

# What They Are Saying ... Governor Christie's Increase To Higher Education Aid Is "Welcome Relief To Students And Parents Across The State"

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Rutgers University of New Jersey President Richard L. McCormick: "The increases in student aid contained in Governor Christie's budget proposal are among the highest increases in the budget and are an indication of the governor's commitment to keeping college affordable for New Jersey's students." (Statement, 2/22/12)

"[T]he increases in Tuition Assistance Grants and Educational Opportunity Funds will be a welcome relief to students and parents across the state."

President of the College of New Jersey Dr. Barbara Gitenstein: "Governor Christie's proposed increases to student financial aid and support programs, including significant increases to programs for students with the greatest financial need, will provide critical assistance." (Press Release, 2/22/12)

"It is also gratifying to have higher education made a priority in the proposed budget and recognized for the vital role it plays in determining the quality of New Jersey's future."

Rowan's Interim President Ali Houshmand: "We are very pleased with the passion and enthusiasm (Christie) showed when he talked about higher education and education as a whole." (Diane D'Amico, "Public Colleges Welcome First State Aid Increase In Years In Gov. Chris Christie's Budget Proposal," Press of Atlantic City, 2/21/12)

"[T]he college has committed to keeping tuition increases to no more than the annual rise in the cost of living. The increased aid will help them keep that promise."

Richard Stockton College President Herman J. Saatkamp Jr.: "I like what the Governor had to say, I like the response from legislators, and I think people are now beginning to see that Stockton College and higher education in New Jersey is absolutely essential for the New Jersey comeback..." (Rick Ritter, "Stockton College On Board With Governor Christies Proposed Budget," NBC 40 Atlantic City, 2/23/121)

"That is absolutely essential [increase in student financial assistance], one of the powerful features the Governor addressed. That money is going directly to students and it's assistance to students that are grants, not loans..."

"What helps the most is the increased support for students (through the Tuition Aid Grant, or TAG, and NJSTARS scholarship programs)." (Diane D'Amico, "Public colleges welcome first state aid increase in years in Gov. Chris Christie's budget proposal," Press of Atlantic City, 2/21/12)

Atlantic Cape Community College President Peter Mora: "[T]he college is encouraged by the increased aid and especially the aid to students." (Diane D'Amico, "Public colleges welcome first state aid increase in years in Gov. Chris Christie's budget proposal," Press of Atlantic City, 2/21/12)

"The higher level of TAG funding will ensure access for our neediest students, and the preserved funding for NJSTARS will maintain that valuable scholarship program for our top high school graduates."

Sussex County Community College President Paul Mazur: "We're encouraged that Gov. Christie recognizes higher education as a priority." (Steven Reilly, "County's GOP lawmakers back Christie spending plan," NJ Herald, 2/22/12)

New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities CEO Michael Klein: "This proposal has many positive elements that will help protect college affordability, access and quality in New Jersey ..." (Press Release, 2/21/12)

"We appreciate proposed increases in support for state colleges and universities – and that the level of support provided includes both operations and fringe benefits funding."

"[I]t is a big step in the direction of encouraging more of New Jersey's talented high school graduates to enroll in college in their home state."

"Funding of state aid programs for students with the greatest financial need is significantly increased ... This will keep New Jersey among the top states in providing grants to students with limited means."

"The proposed changes in the NJ Stars II program ... are extremely welcome. The state's willingness to take full fiscal responsibility for this program helps ensure that it remains viable in the long term."

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Maplewood Mayor Vic DeLuca: "The 6% increase in higher ed support will help middle and working class students."  
(Mary Mann, "Local Reaction To Guv's Budget Speech," Maplewood Patch, 2/21/12)

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