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NEWS & COMMUNITY RESOURCES

JULY 17, 2026

Assemblywoman Tennille McCoy & AACCNJ Presents 2nd Annual Filming in the Garden State at MVAAFF on August 13th

AACCNJ - Press Release **July 16, 2026**

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The second annual FIGS at the African American Film Festival in Martha's Vineyard, will highlight New Jersey's Groundbreaking Film and Television Tax Credit Program. The program helps to strengthen the State's economy by attracting film, television, and digital media production, as well as the associated economic benefit that is generated through these productions, such as permanent job creation, decent living wages, increased tourism activity and spending, infrastructure and community investment in production facilities, support for local small businesses and vendors, and the expected surge in value from media exposure. FIGS will demonstrate how New Jersey fosters diverse storytelling and drives economic growth through innovative production support.

"This initiative isn't about catching a trend, it's about setting a standard," said Assemblywoman Tennille R. McCoy. "New Jersey has the tools, the talent, and the tenacity to lead in film and media. We're putting our people first and making sure opportunity follows. "On behalf of the Board of Directors, Staff and Members of the African American Chamber of Commerce of NJ and the over 124,000 black owned NJ, businesses, , we are honored to co-host and sponsor the Second Annual Filming in the Garden State (FIGS) at the 24th Annual Celebration of the best of Black Cinema at the prestigious Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival (MVAAFF)," said Dr. John E. Harmon, Sr., IOM.

Op-Ed: Caldwell offers a roadmap for flourishing in New Jersey

BINJE - Dale Caldwell **July 13, 2026**

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This spring, my daughter, Ashley, graduated from Rutgers University. She and her classmates entered one of the toughest job markets in decades. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, more than 5% of recent college graduates are unemployed — almost a point higher than the national unemployment rate.

Employment is a well-being indicator, not just an economic one. Our jobs influence our sense of purpose, our relationships, our physical and emotional health, and the opportunities we create for our families.

But there's more nuance to jobs than the strict binary of employed versus unemployed. Over the course of my career — in the private sector, education, ministry, and now, in government — I've worked with thousands of people at every stage of life and career. And I've found they move through five distinct levels of employment and life fulfillment.

These levels offer a roadmap for job seekers, job creators, and government alike. In fact, I believe we can use them to advance policies that open the doors of opportunity to more New Jerseyans.

International fans say they like New Jersey — NJIT's data proves it

BINJE - Tom Bergeron **July 14, 2026**

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Let's be clear from the start: This could be the beer talking. That's a reality when you talk to English soccer fans about anything around a match.

Ian Storer, a fan from London, said he liked the size of MetLife Stadium, the sight lines — and the ability to take it all in. That's different than back home, he said.

"What we love about the American stadiums is you can wander about and go up and go down," he said.

And there was the beer boost: "And you can drink beer in your seats; that's not allowed at all in England," he said.

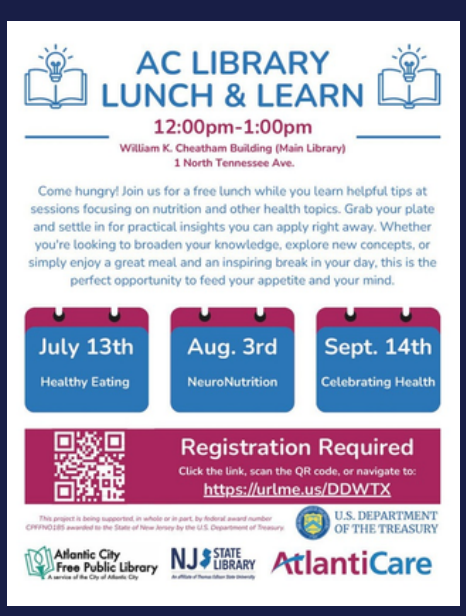
To be sure, Storer and his mates had had a few. But their opinion of New Jersey appears to hold up with others from around the world. At least that's what a tool designed by NJIT, in conjunction with the consulting firm CGI, found.

The tool is njit-worldcup.com, a public-facing site built by students in NJIT's Martin Tuchman School of Management with mentoring from CGI volunteers. It tracks real-time fan sentiment across the region — and Dean Oya Tukel said the numbers back up what Storer told us at MetLife.

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