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### **December 2022 - Volume 12, Issue 12**

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## Latest from AICUP

### **Rental of Office Space at AICUP Headquarters**

AICUP is seeking a tenant or tenants(s) for 3 offices at 101 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA (the James McCormick Mansion/home to AICUP). These three (3) offices are on the 2nd floor (by walkup) and contain roughly 1,000 square feet and one private bathroom. AICUP would be very interested in securing a tenant that is a member college, but any interest from a current Corporate Affiliate or Endorsed Program Provider would also be welcomed. For more information about this space and/or to schedule a visit, please contact [Tim Alexander](#) or 717-418-9670. The McCormick Mansion is not ADA compliant.

### **PAICU MEP Recurring Conversation with AICUP - Weekly Zooms**

Tim Alexander, VP of Finance & Administration at AICUP, is also the Vice-Chair and Treasurer of the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Colleges and Universities Multiple Employer Retirement Plan (PAICU MEP). He will be hosting ***a weekly Zoom meeting each Tuesday (2:30 – 3:30 PM)*** for an open discussion about the PACIU MEP. This weekly, members-only Zoom call is open to any and all AICUP members.

[Go Here to Attend](#)

### **Lunch & Learn Series**

Last winter, AICUP launched a [Lunch & Learn](#) webinar series on a variety of topics from [AICUP Endorsed and Member Preferred program \(AMP\) providers](#). This will be an ongoing series throughout the year with additional webinars being added as they are scheduled. These webinars will be an hour in length allowing for 15 minutes of Q&A. The next one is the [Clery Center-Experts on Your Side 1/18](#).

### **Add AICUP to Email Safe Sender List**

AICUP asks that you make sure AICUP is on your college or university's email safe sender list. This will ensure that important AICUP communications arrive in your email inbox.

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**Mass Attacks in Public Spaces 2016-2020**

**Wednesday, January 25, 2023**

**1:00 - 4:00 PM**

[Register](#)

On January 25, 2023, the **Secret Service's National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC)** will publish, *Mass Attacks in Public Spaces: 2016 – 2020*, which analyzed 173 attacks impacting workplaces, schools, houses of worship, military bases, public transportation sites, open spaces, and other public locations.

In conjunction with this release, NTAC will deliver a nationwide virtual presentation via Microsoft Teams to highlight the report's findings. The event will take place on January 25, 2023 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm ET and would be appropriate for anyone with a role in public safety, state/local law enforcement, government officials, K-12 and university educators, corporate security, and religious leaders.

***This event can only accommodate 20,000 registrants.***

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**Experts in Your Corner**

***~Clery Center***

*Approachable Clery Act subject matter expertise?*

*Practical solutions for complicated tasks?*

*Collaboration with peers?*

*Free, current resources?*

Look no further than membership with Clery Center. Learn more about the full value of Clery Center membership through this presentation highlighting key benefits, networking opportunities, and costs.

**Clery Center Membership: Experts in Your Corner**

**Wednesday, January 18, 2023 (rescheduled from 12/6)**

**12:30 - 1:30 PM**

[Register](#)

**Presenter:** *Rachel Matos (She/her)* | Assistant Director of Programs

As the Assistant Director of Programs, Rachel supports implementation and execution of programs and member services which address overall campus safety including compliance with the Jeanne Clery Act. Rachel conducts in person and virtual trainings, webinars, and provides technical assistance on the law itself.



[Clery Center](#) is the longtime endorsed program provider of the **AICUP Clery Center Membership Program**. Clery Center Membership connects campus safety professionals with ready-to-use materials, resources, and strategies to help guide them through understanding and implementing the provisions of the Clery Act. We not only guide institutions in implementation, but to exemplify the spirit of the law with a proactive commitment to campus safety. With Clery Center Membership colleges and universities receive unparalleled expertise in the form of annual security report reviews, unlimited technical assistance and support, free tools and resources, free and discounted trainings, workshops, and webinars, and access to the Clery Center Member directory and private discussion board.

Once you register, you will receive a confirmation email with your unique Zoom link. If you have any questions, please contact [Kelly Carli](#). Stay tuned for additional webinar topics and dates on the AICUP website.

**Contact:** *Cheryl Levy*, [clevy@clerycenter.org](mailto:clevy@clerycenter.org) or 484-584-4217

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## **Dickinson & St. Joseph's Win E2 Energy Grants** **~Constellation**

Constellation awarded \$513,000 in E<sup>2</sup> Energy to Educate grants for hands-on student projects. The grant program enables 20,000 students from middle school to college to pursue energy-related projects in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and supports the company's focus on workforce

development, equity and education by encouraging young people from diverse backgrounds to get excited about STEM.

After a rigorous review process, Constellation selected 23 projects from ten states as this year's winners. The projects specifically address equity in energy, sustainability as a lifestyle, and creating a sustainable world. Winning ideas included the construction of a solar-powered net-zero home, hydroelectric generators, electric vehicle kits, and youth-focused STEM teaching programs. Visit the [E<sup>2</sup> grants page](#) for the complete list of this year's grant recipients.

- Learn more about Dickinson College's project: [Clean Energy from Waste Education](#)
- Learn More about St. Joseph's University's project: [Physics Wonder Girls Summer Camp](#)

[Constellation](#) is the endorsed program provider of the Energy Management & Procurement Program. By participating in the program, AICUP members can be assured of getting excellent rates, stability over a longer term, and many other value-added products (e.g. Green Power). Member colleges are priced individually to assure that one does not subsidize another.

**Contact: Blaire Miller at [blaire.miller@constellation.com](mailto:blaire.miller@constellation.com)**

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## **How JourneyEd Works for Your Campus** *~JourneyEd*

### **The Standard in Apple Enterprise Management**

Educators need powerful, intuitive tools that serve all students — no matter who they are, how they learn, or where they learn. Jamf helps schools deliver an active learning environment to everyone with iPad, Mac, and Apple TV devices.

[Request a Quote](#)

### **Save Big on Your School's Current Technology**

JourneyED can provide comparison pricing on technology leasing, security and

antivirus, device management, disaster recovery, virtualization and web filtering.

[Get a Quote](#)

### **Get the Best Deal for Your School's Microsoft Agreement**

There are over 6 million ways for schools to combine Microsoft product licensing. Let our experts help you determine the ONE that's right for your school.

[Learn More](#)

[Download the Product Linecard](#) - the Latest Technology Brands Offered

**Contact: Jason Watson at [jwatson@journeyed.com](mailto:jwatson@journeyed.com) or 800-876-3507, ext.7111**

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## **Municipal Market Update**

*~Stifel*

Market Anticipates 50 Basis Point Hike at Fed Meeting

- The market is anticipating a 50 basis point increase in the Fed Funds Rate at the Fed's upcoming meeting this Tuesday and Wednesday. The adjacent graph estimates the probability of a rate hike at 207% at this week's upcoming Fed meeting (values greater than 100% indicate a rate hike larger than 25 basis points).
- The Producer Price Index ("PPI") rose 0.3% in November—which is more than the 0.2% rise expected—and 7.4% year-over-year. PPI measures inflation from the perspective of producers.
- Last Thursday, the House passed the National Defense Authorization Act, which includes a financial disclosure mandate for municipal issuers. The Act could be voted on by the Senate as soon as this week.

[Read the Full Update for Week of 12/12/2022](#)

[Stifel](#) oversees the **AICUP Debt Financial Advisory & Bond Program**.

Through this Program, AICUP members have managed all aspects of their debt portfolio. The program's highly experienced team includes the national Higher Education Practice Group of Stifel, Ballard Spahr and The Bank of New York Mellon

Trust Company (as Trustee). The same individual team members employed by the program's participating firms have worked with the program since its inception in 1997, saving AICUP members both time and costs of issuance.

**Contact: Linda Eremita at [eremital@stifel.com](mailto:eremital@stifel.com) or 412-923-5927**

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## **Cybersecurity - A Collaborative Solution**

This is an issue for all AICUP member schools and it is like the proverbial iceberg—most of the problems never get airtime (for good reason). AICUP has been building our cybersecurity group network for the last 3 years, and now has 34 colleges who work, through AICUP, with an entity called NCTFA to provide this service to our colleges. AICUP uses it as well. Here is a comment one college IT pro wanted to share after a recent experience at a member school:

*“an example where NCFATA showcased their exceptional value. The intelligence tips with technical guidance to implement fixes are vital to operating a secure network. Within minutes of receiving the bulletin, I was able to provide clear technical direction to protect our network. You just can't piece enough information from each of the vendors and maintenance activities to see the big picture and take decisive action. NCFATA has the unique position to see the big picture and provide technical guidance to its members in a timely manner. They are way ahead of DHS/CISA in communicating this threat. Thanks again for helping me get connected with the excellent resources offered through AICUP.”*

This is an important issue for every college, as stealing identity info is the lifeblood of the criminal side of the cyber world—and college IT networks hold tons of that kind of info. Larger, more research-focused schools have their own in-house cyber network professionals but most AICUP member schools don't have that budget capacity or frankly the need to protect monetarily valuable research data.

***Here is [how to engage with the NCTFA program through AICUP](#).***

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## Major Holiday Scams & How to Identify Them

~*Paymerang*

The most wonderful time of the year is quickly approaching. While it's an exciting time for most, it's an even better time for swindlers working hard to take advantage of your generosity while you're shopping, traveling, or exchanging gifts with friends and family.

According to a 2022 AARP Fraud Watch Network™ Report, 3/4 of U.S. consumers have experienced or been targeted by at least one form of holiday-related fraud<sup>1</sup>. There are several ways fraudsters will attempt to rob you of your festive mood this year but remaining vigilant against fraud is one way to lower stress during the busy holiday season (go [here](#) for details on each).

1. Fake Social Media Gift Exchanges
2. Gift Card Scam
3. Fake Website Scam
4. Fake Charity Scam
5. Package Delivery Scams
6. Holiday Travel & Online Airfare Scams

### ***What to do if you become a victim of fraud...***

If you took all the steps to prevent a fraudulent attack or holiday scam and it still happened, don't worry. You aren't alone. Acting quickly against fraudsters is the first step to stopping them. Here are ways you can recover after an attack:

- Think locally and report the scam to your local law enforcement
- Match the agency to the crime: Find the correct government agency to help you handle your case
- Focus on emotional healing

This time of year is filled with lots of hustle and bustle, but don't let that distract you from staying alert to common scams and nefarious schemes like those above.

Staying vigilant during the holiday season means you can celebrate the holiday season with friends and family without fearing a fraudulent disruption.

[View the Holiday Fraud Training Webinar from 12/7/2022](#)

**Contact: Tom Smith, [tcsmith@paymerang.com](mailto:tcsmith@paymerang.com) or 804-395-6193**

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## ***Aspect Consulting***

### ***Help Desk Best Practices in Higher Ed***

According to a [recent EdTech article](#), help desks in the higher education sector have one of the lowest response times out of 20 industries, a troubling statistics since help desk support is now crucial for keeping higher education operations running smoothly.

Without consistent, highly available network and systems access, students, faculty, and administrative personnel cannot function. With lack of resources cited as the biggest obstacle to higher ed operations, using technology to become more efficient is integral. Some methods that are working to improve help desk efficiency include the following:

**Implement an Automated Ticketing System:** Ticketing systems not only streamline issue reporting, but also provide statistics that can be used to identify patterns in issue reporting and resolution. Even [free ticketing software](#) can provide enough functionality to improve issue tracking and automate communication with the end user, leading to less frustration while reducing costs.

**Use Ticketing Data Analytics to Scale Help Desk Resources:** Use ticketing statistics to determine when to scale up staff for peak issue reporting hours and scale down for lower activity, while retaining an on on-call schedule for unsuspected outages.

**Establish a Self-Help Portal:** Statistics can also identify the systems, or the user groups associated with the most issues. Establishing self-help instructions for the most reported issues can then ease the volume of reported issues.

**Install Virtual Assistants:** Consider installing self-help virtual assistants to help support specific user populations. A [\*state university implemented a question and answer assistant\*](#) on their enrollment page for incoming freshman, and increased the enrollment turn-over rate by 22%.

As the online learning model continues to expand, having a high performing help desk can improve the student experience, and impact engagement and enrollment. Investing in help desk technology is crucial for future success.

**Contact: Chris Bressi, [cbressi@aspect-consulting.com](mailto:cbressi@aspect-consulting.com) or 610-783-0600 ext.130**

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## ***The Benecon Group ~ Shared Services Health Plan***

### ***A Self-Funding Solution for Employee Health Benefits***

Shake up the status quo with Shared Services Health Plan. Unlike fully-insured plans or carrier sponsored level-funding, Shared Services puts you in control.

With choice of plan design and 100% surplus retention, Shared Services is the only option where you only pay for what you use and keep what you don't.

Shared Services is administered by Benecon.

**Contact: David P. Wuenschel, [dwuenschel@benecon.com](mailto:dwuenschel@benecon.com) or 888-400-4647**

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## **CampusLogic**

### ***Spring 2023 - Financial Aid Award Notifications***

If you have worked in a financial aid office for more than one day, you know how difficult it can be to get students' attention, especially with detailed financial aid information. Learn how [this university](#) breaks through the noise to reach more students and increased engagement on financial aid communications.

**Contact: Chris Jones, [chris.jones@campuslogic.com](mailto:chris.jones@campuslogic.com) or 513-885-2753**

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## **RLPS Architects & RLPS Interiors**

### ***Interior Renovations: Budget-Friendly & Brand-Building with Big Benefits***

*A 2-MINUTE READ!*

Higher education institutions understand the importance of evolving and changing with the times; making campus updates is among the top priorities from year to year. Rather than initiate a large construction project, institutions are staying current with small-scale interior renovations to underutilized areas of campus that need reimagining.

Combining interior renovations with upgraded furniture can provide a large impact through projects that can be completed in a shorter timeframe and don't exhaust the annual budget.

To read about how and why you should make big impacts with interior renovations, read the entire blog [HERE](#).

**Contact: Sarah Bennett, [sbennett@rlps.com](mailto:sbennett@rlps.com) or 717-560-9501**

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## **Business Efficiency Manual 2022-2023**

### ***Now Available***

This [Business Efficiency Program Manual](#) outlines:

1. the range of business efficiency and research programs that AICUP sponsors for members;
2. institutional participation rates; and
3. the estimated cost-savings per institution from those programs. It is important to measure these programs over time as part of the normal performance measurement of our AICUP work.

#### ***How to Use & Share It***

- Once you hit the link, it will ask you if you would like to take the tutorial. Please do so - it's quick and extremely helpful. Here are a few tips:
- In the upper right hand corner you will find an arrow to download as a pdf
- Also in the upper right hand corner is a square called CONTENT which allows you to look at specific content to print and/or share via email

#### ***Here are a few highlights:***

- In 2021 AICUP offered 38 different cost savings programs – of which, 28 are vendor driven and the remaining 10 are driven by AICUP staff activities.
- Thirty (30) of these programs leveraged volume and lowered costs in a way that could be documented –resulting in \$23.1 million of calculable savings in 2021.

- Twenty (20) of these programs provided service to 35 or more AICUP members and only seven (7) programs had participation of less than 10 AICUP members. All 92 AICUP Members and Associate Members participated in at least one of these 38 programs.
- \$23.1 million of calculable 2021 savings equates to an average savings of \$248,118 per AICUP member or roughly 19 times the average 2021 membership dues (\$13,143).
- Five (5) of these programs each provided annual 2021 savings that exceeded the total 2021 AICUP membership dues of \$1,209,169. These include: Aggregate Group Purchasing, Purchasing Card Programs, Software Licensing Programs, Cyber-Security and Covid19 Response.

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**AICUP  
Business Efficiency  
Programs**

[www.aicup.org/Collaboration/BEP](http://www.aicup.org/Collaboration/BEP)

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