

### Secretary of Higher Education Smith Ellis Announces Members of Working Groups to Implement New Jersey's Plan for Higher Education

**TRENTON-** Today, Secretary Zakiya Smith Ellis announced members of the working groups on New Jersey's Plan for Higher Education under Governor Murphy's Task Force for Higher Education created by Executive Order No. 61. The Task Force is divided into five Working Groups: 1) Creating On-ramps to College; 2) Making College Affordable; 3) Student Success; 4) Safe and Inclusive Learning Environments; and 5) Research, Innovation, and Talent. These working groups were launched as part of the State's plan for higher education, "*Where Opportunity Meets Innovation: A Student-Centered Vision for New Jersey Higher Education.*"

Along with the immediate recommendations set forth in the plan, the working groups will provide additional recommendations related to specific charges for each group by the end of the year. Each working group will be led by two co-chairs appointed by the Governor.

"Many leaders and stakeholders in higher education are committing themselves to coming up with innovative strategies to strengthen our state's higher education system," **said Governor Phil Murphy.** "I applaud the willingness of these talented New Jerseyans to roll up their sleeves on behalf of our colleges and universities and help us refine the state's higher education plan."

The working group members were selected through a formal application process. Working group membership includes representatives from a variety of sectors. Notably, each working group includes student representatives as the state plan emphasizes the need for students to have a voice in the decisions that affect their education.

"We are excited by the overwhelming response of stakeholders to participate in the working groups and we look forward to learning from the diverse representatives selected," **said Secretary of Higher Education Zakiya Smith Ellis.** "These workgroups will take a comprehensive look at strategies to increase support for students at New Jersey's colleges and we appreciate their time and dedication to the future of higher education in the state."

Members of the working groups include:

#### *Creating On-ramps to College*

- Donald Borden, President, Camden County College (co-chair)
- Laura Overdeck, Chair, Overdeck Family Foundation; Founder and President, Bedtime Math Foundation (co-chair)
- Lisa Angeloni, Vice President for Enrollment Management, The College of New Jersey
- MaryAnn Baenninger, Ph.D., President, Drew University
- Alexis Bailey, Student, Rider University
- AnnMarie Bouse, Manager of Compliance & Quality Assurance, Rutgers University

- Kim Case, Esq., Executive Director, Research and Development Council
- Maria DeFilippis, Esq., Professor and Coordinator of Paralegal Studies, Raritan Valley Community College
- Barry Ford, Associate Director of Strategic Planning and Development, Newark City of Learning Collaborative
- Arielle Gedeon, Student, Rowan University
- Mike Gorman, Ed.D., President, Salem Community College
- Robert Gregg, Ph.D., Professor and Dean of General Studies, Stockton University
- Clara Haskell Botstein, Associate Vice President for Early Colleges, Bard Early College
- Alisa Hogan, Associate Director of Admissions Recruitment and Outreach, Stockton University
- Jakora Holman, Director of Planning and Operations for Student Access and Educational Equity, Rutgers University
- Dana Karas, Director of Guidance, Franklin High School
- Dana Lambert, High School Counselor, West Milford High School
- Christopher Mueller, Coordinator of AudioVisual Services, Passaic County College
- Karen Pennington, Ph.D., Vice President for Student Development and Campus Life, Montclair State University
- Thomas Puryear, Education Vice-Chairperson, NJSC NAACP
- Michael Redmond, Ph.D., President, Bergen Community College
- Laura Rickards, Director of the Educational Opportunity Fund & The Center for Access and Equity, Ocean County College
- Rebecca Royal, Dean of Student Success, Union County College
- Nicole Sandelier, Director of Economic Policy Research, NJBIA
- Luke Schultheis, Ph.D., Vice President for Enrollment, Planning and Effectiveness, Fairleigh Dickinson University
- Randy Stamm, High School Counselor, Hackensack High School
- Jerome Taylor, Ed.D., Executive Director at Carver Early College, Cumberland County College
- Dianne Veilleux, Superintendent, Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools
- Winona Wigfall, Director CHAMP (College Bound/Gear Up), Rowan University
- Erica Xicara, Student, Berkeley College

### *Making College Affordable*

- Nancy Cantor, Ph.D., Chancellor, Rutgers University-Newark (co-chair)
- Ali Houshmand, Ph.D., President, Rowan University (co-chair)
- Stephen Bolyai, Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance, William Paterson University
- Christine Buteas, Chief Government Affairs Officer, NJBIA
- Chris Capuano, Ph.D., President, Fairleigh Dickinson University
- Michael Cioce, Ph.D., President, Rowan College at Burlington County
- Susan Cole, Ph.D., President, Montclair State University
- Tim Haresign, Associate Professor, Stockton University
- Barbara Harmon-Francis, EOF Director, Ramapo College
- Richard Helldobler, Ph.D., President, William Paterson University
- Chanie Jacobowitz, Vice President for Government Affairs, Beth Medrash Govoha
- David Josephson, Executive Director of Budget and Planning, Montclair State University

- Robert Kelchen, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Seton Hall University
- Michael Klein, Ph.D., Research Associate for the Office of Academic Affairs, Stockton University
- Kevin Luing, Chairman, Berkeley College and Board Member, NJ Chamber of Commerce
- Erika Martinez, Student, Saint Peter's University
- Maralyn Mason, Ph.D., EOF Director, Stockton
- Courtney McAnuff, Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management, Rutgers University – New Brunswick
- Jonathan Meer, Vice President of University Advancement, Monmouth University
- Cynthia Montalvo, Executive Director of Student Financial Services, Felician University
- Jeanette Quinn, Student, Stockton University
- William M. Rodgers, Professor of Public Policy and Chief Economist, Heldrich Center, Rutgers University
- David Rousseau, Vice President, Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in New Jersey
- Reva Rutherford, Student, Rutgers
- Marlene Sousa, Director of Financial Reporting & Budgets, Union County College
- David Stout, Ph.D., President, Brookdale Community College
- Christopher Stringer, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Thomas Edison State University
- Asia Taj, Associate Director/Compliance Officer, New Jersey Institute of Technology
- Cyrus Vasquez, Student, Hudson County Community College
- Jianping Wang, Ph.D., President, Mercer County Community College
- Richard Wellbrock, Ph.D., Governor's Higher Education Council

### *Student Success*

- Dr. Harvey Kesselman, President, Stockton University (co-chair)
- Reginald Lewis, Executive Director, Newark City of Learning Collaborative (co-chair)
- Jeremy Bedient, Student, New Jersey Institute of Technology
- Albert Earl Brown, Campus Operating Officer, Berkeley College
- Cinzia D'Iorio, Dean of Continuing Education, Bergen County College
- Marcheta P. Evans, Ph.D., President, Bloomfield College
- Marie Febrillet, Student, Passaic County Community College
- Juliana Florez, Student, Ramapo College
- Steve Garwood, Ed.D., Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Thomas Edison State University
- Tieka Harris, Ed.D., Acting Director of EOF, The College of New Jersey
- David Hood, Ed.D., Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education and Dean of University College, Montclair State University
- Leigh Jonaitis, Ed.D., Professor, Bergen County College
- Amarjit Kaur, Ed.D., Director of Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning, Bergen County College
- Anthony J. Iacono, Ph.D., President, County College of Morris
- Phil Linfante, Ph.D., Chair of the Board of Trustees, Warren County College
- Jose Lowe, Director of EOF, Hudson County College
- Yesenia Madas, Ed.D., Associate Vice President of Student Affairs, Brookdale County College

- Pamela Marcenaro, Ed.D., Dean of Learning Support and Opportunity Services, County College of Morris
- Vincent Marigna, Executive Director, Braven New Jersey
- Rory McElwee, Ph.D., Vice President for Enrollment and Student Success, Rowan University
- Heather McKay, Director, Education and Employment Research Center, Rutgers University-New Brunswick
- Nedra Morsy, Lead Organizer, Make the Road New Jersey
- Steve Nelson, Esq., Campus Executive, Fairleigh Dickinson University
- Joy Osahon-Agbator, Student, Hudson County Community College
- Christopher Romano, Ed.M., Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, Ramapo College
- Steven Rose, Ed.D., President, Passaic County College
- Melissa Sandoval, Graduate Student, Stockton University
- Ben Sifuentes-Jauregui, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor, Undergraduate Academic Affairs, Rutgers University-New Brunswick
- Helen Streubert, Ed.D., President, College of Saint Elizabeth
- Susanna Tardi, Ph.D., Professor, William Paterson University
- Michael Wallace, Vice President Government Affairs, NJBIA

#### *Safe and Inclusive Learning Environments*

- Dr. Margaret McMenemy, President, Union County College (co-chair)
- Dr. Sarah McMahon, Associate Professor and Director of the Center on Violence Against Women and Children, Rutgers University (co-chair)
- Crystal Bedley, Research Manager of the Office for Promotion of Women in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics, Rutgers University
- Nancy Blattner, Ph.D., President, Caldwell University
- Brandie Bookhart, Student, Saint Peter's University
- Michele Cascardi, Ph.D., Associate Professor, William Paterson University
- Julia Cusano, Graduate Student, Rutgers University
- Jordan Draper, Ph.D., Dean of Students/Title IX Coordinator, The College of New Jersey
- Leanna Fenneberg, Ph.D., Vice President for Student Affairs, Rider University
- Milton Fuentes, Psy.D., Professor, Montclair State University
- Ronald Gray, Ph.D., Vice President Student Affairs and Dean of Students, Felician University
- Joe Hines, Director of Public Safety, Union County College
- Elizabeth Hoban, Director of Health Services, County College of Morris
- Emily Leskinen, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Ramapo College
- Laura Luciano, Associate Director of Office of Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance, Rutgers University- Camden
- Marilu Marcillo, DM, Associate Professor, Saint Peter's University
- Christina Marini, Student, Stevens Institute of Technology
- Joseph Marswill, Chief of Public Safety, New Jersey Institute of Technology
- Megan Maruzo, Student, Fairleigh Dickinson University
- Brian Mauro, Ph.D., Campus Executive, Fairleigh Dickinson University
- Kevin McCarthy, Student, Rowan University
- Frank Merckx, Vice President and Dean of Students, Drew University

- Rosa Perez Maldonado, Assistant Dean, Stockton University
- Pamela Pruitt, Ed.D., Director of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, Rider University
- Zaneta Rago, Director of the Center for Social Justice Education and LGBT Communities, Rutgers University
- Sheetal Ranjan, Ph.D., Associate Professor, William Paterson University; Trustee at Bergen Community College
- David Rubenstein, Psy.D., Vice President for Health and Wellness, Rowan University
- Jean Semelfort, Prevention Programs Manager, Princeton University
- Simone Snyder, Senior Program Coordinator Center on Violence Against Women and Children
- Vance Stephens, Financial Aid Officer, Princeton; Law Student at Rutgers University
- Alberta Tamika Quick, Assistant Director of Equity and Diversity Programs, Ramapo College
- Jyoti Venketraman, Capacity Building Manager, NJ CASA
- Mariella Zijdel, Student, Ramapo College

### *Research, Innovation, and Talent*

- Joel Bloom, Ph.D., President, New Jersey Institute of Technology (co-chair)
- Debbie Hart, President and CEO, BioNJ (co-chair)
- John Aje, DSc, Dean of School of Applied Science and Technology, Thomas Edison State University
- Donnetrice Allison, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Stockton University
- Lysa Banks, Head of Engineering & Tech Strategy, IBM Watson Media
- Jim Barrood, President and CEO, NJ Tech Council
- Yohannes Beyene, Student, Berkeley College
- Tamiah Brevard-Rodriguez, Director Aresty Research Center, Rutgers university- New Brunswick
- Terri Carr, Director of Career Education and Development, Stockton University
- Wai-Kit Chia, Student, Rutgers University-New Brunswick
- Deirdre Christofalo, Ed.D., Dean for the School of Business and the Center for Innovation and Professional Studies, Felician University
- Jon Connolly, Ph.D., President, Sussex County College
- Carolyn Coulter, Assistant Professor, Atlantic Cape Community College
- Donna Custard, President, New Jersey Chamber of Commerce Foundation
- Pablo G. Debenendetti, Ph.D., Dean for Research, Princeton University
- Scott Herness, Ph.D., Vice Provost for Research and Dean of The Graduate School, Montclair State University
- Liesl Jones, Ph.D., Dean of STEM, Union County College
- Jon Larson, Ph.D., President, Ocean County College
- Jacqueline Lin, Enterprise Development Representative, IDIO
- Chris Molloy, Ph.D., Chancellor, Rutgers- New Brunswick
- Roscely Medina, Student, Berkeley College
- Simon Nynens, Vice President Business Incubation & Commercialization, NJIT
- Jeffrey Osborne, Ph.D., Dean of School of Science, The College of New Jersey
- Christopher Pierre, Ph.D., Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Stevens Institute of Technology
- Rosiland Reichard, Ph.D., President, Centenary University
- Christopher Schaber, Ph.D., President and CEO, Soligenix

- Vatsal Shah, Ph.D., Environment/Senior Project Engineer, Mott MacDonald
- Michele Siekerka, Esq., President and CEO, New Jersey Business and Industry Association
- Gillian Small, Ph.D., University Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Fairleigh Dickinson University
- Beena Sukumaran, Ph.D., Vice President for Research, Rowan University
- László M. Szabó, Esq., Director Office of Research Regulatory Affairs and Ph.D. Student, Rutgers University - New Brunswick
- Elaine Zundl, Research Director, Center for Women and Work, Rutgers University- New Brunswick

The following State partners will also assist with the working groups:

- Department of Education
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Labor and Workforce Development
- Economic Development Authority
- Educational Facilities Authority
- Higher Education Student Assistance Authority
- Office of the Attorney General
- State Employment and Training Commission

The Executive Order and the full State Plan may be viewed [here](#).