



**JOIN ENGAGE NJ  
DRIVE CHANGE FOR GOOD**  
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**MEMBERSHIP COST: \$5,000**

The New Jersey Higher Education Presidents' Coalition  
with a shared vision, where...

**All NJ graduates possess the competencies for 21<sup>st</sup>-century life and work that transform our democracy so that all people can be engaged, represented, and lead fulfilling lives.**

**WHY JOIN ENGAGE NJ? So far, in Academic Year 2023 ...**

**\$28,600**

Invested back to each member campus, on average, by Engage NJ (thanks to your \$5,000 membership)

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*"The skills to advance democracy are the levers of economic opportunity in an inclusive society.*

*Higher education is the driving force and Engage NJ is the vehicle."*

- Dr. Saul Petersen,  
Executive Director

- **20** NJ campuses participated in Engage NJ programming and events, reflecting Jersey's geographic, socio-economic, and racial diversity
- **14** campuses guided our statewide efforts through board membership and steering group service
- **1,361** students improved their college completion and job prospects by working in teams on community projects, accessing expanded pantry resources, getting career pathway training, certifications, and more
- **125** students have secured interviews or full-time positions through our VISTA supports
- **219** campuses, nonprofits, and social services improved their operations and outreach as part of our ENGAGECorps VISTA program
- **389** high school students persisted and built a connection to their neighboring college through near-peer tutoring and mentoring

**Quote from THRIVE conference attendee:**

*"After the conference, I have a better understanding of the communities around us as well as an understanding that it's going to take lots of evidence and reflection for our project to be successful"*

**21<sup>ST</sup>-CENTURY COMPETENCIES FOR LIFE & WORK**  
THRIVE Conference and Fair evaluations showed:

- **62%** said they developed better critical thinking skills.
- **63%** improved their communication skills.
- **60%** showed improved use of evidence in decision-making.
- **56%** said they have improved how they take responsibility in leadership roles.

**JOIN THE COALITION!** Here's a snapshot of what Engage NJ and member campuses are working on. As part of the 5-year plan we developed with 14 cross-sector stakeholders on our planning council and constant feedback from members across the state, Engage NJ has set an aim for at least **5,000 students** to complete an educational and experiential pathway that enables them to advance democracy and develop transferable competencies for life and work.

**In 2023: 1,361 students accessed quality community-engaged experiences, expanded campus resources, and 21<sup>st</sup>-century competency training. So far, this Academic Year...**

AREA 1 Equipping Campuses	AREA 2 Student Civic Network	AREA 3 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Competencies
<b>\$7,200</b> invested back to each member campus	<b>\$7,900</b> invested back to each member campus	<b>\$13,500</b> invested back to each member campus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>5</b> presidents serve on the Engage NJ Board</li> <li>■ <b>11</b> campuses served on Engage NJ's <b>3 steering groups</b> that guide our campus-focused investments</li> <li>■ Engage NJ is co-founder of the National <b>Partnership Alliance</b> (11 states) and <b>Eastern Region Coalition</b></li> <li>■ <b>6</b> of our full-time ENGAGECorps VISTA Fellows built campus civic engagement program capacity at a fraction of personnel costs</li> <li>■ Fellows increased pantry resources by <b>10,000 pounds</b> and is developing community resource centers</li> <li>■ <b>\$1,000 Campus Seed Grant</b> program was developed for rollout</li> <li>■ <b>Only a statewide faculty symposium</b> on high-impact community engagement was developed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>160</b> students attended the THRIVE conference and opportunity fair – building our statewide student civic network</li> <li>■ <b>\$1,000</b> Kesselman Student Fellowships was launched</li> <li>■ <b>Student Opportunities for Success (SOS)</b> Database on awards and incentives was launched</li> <li>■ <b>Thrivers List 2023</b> launched – marketing students with 21st skills to recruiters</li> <li>■ Our Corps of VISTA Fellows supported college persistence with <b>527</b> students through community projects, interview training, professional clothing, pantry resources, and more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>160</b> students at the THRIVE Opportunity Fair worked on meaningful career pathways and 21st-century competencies with <b>14 employers and professionals</b> from multiple employment sectors</li> <li>■ Our Corps of VISTA Fellows supported <b>97</b> students' job readiness by developing of 21st-century soft skills</li> <li>■ <b>125</b> students have secured interviews or full-time positions through our VISTA supports</li> <li>■ Engage NJ became a signatory of <b>College Civic Learning</b></li> </ul>

Engage NJ advances careers in the public good. Our own incredibly diverse team of staff and volunteers personify that commitment. Admir Molic (Rutgers Law '23), former Engage NJ VISTA Fellow and project specialist, wrote, *“As I worked for Engage NJ, I was fortunate to be a part of an organization that tirelessly strives for a more just and equitable New Jersey, particularly by empowering youth to get involved in shaping their future. This experience made me realize that pursuing a law degree is essential to becoming a better advocate for all. My ultimate goal is to become the voice I've always yearned to see and hear.”*

## READY TO DRIVE CHANGE FOR GOOD? JOIN ENGAGE NJ. FOLLOW US!

Engage NJ Snapshot of Initiatives Ready for Rollout in Fall '23...

AREA 1 Equipping Campuses	AREA 2 Student Civic Network	AREA 3 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Competencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ <b>10</b> campuses are signed up to be part of ENGAGECorps and get a full-time VISTA Fellow – more slots available!</li><li>■ <b>Presidents</b> will draft a civic engagement commitment of the engaged campus – sign up and lead!</li><li>■ <b>Steering Group</b> is expanding the reach of the faculty symposium – nominate your faculty!</li><li>■ <b>Campus staff</b> are developing an annual professional development calendar – sign up and advocate!</li><li>■ <b>\$1,000</b> Seed grants are getting rolled out – apply for yours!</li><li>■ Engage NJ is seeking funds to support campus <b>days of service</b> with up to <b>\$10,000</b> per campus – mark your calendar!</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ <b>THRIVE</b> Student Conference &amp; Opportunity Fair – 2/24/24 – Mark your calendars and follow us on social media!</li><li>■ <b>\$1,000 Kesselman Student Fellowships</b> for the Advancement of Democracy – Opens 2/24/24 – follow us to stay informed</li><li>■ <b>Student Opportunities for Success (SOS)</b> Database is ready to serve</li><li>■ <b>Thrivers List 2024</b> will open 2/24/24</li><li>■ <b>Join our Student Success Series Steering Group</b> – and guide our programming for the next year</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ <b>THRIVE</b> conference and fair attendees have spoken up:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>69%</b> want more networking</li><li>- <b>56%</b> want career mentoring</li><li>- <b>38%</b> want community engagement training</li></ul></li><li>■ Help us connect them with professionals to guide their journey toward <b>21<sup>st</sup> century careers</b> for good</li><li>■ Sign up for an <b>ENGAGECorps VISTA</b> Fellow, and let's develop 21<sup>st</sup>-century competencies for life and work for all NJ college students</li></ul>

### Engage NJ is affiliated with and endorsed by:

#### LOCALLY

- NJ Partnerships for Student Success
- Jersey Civic Engage
- NJ Higher Education Partnerships for Sustainability
- NJ Business & Industries Association
- NJ Coalition of County Colleges

#### NATIONALLY

- Strategic Energy Innovations
- Subject to Climate
- National Partnership Alliance
- Eastern Region Campus Consortium
- College Civic Learning

### ...and we are SOCIAL!

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