

## Union County Women of Excellence Awardees Announced; Gala on March 27

COUNTY — The Union County Commission on the Status of Women has announced the recipients of the 2020 Women of Excellence Awards. Ten Union County women were selected to receive awards for their outstanding contributions. The awardees will be honored at the annual Women of Excellence Gala Awards Dinner on Friday, March 27.

“For 28 years, the Freeholder Board has recognized women among us who lead, serve, and inspire. Through their work, they raise awareness about the influence of women in every sphere of the Union County community, from business and legal affairs to public service and education,” Freeholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella said. “We are proud to acknowledge their contributions towards a positive difference in the quality of life for everyone in the county.”

The Union County women being recognized for their accomplishments by the Commission on the Status of Women are:

Women’s Advocacy, Margot Baruch, Mountainside; Mental Health Advocacy, Joyce Benz,

Springfield; Volunteerism, Joan Crout, Westfield; Environmental/Activism, Marian Glenn, Summit; Education, Monica Goncalves, Elizabeth; Lifetime Achievement, Sister Percylee Hart, Scotch Plains; Healthcare, Pamela Palmieri, Fanwood; Special Education Advocacy, Diana Pinto-Gomez, Fanwood; Entrepreneurial/Medical, Nancy Polow, Ph.D., Scotch Plains, and Government, Clara Fernandez, Elizabeth.

Each awardee will be presented with an engraved Women of Excellence plaque and a freeholder resolution in their honor recognizing their impact on the Union County community.

The 2020 Women of Excellence Gala Awards Dinner will be held on March 27 at 6 p.m., at the Gran Centurions in Clark. The cost is \$60 per person.

The Women of Excellence awards are sponsored by the Freeholder Board and the Union County Commission on the Status of Women, with the Union County Office on Women.

For more information about the Women of Excellence awards program and dinner, contact Nancy Malta, commissioner administrative liaison, at (908) 527-4298 or nmalta@ucnj.org or Jen Erdos, secretary to the Commission on the Status of Women, at (908) 527-4216 or jerdos@ucnj.org.

## Kean Bill to Help Vets With Education Passed by Panel

TRENTON — Senate Republican Minority Leader Tom Kean’s (R-21st, Westfield) legislation to help veterans further their education while serving their country has unanimously passed the Senate Military and Veterans’ Affairs Committee.

“Going to school while serving is a difficult undertaking in itself, let alone trying to manage the traditional college semester timeline around deployment dates and other military obligations,” Sen. Kean said. “New Jersey should do everything in its power to be more accommodating to the brave men and women who are willing to put their lives on the line to protect our freedoms.”

“Offering military members the flexibility to register late for classes and refunds for course tuition that conflicts with deployments is a small way to express our gratitude to those who have sacrificed so much to defend our country,” he said.

Sen. Kean’s legislation, S-278, would require New Jersey’s public colleges and universities to refund course tuition and fees to military members called to duty during a school semester.

If a veteran is unable to finish a course due to military obligations, a student who has completed at least eight weeks of attendance would be able to choose to receive a letter grade, a pass/fail grade, a grade of incomplete, or withdraw from the course.

A military member student who has completed less than eight weeks of attendance would be able to choose

to receive a grade of incomplete or withdraw from the course.

The legislation would also permit veterans to register late for classes without incurring late fees.

Sen. Kean has been a dedicated advocate for veterans throughout his time in the Legislature. He said this bill is part of a comprehensive legislation package aimed at making college attendance more accommodating and affordable for military members and their families.

“Expanding enrollment options and support for our veterans is our way of thanking members of our armed forces who have left the safety of their homes to serve our nation,” added Sen. Kean. “We appreciate your heroically answering the call to defend our country.”

## Rahway Implements Valet Program In City Arts District

RAHWAY — The City of Rahway has implemented a pilot valet parking program in the downtown Rahway arts district.

Every Friday and Saturday from 5 p.m. to midnight downtown dining and nightlife patrons are able to drop off and pick up their vehicles at the intersection of Main Street and Cherry Street for a flat fee of \$5, payable by cash or credit card.

“This luxury, cost effective, valet service is aimed at patrons looking to enhance their dining and nightlife experience by removing the stress of finding parking. For a flat rate of \$5 per car, patrons can drop off their vehicle and experience a new convenience in our downtown,” Mayor Ray Giacobbe stated in a city press release.

The program is a branch of the newly instituted parking plan that the city announced in the fall.

The new parking enhancements include “pay on the go” meters that were put in place, 29 new multi-bay pay stations located throughout the downtown area and sine 150 on-street spaces for metered parking. Three municipal lots, totaling 164 spaces, now will be free from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. on weekdays and all day on weekends.

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From the first meeting, it was clear to me that Joel was uniquely gifted at communicating the concepts and strategies that drive successful performance on standardized tests. He relates to the mindset of his students, understands their challenges, and develops custom solutions to help them overcome their hurdles. By the second week of our sessions, I was consistently scoring in the 700s on practice tests. By the week of the exam, I felt prepared, confident, and poised - I scored in the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile on the actual GMAT! I credit Joel entirely for my strong performance, which ultimately helped me earn admission and merit scholarships to several top MBA programs. I give him my very highest recommendation.

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