

Dear Governor McGreevey,

I write to you as a resident of New Jersey, an alumnus and current employee of Rutgers University, and a fellow Democrat (and St. Joseph's, Metuchen, alumnus as well).

I applaud your efforts to improve the state of higher education in New Jersey. While I'm not an expert on the proposed merger of Rutgers, UMDNJ, and NJIT, I feel very strongly that we must retain the name Rutgers for our world-renowned institution. Rutgers is a household word and sets us apart from the other state universities in the United States. Rutgers is unique for its name recognition, which many feel puts us on a par with Ivy League colleges. If we replace the distinct Rutgers name with the generic UNJ, we will lose this name recognition as well as two centuries of tradition.

Please preserve the name Rutgers for current, past and future generations.

Regards,

Edward F. Konczal