

[Mansfield students head to Puerto Rico to assist with ongoing relief efforts](#)

Tuesday, January 2, 2018

Thirteen students at Mansfield University prepared for a life-changing experience on Tuesday. They were chosen out of many applicants to fly to Puerto Rico and help with ongoing Hurricane Maria relief efforts.

By Michelle Ross, MyTwinTiers.com

[At the holidays, university officials realized: Some students don't have a home to go home to](#)

Tuesday, December 26, 2017

Skylar Maldonado has a holiday wish. "I'm hoping to find some peace of mind," he said. So does his friend Patricia Curley. "I'm just hoping not to have a day filled with sadness," she said. Most college students are eager for winter break, happy to go home and celebrate the end of the year holidays with family and friends. Campuses become ghost towns as final exams wrap up. But for a few students — those who spent their childhood in foster care, or whose homes are unstable or dangerous, or who lived in shelters before enrolling in college — shuttered dorms present an urgent problem.

By Susan Svrluga, The Washington Post

[Lincoln, Cheyney latest to ban tobacco on campus](#)

Wednesday, December 27, 2017

Three Philadelphia-area colleges are going smoke-free for 2018. Fewer than half of the 102 historically black colleges and universities — and only one-third of the nation's community colleges — have comprehensive smoke-free or tobacco-free policies. A recent initiative is helping colleges that predominantly serve minorities adopt these policies. CVS Health Foundation and Truth Initiative teamed up to help minority-serving institutions adopt smoke-free policies with two-year \$10,000 grants. Pennsylvania's two historically black universities — Lincoln and Cheyney — serve populations that the tobacco industry has targeted.

By Sara Hoover, WHYY

[State System colleges could offer more student aid](#)

Monday, January 1, 2018

Make no mistake: An extra \$50 million or so in scholarships every year could help plenty of state university students in Pennsylvania pay their college bills. The question is, how much of that potential new pool of money will materialize, and how quickly? The 14 universities belonging to the State System of Higher Education now have flexibility that, if fully utilized, will let them boost dramatically the amount of need- and merit-based financial aid they provide.

By Bill Schackner, The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

[Higher Ed's Low Moment](#)

Saturday, December 30, 2017

When all was said and done, the tax overhaul that President Trump signed into law a little more than a week ago didn't beat up on higher education to the extent that earlier drafts of the legislation did. But that doesn't change the fact that those facets of the tax code, meant to promote and reward advanced learning, were up for debate. Or this unsettling, dangerous paradox: At a time when a college degree is one of the surest harbingers of higher earnings and better economic security, college itself is regarded with skepticism by many Americans and outright contempt by no small number of them.

By Frank Bruni, The New York Times