

I. MAJOR RESEARCH AND PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Thomas Edison State College engages in public service activities through individual staff participation on various external boards, committees, and organizations, military partnerships, Division of Planning and Research's involvement with the Mercer County Chamber of Commerce's Young Business Leaders Council, the John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy, the Office of Community Affairs and Government Relations, and through the School of Nursing. In addition, the State Library, an affiliate of Thomas Edison State College contributes to the public service activities of the College (see section K). Highlights of some of the College's activities are provided below.

Revitalizing Downtown Trenton. Several College staff members were involved in community based projects designed to improve and revitalize Trenton's downtown area. These projects involved staff from the City of Trenton as well as representatives from local churches, the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce, Capital Health System, and other local businesses and residential communities.

Minority Nurse Educator Project. The College's School of Nursing was awarded a continuation grant from the Human Resource Services Administration for Phase Two of the Minority Nurse Educator Project. The grant was for an additional three year cycle. As part of the grant, a Directory and Database of Minority Nurse Educators is being developed. The School is a national leader in the recruitment and preparation of minority nurse educators in online education.

Young Business Leaders Council. The College continues to sponsor seminars for the Young Business Leaders Council of the Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce. This Council includes young business leaders seeking to enhance their leadership skills, network with colleagues, and participate in projects that will benefit them professionally, while at the same time positively impacting the Chamber of Commerce and business community. This year, the college facilitated a seminar on Leadership and Management.

John S. Watson Institute Activities

During FY 2009, the Watson Institute continued to provide practical research, technical assistance and expert advice to public decision-makers through its five centers. Highlights of some of the Institute's activities are presented below.

Urban Environment. A primary activity of the Institute staff during the early part of FY 2009 was writing comments and providing oral testimony on New Jersey's Draft Energy Master Plan, New Jersey's Fine Particulate Matter State Implementation Plan, and the State's proposed rules on the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Staff also presented at various conferences and events. A portion of the Institute's presentation on an environmental justice tour in Newark was included in a television special that was aired by CBS in December.

Center for Leadership Development. The 2009 Leadership Trenton Fellowship program, administered through the Center for Leadership Development, began in late September and concluded in June. This year's class consisted of 31 Fellows. Seminars throughout the year focused on trust and community involvement, race and societal divides, technology and social change, economic and community development, local government and politics, criminal justice, and healthcare and social services. Leadership Trenton Fellows also assisted with an orientation for adult mentors participating in the Intergenerational Achievement Mentoring program at Trenton Central High School.

Center for the Positive Development of Urban Children. Building upon the findings of an earlier report, *Threads of Cultures: The New Jersey Cultural Competency and English Language Learners Summer Institute*, the Center's staff was involved in the recruitment of 10 early school centers and mentors to participate in the second New Jersey Cultural Competency and English Language Learner's Summer Institute/Mentoring Program. Staff members also hosted a Webinar for municipal leaders entitled, "Children are Community: Creating Family-Friendly Cities". The webinar was conducted under the auspices of the New Jersey Child Care Economic Impact Council and in conjunction with the New Jersey League of Municipalities. The center's staff was also involved with examining the federal Head Start Act for the New Jersey Early Learning Council and creating a framework for the new Council. In addition, staff contributed to the technical assistance manual for the New Jersey Infant/Toddler Credential.

Center for Health Policy Staff. Staff from the Center assisted the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance (DOBI) with the research and implementation of a federally funded contract award (Phase III) for the New Jersey Health Information Security and Privacy Collaboration (HISPC) Interorganizational Agreement (IOU) project. This collaboration project involves six states and territories. As a result of the collaboration, four of these states were able to exchange immunization data.

Technical Assistance and Support Services Center. The Institute staff continues to work with the New Jersey Secretary of State's Office of Faith Based Initiatives through an agreement with Generations CDS to provide technical assistance and capacity building support to community organizations.