



## William Paterson University and the City of Paterson Cultivate a Long, Fruitful Relationship

The history of William Paterson University and the city of Paterson has been intertwined now for one hundred fifty-five years. This special, symbiotic relationship is a natural, organic, and highly advantageous one for both.

Although the area around Paterson had been settled since 1678, its special claim to fame as an industrial center dates from 1796 when it was chosen for its fortunate location adjacent to the Great Falls on the Passaic river, a source of power and energy without equal at that time. The city was named Paterson in honor of William Paterson, the governor of New Jersey who had helped initiate its founding. By the mid-nineteenth century, Paterson was well on its way to a manufacturing center.

William Paterson University traces its origin to the middle of the nineteenth century when teachers were needed for a free public education system that was just gaining acceptance in the United States. The Paterson Normal School was established in 1855 in Paterson, New Jersey—a city that was experiencing rapid growth and national importance as a leading industrial center at the time—in order to foster an educated citizenry that is critical to a functioning society.

By the early twentieth century, educators and government officials had made teacher education a state responsibility and, in 1937, a four-year curriculum and degree-granting program was in place. In 1967, the college, by state mandate, was transformed into a multipurpose liberal arts

institution. Based upon the quality and breadth of its faculty and academic, cultural, and community service programs, the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education granted William Paterson university status in 1997.

The University has never forgotten its origins as it progressed from normal school to one of the state's major universities. While William Paterson subsequently moved to Wayne in 1953, the unique relationship between "town and gown" has continued. The University and its students have always maintained a connection to Paterson in many ways. The following are only *some* examples of how the University has continued to support and engage members of the Paterson community through a multitude of service activities.



### 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.



A panorama of Paterson

## Student Activities

- For the past several years, thousands of attendees of the University's orientation programs have participated in a canned food/non-perishable items drive, yielding more than 3,000 items for Paterson's Father English Center/Eva's Village.
- Members of the Pioneer Leadership Institute, a student leadership development program, conducted nonperishable items drives to support varied needs for Paterson's Father English Center/Eva's Village.
- The Catholic Campus Ministry Club and *Tau Kappa Upsilon* fraternity participants conduct weekly activities and provide support at Eva's Village/ Father English Center to prepare, serve, and distribute food bimonthly to local residents in need.
- Peer Health Advocates have taken their messages of healthy "choices" on the road and visited Kennedy High School and some of the middle schools in Paterson to perform their skits, as well as to conduct information sessions about bullying and violence in schools.
- Latina Connections have supported various efforts this year including visiting OASIS (Shelter for Women in Paterson) along with Father English to distribute items collected on campus and to help with the Pantry.
- Department of Athletics teams have engaged in fundraising for varied causes and often provides one-on-one contact with children and others in need.

## Faculty/Staff Service and Participation

- Paterson Alliance
- Paterson Urban Enterprise Zone
- Board of the Paterson YMCA
- Friends board for the Paterson Public Library



William Paterson students at work at the Great Falls

- One hundred thirty-five William Paterson University students spent several hours cleaning up the area surrounding the Great Falls in Paterson. The event was part of an institutional service leadership effort to help students develop responsibility to act as role models for the campus, as well as the community.



# Recent University and Paterson Connections



## College of the Arts and Communication

- The music department's Music After School project is a music enrichment program made possible by a four-year, \$200,000 grant from the Muna and Basem Hishmeh Foundation. The program involves University faculty and students

who work with approximately four to six Paterson public schools and, for the past two years, eighty to one hundred instrumental music students.

## College of Humanities and Social Sciences

- An introductory cultural anthropology course, Understanding Culture, involves students doing fieldwork in Paterson, Wayne or Haledon, and examining/analyzing the structure of a local community in terms of economics, ethnicity, religion, etc.
- The American Democracy Project's Civic Engagement Across the Curriculum (CEAC) program established the base for the new University Core Curriculum requirement in which all undergraduates—approximately 9,000 students—will be required to take a 3-credit course in community and civic engagement. In these CEAC courses—offered in all five University colleges—students participated in service learning via placements in numerous agencies and community organizations in the city of Paterson and surrounding communities. Many of these community partners are members of the Paterson Alliance including Habitat For Humanity, Eva's Village, Paterson Public Schools, the Paterson Housing Authority, the Paterson YMCA, and Saint Paul's Community Development Corporation.



## Cotsakos College of Business

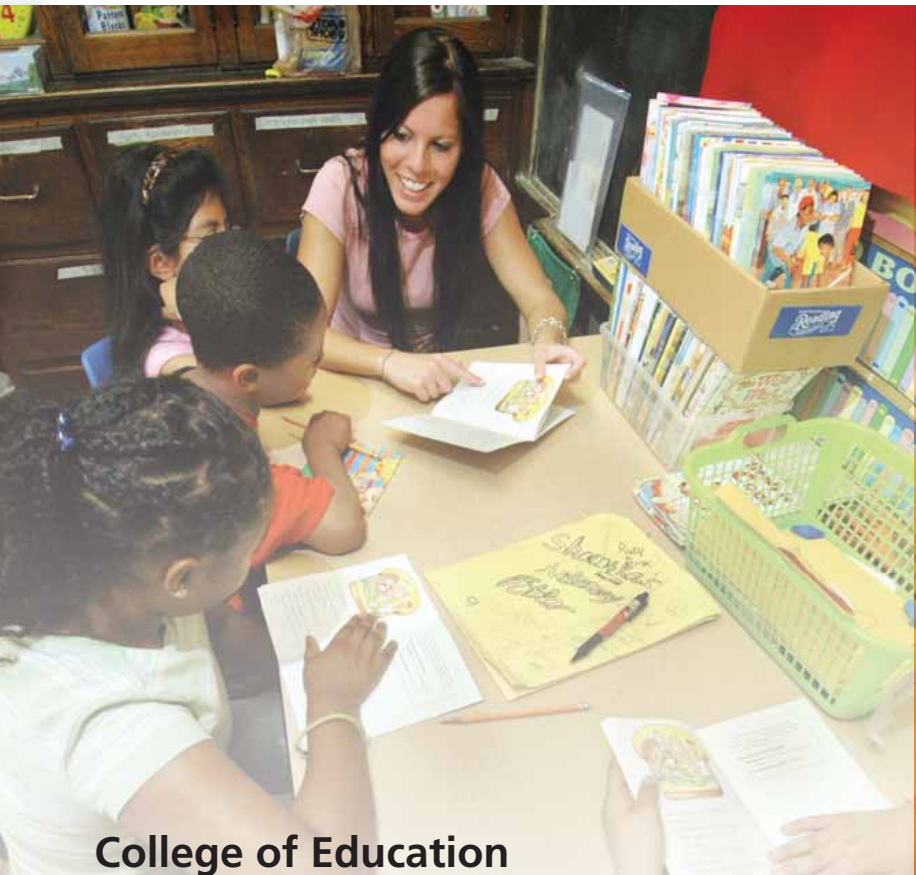
- The College's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is physically located in the Urban Enterprise Zone in Paterson (with an office in the College at 1600 Valley Road also). The SBDC has been very active with offering approximately 120 training and educational seminars and workshops, as well as consulting services, to hundreds of participants in the community.
- Accounting department students provide tax preparation services to needy residents of the city on a volunteer basis through the VITA Tax Preparation Program.

## College of Science and Health

- A \$20,000 grant from the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education to allow Paterson and Passaic high school students who are seniors to enroll in introductory math and science courses such as human biology, physics, and college algebra
- A \$1,066,000 MAST (Teachers for a Competitive Tomorrow) federal grant to recruit students who are interested in becoming math and science teachers; must complete pre-service training in Paterson or Passaic and commit to working in a high-need district
- A \$510,000 state Department of Education REFORMS grant to provide professional development for math and science teachers in several cities and towns, including Paterson.



A University student discussing voter registration at Paterson's Kennedy High School



## Continuing and Professional Education (CPE)

- CPE frequently partners with regional organizations to co-host events for business, including the Greater Paterson Chamber.
- CPE partners with the Paterson public schools district to implement its federal grant and provide technology professional development for sixth and seventh grade teachers, called Teaching and Learning with Essential New Technologies in the 21st Century (TALENT21).
- CPE's Taub Foundation Summer Youth Intern Program has been awarded a \$20,000 grant to provide summer employment for 10 high school students from Paterson and other nearby schools, and to offer them an SAT preparation course, as well.
- Participating in CPE's youth programs on the University campus in spring and summer 2010 were 1,400 Paterson public school children.

## College of Education

- Seventy-four practicum and student teachers have been placed throughout the school district in public and private institutions for fall 2010.
- Paterson is among New Jersey's high-need urban school systems for which the University was awarded in 2009 a five-year, \$10.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to improve the academic achievement of its K-12 students. The grant was the largest in University history.
- Grant-funded teacher recruitment projects include New Vistas (an approximate \$3,043,000 award shared with Kean University) and Garden State Partnership for Teacher Quality to recruit teachers in high-need areas: math, science, special education, ESL and bilingual education.



CPE's summer nursing camp

## David and Lorraine Cheng Library

- Friends of the Library programs have been held in collaboration with the Paterson Public Library; brochures advertising several events are at right.
- Preservation is ongoing and digitized access to Paterson and county historical documents is available.
- Academic conferences on Paterson's industrial, labor, and cultural history are held frequently.
- The library has helped provide information to the National Historical Park and school districts.

**A CITY RESURGENT:  
PATERSON  
1890-1910**

Sunday, February 24, 2008  
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

**The Future of Paterson's Past:  
What Can a  
National Park Do?**

Sunday, October 31, 2010  
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Friends of the Cheng Library  
**WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY**  
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