William Paterson University Continues Its Partnership with the City of Paterson

William Paterson University is proud to continue its long-standing relations 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 Paterson through outreach via civic engagement, the arts, business development, educational partnership, and faculty research.

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.

Announcing Propel Paterson Revitalization Initiative

William Paterson University and the City of Paterson have announced the launch of Propel Paterson, a new partnership designed to support Paterson’s revitalization through learning, research, and action. Above, President Richard Helldobler with Paterson Mayor Andre Sayegh.
Support through Civic Engagement

At William Paterson University, civic engagement is one of the core values that is inherent in our mission and strategic plan. We are the first public college or university in New Jersey with a civic engagement requirement as part of the core curriculum.

Our commitment is demonstrated not only through our curriculum, but also through the wide range of co-curricular and extracurricular programs and activities, which include:

- Tutoring, mentoring, and leadership activities in Paterson schools and after-school programs, such as the Dawn Treader Charter School, Community Charter School of Paterson, and more.
- Volunteer outreach through patient visits and recreational activities with the elderly population at Doctors Subacute Care in Paterson and Complete Care at Passaic County.
- Environmental clean-up activities at the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park and house beautification and rebuilding for the Paterson Habitat for Humanity.
- Volunteering at Eva’s Village community soup kitchen and food pantries.
- Support for women and children’s organizations, including the Passaic County Women’s Center and Oasis, a haven for women and children.

Connecting through the Arts

William Paterson faculty and students participate in many activities that connect the City of Paterson with the arts.

- The University’s Music After School program is a dual-mentoring program; music faculty mentor University music students, who in turn provide mentoring and music instruction to students from the Paterson Public Schools.
- “Tuesdays in the Plaza” has featured jazz students performing in front of the Passaic County Superior Courthouse.
- Paterson elementary, middle, and high school students often visit the campus for theater productions and gallery exhibitions.
- Through its Paterson Metropolitan Region Research Center, the University sponsors programs such as “Paterson through the Arts,” a conference featuring panels of artists, musicians, and art educators from the City of Paterson.

A Center Dedicated to the Paterson Region

The Paterson Metropolitan Region Research Center at William Paterson is dedicated to promoting a greater understanding of the history, importance, and contemporary relevance of the Paterson metropolitan area to North Jersey’s citizens. In addition to connecting students from relevant undergraduate and graduate programs with community-based research projects, the Center also sponsors an annual conference as well as special events on campus and in the region.
Enhancement of Paterson Student Education

- The University’s College of Education and College of Science and Health, and their partners in the Paterson and Passaic school districts, offer year-long residencies to Woodrow Wilson New Jersey Teaching Fellows, including $30,000 stipends and $10,000 tuition scholarships.
- The University’s College of Education received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education that allows the institution to prepare leaders in partnership with the Paterson Public Schools.
- William Paterson students, professors, and Paterson teachers work together to provide an after-school literacy enrichment program for primary grade students, allowing future teachers to gain experience working with young learners.
- The University’s College of Education has professors-in-residence in 18 Paterson P-12 schools—providing onsite, job-embedded professional development for more than 800 teachers and administrators. Professional development workshops and conferences are also provided on campus.
- William Paterson educators teach more than 10,000 Paterson students who have the opportunity to visit our campus and engage with artists, scientists, authors, and faculty from a variety of disciplines.
- Paterson high school students have received scholarships to participate in William Paterson’s highly acclaimed Summer Jazz Workshop and attend the School of Continuing and Professional Education’s Summer Precollege program and experience life on campus.
- The University’s School of Continuing and Professional Education 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.
- The University’s School of Continuing and Professional Education partners with New Destiny Family Success Center to deliver workshops and activities for students, teachers, and parents at the Senator Frank R. Lautenberg School as part of the Full-Service Community School Grant Program.
- The School of Continuing and Professional Education is collaborating with Paterson public schools to offer industry certifications in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) Career Pathways in schools and on campus.
- William Paterson provides continual support for bilingual and English as a second language (ESL) educators in the Paterson school district.
Stimulating Business Development

William Paterson University’s Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is located in Paterson with a second office in the University’s Cotsakos College of Business at 1600 Valley Road in Wayne. From 2015 through 2018, the University’s SBDC helped 1,800 clients receive more than $51 million in capital infusion. SBDC partnerships include:

- The Entrepreneurship and Small Business Incubator program helps aspiring entrepreneurs develop start-up businesses.
- Collaboration on business workshops and events with the Passaic County Workforce Investment Board and Business Resource Center.
- The University’s Cotsakos College of Business, through its Russ Berrie Institute for Professional Sales, has offered sales training programs for Kennedy High School students.
- The University’s Global Business and Finance Institute, housed in the Cotsakos College of Business, in 2018 conducted a feasibility study for a commercial real estate developer to build a major commercial entity in Paterson.

Faculty Research and Scholarship

- Vincent Parrillo, sociology, has produced and written four award-winning PBS television documentaries about Paterson: *Silk City Artists and Musicians* (2017); *Paterson and Its People* (2015); *Gaetano Federici: The Sculptor Laureate of Paterson* (2013); and *Smokestacks and Steeples: A Portrait of Paterson* (1992).
- Danielle Wallace, Africana world studies, has been researching the Paterson protests of 1964.
- Kara Rabbitt, dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and professors Stephen Shalom, political science, Keumjae Park, sociology, and Carrie Eunyoung Hong, educational leadership, are overseeing a $190,000 federal grant to expand foreign language offerings in Middle Eastern and Korean studies.
- Fanny McKinley Lauby, political science, is researching the “Political Incorporation of Undocumented Youth in New York and New Jersey.”
- Jennifer Di Noia, sociology, has been working on a grant-funded project through the National Institute of Health to promote healthy eating among women, infants, and children at the Paterson Farmers Market.
- Elena Sabogal, women’s and gender studies, has been building a qualitative database for an intended public research website on Peruvian immigrant experiences in Paterson.
- Sixteen William Paterson faculty, staff, and alumni published *Paterson Lives*, edited by Stephen Hahn and George Robb in 2017, profiling key historical, artistic, cultural, political, industrial, and scientific figures of the City of Paterson, from Alexander Hamilton to Fetty Wap.