William Paterson University Continues its Connection to the City of Paterson

William Paterson University is proud to continue its long-standing relationship with the City of Paterson, the University’s original home.

The Paterson Normal School was established in 1855 in Paterson, New Jersey, where it developed a strong presence as Paterson’s only institution of higher education.

Today the University is committed to supporting business development, enhancing education of Paterson’s students, and enriching the development of the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park.

The University and its students, faculty, and staff participate in service projects and activities and are helping to preserve the City’s history. William Paterson is actively committed to supporting and engaging members of the Paterson community in a multitude of ways—now and for years to come.

Development of Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park

A natural resource that has long graced the region with its beauty and power, the waterfalls in Paterson were designated as the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park in 2011 by The National Park Service.

Kathleen Waldron, president of William Paterson University, serves on the Board of Trustees of the Hamilton Partnership for Paterson, a non-profit organization that helped to launch the national park. The University is actively involved in the development of the programming in the park. Initiatives are designed to promote and make accessible to the public a deeper understanding of the interpretative themes of the park and its surroundings.

Funded by a grant from the Landsberger Foundation, environmental science faculty and students collaborated with Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park to create curriculum materials. The materials are being used by both the park and Paterson K-12 teachers to teach students about the environmental aspects of the park.
**Enhancement of Paterson Student Education**

- William Paterson University was selected as one of four sites in the state for the New Jersey Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellows program. The College of Education and College of Science and Health, and their partners in the Paterson and Passaic school districts, offer yearlong residencies to Woodrow Wilson Teaching New Jersey Fellows, including $30,000 stipends and $10,000 tuition scholarships.

- The University’s College of Education received a $3.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education that allows the institution to prepare and support educational leaders in partnership with the Paterson Public Schools.

- William Paterson received a $130,000 grant from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation to continue a pilot program in the Paterson Public Schools that promotes the interrelationships between the arts and sciences. The grant builds on previous grants from the Dodge Foundation of $75,000 and $125,000 that were used to implement the project that incorporates science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics known as STEAM.

- For the past two years, William Paterson’s Gandhian Forum for Peace and Justice sponsored a writing contest for students in Paterson public high schools. Students wrote essays about a social injustice — whether international, national, or local — and offered their solution. The winning students, their families, and teachers were invited to dinner at the University where winners read their essays and received prizes totaling $2,000.

- The University’s Center for Continuing and Professional Education (CPE) works with Paterson middle and high school students, teachers, parents, and business leaders throughout the year to deliver stimulating academic and enrichment programs on-site and at the University.

- Fifteen Paterson high school students received scholarships to reside on William Paterson’s campus for three weeks and attend Aim High Academy, featuring jazz and science workshops.

- CPE partners with New Destiny Family Success Center to deliver workshops and activities for students, teachers, and parents at Paterson School 6 as part of a Full Service Community Grant Program.

- Grant-funded teacher recruitment projects include New Vistas (an approximate $3 million award shared with Kean University) and Garden State Partnership for Teacher Quality to recruit teachers in high-need areas: math, science, special education, English as a Second Language (ESL) and bilingual education.

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**Support for Business Development**

- William Paterson University’s Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is located in the Urban Enterprise Zone in Paterson. A second office is located in the University’s Cotsakos College of Business at 1600 Valley Road in Wayne. During 2013, the SBDC counseled nearly 600 individuals or businesses, worked with more than 150 long-term clients, and helped clients receive $5.8 million in capital infusion. The SBDC has been very active with offering approximately 120 training and educational seminars and workshops.

- As part of a national and statewide SBDC system, the William Paterson SBDC has access to a tremendous national-wide resource base of expertise, enabling the Center to acquire expert information and quickly implement best practices to bolster New Jersey’s small businesses.
Participation in Service Projects and Activities

- The American Democracy Project’s Youth Vote Project has been conducting youth vote registration and education talks in Paterson’s high schools since 2008. Teams of trained undergraduate students have met with more than 750 high schoolers attending John F. Kennedy, Rosa Parks, Eastside and International high schools in Paterson. The American Democracy Project has registered more than 1,200 students and young people through these registration outreach initiatives.

- For several years, students at William Paterson orientation programs have participated in a canned food/nonperishable items drive, donating more than 2,000 items annually for Paterson’s Father English Center Food Pantry.

- William Paterson University’s intercollegiate sports teams, sororities, fraternities, and individual volunteers have engaged in fundraising, community service activities, and often provide one-on-one support and attention to children and others in need.

- Throughout the years, many William Paterson students and clubs visit Habitat for Humanity Paterson locations to support the varied building projects being conducted throughout the year.

- The University’s accounting department students provide tax preparation services to residents of the city on a volunteer basis through the VITA Tax Preparation Program.

- Faculty and staff participate in the following:
  - Paterson Alliance
  - Paterson Urban Enterprise Zone
  - Board of the Paterson YMCA
  - Friends board for the Paterson Public Library
  - Greater Paterson Chamber of Commerce

A University student discussing voter registration at Paterson’s Kennedy High School
Preserving Paterson’s History

- The University hosted a two-day conference to commemorate the centennial of the Paterson Silk Strike of 1913.
- Preservation is ongoing and digitized access to Paterson and county historical documents is available at the University’s David and Lorraine Cheng Library.
- Academic conferences on Paterson’s industrial, labor, and cultural history are held frequently.
- The Cheng Library has helped provide information to the National Historical Park and school districts.

- Sociology Professor Vincent Parrillo, with funding from the Alumni Association and technical support from the University, produced the documentary, “Gaetano Federici: The Sculptor Laureate of Paterson.”

William Paterson University received the 2013 Faith in Paterson Award presented by the Greater Paterson Chamber of Commerce. The award was given in recognition of the University’s long-standing commitment to and support for the greater Paterson community.

Public School No. 24, William Paterson’s Former Home

By 1910, the Paterson Normal School had outgrown School No. 1 and moved to the second floor of another new school, No. 24, on 19th Avenue and East 22nd Street, just off Market Street. It remained at this location for forty years, where it evolved from a city to a state normal school, and also developed a strong presence as Paterson’s only institution of higher education.