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Awards & Honors 

COMMIT NOW TO OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL!

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AASCU HIGHLIGHTS



AASCU Endorses Dream Act of 2017

AASCU thanks Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Dick Durbin (D-IL) for their leadership on this critical issue and urges their colleagues to join them in supporting this legislation. [Read the statement.](#)



2019 Distinguished Alumnus Award Call for Nominations

The AASCU Distinguished Alumnus Award (DAA) is presented to an individual who has achieved acclaim in her or his field and who has made a significant contribution to the public, intellectual or cultural life of the nation. To learn more about the nomination and selection process for the

2019 DAA, to view recipients and to access the nomination form, visit aascu.org/association/DAA.



2017 AASCU China International Conference and Education Expo

AASCU is pleased to announce our **16th Sino-American Conference in Beijing**, which will take place October 15-25, 2017. Each year for the past 15 years, we have taken AASCU senior leaders (presidents, provosts, international officers, deans, department heads and faculty) to China to

participate in a series of activities designed to create and sustain educational partnerships in China.

Programs

Central Michigan University

As part of a new exchange agreement, students in Central Michigan University's (CMU) fashion merchandising and design program will be able to take courses at Seoul National University (SNU). The agreement also will allow SNU students to attend CMU. [Read more](#)

Midwestern State University (Texas)

Midwestern State University (MSU) this month unveiled a transformational opportunity for students who aspire to be the first in their families to complete a college education. With generous support of The Priddy Foundation, MSU is now offering scholarships aimed at first generation families with high economic need. [Read more](#)

Texas A&M University-San Antonio

Texas A&M University-San Antonio students will give a boost to the academic trajectory of schoolchildren by delivering a mentoring program to students at Stewart Elementary School, where nearly 80 percent of students are identified as "at risk" of dropping out of school before the age of 12. To remedy this, the University Peer Academic Student Support program pairs 50

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- Shippensburg University (Penn.)**
- University of Central Florida**
- University of Houston-Clear Lake (Texas)**

Spotlight 

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- East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania**
- University of Central Florida**

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students in grades 3 to 5 with 20 teacher candidates to improve schoolchildren's academic success.

Read more

University of Central Florida

- University of Central Florida (UCF) researchers are developing and testing small assembly-kit robots for people 55 and older who may be experiencing age-related physical and cognitive decline. With large parts and clear instructions and pictures, the kits can be assembled to boost cognitive skills and to promote socialization. A team this month attended the British Society of Gerontology International conference in Wales and presented the kit project, which won second place out of more than 40 gerontology studies. **Read more**
- Researchers at UCF have discovered a potential new weapon in the fight against tuberculosis, and it lives in the Little Mermaid's realm. Through a partnership with Florida Atlantic University, the team screened 4,400 chemical extracts from sponges and other marine organisms to see if they could kill the dormant tuberculosis bacteria. The team identified 26 compounds that were active against replicating tuberculosis bacteria. **Read more**

University of Wisconsin System

The University of Wisconsin System (UW) has developed the UW Flexible Option case study website as a resource for higher education leaders, faculty and staff developing competency-based education programs. The site includes takeaways, challenges and resources—based on the UW Flexible Option experience—in six main content areas: Academics, Budget, Communications, Enrollment Management and Technology, Metrics, and Policy. This work was supported by a Lumina Foundation grant. **Read more**

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Grants and Gifts

Arkansas State University

In response to industry demand for engineers with skills in designing, manufacturing and operating automation and control devices, Arkansas State University's Department of Engineering will use a \$50,000 grant from the DENSO North America Foundation to develop a lab for facilitating student learning in these areas. Dr. Shivan Haran, associate professor of mechanical engineering, will direct the work. **Read more**

Auburn University at Montgomery (Ala.)

The National Science Foundation has awarded Auburn University at Montgomery and Rice University grants to research Process-Driven Math for students who are blind or have visual impairments. **Read more**

California State University, Los Angeles

California State University, Los Angeles (Cal State LA) recently received a \$50,000 grant to scale-up its partnership with East Los Angeles College (ELAC). Awarded by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) and Coalition of Urban Serving Universities (USU), the grant will allow Cal State LA to create a peer advocate program to support the timely graduation of transfer students from ELAC. **Read more**

Central Michigan University

The Central Autism Treatment Center at Central Michigan University is fulfilling a nearly \$500,000 grant with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to expand services in Michigan for children with autism. **Read more**

Eastern Connecticut State University

The Davis Educational Foundation has awarded Eastern Connecticut State University a \$200,000 grant to develop its Critical Reading and Writing across the Disciplines initiative. The two-year project aims to strengthen first- and second-year students' analytical thinking, reading and writing skills by enhancing faculty approaches to teaching critical thinking. [Read more](#)

Georgia College

The Georgia College School of Nursing recently secured nearly \$1.4 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to aid medically underserved populations in the state. The money will fund tuition for the May 2018 graduate cohort of family nursing practitioners and psychiatric mental health nursing practitioners, pending their agreement to work in a medically underserved area after graduation. [Read more](#)

Lock Haven University (Penn.)

In 2016, Lock Haven University (LHU) received a donation that supports undergraduate research and internships in both science and business with up to \$45,000 in available funding. In addition, the Bechdel Family Internship Stipend Scholarship awards two students who have secured an unpaid or low-paid internship in the sciences with \$2,000 each per summer. [Read more](#)

University of Central Florida

UCF recently was selected to receive two awards totaling \$3.1 million from the U.S. Department of Energy's SunShot Initiative that is focused on making solar energy systems more efficient and affordable. The UCF projects are led by researchers Kristopher Davis and Joe Walters of the university's College of Engineering & Computer Science and the Florida Solar Energy Center. [Read more](#)

University of Wisconsin-Stout

University of Wisconsin-Stout's LAKES REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates), created to provide research experiences for students and to improve water quality in the Red Cedar River watershed in west-central Wisconsin, was renewed for another three years with a \$303,000 grant from the National Science Foundation. [Read more](#)

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Awards and Honors

Millersville University (Penn.)

PPL Electric Utilities' Business Efficiency Program presented Millersville University (MU) with a \$17,182.80 check on July 13. MU received the check for the University's Data Center, a new energy efficiency project in Boyer, which is saving the university thousands of dollars. [Read more](#)

Shippensburg University (Penn.)

Shippensburg University Interim President Dr. Barbara Lyman has been selected to participate in The Association of Chief Academic Officers (ACAO) Digital Fellows Program. She is one of 32 provosts and chief academic officers selected from across the nation that represent public research universities, regional comprehensives, community colleges and a state system of higher education. [Read more](#)

University of Central Florida

The Osceola Equestrian Therapy Center, a partnership with the UCF College of Medicine, Osceola County and the McCormick Research Institute, was named a premier accredited center by Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship, International. Early work with veterans has shown success in helping those with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and movement disorders. The center is the first of its type in the nation to be built from the ground up and the only one in the nation led with help from a medical school. [Read more](#)

University of Houston-Clear Lake (Texas)

University of Houston-Clear Lake announces Ira Kincade Blake as the sole finalist for university president, culminating a national search that began last fall. [Read more](#)

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Spotlight

Black Hills State University (S.D.)

Black Hills State University (BHSU) earned a STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System) Silver rating in recognition of its sustainability achievements from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) for the second time. STARS measures and encourages sustainability in all aspects of higher education. The report is publicly available on the BHSU Sustainability webpage: www.BHSU.edu/sustain. [Read more](#)

East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania

On Thursday, July 20, 2017, East Stroudsburg University and EPA Enterprises, Inc. announced the launch of the Cutter™ Lyme Disease Tick Test—the first nationally recognized brand-name product developed at East Stroudsburg University (ESU). This new, affordable and convenient test kit provides individuals who find a tick on themselves, their children or their pets with fast, 99.9 percent accurate DNA test results determining if the submitted tick is a carrier of Lyme disease.

[Read more](#)

University of Central Florida

A University of Central Florida study has found that a gene variant, thought to be carried by nearly 25 percent of the population, increases the odds of developing depression. People with apolipoprotein-E4, called ApoE4 for short, have a 20 percent greater chance of developing clinically significant depressive symptoms later in life compared to those who don't have the gene variant, said Rosanna Scott, lead author of the study published in *The Journal of Clinical Psychiatry*. [Read more](#)

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