rider University immerses students in their fields, all while fostering a welcoming community that will support them through and beyond their college years," says Wes Creel, the founder of Colleges of Distinction.

The guidebook ranks schools by focusing on four distinctions: engaged students, great teaching, a vibrant community and successful outcomes.

### Money Magazine Gives Georgian Court High Marks for Affordability

Georgian Court University is New Jersey's #1 Catholic university, and [among the nation's best colleges](#) according to the Money Magazine Best Colleges 2022 rankings. Affordability, GCU's generous financial aid, and the early career earnings of recent graduates are among the many factors they considered.

"Research tells us that students use their Georgian Court University education to do well—financially and professionally—and to do good in the world," said Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D., president of GCU. "The rankings compiled by Money Magazine underscore important factors that make such outcomes possible."