Dear Students, Alumni, Colleagues and Friends,

This academic year is one marked by innovation and forward movement. Indeed, change is everywhere you look at the Graduate School-Newark. It is visible in our new programs, new collaborations, and new opportunities. We are delighted to share with you these exciting developments, which are taking place both inside and outside of our classrooms.

As a community, we are coming together in enterprising ways, most notably with the Chancellor’s Seed Grant Program. We are proud to tell you that the Graduate School-Newark has worked with the seed grant committee to distribute $4 million dollars of funding that will allow the creation of 59 new creative and sustainable projects, such as the Newark Education Access & Advocacy Project and the Rutgers-Newark Research Commercialization and Enterprise Incubation Initiative. These projects will bolster our collaboration with the City of Newark and help us grow as an anchor institution that benefits our wider community.

The Graduate School-Newark is also committed to providing opportunities that meaningfully engage our students nationally and globally. This year we will become the home of a new Africa Partnerships Initiative that creates collaborations between the African continent and our country. We will also continue our successful Homeland Security Fellowship. And thanks to a USAID award, another team of Rutgers-Newark graduate students will travel to South Africa to work in community building and development.

This fall we were honored to be co-sponsors of several events, including the Ron Rice Lecture Series that featured Ron Haygood, President and CEO of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, and the Beyond Islamophobia Lecture Series, which featured acclaimed author Laila Lalami.

We’d like to extend a warm welcome to our new students, new program directors, and new Graduate School faculty. Together with our returning community we look forward to creating fresh perspectives and bold ideas that will leave a positive impact here in Newark and around the world.

To your continued success,

Kyle Farmbry, J.D., Ph.D.
Dean of Graduate School
At 30 years old, Dr. Eleni Frangos has already accomplished more than she thought she would in a lifetime. The Graduate School-Newark alumnus is the first person to map the distribution of the vagus nerve in the brain stem using functional MRI in humans. And her current research on the vagus nerve is laying the foundation for an exciting new approach to the treatment of pain and illness.

Frangos graduated in 2014 with a Ph.D. in Psychology, specializing in Behavioral Neuroscience. That year her dissertation won the Rutgers Graduate School-Newark Dean’s Dissertation Award.

Today she is a postdoctoral fellow at the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health where she is investigating the pain relieving effects of non-invasive vagus nerve stimulation.

It’s already known that vagal stimulation can control pain, depression, migraines, and epilepsy, among many other conditions, but no one knows how it works yet. That’s what Frangos is trying to find out.

“There is so much we don’t understand about its therapeutic effects,” she says. “It’s important to understand the mechanism because it may help us tailor the therapy for each person. It could help many, many people.”

The work she does is not easy. The brain stem is known to be the most difficult region of the brain to image using functional MRI because it’s so small and dense. Only a handful of research scientists in the world do what she does.

But Frangos is too modest to tell you any of that herself. More likely she will tell you how much she loves her work, and how grateful she is to do it.

“Every morning I wake up and say, ‘I can’t believe I get to do this.’ I get to be part of the community of people that creates knowledge for the human race — it’s just mind blowing to me!”

Part of her surprise comes from the fact that Frangos didn’t even take her college admission tests.
When Frangos was seventeen she had a baby, and her school guidance counselor told her to give up on her plans of becoming a doctor.

“She advised me to drop all my AP courses,” remembers Frangos. “She said, you can’t go to medical school with a daughter, you can’t be a doctor. And I said, okay, you must be right because you’re the guidance counselor.”

Born to a Dominican mother and a Greek father, Frangos grew up in West New York, New Jersey. “I didn’t know anyone who was in the scientific field,” says Frangos. “It was more of a personal drive that took me down this route. I’ve always been interested in medicine, in the human body, in how it works, in helping people.”

So when Frangos was advised to stop pursuing science, she was crushed. “I was really discouraged. I didn’t even bother taking my SATs.”

Instead she enrolled at a business college, but after two years she found herself at Rutgers-Newark pursuing her original dream of studying science. “I wasn’t happy and I wanted to do something that would let me make a bigger difference.”

Her big turning point came when she met Dr. Barry Komisaruk, director of the Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS) program at Rutgers-Newark. The MBRS program provides lab mentoring and a salary to students from underrepresented groups as they pursue careers in science.

She got involved in one of Komisaruk’s pain studies, and fell in love with the field. Soon after, Frangos embarked on the long journey to her Ph.D. She says there were many times along the way when she almost quit. But the worst was right after her father died of pancreatic cancer.

“I was very close to my father,” she says. “He didn’t have a career in science, but he was a scientist at heart. He was the one who instilled in me curiosity of the entire world... So there was a point right after he died when I said, what’s the point of everything? Why am I doing this?”

Frangos says her mentors and peers in the MBRS program are the reason she kept going. “They just believed in me so much. They must have seen something in me that I didn’t,” she says. “They really pushed me.”

“I didn’t do this on my own,” she says and adds that her mother’s support was especially crucial. “My mom is the reason I was able do whatever it is I wanted to do.”

Still, Frangos has always had a bigger picture in mind. Ever since that day when she was told she couldn’t achieve her dreams, Frangos has been motivated to show the world that teenage parents aren’t doomed.

“I wanted to completely erase that stereotype, just beat it, and show other girls what you can actually do. Having a child will not end your life. This is not the end.”

Frangos hopes to one day start a scholarship fund for teenage parents at her old high school. She also hopes to serve as a role model — and not just for teen moms. Frangos says she wants to inspire other women in science, people of color in science, and anyone anywhere who dreams of a career in science.
A year into her Ph.D. in chemistry Jessica Rivera was ready to quit. “I didn’t think it was for me, I didn’t think getting a Ph.D. was what I was supposed to do.” But that all changed when Rivera learned about the Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS) program, which assists students from underrepresented groups as they work towards doctorates in the biomedical field. Rivera found the support she needed to continue and she is now in her third year of the doctoral program.

“We talk a lot about just the process, the struggle of being a Ph.D. student, and a Ph.D. student of color,” she says. “Being able to talk to other people that can identify with the struggle that you’re dealing with is great, and financially it’s very helpful.”

The MBRS is a nationwide program funded by the National Institute of Health (NIH). It started in 1972, though it wasn’t launched at Rutgers-Newark (RU-N) until 1984. Every year, the MBRS program provides ten doctoral students with mentoring, tuition remission, and salary. Another five undergraduate students receive lab experience and a salary. All students get the opportunity to attend one science conference every year free of cost.

The goal of the program is to increase the number of biomedical research scientists from underrepresented groups including African-Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, Pacific Islanders, people with disabilities, and those from financially disadvantaged backgrounds.

So far, over its 31-year history at RU-N, 154 students have gone through the program and nearly 70 percent of them have graduated with a Ph.D.

“We have an extremely high Ph.D. productivity,” says MBRS program director Dr. Barry Komisaruk. “We’ve produced nine Ph.Ds in just the last four years. That’s very high.”

Komisaruk, who is a Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor of Psychology, says many graduates have gone on to prestigious positions at the top levels of science research.
“We have postdocs at Yale, at the NIH. We’ve had postdocs at Rockefeller, at Harvard. We have faculty now at the University of Puerto Rico,” he says.

Though it’s a very successful program at RU-N today, Komisaruk says there was some resistance among faculty when it first started back in 1984. He remembers being asked to round up faculty support and he says he encountered strong skepticism.

“Some of the faculty members said things like: We’ve never had a minority as a graduate student; Minority students are not interested in research; Minority students would never be able to complete a doctorate.”

In the 1980s, RU-N had already committed to increasing diversity thanks to the efforts of African-American and Latino students who successfully demanded change during the 1969 Conklin Hall Uprising. But even though people of color had won better access to the university, in 1984 they still made up only 19 percent of RU-N’s graduate student population. “I think I was the only faculty member on the campus who had a minority doctoral student,” says Komisaruk.

While today representation is improving, there is still a gap — especially at the national level. African-Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans make up 26 percent of the U.S. adult population, but only 10 percent of the science and engineering workforce, according to the National Science Board.

This gap is detrimental to science, says Dr. Natasha Gutierrez, an MBRS alumnus who graduated from RU-N in 2009 with a Ph.D. in biology and went on to complete a postdoctoral fellowship at the Yale School of Medicine.

“If a field is populated with a homogeneous population you lose conversations that might be out of the box,” says Gutierrez. “When you include people from various backgrounds you can tackle a scientific problem from all angles because you have different points of view.”

Diversity in the science workforce can also translate into solutions for problems that often go ignored, says Dr. Alexis Rodriguez, an Assistant Professor of Biology and the first alumnus of the MBRS program to receive an RU-N faculty appointment.

“When we have a diverse group of scientists many of the problems that affect a smaller proportion of people will be investigated because people from that community will be represented in the scientific profession,” he says. “And that will help people in those groups to be able to move past some of the things that have held them back.”

Rodriguez says the MBRS program also helps to address shortages in the field of Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), which is the fastest growing job sector in the country, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

“By mentoring and moving underrepresented people through the science pipeline we’re addressing a huge need for a scientifically trained and literate workforce.”

Rodriguez does everything he can to contribute to moving people of color through the science pipeline. He has already mentored 17 MBRS students, and in the summers he teaches at Newark high schools. He says his experience in the program taught him that mentorship is the key to success for minority students.

“When you come from an underrepresented group you may not have role models in your life. . . The need for mentorship is very deep”
Six Graduate School–Newark students recently returned from Cape Town, South Africa, where they researched topics ranging from sanitation systems to the improvement of STEM education for youth. During their two-month fellowship, the students collaborated with The Community Chest of the Western Cape, a South African organization devoted to social change and community development.

The dean’s office of Rutgers–Newark facilitated the fellowship with a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), in partnership with the Rutgers Center for Global Advancement and International Affairs (GAIA), as part of its Global Fellowship Program.

“Rutgers is fortunate to work with the USAID program, which places graduate students in different projects overseas, particularly development projects that might be able to link research with development needs,” says Dr. Kyle Farmbry, dean of the Graduate School.

Farmbry drew upon longstanding ties with the Community Chest to create the Innovation Alliance for Social Enterprise Development fellowship, designed to translate students’ research into potentially commercial applications and innovative solutions for social change. Prior to their trip, students worked with Community Chest representatives to develop projects that matched students’ research interests with areas of need in Cape Town.

Founded in 1928, the Community Chest engages in public and private partnerships to strengthen South African communities through increased access to health, education, and employment opportunities. Upon the students’ arrival, the Community Chest offered guidance as they integrated with the community, traveled to schools and local centers for interviews, and shared in the lives and experiences of locals while gathering data.

Graduate student Dan DeNose went to South Africa to analyze the strengths and shortcomings in the existing STEM education curriculum and find to ways to enhance STEM education for children in economically disadvantaged areas.

“Going there, I thought I was going to have an impact on people, I’m there to do research and I’m there to change this community. But the first week, I began to understand that the impact that I thought I was having on folks was the
other way around,” DeNose says. “They’re impacting me. If there could be any measurement of what I’m doing for them, it can’t even compare to what they’re doing for me.”

In his free time, DeNose wandered the streets, striking up conversations with strangers and making connections he could not have imagined, as people shared stories of poverty, community, and memories of the brutality endured under South Africa’s apartheid government.

Sarah Ford’s research focused on the resources available to survivors of domestic violence, rape, and sexual assault, which required her to contact women’s shelters to speak with some of society’s most vulnerable members. It took weeks before she gained their trust for interviews.

Ford reports that her interviews reveal a pattern of women at the mercy of a patriarchy that often fails to acknowledge rape and domestic violence as a social ill. She notes that the European Union and other entities have provided money or established hotlines, but “without a cultural shift to recognize abuse and help victims, gender-based violence will continue.”

“One woman was contemplating suicide, and she said that [the study] was giving her the power to keep going because she was able to take control of her situation,” Ford recalls.

The students completed the final phase of their fellowship and submitted reports with their findings and proposals for the Community Chest. Mariam Rashid, a graduate fellow at the Eagleton Institute of Politics, studied current conditions of sanitation in South Africa.

“The effects of apartheid are still being felt in some townships when addressing sanitation,” Rashid says. “Although access to water has significantly improved, sanitation has not.”

Her research highlights problems including a lack of access to hygienic toilets, disincentives to use public toilets (such as women’s fear of using toilets after dark), and the increased health risks of defecating in fields and buckets. Rashid proposed the expansion of a program called The Youth Brigade, which teaches engineering and construction skills to young adults. She suggested that by offering the program to older adults, South Africa can create a skilled workforce that can improve the sanitation infrastructure, while simultaneously tackling the high unemployment rate.

Through their research, the students were able to gain insight, not only into the social, economic, and political issues in Cape Town, but into their own strengths and shortcomings, as well as the challenges of comprehensive research.

School of Public Affairs & Administration student Breanna Datesmann said that the program helped her become a more thorough and experienced researcher. Datesman studied sex education in schools and used the experience to refine her research methods for future studies.

Datesman said that she is now more well-rounded as a graduate student, and emphasized the program’s value for future participants.

“I really hope that the program continues, because I think it’s a good experience to do firsthand research,” Datesman says. “Being thrown into a new environment and finding a way to do research in such a short time period forces you to learn the process of research, and you learn from your mistakes as well as your successes.”

- Jade Mcclain
The Center on Law in Metropolitan Equity (CLiME) at Rutgers-Newark hosted its first annual Equity and Opportunity Studies Fellowship Conference in September. Fellows presented papers on how food scarcity, underemployment, racial disparities in health care, and other topics contribute to the structure of place-based inequality.

The conference received a big turnout. Justice John J. Francis Scholar and Rutgers School of Law Professor David Troutt gave opening remarks. “The point is to inspire a new generation of scholars to think differently about structural inequality,” he said.

Troutt, whose work focuses on metropolitan dimensions of race, class, and legal structure, founded CLiME in 2013. The center promotes interdisciplinary research on law and policy topics ranging from civil rights to community development and economic inequality. It also hosts the Government Law Conference which showcases the scholarship of visiting law professors.

Dr. Joanna Maulbeck, a post-doctoral research associate at the Graduate School-Newark, gave the keynote: The Gap in Conceptualizing Achievement in America’s Schools: Analyzing the Achievement Gap.

Presenting fellows included:

- Tara Marlowe, Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy
  Unstable Schedules in Low Wage Work: A Hidden Employment Crisis

- Portia Allen-Kyle, Department of Sociology
  (Re)development in New Jersey’s Suburbs: Homeownership, Local Development, & the Perpetuation of Inequity

- Derrick Chong, School of Law
  Fair Housing: Addressing the Issue of NIMBY and Why a Sociological Approach is Necessary

- Cory Simmons-Edler, School of Law
  Food Scarcity and Inequality of Access: A Strategic Legal Approach to Community-Facing Services Addressing the Food Desert Phenomenon

- Simone Martin, Division of Global Affairs
  Legal Memo: Inequitable Provision of Municipal Court Services

- Farah Rahaman, School of Law
  The Effects of Health and Racial Disparities on the Infant Mortality Rate in Mississippi

- Elise Popp, Peace and Conflict Studies
  Legal Memo: Are Children Suffering from PTSD Neglected by Their Schools?

- Tori Bell, School of Law
  The Union City Model: Immigrant Youth and Urban Transformation

All papers can be found on the CLiME website.

http://www.clime.newark.rutgers.edu
The Chancellor’s Seed Grant Program awarded more than $4 million to research projects undertaken by Rutgers-Newark faculty last spring. More than 50 individuals received grants for work in science, humanities, and the arts. Keeping with the university’s strategic plan, recipient projects are interdisciplinary, attuned to matters of diversity and equality, and relevant to the city of Newark and its communities. With work ranging from desegregating local schools to better understanding wastewater, six recipients told us about how their projects are kicking off.

**The Collaboratory**

“Working at a university, you’re surrounded by a lot of smart people, so what are they doing?” That was the germinating question behind Professor and Department of English Chairperson Frances Bartkowski’s Collaboratory – a campus-wide clearinghouse for sharing agendas, ideas, and resources.

Bartkowski used to attend campus networking events where people were excited to hear about one another’s work, but the interaction often ended there. With The Collaboratory, she aims to roust people from their departmental silos into cooperative teaching and research.

With an emphasis on cross-department pollination, The Collaboratory streamlines team teaching, faculty development, and public programming. The latter will include three- to five-day residencies for urbanists, artists, activists, scholars, and other accomplished guests who will interact with students, professors, and the larger Newark community.

**Desegregating Essex County Public Schools**

Essex County Public Schools are among the most segregated in New Jersey and the nation. Some 47 percent of black third-graders in the county attend schools performing in the bottom 10 percent statewide, while only 0.04 percent of white students do, according to the New Jersey Department of Education.

Against those sobering numbers, Associate Professor of Law Elise Boddie and a team of graduate students and post-doctoral researchers are embarking on a year-long project devising a model for a controlled inter-district school choice program, i.e. a feasible system that would allow students from high-poverty areas to travel to higher-achieving schools, while simultaneously attracting students from higher-performing districts to magnet programs in urban areas.

“It’s not the kind of problem you can unwind with the snap of your fingers. It takes hard work and hard conversations,” Boddie says.

Her team is working with community leaders and representatives from organizations like the NAACP and Save Our Schools NJ. The goal is to come up with a model that will spur policy change.

In August, the team looked at more than 40 census variables to map educational opportunity in the county. The results were unsurprising to Boddie, “opportunity is very much dictated by where you live and is heavily segregated by race and class.”

The team is presently focused on engaging with Essex County communities and stakeholders about their support alternative policies to promote school integration.

**Newark Citizen Historian Initiative**

With Rutgers University celebrating its 250th anniversary and the City of Newark its 350th—not to mention the dramatic changes underway on our campus and in our community – the time was right to launch the Newark Citizen Historian Initiative.

Associate Director of the Institute of Jazz Studies Adriana Cuervo is hosting a series of free workshops this year that are open to the community. With the benefit of the deep preservation expertise of the jazz library’s faculty, citizens of Newark will be able to learn about preserving photos, videos and other family artifacts as well as how to manage personal digital archives.

Events will take place on and off campus. Four of the workshops will be given in Spanish, by people who are both native speakers and professional preservationists. Cuervo sees the series as a way for the university to move beyond “lecture series mode” and promote community integration on campus.

Things kicked off on October 17 with Home Movie Day hosted at the John Cotton Dana Library. Participants learned all about preserving their home movies from Erica Gold, a New York University master’s student finishing her degree in Moving Image Archiving and Preservation.
Re-Visioning Reentry for the Formerly Incarcerated

Every year about 1,700 people return to Newark from prison. Traditionally, services that help people reintegrate have focused on this population’s problems and deficits. Associate Professor Johnna Christian is researching a strengths-based approach to reintegration, one that sees the formerly incarcerated as a potential asset and not just a liability.

“The intention behind a strengths-based approach is to move away from the stigma that’s so debilitating,” Christian says.

Christian’s previous research has looked at the connections between family members and the incarcerated. Maintaining family connections is important for prisoner wellbeing, but Christian’s research also pinpointed that those relationships are reciprocal. The value goes in both directions.

There’s relatively scant research on the positive things people who’ve been incarcerated contribute to their families and communities. Christian is interviewing 100 formerly incarcerated people, family members, and also service providers to determine practices that will better help people reintegrate and find meaningful work.

During her research, Christian and her team will work closely with the Newark Office of Reentry, cementing a direct link between her research and practice. In addition to her seed grant, Christian received funding from the National Science Foundation. This spring she’s bringing leading scholars from around the nation and world to campus for a conference on Prisoner Reentry and Reintegration.

Rutgers Institute on Anti-Corruption Studies

Established in 2013 with modest funding, the Rutgers Institute on Anti-Corruption Studies (RIACS) has ramped up to an international network of researchers and practitioners that exchanges perspectives, ideas, and research on anti-corruption studies. Program Director Zhang is using her seed grant funding to kick start a series of webinars to bring together experts from the fields of business, law, and history from around the world to exchange ideas, present research, and discuss best practices for affecting policy change.

The three prongs of RIACS are research, outreach and providing policy suggestions. Zhang says the webinar will cover broad topics ranging from “conflict of public interest as a gateway to public corruption” to “social media for corruption whistleblowing.” They’ll serve as a springboard for collaborative research projects.

Zhang is also presently developing a survey of public officials regarding perceptions, tolerance, and intentions regarding corruption. The results will be shared among the RIACS network.

Pharmaceuticals and Wastewater Phosphates

Earth & Environmental Sciences Assistant Professor Ashaki Rouff is fascinated by phosphorous. We humans don’t use it very efficiently. We mine it for fertilizer and eventually it makes its way through the food system and into waste water. If not treated properly it can wind up in surface water, creating algae blooms and other problems. Pharmaceutical chemicals also wind up in waste water, and presently it is little understood if and how the two interact.

Rouff is teaming up with Assistant Professor Michal Szostak from the Chemistry department to raise fundamental understanding of this issue. Environmental Sciences doctoral candidate Alon Rabinovich will oversee experiments looking at how common chemicals – those found in medicines for blood pressure, depression, ADHD, and also analgesics – interact with phosphates. Initial experiments will simply involve the chemicals and phosphates, and later ones will scale up to more complex combinations and actual waste water simulations.

Rabinovich spent the summer in Israel setting up drip irrigation plots as part of a collaboration with the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture. Since waste water is used for agriculture there, people especially want to know if pharmaceutical are interacting with phosphates that wind up back in the soil.
New Global Focus for RU-N’s Urban Systems Program

With eyes trained on global urbanism, sociologist Dr. Jamie Lew and political scientist Dr. Mara Sidney took up co-directorship of the Urban Systems Ph.D. program.

Questions of migration, racial and ethnic identities and processes, sustainability, and economic development will all be highlighted.

“Making it into a global program that looks across national borders and builds partnerships internationally, that’s going to be quite a signature of the program,” Sidney adds.

The re-envisioned program will merge theory and practice. Students will intern at non-profits and think tanks in the U.S. and abroad, boosting their preparation to address the complexities and challenges facing cities around the world.

Lew’s research focuses on immigration, race and ethnicity and social mobility issues. She has studied access and achievement issues of children of immigrants in urban environments, and authored Asian Americans in Class: Charting the Achievement Gap Among Korean American Youth.

Sidney’s background is in housing policy and racial discrimination in housing. Presently, she’s looking into local-level immigration policies and politics, with a focus on the role of NGOs. She has two books, Multiethnic Moments: The Politics of Urban Education and Unfair Housing: How National Policy Shapes Community Action.

This spring Lew and Sidney are looking forward to hosting a global urbanism conference here at Rutgers-Newark.

New director expands the vision of the American Studies program

“I’m very comfortable being uncomfortable,” says Dr. Jason Cortes. As the new director of American Studies, Cortes plans to use that tenacity in both growing the program and in making it more reflective of the university’s changing face.

“We have big ambitions,” he says. “Diversity is something we need to address.”

While the American Studies program explores America’s culture, politics, and society, there is little emphasis on Latino studies. Cortes says the time to change that is now—especially since RU-N’s student body is nearly 25 percent Latino and the university is slated to become a federally designated Hispanic Serving Institution.

Cortes also plans to expand the program by creating an undergraduate major in American Studies, increasing the number of graduate students, and establishing a public humanities track.

“These things are important because it will allow us to connect the university to the community, and serve the public institutions in a more efficient manner,” he says.

Cortes is an assistant professor in the department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies, and is the author of the recent book Macho Ethics: Masculinity and Self-Representation in Latino-Caribbean Narrative. Before joining Rutgers-Newark in 2009, he held academic appointments at Yale University, Brown University, and UMass-Boston.
Wayne Winborne, newly appointed director of the Institute of Jazz Studies, is making it his mission to tap into the power of jazz to connect R-N with the greater Newark community. “I think we can be very impactful outside the walls of the library,” he says.

“It’s about elevating art and using it to engage and empower. It’s about partnering with people in a meaningful way.”

As he takes the reins of the country’s most extensive jazz archive and library, Winborne is working on building several partnerships, including a concert series to be staged at NJPAC, and a jazz film festival to be launched in collaboration with Women In Media-Newark. There are also plans for free pop-up concerts, an ‘underground’ music series featuring emerging artists, and public forums that will tackle hot-topic arguments in the jazz world.

“It’s not just going to be some boring lecture. It’s going to be like: they’re going to talk about that?” says Winborne.

As a young man, Winborne was a passionate saxophonist. Today, the self-declared jazz head has turned his creative eye to producing albums for several labels.

Prior to this appointment, Winborne headed his own consulting firm and before that he worked as vice-president of business diversity outreach at Prudential Financial in Newark. He is currently board chair of the Billie Holiday Theatre, and serves on the boards of the Brooklyn Philharmonic and the Social and Public Arts Resource Center in Los Angeles. Winborne has also taught at New York University and CUNY’s Baruch and Medgar Evers Colleges.

**Upcoming Event:**

**Celebrating Diversity in STEM**

**Exciting News:**

**Full Funding for Newark MFA Students**
Beginning Fall 2016, all writers admitted to the program will receive in-state-tuition remission and a $15,000 Chancellor’s stipend. For more information: [http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/mfa](http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/mfa)