

9.1% Growth in Junior Colleges — ALEX Intelligence 2026

New Jersey Leads U.S. Junior College Growth

9.1% surge since 2019 — ALEX Intelligence 2026

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THE DATA

9.1%

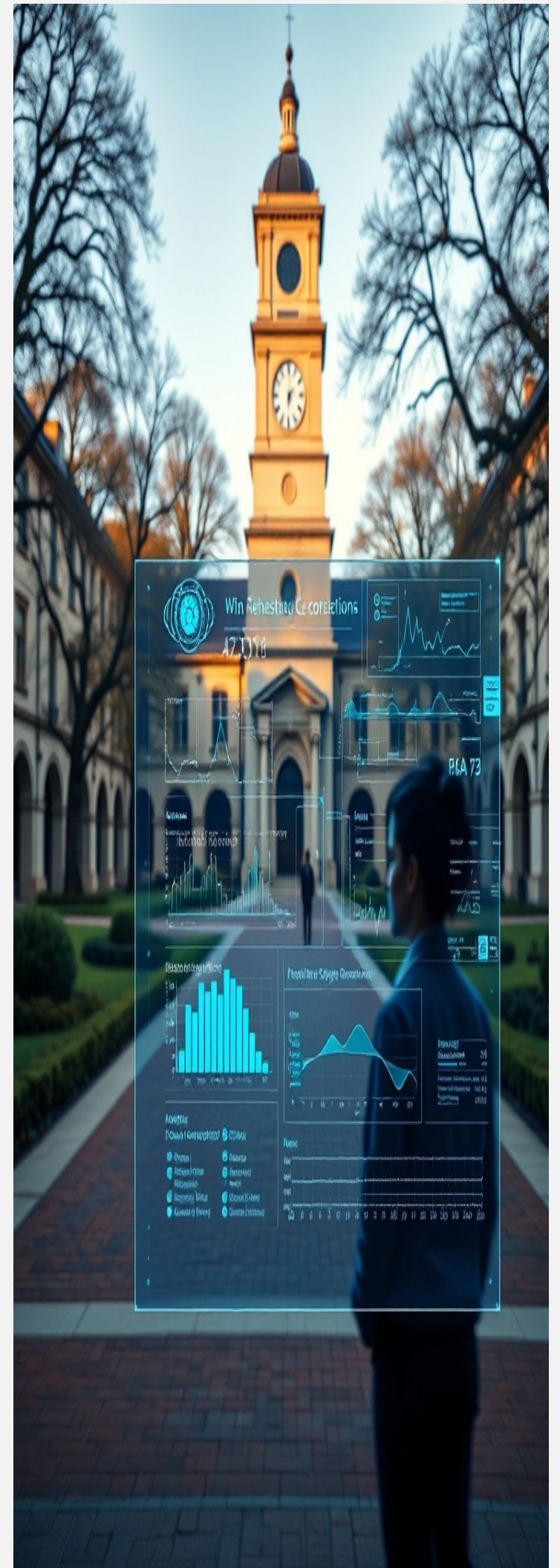
Change in Junior Colleges Since 2019

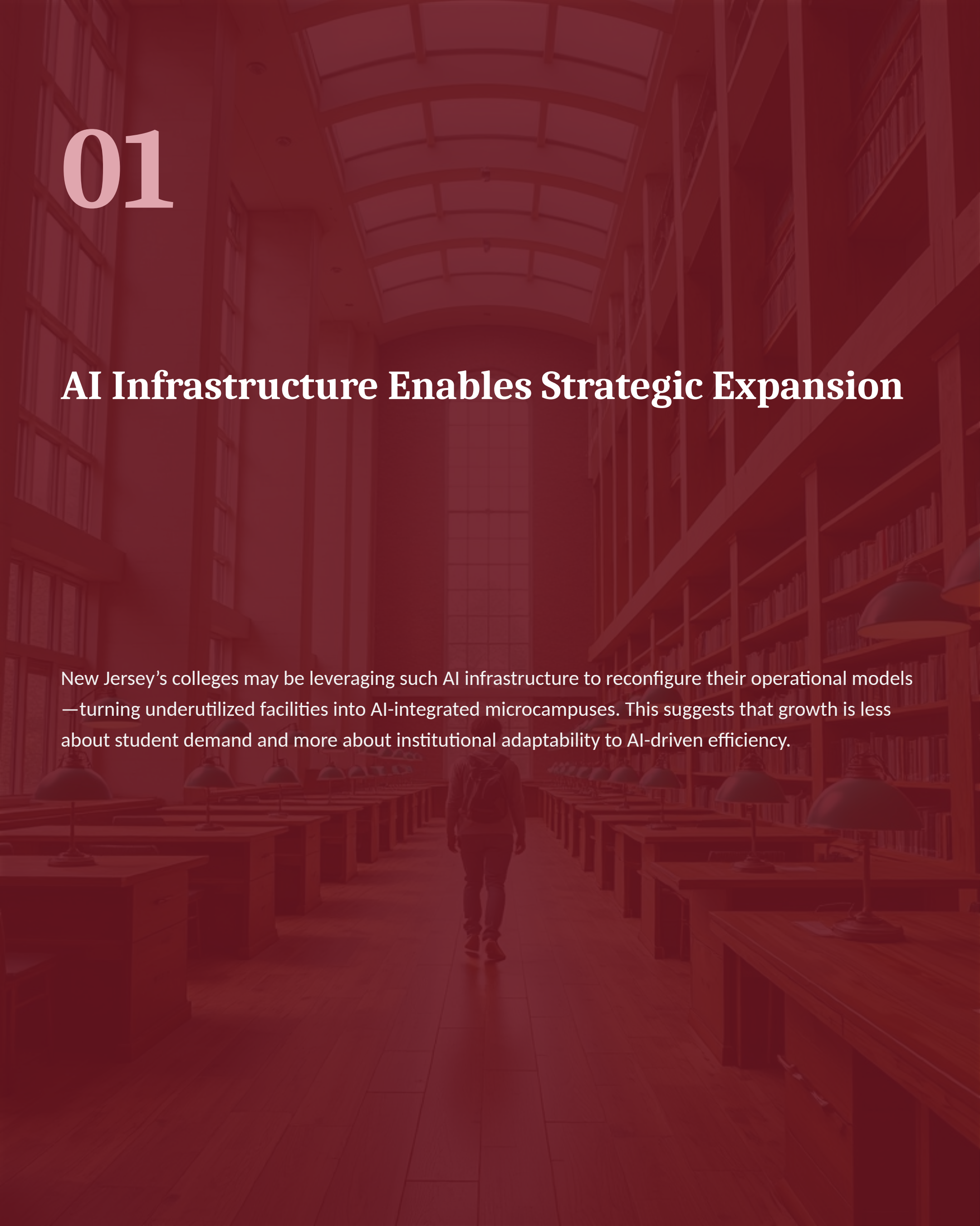
New Jersey recorded the highest growth in junior colleges among all U.S. states since 2019.

This 9.1% increase reflects a strategic shift in educational infrastructure, not just enrollment. The data suggests a reconfiguration of community college networks to align with AI-driven workforce pipelines. Institutions are repositioning as agile, modular learning hubs rather than static degree providers.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns 2019 and 2022, NAICS 6112 (Junior colleges) • ALEX Intelligence computation

<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-09-13-ai-higher-ed-igrow-6112-state>



A person is walking away from the camera down a long, brightly lit library aisle. The aisle is flanked by long wooden study tables, each with a green desk lamp. High wooden bookshelves filled with books line the right side of the aisle. The ceiling is high with a series of arched skylights. The entire image has a semi-transparent red overlay.

01

AI Infrastructure Enables Strategic Expansion

New Jersey's colleges may be leveraging such AI infrastructure to reconfigure their operational models—turning underutilized facilities into AI-integrated microcampuses. This suggests that growth is less about student demand and more about institutional adaptability to AI-driven efficiency.

02

Growth Without Demand Signals Systemic Reengineering

Institutions in New Jersey are likely using AI to reengineer their delivery models—offering just-in-time credentialing, AI-augmented course design, and predictive enrollment management. This allows them to expand capacity without increasing physical footprint or traditional overhead, making growth sustainable even in low-population-density regions.



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