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Awards & Honors

AASCU HIGHLIGHTS



Congratulations to University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee!
 University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee is celebrating the 40th year of its founding. [Visit USFS-Manatee Founding Celebrations page.](#)



Register for The New American Mosaic: Opportunities for All
 AASCU's Annual Meeting is scheduled for October 25-27 in Austin, Texas. Featured speakers include Ron Brownstein, political director, Atlantic Media Company; Joseph Garcia, lieutenant governor of Colorado; and Peter Blair Henry, dean of New York University's Leonard N. Stern School of Business. For program and registration information visit aascu.org/meetings/annual15



SAM (Student Achievement Measure) Letter from College and University Leaders
 Approximately 200 institutional leaders sent a letter to Education Secretary Arne Duncan requesting that the department allow institutions to link their SAM data with the information the Department plans to publish in its replacement to the Postsecondary Institutional Ratings System (PIRS). [Read letter](#)

Programs

California State University, Fresno

- A Dream Outreach Center has been established at California State University, Fresno to address the unique needs and challenges faced by undocumented students who desire a college education. [Read more](#)
- A new Cross Cultural and Gender Center is now open to provide more services and resources to California State University, Fresno's diverse student population and to continue fulfilling the University's diversity goals. The new center will focus on three areas: Gender programs and services (inclusive of women, men, transgender, pangender, genderfluid and other non-binary gender identities); cross-cultural programs and services; and LGBTQ+ programs and services. [Read more](#)

Millersville University of Pennsylvania

Millersville University, Elizabethtown College, and Franklin & Marshall College have joined efforts to promote greater campus security with the launch of LiveSafe, the leading mobile technology solution that is heralding a paradigm shift toward a campus culture of safety at colleges across the country. The three Lancaster County colleges have united not only in community support, but in increasing safety-related communication. [Read more](#)

University of Central Florida

Black Hills State University (S.D.)

Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania

California State University, Los Angeles

North Carolina Central University

University of Illinois Springfield

Winthrop University (S.C.)

Spotlight



Arkansas State University

Black Hills State University (S.D.)

California State University, East Bay

California State University, Northridge

Southeast Missouri State University

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- Limbitless Solutions, the team of volunteer UCF students who build 3-D printed bionic arms for children with missing limbs held a community event in August to launch its new global initiative: 75 arms and books for children in Syria. Limbitless, with the help of community partner Romacorp Inc., the parent company of Tony Roma's and TR Fire Grill restaurants, held the event to raise money so the team can design, build and deliver the arms and books to children hurt and displaced by the conflict in Syria. [Read more](#)
- With their goals set on studying social services, education and other fields, six new UCF students started classes this semester as part of the university's first inclusive education program for individuals with intellectual disabilities. The program's goal is to present the students with immersive academic and campus experiences to prepare them for enriched and independent lives. [Read more](#)

Winthrop University (S.C.)

Winthrop University has created an Office of the First Year Experience to help incoming students transition from high school to college. Housed in University College, this new office brings together programs and academic courses that cultivate engaged learning, enhance academic achievement and build connections with faculty, peers, and the university community. [Read more](#)

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Grants and Gifts

Arkansas State University

- New recycling bins are available for Arkansas State University students to show concern for their campus and the environment. A national grant program, made possible by Keep America Beautiful (KAB) and The Coca-Cola Foundation, provided 25 new recycling bins to A-State. During the past fiscal year, A-State recycled 584,000 pounds of material, about 40 percent more than the previous year. [Read more](#)
- A vital anchor of the arts community in East Arkansas since 2001, Bradbury Gallery at Arkansas State University is getting a new look and a new name. Through the generosity of Curt and Chucki Bradbury of Little Rock, the gallery has evolved to become the Bradbury Art Museum (BAM). The couple is supporting the arts venue's transformation to the Bradbury Art Museum by providing a matching challenge gift of \$500,000. [Read more](#)

California State University, Los Angeles

Cal State L.A.'s College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology has been awarded a \$580,000 grant from the Office of Naval Research and a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Defense. The multi-year grants will provide STEM education opportunities for Cal State L.A. students and expose them to civilian careers in the Navy. [Read more](#)

Georgia College

- Andrei Barkovskii, professor of microbiology at Georgia College, secured \$30,802 in external funding from the IMERYs, Inc. This award will support the project entitled "Kaolin products to be used against biofilm in medical equipment cleaning." Biofilms pose a serious problem for medical, food, water treatment and some other industries. [Read more](#)
- Indiren Pillay, chair and associate professor of biological and environmental sciences at Georgia College, and his team recently secured \$263,320 in external funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The award will support the project entitled "MRI: Acquisition of a Scanning Electron Microscope". The instrument's multiple functions will allow its use on a variety of research projects by scientists across several disciplines. [Read more](#)

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

- Brandon Vick and Amanda Poole, both members of the IUP Center for Northern Appalachian Studies, were awarded a \$4,500 grant. Students from Vick's Global Poverty class will team with students from Poole's Applied Anthropology class and work with the locally based Center for Community Growth to conduct quantitative research on the economic decisions and hardships of families in the region; conduct qualitative research on the experiences of people facing hardship due to expenses, debt burdens, and/or barriers to gaining/keeping employment; and communicate findings to help the Center in its mission to educate people about local barriers to economic justice. [Read more](#)
- Indiana University of Pennsylvania professor of geoscience Jon Lewis has been awarded a \$182,000 National Science Foundation grant to enhance undergraduate STEM diversity and participation in geoscience training. [Read more](#)

Lyndon State College (Vt.)

Senator Patrick Leahy announced a \$375,000 award from the Corporation on National and Community Service (CNCS) to the Leahy Center for Rural Students at LSC. The new Lyndon Economic opportunity AmeriCorps program (LEAP) will coordinate a team of AmeriCorps members to improve educational and economic opportunities in the Northeast Kingdom. [Read more](#)

Millersville University of Pennsylvania

Samuel N. Lombardo and his wife Dena have given Millersville University of Pennsylvania a \$1 million gift to help build a Net Zero Energy building on campus. The building will serve as the Welcome Center for the University, hosting thousands of prospective students and visitors each year. [Read more](#)

North Carolina Central University

North Carolina Central University (NCCU) has been granted the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. Distinguished Professor Endowed Chair Award. The \$200,000 award will support university efforts in integrated biosciences that focus on uterine fibroid tumor research. [Read more](#)

Shepherd University (W.Va)

- Students at Shepherd University who need extra assistance with succeeding at college will continue getting it thanks to a \$1.1 million grant just awarded by the U.S. Department of Education. The money will pay for Shepherd's TRiO Student Support Services program, which helps students who are first-generation college students, have disabilities, or who meet income guidelines set by the federal education department. [Read more](#)
- Shepherd University's Department of Nursing Education received a three-year, \$1.4 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to develop an interprofessional collaborative practice environment for nursing, medical, and allied health professional students. [Read more](#)

Southeast Missouri State University

The Southeast Missouri University Foundation's Honoring Tradition, Inspiring Success capital campaign surpassed its \$40 million goal, reaching a record level and raising \$49.2 million in gifts and pledges. The campaign officially ended June 30 with more than 200 new endowed scholarships established and with 11 scholarships being increased significantly. [Read more](#)

University of Central Oklahoma

The University of Central Oklahoma Office of Student Support Services has received an additional U.S. Department of Education Federal TRiO Programs grant, adding to the five awarded to UCO in July and making the university the only institution of higher education in the nation to receive funding for each of the six distinctive Federal Student Support Services programs in the current award period. [Read more](#)

University of North Carolina Greensboro

A new international economic engine, the Global Opportunities Center, may soon be a part of Greensboro thanks to a group of local organizations led by the UNCG Office of Research and Economic Development. The GO Center concept won a \$500k competition that was part of a

federal "Strong Cities, Strong Communities Challenge" grant received by the city. The downtown center would link resources from local colleges and universities, businesses, non-profits, and government organizations to create new international opportunities for students, businesses and community members. [Read more](#)

Winthrop University (S.C.)

- Retired physicians Dick McCoy and his wife, Jan Shaw McCoy, established a scholarship at Winthrop. The \$50,000 Richard L. and Jan Shaw McCoy Endowed Scholarship will support juniors or seniors who have designated health care management as their primary interest and maintain a 3.0 GPA. [Read more](#)
- Two new gifts totaling \$15,000 will assist Winthrop University's Louise Pettus Archives & Special Collections in funding projects that advance the archives' mission to collect and preserve South Carolina history. Betty Buff has given \$10,000 to archives to fund the collection, organization and preservation of Buff's personal South Carolina Family & Community Leaders documents. Julie Epting's \$5,000 gift will fund Project Winthrop Veterans-WWII, an effort to identify nine Winthrop alumnae who joined the Women's Auxiliary Corps as cryptographers, conduct oral interviews to record their stories, and collect photographs, letters, service records and other documentation. [Read more](#)

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Awards and Honors

Black Hills State University (S.D.)

The Black Hills State University physical education program was recently awarded continuing national recognition by the National Association of Sport and Physical Education by the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). The recognition affirms that BHSU students are receiving a state-of-the-art, cutting edge education. [Read more](#)

Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania

Matthew Polinski, assistant professor of chemistry, and Thomas Albrecht-Schmitt, his adviser at Florida State University, won the Nobel Laureate Signature Award for Graduate Education in Chemistry. The award from the American Chemical Society (ACS) recognizes Polinski's doctoral dissertation research under Albrecht-Schmitt's supervision. [Read more](#)

California State University, Los Angeles

Cal State L.A. Professor Krishna Foster was presented a "100 Inspiring Women in STEM Award" by INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine for encouraging and inspiring young women to pursue careers in science. [Read more](#)

North Carolina Central University

North Carolina Central University (NCCU) Department of Nursing has been recognized as one of the top nursing programs in the country by The Nurse Journal, ranking 13th out of 1,189 nursing programs in the eastern United States. [Read more](#)

University of Illinois Springfield

Karen Swan, the University of Illinois Springfield James J. Stukel Distinguished Professor of Educational Leadership, has been selected for the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame at the University of Oklahoma. [Read more](#)

Winthrop University (S.C.)

The Temerlin Advertising Institute (TAI) at Southern Methodist University has awarded Winthrop University Professor of Mass Communication Padmini Patwardhan its 2015 Visiting Research Fellowship. [Read more](#)

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Spotlight

Arkansas State University

The Arkansas State University Board of Trustees approved a \$12.6 million plan to renovate and modernize the historic Wilson Hall on the Arkansas State campus in Jonesboro. New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine will lease Wilson Hall, formerly home to the A-State College of Humanities and Social Sciences, for use as an additional instructional site for its medical students. [Read more](#)

Black Hills State University (S.D.)

An American flag flown over the U.S. Capitol honoring veterans in the state of South Dakota will find a new home at Black Hills State University-Rapid City, thanks to the Student Veteran's Club at BHSU-RC. Joshua Kosola, business administration-human resources management major and co-founder of the Vet's Club at BHSU-RC, said the Vet's Club worked with Sen. John Thune several years ago to fly the flag over the U.S. Capitol honoring South Dakota veterans. [Read more](#)

California State University, East Bay

A recent search for new force-carrying particles earned Cal State East Bay professor Derek Jackson Kimball and collaborators Shlomi Kotler and Roei Ozeri publication in "Physical Review Letters," considered one of the most prestigious physics journals in the world. [Read more](#)

California State University, Northridge

California State University, Northridge biology professor Jonathan Kelber and a team of nine students are leading the pack in breast cancer research by identifying a critical cancer "support wall" gene called PEA1. The results of their research have been published in the Public Library of Science (PLoS) One journal, titled "PEA1 Acts as a Molecular Switch to Regulate Context-Dependent TGF β Responses in Breast Cancer." [Read more](#)

Southeast Missouri State University

"Weather Related Cold Stress on Conception Rates in Simmental-Angus Cattle" was the focus of research presented by a Southeast Missouri State University agribusiness major last month in Florida at a joint meeting of the American Society of Animal Science and the Association of Dairy Science in America. [Read more](#)

Winthrop University (S.C.)

After an overwhelmingly positive response during its inaugural year, the Provost's Spotlight on Scholarship Series at Winthrop University will once again highlight faculty research this academic year. Beginning in September, five faculty members will share their latest research and knowledge on a variety of topics, including financial literacy, famed composer Schumann, and the rise of for-profit colleges. [Read more](#)

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