News



by James Dearie

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Welcome to NCR's college roundup, where every Friday we bring you the latest news in Catholic college and university life. Do you have news you would like to share? Email James Dearie at jdearie@ncronline.org.

BOSTON — Boston College has joined an international alliance of Catholic research universities "with the goal of jointly engaging in collaborative research projects and jointly promoting scholarship," the university announced this week.

The alliance will include Boston College, the Catholic University of Portugal, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Italy, Sophia University in Japan, Ramon Llull University in Spain, the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile and Australian Catholic University.

The alliance says it hopes to increase cooperation between Catholic institutes of higher learning and the impact they have "in addressing global challenges." Boston College says that "Proposed areas of focus for the partnership include strengthening the link between faith and reason in the digital era; improving research for the common good; promoting global education; developing digital transformation; accelerating interdisciplinarity in education and research; and contributing to knowledge and technology transfer."

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. — Seton Hall University is reviewing its handling of complaints about harassment and discrimination, as well as boosting funding for multicultural events, after student protests, NJ.com reported Oct. 30.

Students held a three-day sit-in at the president's office earlier this month, demanding that Seton Hall review how it had handled complaints and increase funding for programs for minorities.

Christian Duran, one of the leaders of the protests, told NJ.com that the protestors "like some of the thing we see, and we like some of the things that are now open to being discussed," but also said that the university still needs to increase funding for minority programs beyond the $20,000 it has committed to celebrating Black History Month and other multicultural events.

SPRINGFIELD, Ky. — The campus of St. Catherine College, which closed in 2016, is now up for auction.

The college closed following a dispute with the federal government over student aid, which drove the student enrollment to under 500 shortly after the college spent millions on new construction.

"The minimum bid accepted will be $1.3 million for the 50-plus acre college property itself, $1.4 million for the campus and three bypass property tracts totaling more than 40 acres," the Lexington Herald-Leader reported Nov. 1. The campus includes several academic, administrative, and residential buildings, as well as sports facilities.

WORCESTER, Mass. — The College of the Holy Cross is investigating an alleged assault of an LGBT student on its campus, the Telegram and Gazette reported Nov. 1.

According to reports from two students, the assault occurred last weekend, when another person physically assaulted the student and used a slur. It is unclear who the alleged perpetrator is, and whether that person is a student. The university has not identified a suspect and says the matter is under review.

[James Dearie is an NCR Bertelsen intern. Contact him at jdearie@ncronline.org.]

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