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The Parthenon, July 5, 2023

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Board of Governors Approves 10-Year Development Plan

By **MATT SCHAFFER**
INTERIM EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Changes are coming to Marshall's campus after the Board of Governors unanimously approved a 10-year development master plan on June 21, including many renovations to the University's grounds.

The plan will include changes to the Huntington campus, Charleston campus, Mid-Ohio

Valley Center, the 4th Ave innovation district, the health science campus and athletic areas.

Many of the proposed projects across campus are estimated to cost over \$1 million each, which also includes classroom renovations, flood interventions and building renovations to Smith Hall, Harris Hall and the Science Building.

Dorms will also be affected, with hopes to convert both Twin Towers East and West into single-living dorms with single-use bathrooms and lounges, as well as the future development of an unnamed new residence hall.

The plan also hopes to address numerous structural issues in key buildings across the campus along with improved roadway conditions on third

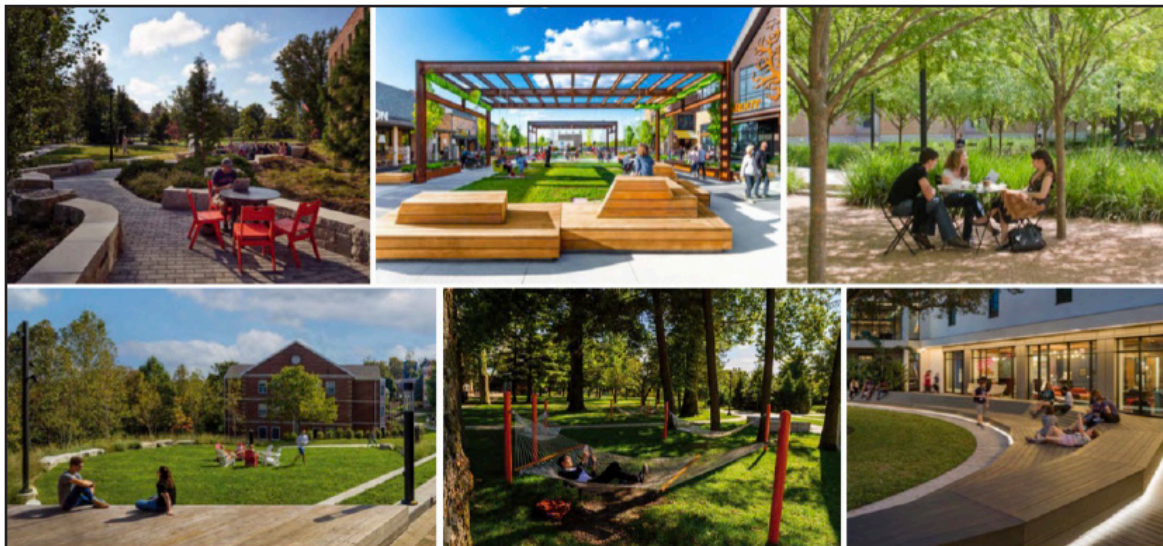
and fifth avenues surrounding the Huntington campus with the installation of bike lanes, bus lanes and updated crosswalks.

The Huntington campus will see landscaping renovations to both the East Quad and Buskirk fields.

"Thank you to every member of our campus community who participated in the 10-month effort to develop the plan,"

Brad Smith, president of Marshall University, said in the announcement. "The plan represents just one set of possibilities, based on what we know today, and will certainly change over time."

The current plan is estimated to cost hundreds of millions of dollars over the next 10 years, with the goal of completion by 2037.



Rendering of Proposed Landscaping Renovations.

Photo Courtesy of MarshallU.net

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HPD on the scene following the shooting.

Photo by Matt Schaffer

Midday Officer Involved Shooting Brings Emergency Workers Close to Campus

By **MATT SCHAFFER**
INTERIM EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Emergency crews flooded 14th Street following a shooting involving an officer that occurred near Marshall's campus just before

2 p.m. on Monday, July 3.

The shooting took place in the 4 1 / 2 Alley near 14th Street and between 5th and 4th avenues, right behind the construction of Brad D. Smith School of Business and just

two blocks from Old Main.

There is no information on the condition of the officer or suspect; however, updates are expected.

Huntington Pride and Marshall Team Up for "Walk for Recovery"

By **MATT SCHAFFER**
INTERIM EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Huntington Pride and Marshall University teamed up on June 24 to host "Walking for Recovery," which celebrated substance abuse recovery and provided support to families and individuals who continue to be affected.

The event, held at the Memorial Student Center, hosted speakers including West Virginia Delegate Mike Pushkin, Jack McAtee of WV Recovers and Ryan Elkins of Marshall's Collegiate Recovery Community with participants walking together in solidarity to their commitment to

supporting those in recovery.

Speakers covered a range of topics addressing the substance use issues that have been prominent in the region, with the event being free and open to the public.

Brandon Dennison Named Vice President of Economic and Workforce Development

By **MATT SCHAFFER**
INTERIM EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Brandon Dennison, CEO and founder of Coalfield Development, has taken over as Marshall's vice president of economic and workforce development as announced by Marshall President Brad Smith on June 20.

"We are excited to have someone with Brandon's vision and leadership to help us further grow our collective impact," Smith said in the announcement. "As a nationally renowned social enterprise expert and son of southern West Virginia, he brings unparalleled passions, intense energy and knowledge of Appalachia to this post."

The move hopes to create a vision that will increase prosperity in the state among graduates through external engagement, with Dennison

working with department heads and applied research projects. Dennison will also be tasked with selecting a new CEO for the fall semester.

Dennison is a DRK Entrepreneur, Ashoka Fellow and winner of the J.M.K Social Innovation Prize and Heinz Award for Technology, the Economy and Employment.



Brandon Diennison

Photo Courtesy of MarshallU.net

Flight School to Extend to Northern West Virginia

By SARAH DAVIS
NEWS EDITOR

Marshall's Bill Noe Flight School is taking flight to a secondary location in the northern panhandle.

Marshall, along with West Liberty University, announced the intent to build an additional location of the Bill Noe Flight School on the West Liberty campus on Thursday, June 29.

Classes on the West Liberty campus are gearing up to begin in fall 2024. The school is expected to be housed in the Wheeling-Ohio County Airport, located in Wheeling, West Virginia.

The Bill Noe Flight School, which opened in fall 2021, is located at the West Virginia International Yeager Airport in Charleston, West Virginia. Students at the Yeager campus are working towards their commercial pilot licenses,

earning a bachelor of science degree.

The commercial pilot program utilizes the Cirrus SR20 aircraft, a small engine plane, for hands-on learning experiences.

In addition to the Yeager campus, the school also operates their aviation maintenance technology program out of the Huntington Tri-State Airport in Huntington, West Virginia. These students learn how to be aviation technicians, earning an associate in applied science degree.

The aviation maintenance program is a collaborative effort between Marshall University and Mountwest Technical and Community College.

Leaders in the Bill Noe Flight School describe this expansion as a way to spread innovation across the Mountain State.

"We are looking forward

to collaborating with West Liberty and working towards making the state of West Virginia synonymous with aviation anytime it's mentioned and continue our deep-rooted traditional roots in this field by creating the platform to be the premier location for training future aviators in the country," said Bill Noe, Marshall's chief aviation officer, in a Marshall University news release.

West Liberty University's interim president, Dr. Cathy Monteroso, says that the partnership with Marshall is a joyous one.

"We are happy to be partnering with Marshall University and are looking forward to building West Virginia into the premier aviation state. This will be a great opportunity for students in our area to be placed in high-need careers," Monteroso said in a Marshall University news release.



The Cirrus SR20 aircraft

Courtesy of The Parthenon

West Virginia School Board Accepts Superintendent's Resignation Over Pandemic Spending Review

By JOHN RA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — The West Virginia Board of Education appointed Michele Blatt as the state schools superintendent Friday after accepting the retirement of David Roach in fallout over a review of a county school system's pandemic spending.

The board voted unanimously to accept the retirement of Roach, who had served just 10 months. It then met in private before voting to name Blatt as the third state schools superintendent since 2020 and the seventh in a dozen years.

Blatt joined the Department of Education in 2007 as a leadership development coordinator and became a deputy state superintendent in 2020. She had more than 25 years of experience as a teacher and school principal.

School board President Paul Hardesty said during discussions about Blatt prior to the vote that "the theme seems to be comfortable. She's a proven, known commodity that can take this job July 1 and move forward for the children of West Virginia."

Blatt said one of her goals is to "establish continuity and stability. We've had a lot of turnover in a lot of different positions. And in order to increase achievement and do what we need to do for the students in West Virginia, we have to be able to have stability in leadership at the Department of Education. It will take a team approach and that we need everyone on board with us to do what's right."



Michele Blatt Courtesy of AP/John Raby

During a meeting last week, state school board members were upset that Roach didn't tell them about ongoing issues in Upshur County until late May. A review conducted by the Department of Education had been being posted online months earlier.

The department had reviewed a sample of Upshur County schools' financial records to check for allowable costs. The sampling represented less than 1% of the total transactions covering four fiscal years.

The county school system received \$16.2 million over three years in federal pandemic funds. The review found the misuse of hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal funding in the county school system, including \$71,000 spent on food and drinks during more than two dozen staff retreats at a resort and a restaurant. There also was \$38,000 spent on a national conference for county school staff.

At the time it received the various federal COVID-19 funds, Upshur County's schools superintendent was Sara Lewis-Stankus. She held the job for five years until she was hired as a deputy state superintendent by Roach shortly after he took his job last August. Lewis-Stankus retired in May.

Student Loan Repayments Are Set to Restart in August



After three years, the pandemic-era freeze on student loan payments will end in late August.

AP Photo/Frank Franklin II

By ADRIANA MORGA & CORA LEWIS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP) — After three years, the pandemic-era freeze on federal student loan payments will end this fall and more than 40 million Americans will have to start making payments again under the terms of a debt ceiling deal approved by Congress.

Student loan interest will start accruing on September 1 and payments will restart in October. That means tough decisions for many borrowers, especially those in already-difficult financial situations.

It might seem tempting

to just continue not making payments, but the consequences can be severe, including a hit to your credit score and exclusion from future aid and benefits.

However, President Joe Biden on Friday offered a plan for a 12-month grace period to help borrowers who initially struggle when payments restart. Exact details have yet to be released.

After that on-ramp, experts say delinquency and bankruptcy should be options of last resort. Deferment and forbearance — which pause payments, though interest may continue to accrue — are often better in the short term.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T MAKE STUDENT LOAN PAYMENTS?

Once payments restart in earnest, borrowers who can't or don't pay risk delinquency and eventually default. That can badly hurt your credit rating and make you ineligible for additional aid and government benefits.

If you're struggling to pay, advisers first encourage you to check if you qualify for an income-driven repayment plan, which determines your payments by looking at your expenses. You can see whether you qualify by visiting the Federal Student Aid website. If you've worked

for a government agency or a non-profit organization, you could also be eligible for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, which forgives student debt after 10 years.

Carolina Rodriguez, Director of the Education Debt Consumer Assistance Program at the Community Service Society of New York, emphasizes that anyone temporarily unemployed should be able to qualify for a \$0 payment plan. And many others qualify based on income and family size.

"The repercussions of falling into delinquency can be pretty severe," Rodriguez said. "The federal government can administratively intercept tax refunds and garnish wages. And it can affect Social Security, retirement, and disability benefits. Does it make financial sense at that point? Probably not."

Rodriguez says her organization always advises against deferment or forbearance except once a borrower has exhausted all other options. In the long term, those financial choices offer little benefit, as some loans will continue to accrue interest while deferred.

Abby Shafroth, senior attorney and director of the Student Loan Borrower Assistance Project at the National Consumer Law Center, said that, of the two, deferment is generally a better option.

That's because interest generally does not accrue on Direct Subsidized Loans, the subsidized portion of Direct Consolidation Loans, Subsidized Federal Stafford Loans, the subsidized portion of FFEL Consolidation Loans, and

Federal Perkins Loans. All other federal student loans that are deferred will continue to accrue interest.

"Forbearance allows you to postpone payments without it being held against you, but interest does accrue. So you're going to see your balance increase every month."

HOW DID THE SUPREME COURT RULE ON STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS?

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that the Biden administration overstepped its authority in trying to cancel or reduce student loan debt, effectively killing the \$400 billion plan, which would have canceled up to \$20,000 in federal student loans for 43 million people. Of those, 20 million would have had their remaining student debt erased completely.

The sharply divided court held the Biden administration overstepped its authority in trying to cancel or reduce student loans for millions of Americans, saying the administration needs the endorsement of Congress before undertaking so costly a program. The 6-3 decision, with conservative justices in the majority, also rejected arguments that a bipartisan 2003 law dealing with student loans provided the authority Biden claimed.

Thousands More Prisoners Across the US Will Get Free College Paid for by the Government

By **AARON MORRISON**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The graduates lined up, brushing off their gowns and adjusting classmates' tassels and stoles. As the graduation march played, the 85 men appeared to hoots and cheers from their families. They marched to the stage — one surrounded by barbed wire fence and constructed by fellow prisoners.

For these were no ordinary graduates. Their black commencement garb almost hid their aqua and navy-blue prison uniforms as they received college degrees, high school diplomas and vocational certificates earned while they served time. Thousands of prisoners throughout the United States get their college degrees behind bars, most of them paid for by the federal Pell Grant program, which offers the neediest undergraduates tuition aid that they don't have to repay.

That program is about to expand exponentially next month, giving about 30,000 more students behind bars some \$130 million in financial aid per year. The new rules, which overturn a 1994 ban on Pell Grants for prisoners, begin to address decades of policy during

the "tough on crime" 1970s-2000 that brought about mass incarceration and stark racial disparities in the nation's 1.9 million prison population.

For prisoners who get their college degrees, including those at Folsom State Prison who got grants during an experimental period that started in 2016, it can be the difference between walking free with a life ahead and ending up back behind bars. Finding a job is difficult with a criminal conviction, and a college degree is an advantage former prisoners desperately need.

Gerald Massey, one of 11 Folsom students graduating with a degree from the California State University at Sacramento, has served nine years of a 15-to-life sentence for a drunken driving incident that killed his close friend.

"The last day I talked to him, he was telling me, I should go back to college," Massey said. "So when I came into prison and I saw an opportunity to go to college, I took it."

Consider this: It costs roughly \$106,000 per year to incarcerate one adult in California.

It costs about \$20,000 to educate a

prisoner with a bachelor's degree program through the Transforming Outcomes Project at Sacramento State, or TOPSS.

If a prisoner paroled with a degree, never reoffends, gets a job earning a good salary and pays taxes, then the expansion of prison education shouldn't be a hard sell, said David Zuckerman, the project's interim director.

"I would say that return on investment is better than anything I've ever invested in," Zuckerman said.

That doesn't mean it's always popular. Using taxpayer money to give college aid to people who've broken the law can be controversial. When the Obama administration offered a limited number of Pell Grants to prisoners through executive action in 2015, some prominent Republicans opposed it, arguing in favor of improving the existing federal job training and re-entry programs instead.

The 1990s saw imprisonment rates for Black and Hispanic Americans triple between 1970 and 2000. The rate doubled for white Americans in the same time span. The ban on Pell Grants for prisoners caused the hundreds of college-in-prison programs that existed in the 1970s and 1980s to go almost entirely extinct by the late nineties.

Congress voted to lift the ban in 2020, and since then about 200 Pell-eligible college programs in 48 states, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico have been running, like the one at Folsom. Now, the floodgates will open, allowing any college that wants to utilize Pell Grant funding to serve incarcerated students to apply and, if approved, launch their program.

President Joe Biden has strongly supported giving Pell Grants to prisoners in recent years. It's a turnaround — the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, championed by the former Delaware senator, was what barred prisoners from getting Pell Grants in the



Incarcerated graduates, who finished various educational and vocational programs in prison.

Courtesy of AP/Jae C. Hong

first place. Biden has since said he didn't agree with that part of the compromise legislation.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation had 200 students enrolled in bachelor's degree programs this spring, and has partnered with eight universities across the state. The goal, says CDCR press secretary Terri Hardy: Transforming prisoners' lives through education.

Aside from students dressed in prisoner blues, classes inside Folsom Prison look and feel like any college class. Instructors give incarcerated students the same assignments as the pupils on campus.

The students in the Folsom Prison classes come from many different backgrounds. They are Black, white, Hispanic, young, middle aged and senior. Massey, who got his communications degree, is of South Asian heritage.

Born in San Francisco to parents who immigrated to the U.S. from Pakistan, Massey recalls growing up feeling like an outsider. Although most people of his background are Muslim, his family members belonged to a small Christian

community in Karachi.

In primary school, he was a target for bullies. As a teen, he remembered seeking acceptance from the wrong people. When he completed high school, Massey joined the Air Force.

"After 9/11, I went in and some people thought I was a terrorist trying to infiltrate," he said. "It really bothered me. So when I got out of the military, I didn't want anything to do with them."

Massey enrolled in college after one year in the military, but dropped out. Later, he became a certified nursing assistant and held the job for 10 years. He married and had two children.

His addiction to alcohol and a marijuana habit knocked him off course. "I was living like a little kid and I had my own little kids," Massey said. "And I thought if I do the bare minimum, that's OK."

Prison forced him to take responsibility for his actions. He got focused, sought rehabilitation for alcoholism and restarted his pursuit of education. He also took up prison barbering to make money.



Prisoner-students majoring communications through the Transforming Outcomes Project at Sacramento State sit in a classroom at Folsom State Prison in Folsom, Calif.

Courtesy of AP/ Jae C. Hong

NCAA Adopts New Gambling Guidelines That Include Permanent Bans, More Lenient Reinstatement Policies



NCAA National Office

Courtesy of AP/Michael Conroy

ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The NCAA is updating its reinstatement process for athletes involved in sports wagering.

The new guidelines adopted this week by the Division I Legislative Committee calls for a permanent collegiate ban if any player is found to have bet on their games, influenced the outcome of those games, bets on other sports at their school or knowingly provided information to someone engaged in sports betting.

If a player places a bet on another school competing in the same sport the athlete competes in, they could be suspended for half of a season and would be required to complete an educational program on sports wagering rules before becoming eligible for reinstatement.

Previously, athletes lost an entire college season for sports gambling, though those policies were adopted prior to the Supreme Court's landmark ruling that paved the way for today's rapid expansion of legalized

gambling, sports books and gaming on mobile devices.

"These new guidelines modernize penalties for college athletes at a time when sports wagering has been legalized in dozens of states and is easily accessible nationwide with online betting platforms," Jacksonville athletic director Alex Ricker-Gilbert, the committee chair, said in a statement. "While sports wagering by college athletes is still a concern — particularly as we remain committed to preserving the integrity

of competition in college sports — consideration of mitigating factors is appropriate as staff prescribe penalties for young people who have made mistakes in this space."

The new penalties will apply to any gambling activities that have taken place since May 2.

Gilbert's committee also approved a measure to make reinstatement for betting on non-college sports contingent on the total amount of money involved.

While the completion of the

educational program is required for each value, it is the only stipulation if the amount is \$200 or less. If the number falls between \$201 and \$500, a player would miss 10% of their games, 20% of a season if the amount is between \$501 and \$800, and 30% for anything topping \$800.

The NCAA's reinstatement staff also could consider additional penalties for amounts over \$800.

Fall Football Ticket Schedule Announced



Courtesy of HerdZone

THE PARTHENON

With the 2023 Marshall Football season now two months away, Marshall's Ticket Office is announcing several plans to ensure fans get to Joan C. Edwards Stadium and beyond to cheer on the Thundering Herd.

Marshall's 2023 home football schedule includes a Sept. 23 matchup against ACC foe Virginia Tech and a national prime-time matchup against James Madison (Oct. 19) in addition to annual matchups, such as Homecoming (Sept. 30 vs. ODU) and the '75' game (Nov. 11 vs. Georgia Southern).

Here is a small breakdown of some of the plans available for fans:

Young Grad: The Young Grad package offers tickets in select sections to eligible participants for \$99 per ticket (max of 4 tickets). To

be eligible, consumers must have graduated from Marshall in Spring 2018 or later and must be a Big Green member (memberships start at \$60). The \$99-per-ticket price is a savings of nearly \$100.

Family pack: The Family Pack offers an option of four or more tickets at a significant discount in Sections 105, 107 and 113. Use promo code FAMILY before selecting tickets to receive the discount.

** = Big Green donation required

Mini-Plans (starts on July 14)

Option 1: Virginia Tech + Arkansas State + Choice of one more game

Option 2: Pick 3 of 5 (Albany, ODU, JMU, Georgia Southern, Arkansas State)

Single-game tickets will go on sale to Big Green members and current Season Ticket Holders on July 28 before going on sale to the general public on Aug. 3.

Morgan Zerkle To Be Introduced As Head Softball Coach



Upcoming Head Softball Coach Morgan Zerkle

Courtesy of The Herald Dispatch/Sholten Singer

THE PARTHENON

Marshall Athletics will host a press conference to introduce Morgan Zerkle as the 5th Head Softball Coach in program history at 10 a.m. on Friday in the Big Green Room at Joan C. Edwards Stadium.

The press conference is open to the public. Please note that the venue for the press conference has changed from Dot Hicks Field to the Big Green Room at Joan C.

Edwards Stadium due to potential air quality and weather concerns.

There will also be a live-stream of the press conference available through Marshall Athletics Facebook page and through a YouTube link.

Zerkle starred for the Thundering Herd from 2014-17 and went on to represent Marshall University and the state of West Virginia on the national stage as a representative for the USA National Team.

The Milton, West Virginia, native becomes the first former Marshall player to lead the Thundering Herd program.

Zerkle comes to Marshall after serving as an assistant at Miami (Ohio) for the last four seasons. Over the last three seasons, the RedHawks won the Mid-American Conference and advanced to the NCAA Tournament.

A 2003 Supreme Court Decision Upholding Affirmative Action Planted the Seeds of Its Overturning, as Justices Then and Now Thought Racism an Easily Solved Problem



Demonstrators protest outside of the Supreme Court in Washington, Thursday, June 29, 2023.

Courtesy of AP/Jose Luis Magana

By **KENNETH L. SHROPSHIRE**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

In an anticipated but nonetheless stunning decision expected to have widespread implications on college campuses and workplaces across the country, the conservative majority of the U.S. Supreme Court on June 29, 2023, outlawed affirmative action programs that were designed to correct centuries of racist disenfranchisement in higher education.

In the majority opinion about the constitutionality of admissions programs at the University of North Carolina and Harvard, Chief Justice John Roberts wrote that Harvard's and UNC's race-based admission guidelines "cannot be reconciled with the guarantees of the Equal Protection Clause."

"College admissions are zero sum, and a benefit provided to some applicants but not to others necessarily advantages the former at the expense of the latter," Roberts wrote.

Though not a surprise, the decision in *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard* and *Students for Fair Admissions v. University of North Carolina* drew widespread condemnation from civil rights groups and praise from conservative politicians.

In my view as a race and equity legal scholar focused on business, the court had subtly established an affirmative action expiration date in its 2003 *Grutter v. Bollinger* decision.

In that case, Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wrote in her majority opinion that "race-conscious

admissions policies must be limited in time," adding that the "Court expects that 25 years from now, the use of racial preferences will no longer be necessary to further the interest approved today."

In this opinion, the court moved that deadline to the forefront, and it is no longer the throwaway line that some believed at the time.

What the court's decision in these 2023 cases means for college admissions officers is that the mere mention of using race to address racial and arguably gender disparities is unconstitutional. By their very nature, academia and corporations are conservative, and general counsels at these entities are likely to caution against any program targeting historically underrepresented people.

At the most optimistic, this ruling forces higher learning institutions to revise programs and look to remedy past wrongs on a case-by-case basis. But it is my belief that O'Connor's deadline was one of desire and not reality.

The vestiges of past discrimination and the unfortunate existence of ongoing discrimination continue. No deadline has made these wrongs and their impact disappear.

In her dissent in the UNC case, Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson details the reality:

"With let-them-eat-cake obliviousness, the majority pulls the ripcord and announces 'colorblindness for all' by legal fiat. But deeming race irrelevant in law does not make it so in life. And having so detached itself from this country's actual past and present

experiences, the Court has now been lured into interfering with the crucial work that UNC and other institutions of higher learning are doing to solve America's real-world problems."

In their lawsuits against North Carolina and Harvard, the anti-affirmative action organization Students for Fair Admissions argued that the schools' race-conscious admissions process was unconstitutional and discriminated against high-achieving Asian American students in favor of traditionally underrepresented Blacks and Hispanics who may not have earned the same grades or standardized test scores as other applicants.

The primary Supreme Court-level battle over affirmative action started during the 1970s when a legal challenge reached the Supreme Court in *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*.

In that 1978 case, Allan Bakke, a white man, had been denied admission to University of California at Davis' medical school. Though ruling that a separate admissions process for minority medical students was unconstitutional, Associate Justice Lewis Powell wrote that race can still be one of several factors in the admissions process.

Since then, the Supreme Court has issued different rulings on whether race could be used in college admissions.

In the 2003 *Grutter v. Bollinger* case, O'Connor wrote the majority opinion that endorsed the University of Michigan's "highly individualized, holistic review" that included race as a factor and had been legally challenged.

The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students Wednesdays during the regular semester and every other week during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

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Factual errors appearing in The Parthenon should be reported to the editor immediately following publication. Corrections the editor deems necessary will be printed as soon as possible following the error.

US Music Education has a History of Anti-Blackness That is Finally Being Confronted

By PHILIP EWELL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

When it comes to achieving racial diversity, music education at the university level in the U.S. still has a long way to go.

One of the leading professional organizations, the Society for Music Theory, put it bluntly in 2020: “We humbly acknowledge that we have much work to do to dismantle the whiteness and systemic racism that deeply shape our discipline,” the group wrote.

The focus on white, male Europeans in textbooks and music selected for study has been called into question by countless scholars and practitioners because of music education’s deep roots in anti-Blackness.

In recent years, the simplest solution for music professors has been to find nonwhite classical composers and use their work on a program or concert to demonstrate the school’s commitment to diversity. One person whose work some professors have used in such a way is Florence Price. A composer and music teacher who died in 1953, Price is considered to be one of the first Black female musicians with mainstream appeal.

But in my view as one of only a few Black scholars in the field of music theory, such diversity efforts often serve only to reinforce the whiteness and maleness of the system.

Ethnomusicologist Dylan Robinson calls these efforts “additive inclusion” in that they give the impression of making positive change but serve only to maintain an overemphasis on the work of white male Europeans.

In 2020, music theorist Megan Lyons and I did an analysis of the seven most common undergraduate music theory textbooks in the U.S.

We wanted to establish a baseline of



Sheet music, recently identified as part of a childhood creation by Mozart.

Courtesy of AP/Kerstin Joensson

the racial and gender makeup of the composers represented in the books to see what teachers were offering to our students as the most important music to consider in the undergraduate music major.

Music theory courses, usually spread over four or five semesters, are often considered the most crucial aspect of the major, and theory textbooks are presented as authoritative sources that outline the essentials of the discipline.

Representative titles include “Harmony and Voice Leading,” “Harmony in Context,” “Harmonic Practice in Tonal Music” and “Concise Introduction to Tonal Harmony.”

Looming large in these textbooks is the word “harmony,” the sound that is heard when two or more instruments or voices sound together, though in a global context the term has other meanings as well. What is considered harmony in the U.S. is based on European notions of tonality, pitch, scale, mode, key and melody.

The three composers the books most commonly represented were Germans Johann Sebastian Bach and Ludwig

van Beethoven and Austrian Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

We found that of the nearly 3,000 musical examples cited in the textbooks, only 49 were written by composers who were not white and only 68 were written by composers who were not men.

On rare occasions those two subgroups overlapped, as with Florence Price. Only two examples were written by Asian composers.

All told, almost 98% of the musical examples were written by white men who mostly spoke German, and these seven textbooks represented about 96% of the market share.

Left out of textbooks are the many African American musicians who contributed significantly to American music, such as classical composers Nathaniel Dett, James Reese Europe, Julia Perry and Clarence Cameron White.

Also generally excluded were nonclassical genres like jazz, blues or bluegrass, or contemporary popular music such as hip-hop, soul or punk.

Despite Censorship, Interest in Banned Books Rises

By JAYDEE VYKOUKAL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

American Library Association reports that more than 2,500 unique books were banned or challenged. That’s nearly five times the number of books that were complained about or sought to be removed from shelves just four years ago.

But attempted censorship tends to have a counterintuitive effect. In 2023, the Diary of Anne Frank had a 151% increase in interest after being censored from Texas and Florida school systems for violence complaints.

When a work of literature is banned, it invariably increases interest in the material. Thankfully, in our digital age, it has become exceedingly difficult for oppressive governments or organizations to suppress information people want to access.

Censoring information in printed books has been recorded as early as Julius Ceaser’s rule in 46 B.C. Back then, censorship was often justified to prevent the spread of propaganda that could spark a civil war.

In the U.S., book banning is a delicate issue due to its potential infringement on the First Amendment: Americans’ freedom of speech. It has also been broadly interpreted to include Americans’ right to access information.

In the late 1800s, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in several different cases that censorship is constitutional when a book involves obscenity or other elements against public morals. This has been considered of essential importance when it comes to young impressionable minds.

The most common institutions in the U.S. to ban books are school

systems, where parents, teachers, and policymakers are concerned about a child’s exposure to specific topics. Many of the books banned over the years have been removed due to violence, racial or gender insensitivity, or an approach to religious beliefs.

A total book ban that keeps a book out of libraries for public access is less likely, as this is viewed as an infringement on each individual’s rights to information.

The Surprising Books Censored in 2023

In 2023, several books were censored in various educational systems and libraries across the United States. These included:

- The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank
- Books about Rosa Parks
- Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
- Books by Judy Blume, Jodi Picoult, and Roald Dahl
- This Book is Gay by Juno Dawson
- The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison
- The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini
- The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck

These books were banned from various school curriculums in the U.S. due to concerns about violence, language, and overall controversy. For many, the irony is that the book Fahrenheit 451 has been banned, a book about the history of book burning, is not lost.

Whether it’s telling people that they can’t drink alcohol during the prohibition period, firmly telling a young child no, or banning books in the 21st century, one thing is certain: humans don’t like being told what to do.

North Dakota University Leaders Fear 'Catastrophic Implications' of New Minnesota Free Tuition Plan

By JACK DURA AND STEVE KARNOWSKI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota higher education officials are deeply worried about losing students and revenue in 2024 when neighboring Minnesota makes public college and university tuition free for thousands of residents.

Officials estimate around 15,000 to 20,000 Minnesota students a year will use the free North Star Promise program, and North Dakota education officials are projecting an \$8.4 million loss in combined tuition and fees in the first year alone, under one scenario.

Roughly 1,400 Minnesota students attending North Dakota colleges and universities might be eligible for the new program.

"This has catastrophic implications," said David Cook, North Dakota State University's president, at a recent State Board of Higher Education meeting. "This is a very serious situation for us."

Minnesota students make up close to half the student body at North Dakota State in Fargo, their No. 1 out-of-state pick in their first year. They accounted for nearly 40% of the first-year students at

the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks and North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton in fall 2021.

"Probably half of our football team comes from Minnesota, so that's kind of a big deal to us," College of Science President Rod Flanigan said.

North Star Promise will cover undergraduate tuition and fees at Minnesota's public post-secondary schools for students whose family income is below \$80,000 after they've tapped other sources of financial aid. It will take effect in fall 2024.

Kari Rod, 38, of Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, said North Star Promise will help her go back to college and finish her degree without taking on more student loans, and encourage her 13-year-old stepson to enroll in-state after high school.

"Our family had seriously considered moving" so the teen could take advantage of a program that covers college tuition for students who graduate from public schools in Kalamazoo, Michigan, Rod said. But after Minnesota's program passed, they decided to stay.

The program also "opens up the world of possibilities" for her 5-year-old's future, Rod said.

According to the Campaign for Free College Tuition, a national nonprofit, more than half the states now offer some kind of free college tuition, often with the word "Promise" in their program names. Seven set few eligibility limits.

Many others, like Minnesota, have income limits, have merit requirements, or are limited to specific schools or majors. The group says making higher education affordable for everyone is imperative to a workforce with the skills needed for the U.S. to compete in the global marketplace.

Democratic state Sen. Tim Mathern said he is drafting a bill similar to Minnesota's program but for North Dakotans. He acknowledged the headwinds Democrats face in North Dakota's Republican-supermajority Legislature.

"I don't think we should decry what Minnesota has done," Mathern said. "We should be spending our time being creative about what our abilities are."

North Dakota education officials estimate it would cost over \$17.2 million

annually to pay tuition and fees for all students eligible for federal Pell Grants, amounting to about 4,300 students at five schools.

Minnesota's move hasn't sparked the same fears in other neighboring states. University of Wisconsin officials are expanding a free tuition program that started at its flagship Madison campus to 12 more schools this fall.

The presidents of North Dakota State and the University of North Dakota are leading a group to address the potential impacts of Minnesota's free tuition on their schools, which are already recruiting students for fall 2024.

Lawmakers also plan to explore the implications through an interim legislative panel ahead of the next session in 2025.

"When we have all these alternate (education) delivery methods, and we have a traditional student base that is shrinking, and we have workforce issues — all of these things

are creating an issue that's bigger than a one-state response," said Republican Rep. Mark Sanford, who chairs the panel.

Republican House Majority Leader Mike Lefor said he doesn't want to "rush into a decision" on responding.

"We can't just be reacting to different situations from different states," Lefor told reporters. "We have to have good, solid policy going forward."

North Dakota's Legislature this year froze tuition statewide for all students for the next two years, a move meant to be competitive with neighboring states, including Minnesota.

Lawmakers need to respond while acknowledging that campus programs will still draw out-of-state students, said North Dakota University System Chancellor Mark Hagerott.

"I'm confident we can avoid catastrophe," he said.



North Dakota Republican state, from left, Reps. Mark Sanford, Bob Martinson and Mike Nathe

Courtesy of AP/Jack Dura

Marshall Community Invited to Mental Health Training

By SARAH DAVIS
NEWS EDITOR

Bystander Intervention Training is an important course for all faculty and students to take, according to an email from the Office of the President on Thursday, June 29.

“The training is designed to provide members of our university community with tools we can use to help prevent sexual violence, including recognizing and stopping situations before they happen, stepping in during an incident

and speaking out against ideas and behaviors that support sexual violence,” said Brad Smith, Marshall University’s president, in the email.

The course comes after the student-led Title IX Task Force recommended that the University offer the training yearly to students and staff. In addition to the training, the Task Force has also recommended that the University hosts a public forum for Title IX discussions, among other recommendations,

according to their website. Marshall’s Title IX Office, Violence Prevention and Response Program and Women’s and Gender Center have collaborated on the project.

According to their website, the Violence Prevention and Response Program’s mission is to ensure the safety of every Marshall family member.

“The Violence Prevention & Response Program is dedicated to creating and maintaining a safe and respectful

campus environment by leading comprehensive and collaborative prevention initiatives, fostering a culture of community responsibility and offering advocacy and support services to victims of sexual & interpersonal violence,” the statement reads.

The course will be offered eight times throughout the 2023 summer and fall semesters. The training has both an in-person and virtual option.

“I encourage each of you to demonstrate your

commitment to making Marshall University a safer place to learn, work and live by attending this training at your earliest convenience,” President Smith said in the email.

Those who wish to participate in the Bystander Intervention Training can reserve their spot online.

A full list of offered training times, along with the link to reserve a spot, can be found on the original email.

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Father Shaji Thomas

HD-486764

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Confession: Tuesdays 4-5pm
Saturdays 4:15-4:45pm
or anytime by appointment
Office Hours Mon-Fri. 9am-2pm

Rev. Fr. Thomas

HD-486592

St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church

HUNTINGTON, WV
526 13th Street
(304) 525-5202

Pastor: Msgr. Dean Borgmeyer

Sunday Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm
Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am,
12:00 Noon, 5:30 pm

Confessions

Saturday 8:25 am
Saturday 3:30 pm-4:25 pm
or by appointment

HD-486680

How the Supreme Court Student Loan Decision Affects You

By **ADRIANA MORGA, CORA LEWIS** and **COLLIN BINKLEY**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The Supreme Court has ruled the Biden administration overstepped its authority in trying to cancel or reduce student loan debt, effectively killing the \$400 billion plan, which would have canceled up to \$20,000 in federal student loans for 43 million people. Of those, 20 million would have had their remaining student debt erased completely.

The court's decision means, barring an act of Congress, those Americans are on the hook for payments starting in October.

Still, borrowers who are worried about their budgets do have options. For instance, the government has other loan forgiveness programs that are still in effect, even if Biden's plan was struck down. Biden also on Friday announced additional efforts to bring relief to borrowers.

Here's what to know about how the decision will affect you:

WHEN WILL STUDENT LOAN

PAYMENTS RESUME?

Student loan payments that have been frozen for the last three years because of the pandemic are set to restart in October. That was going to happen no matter what the Supreme Court decided. Interest will start accruing Sept. 1.

HOW SHOULD I PREPARE?

Betsy Mayotte, president of the Institute of Student Loan Advisors, encourages people not to make any payments until the pause has ended. Instead, she says, put what you would have paid into a savings account.

"Then you've maintained the habit of making the payment, but (you're) earning a little bit of interest as well," she said.

Mayotte recommends borrowers use the loan-simulator tool at StudentAid.gov or the one on TISLA's website to find a payment plan that best fits their needs. The calculators tell you what your monthly payment would be under each available plan, as well as your long-term costs.

Katherine Welbeck of the Student Borrower Protection Center recommends logging on to your account and making sure you know the name of your servicer, your due date and whether you're enrolled in the best income-driven repayment plan.

WHAT IF I CAN'T OR DON'T WANT TO PAY?

Hours after the Supreme Court decision, President Joe Biden announced a 12-month grace period to help borrowers who struggle after payments restart. Biden said borrowers can and should make payments during the first 12 months after payments resume, but, if they don't, they won't be at risk of default and it won't hurt their credit scores. But details about this plan have yet to be released.

After that grace period, if you're in a short-term financial bind, you may qualify for deferment or forbearance — allowing you to temporarily suspend payment.

To determine whether deferment or forbearance are good options for you, you can contact



"Cancel Student Debt!" outside Supreme Court Courtesy of AP/ Jacquelyn Martin

your loan servicer. One thing to note: interest still accrues during deferment or forbearance. Both can also impact potential loan forgiveness options. Depending on the conditions of your deferment or forbearance, it may make sense to continue paying the interest during the payment suspension.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER PROGRAMS THAT CAN HELP WITH STUDENT LOAN DEBT?

If you've worked for a government

agency or a nonprofit, the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program offers cancellation after 10 years of regular payments, and some income-driven repayment plans cancel the remainder of a borrower's debt after 20 to 25 years.

Borrowers should make sure they're signed up for the best possible income-driven repayment plan to qualify for these programs.

Borrowers who have been defrauded by for-profit colleges may also apply for borrower defense and receive relief.

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