

## H. 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 & Government Relations, and through the W. Cary Edwards 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.

### The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy

The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy is dedicated to deepening the analysis around critical public policy challenges and broadening the range of policy ideas, perspectives and options. The Institute assists decision makers in enacting public policy in the interest of New Jersey's residents by expanding the range of policy and political possibilities and positing new policy paradigms. The Institute consists of five integrated policy centers: The Center for the Urban Environment, The Center for Health Policy Development, The Center for the Positive Development of Urban Children, The Technical Assistance and Support Service Center, and The Education Policy and Practice Initiative.

The Institute administers the Leadership Trenton Program, which is now in its 8<sup>th</sup> year and has produced more than 200 Leadership Trenton Fellow. The Institute also administers the New Jersey Cultural Competency and English Language Learners Summer Institute and Mentoring Program. Institute staff also played a major role in assisting environmental groups in New Jersey advocate for a healthy environment and facilitating the Trenton Central High School's Leaders of Tomorrow mentoring program. Through the Center for Health Policy, the institute staff has been instrumental in getting federal grant funding for New Jersey such that assistance can be provided to healthcare practitioners as they work to demonstrate "meaningful use" of electronic medical records systems. For more information about the Institute and its centers, please go to: <http://www.tesc.edu/3553.php>.

### Online Database of Minority Nurse Educators

In December 2009, the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing at Thomas Edison State College launched a free database of minority nurse educators who have been certified in online teaching. This database is available to nursing schools across the country interested in increasing diversity at their institutions and hiring the educators as adjunct faculty. The online database, the only one of its kind in the country, includes 52 nurse educators who have each completed the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing's online Minority Nurse Educator certification program, which includes a 20-week Certificate in Distance Education Program (CDEP) at Thomas Edison State College and a 12-week mentored online nursing experience at the College under the guidance of an experienced online nurse educator. The database is accessible at [www.tesc.edu/nursingdiversity](http://www.tesc.edu/nursingdiversity).

### Revitalizing Downtown Trenton

The College, through staff in the Office of Community Affairs & Government Relations, serves as the lead facilitator of Capital City Partnership, a registered 501c3 organization set up to broker, foster, and leverage private, public, and community resources to enhance and promote redevelopment initiatives that will revitalize the Canal Banks area of Trenton, N.J. The Partnership involves the College, Shiloh Baptist Church, The New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce, Capital Health System, and other members of local business and residential groups.

### 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 enhancing the Chamber of Commerce and business community.