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## **Montclair State taps Bone to lead entrepreneurship center**

After spending the past few months in retirement, Dennis Bone, former head of Verizon's New Jersey operations, will start a new job in January as the inaugural director of an entrepreneurship center at Montclair State University's business school.

In a statement, Bone said Montclair's Center for Entrepreneurship — which was established in May through a \$1 million gift from two executives at New Jersey-based Lincoln Park Healthcare — will "position the university as a leader in market-centered entrepreneurial education and new venture creation."

E. LaBrent Chrite, dean of the university's business school, said in a statement the new entrepreneurial development programs will "familiarize students with the concepts and realities of new venture formation by combining traditional classroom-based coursework with experiential learning opportunities" in the private sector.

To find those opportunities, Bone said he will develop a team of faculty members, area entrepreneurs and business leaders who will focus on preparing students to launch their own enterprises, as well as leverage the connections he has built with the state's business community over his 33-year career at Verizon New Jersey.

Bone ended his tenure July 6 after spending 12 years at the helm of the telecommunications giant. But, before he stepped down, Bone served as the convocation speaker for Montclair's School of Business in May.

In a statement, Montclair President Susan A. Cole said the education center under Bone's leadership will "become an invaluable resource not just for the university community, but also for the state and the region."

On announcing his retirement in June, Bone told NJBIZ he was "retiring from Verizon, but not retiring from an active career."

In addition to leading Montclair's entrepreneurship programs, Bone chairs the New Jersey State Employment and Training Commission; serves on the boards of the New Jersey Institute of Technology, the New Jersey Center for Teaching and Learning and the state Chamber of Commerce; and is founding chairman of the state's economic development marketing arm, Choose New Jersey.

Bone will take the reins of the Center for Entrepreneurship on Jan. 7.

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