



**THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE  
FY 2011 INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE REPORT**

**Submitted to:**

**New Jersey Commission on Higher Education**

**Prepared by:**

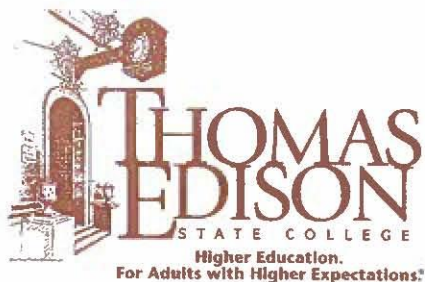
**Thomas Edison State College  
Trenton, New Jersey**

**September 16, 2011**

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101 W. State St.  
Trenton, NJ 08608-1176  
www.tesc.edu

## THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

### FY 2011 INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE REPORT

#### Institutional Profile Summary

Thomas Edison State College provides flexible, high-quality, collegiate learning opportunities for self-directed adults. The College is one of New Jersey's 12 senior public institutions of higher education.

Designed exclusively for adults, Thomas Edison State College is the only state college in New Jersey that offers degree programs at the associate, bachelor's and master's level, academic certificates (at the undergraduate, graduate and post-master's level) as well as online noncredit professional certificates.

For nearly four decades, the College has pioneered the use of the latest technologies to develop high-quality educational programs for adults, and has served as a national leader in the assessment of adult learning. *Forbes* magazine identified the College as one of the top 20 schools in the nation in the use of technology to create learning opportunities for adults.

The entire academic program at the College revolves around the unique needs of adult learners. Students earn credit through a variety of methods designed exclusively for adult learners, including online courses, guided independent study, examination programs, transferring credits earned from other regionally accredited institutions, earning credit for professional and/or military training and by demonstrating college-level knowledge acquired outside a traditional classroom. Thomas Edison State College makes it possible for adult students to pursue their education.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George A. Pruitt".

Dr. George A. Pruitt  
President

October 2011

## **Thomas Edison State College Mission & Purpose**

### **Mission**

Thomas Edison State College provides flexible, high-quality, collegiate learning opportunities for self-directed adults.

### **Purpose**

Thomas Edison State College was established by the State of New Jersey and chartered by the New Jersey Board of Higher Education in 1972. The College was founded for the purpose of providing diverse and alternative methods of achieving a collegiate education of the highest quality for mature adults. To this end, the College seeks:

- I. To provide curricula and degree opportunities of appropriate level and composition consistent with the aspirations of our students, the public welfare, and the highest qualitative standards of American higher education.
- II. To create a system of college-level learning opportunities for adults by organizing collegiate and sponsored non-collegiate instruction into coherent degree strategies.
- III. To make available educationally valid learning opportunities which serve as alternatives to college classroom study and which are appropriate to the varied needs and learning styles of adults.
- IV. To develop and implement processes for the valid and reliable assessment of experiential and extra-collegiate college-level learning, and to provide appropriate academic recognition for knowledge so identified consistent with high standards of quality and rigor.
- V. To serve higher education and the public interest as a center of innovation, information, policy formulation and advocacy on behalf of adult learners.
- VI. To fulfill the public service obligation inherent to American institutions of higher education.
- VII. To conduct its affairs in a manner which acknowledges the maturity, autonomy, and dignity of its students; assures a portal of access to higher education for adult learners; and celebrates the values, diversity and high qualitative standards of American higher education.

## **A. ACCREDITATION STATUS**

1. **Institutional accreditation.** Thomas Edison State College is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, the accrediting body for colleges and universities in the middle states region. This accreditation is part of a national system of quality assurance that requires colleges and universities to reach a common understanding and agreement as to the standards of quality for American higher education. After a comprehensive institutional self-study and a site visit by the Middle States Evaluation Team in April 2002, the College was reaccredited through 2012.

The Periodic Review Report (PRR) was submitted to Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools in June 2007; this report documents the College's work during the five year period from 2002 through 2007. The report was approved by the Middle States Commission of Colleges and Schools in November 2007; thus reaffirming the College's institutional accreditation through 2012.

The College is undergoing a Self-Study in preparation for its next Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation review. The visit will take place in March 2012.

2. **Professional accreditation.** The W. Carey Edwards School of Nursing RN-BSN program is accredited by the New Jersey Board of Nursing and the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC). The program was reaccredited by the National League for Nursing through 2011. The W. Carey Edwards School of Nursing RN/BSN-MSN program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The program was accredited through 2014.

Thomas Edison State College's Master of Arts in Educational Leadership Program, which is designed to prepare educators for roles in school leadership, was granted Initial Accreditation by the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) for a period of five years, from Dec. 11, 2009, to Dec. 11, 2014. This accreditation certifies that the forenamed professional education program has provided evidence that the program adheres to TEAC's quality principles.

**B. NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED**

1. Number of undergraduates by attendance status

Thomas Edison State College  
 Table II.B.1:  
 Undergraduate Enrollment by Attendance Status, Fall 2010

	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total
Number	--	17,721	17,721
Percent	--	100%	100%

Source: IPEDS Fall Enrollment Survey

2. Number of graduate students by attendance status

Thomas Edison State College  
 Table II.B.2:  
 Graduate Enrollment by Attendance Status, Fall 2010

	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total
Number	--	1,015	1,015
Percent	--	100%	100%

Source: IPEDS Fall Enrollment Survey

3. Number of noncredit students served. There were 154 students who took noncredit courses through the John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies.

4. Unduplicated count of students enrolled during the year. During FY 2010, there were 18,736 students enrolled at the College.

**C. CHARACTERISTICS OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

1. Mean math, reading, and writing SAT scores. This section is not applicable to Thomas Edison State College.
2. Enrollment in remediation courses by subject area. This section is not applicable to Thomas Edison State College.
3. Race/ethnicity, gender, and age (separately). Profiles of the undergraduate students by race/ethnicity, gender, and age are presented in the tables below.

Thomas Edison State College  
Table II.C.3.a  
Undergraduate Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity, Fall 2010

Race/Ethnicity	Full-time		Part-time		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
White	--	--	10,424	58.8%	10,424	58.8%
Black	--	--	2,964	16.7%	2,964	16.7%
Hispanic	--	--	1,711	9.7%	1,711	9.7%
Asian*	--	--	630	3.6%	630	3.6%
American Indian	--	--	146	0.8%	146	0.8%
Alien	--	--	250	1.4%	250	1.4%
Race Unknown*	--	--	1,596	9.0%	1,596	9.0%
<b>Total</b>	--	--	<b>17,721</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>17,721</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\* Note: Asian includes Pacific Islanders and Unknown includes 2 or More Races.  
Source: IPEDS Fall Enrollment Survey

Thomas Edison State College  
Table II.C.3.b:  
Undergraduate Enrollment by Gender, Fall 2010

Gender	Full-time		Part-time		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	---	---	10,745	60.6%	10,745	60.6%
Female	---	---	6,976	39.4%	6,976	39.4%
<b>Total</b>	---	---	<b>17,721</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>17,721</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: IPEDS Fall Enrollment Survey



Thomas Edison State College  
Table II.C.3.c  
Undergraduate Enrollment by Age, Fall 2010

Age	Full-time		Part-time		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
LT 18	--	--	7	0.0%	7	0.0%
18-19	--	--	75	0.4%	75	0.4%
20-21	--	--	413	2.3%	413	2.3%
22-24	--	--	1,336	7.5%	1,336	7.5%
25-29	--	--	4,045	22.8%	4,045	22.8%
30-34	--	--	3,512	19.8%	3,512	19.8%
35-39	--	--	2,904	16.4%	2,904	16.4%
40-49	--	--	3,778	21.3%	3,778	21.3%
50-64	--	--	1,566	8.8%	1,566	8.8%
65+	--	--	42	0.2%	42	0.2%
Unknown	--	--	43	0.2%	43	0.2%
Total	--	--	17,721	100.0%	17,721	100.0%

Source: IPEDS Fall Enrollment Survey

4. Number of students receiving financial assistance under each federal-, state-, and institution-funded aid program. The number of students receiving financial assistance is presented in the table below.

Thomas Edison State College  
Table II.C.4:  
Financial Aid from Federal, State & Institution-Funded Programs, AY 2009-10

	Recipients	Dollars(\$)	\$/Recipient
<b><u>FEDERAL PROGRAMS</u></b>			
Pell Grants	1,372	3,018,000	2,199.71
College Work Study			-
Perkins Loans			-
SEOG			-
PLUS Loans			-
Stafford Loans (Subsidized)	1,340	5,030,000	3,753.73
Stafford Loans (Unsubsidized)	1,433	8,158,000	5,692.95
SMART & ACG or other	2	5,000	2,500.00
<b><u>STATE PROGRAMS</u></b>			
Tuition Aid Grants (TAG)	102	213,000	2,088.24
Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF)			-
Outstanding Scholars (OSRP)			-
Distinguished Scholars			-
Urban Scholars			-
NJ STARS	5	5,000	1,000.00
NJCLASS Loans	13	26,000	2,000.00
<b><u>INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAMS</u></b>			
Grants/Scholarships			-
Loans			-

Source: NJIPEDS Form #41 Student Financial Aid Report

5. Percentage of students who are New Jersey Residents. Due to the growing number of active military students enrolled, the College examines residence by military status. As the table below indicates, among nonmilitary students, 59 percent of the enrolled students were New Jersey residents. Seven percent of the military students were also N.J. residents.

Thomas Edison State College  
 Table II.C.5:  
 Enrollment by Military Status and Residence

Residence	Non-Military		Active Military		Total	
	<i>N</i>	%	<i>N</i>	%	<i>N</i>	%
New Jersey	5,933	59.2%	568	6.5%	6,501	34.7%
Out of State	3,945	39.4%	7,702	88.4%	11,647	62.2%
International	49	0.5%	1	0%	50	0.3%
Unknown	92	0.9%	446	5.1%	538	2.9%
Total	10,019	100.0%	8,717	100.0%	18,736	100.0%

Source: Thomas Edison State College, FY 2010 President's Annual Report to the Board of Trustees

**D. STUDENT OUTCOMES**

1. Graduation rates:
  - a. Four-, five-, and six-year graduation rate by race/ethnicity (senior publics). This section is not applicable to Thomas Edison State College.
  - b. Two-year graduation rate (community colleges). This section is not applicable to Thomas Edison State College.
  - c. Three-year graduation and transfer rate by race/ethnicity (community colleges). This section is not applicable to Thomas Edison State College.
2. Third-semester retention rates (by attendance status). This section is not applicable to Thomas Edison State College.
3. Time-to-Degree Completion. Since Thomas Edison State College enrolls primarily adult students who often bring in credit upon enrollment, the College monitors time-to-degree completion to examine how long it takes graduates to earn a degree from the College. As presented in Table D:3a below, during FY 2011, the associate degree graduates took 3.0 years to graduate, the bachelor’s degree graduates took 3.5 years to graduate and the master’s degree graduates took 2.8 years to graduate.

Thomas Edison State College  
Table D: 3a:  
FY 2011 Graduates Time-to-Degree Completion by Degree Level

	Associate	Baccalaureate	Master’s
Overall	3.0	3.5	2.8

Source: Thomas Edison State College, FY 2011 President’s Annual Report to the Board of Trustees

The College also monitors time-to-degree completion by examining differences between in-state and out-of-state students. The time-to-degree completion for in-state versus out-of-state students is presented below.

Thomas Edison State College  
Table D: 3b:  
FY 2011 Graduates Time-to-Degree Completion by Degree Level and Residence

	Associate	Baccalaureate	Master’s
NJ Residents	3.2	3.9	2.8
Out-of-State Residents	3.0	3.3	2.7

Source: Thomas Edison State College, FY 2011 President’s Annual Report to the Board of Trustees

4. Student Learning Outcomes. Thomas Edison State College has established learning outcomes at the undergraduate and graduate level. These institutional outcomes identify areas in which students should be competent upon graduation from the College.

## Institutional Undergraduate Learning Outcomes

All Thomas Edison State College students who graduate from bachelor's degree programs will have the following competencies.

**Information Literacy:**

Graduates will recognize when information is needed, be able to identify, and to locate, evaluate and use effectively and appropriately the information found.

**Technological Competency:**

Graduates will solve problems and perform tasks using appropriate technological tools.

**Responsible Ethical Leadership:**

Graduates will articulate in their own words the ethical principles they have discovered and encountered in their academic discipline or profession. Graduates will recognize and articulate actual ethical dilemmas witnessed or experienced.

**Scientific Reasoning:**

Graduates will analyze issues and problems by applying scientific methods.

**Diversity/Global Literacy:**

Graduates will demonstrate an understanding of globally diverse perspectives, cultures, values, events, trends and issues.

**Quantitative Reasoning/Literacy:**

Graduates will be quantitatively literate. They will apply mathematical concepts and skills to inform personal and professional decision making.

**Communication:**

Graduates will communicate with proficiency.

**Critical Analysis and Reasoning:**

Graduates will demonstrate critical-thinking and problem-solving skills and analyze content, discover meaning or significance, draw conclusions and make assessments.

**Lifelong Learning:**

Graduates will demonstrate a commitment to lifelong learning.

## Institutional Graduate Learning Outcomes

All Thomas Edison State College students who graduate from advanced-level degree programs will be able to:

Demonstrate mastery of in-depth knowledge of the current major questions, debates and methodologies in their field or profession;

Use critical thinking, reflective, and research skills to evaluate theory to make informed decisions and improve practice in their field;

Communicate in a variety of formats appropriate to the field of study;

Apply ethical decision making in research, evaluation, organizational culture and communities;

Integrate and use effectively technology in evaluating information and its sources in practical application in field of study; and,

Recognize cultural influences in organization and community decision making.

### Programmatic learning outcomes

Programmatic learning outcomes, focusing on degree specific learning goals and objectives, have also been established within each school at the undergraduate and graduate degree levels.

### Assessment Measures

Direct as well as indirect assessment measures are used to assess student learning outcomes.

**E. MENTOR CHARACTERISTICS**

1. Full-time faculty by race/ethnicity, gender, academic rank and tenure status (simultaneously). This section is not applicable to Thomas Edison State College.
2. Percentage of course sections taught by full-time faculty. This section is not applicable to Thomas Edison State College.
3. Ratio of full- to part-time faculty. This section is not applicable to Thomas Edison State College.
4. Mentor characteristics: race/ethnicity and gender. Thomas Edison State College signs letters-of-agreement with subject-matter experts. These mentors and consultants engage with the academic units of the College in various ways: development and/or assessment in test construction, portfolio assessment, facilitating courses (e.g., Guided Study and online), pre-graduation conferences, demonstration of currency, practicum, nursing performance examinations, and program evaluations. During FY 2011, there were 672 mentors. The gender and race/ethnicity of the mentors are presented below.

	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
African-American	28	42	70
Asian-American	14	9	23
Caucasian, Not Latino	267	231	498
Hispanic Or Latino	9	6	15
Native American	6	2	8
Other	4	2	6
Unknown/Not Specified	3	49	52
<i>Total</i>	<i>331</i>	<i>319</i>	<i>672</i>

Source: Thomas Edison State College, FY 2011 President’s Annual Report to the Board of Trustees

**F. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TRUSTEES**

The Board of Trustees is the premier governing body of the College. The members are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Members of the Board bring with them diverse experiences and varied backgrounds from business, industry, and academia. The Board oversees all policy matters of the College, including the approval of degree programs and standards, budget recommendations to the governor, and appointments of all College employees. There are two student members on the Board: one a voting member and the other an alternate.

1. **Race/Ethnicity and Gender (simultaneously).** A profile of the Board of Trustees by race/ethnicity and gender is presented in the table below.

Thomas Edison State College  
Table F. 1  
Race/Ethnicity and Gender of the Board of Trustees, FY 2012

Race/Ethnicity	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
White	3	2	5
Black	2	2	4
Hispanic	1	-	1
Asian	-	-	-
American Indian	-	-	-
Race Unknown	-	-	-
<i>Total</i>	6	4	10

2. **Board of Trustee Members.** The current Board of Trustee members are presented in the table below.

Thomas Edison State College  
Table F.2  
Board of Trustees, FY 2012

Name	Title	Affiliation
Rev. J. Stanley Justice	Pastor	Mt. Zion AME Church
Eric R. Lear	Managing Partner	Lear & Pannepacker, LLP
Dr. Fred Abbate	Retired	New Jersey Utilities Association
Richard Arndt	Retired	American Cancer Society
Ida Hammond	Retired	New Jersey Department. of Education
Gualberto Medina	Executive Managing Director	Cushman & Wakefield
E. Harvey Myers	Architect	E. Harvey Myers Architect
Marilyn Pearson	Philanthropic Consultant, VP	First Citizens Bank
Stacy Slomko	Teacher	Perth Amboy High School
Debra Schmelzer	Paraprofessional	Withum, Smith & Brown
Dr George A. Pruitt (Ex-officio)	President	Thomas Edison State College

3. **URL Information.** For information about the Thomas Edison State College Board of Directors, please go to: <http://www.tesc.edu/564.php>.

## **G. . A PROFILE OF THE INSTITUTION**

### **1. Degree and Certificate Programs**

**Undergraduate Degree Programs and Certificates.** Thomas Edison State College offers six associate degrees and 10 bachelor's degrees (including three joint degree programs with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey). There are approximately 100 areas of study in the undergraduate degree programs.

The Associate Degree Programs are as follows: Associate in Applied Science, Associate in Arts, Associate in Science in Applied Science and Technology, Associate in Science in Business Administration, Associate in Science in Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and Associate in Arts in Human Services (formerly known as Associate in Science in Public and Social Services).

The Bachelor's Degree Programs include: Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences (a joint degree with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey), Bachelor of Science in Health Information Management (a joint degree with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey), Bachelor of Science in Human Services, Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging Sciences (a joint degree with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey), and Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership.

The College offers two types of Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs, a RN to BSN/MSN program and an Accelerated 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree BSN program. The RN to BSN/MSN program provides a seamless transition for students enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree who want to earn a Master of Science in Nursing degree. The Accelerated 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree BSN program is an intensive one year program for adults who already possess a non-nursing bachelor's degree and are interested in becoming a registered nurse; this new degree program will begin in the Fall 2011.

The College also awards Certificates in the following professional areas: Accounting, Computer Aided Design, Computer Information Systems, Computer Science, Dental Assistant (with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey), Electronics, Finance, Fitness and Wellness Services, Gas Distribution, Human Resources Management, Labor Studies, Marketing, Operations Management, Polysomnography, and Public Administration.

**Master's Degree Programs and Certificates.** The College currently offers six master's degree programs: Master of Arts in Educational Leadership, Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (formally known as the Master of Arts in Professional Studies), Master of Science in Human Resources Management, Master of Science in Management, Master of Science in Applied Science and Technology, and Master of Science in Nursing (MSN). Graduates of the MSN degree program earn a Nursing Administration, Nurse Educator, or Nursing



Informatics certificate, in addition to the MSN degree, depending on the area of study they select.

There are also several graduate Certificate programs offered: Clinical Trials Management, Homeland Security, Human Resources Management, Online Learning and Teaching, Organizational Leadership, Project Management, Public Service Leadership (open only to graduates of the Executive Potential Program offered by the Center for Government Training and Professional Development's Graduate School), Nursing Administration, Nurse Educator, and Nursing Informatics. The College also offers a post master's certificate in Educational Leadership.

More information about the degree programs offered by the College and the majors/areas of study offered is available on the College website, <http://www.tesc.edu>.

## 2. Other

**Affiliation with New Jersey State Library.** Legislation codifying in statute the affiliation of the New Jersey State Library with Thomas Edison State College was signed by the governor in FY 2001. This affiliation and other collaborative projects have made a significant positive difference to the New Jersey State Library and the other libraries with which it is connected.

**National Institute on the Assessment of Adult Learning.** The National Institute on the Assessment of Adult Learning is sponsored annually by Thomas Edison State College. The main goals of the National Institute are to address issues related to assessment and adult learning. This year's institute, themed Virtual Assessment—Real Outcomes, addressed the emerging issue of how to harness technology to better serve nontraditional students.

**Innovation Award for Development of Flash-Based Courses.** The National University Technology Network (NUTN) selected Thomas Edison State College to receive its 2011 Distance Education Innovation Award for the development of the [FlashTrack®](#) course delivery system, which delivers entire courses to students via a flash drive and does not require a constant Internet connection.

**Graduates Have Highest Pass Rates of CPA Exam.** According to the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy's 2010 candidate performance report, Thomas Edison State College graduates have the highest pass rates for the Uniform Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Examination among all regionally accredited senior institutions of higher education in New Jersey that offer accounting programs. According to the report, 61.5 percent of Thomas Edison State College graduates who took the Uniform CPA Examination in the calendar year 2009 passed the exam.

**New Noncredit Certificates and Courses.** Thomas Edison State College launched several new online noncredit certificates and courses focusing on family and school nutrition, and nonprofit management that are built around the unique needs of adult learners. New professional certificates are now offered in Family Nutrition, Functional Family Nutrition,

and School Nutrition and Wellness. Noncredit course offerings now include Nonprofit Accounting and Grantsmanship for Nonprofits.

## 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, The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy, and the Office of Community Affairs & Government Relations. In addition, the State Library, an affiliate of Thomas Edison State College, contributes to the public service activities of the College (see “Other” section below). 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 advocates for public policy changes and assists decision makers to enact public policy that best serves the residents of New Jersey. The Institute practices a practical, hands-on approach to support and inform the people and legislators of the State. There are six centers within the Institute: Center for Urban Environment, Center for Civic Engagement and Leadership Development, Center for the Positive Development of Urban Children, Center for Health Policy Development, Technical Assistance and Support Service Center, and the Education Policy and Practice Initiative. The Institute also serves the New Jersey Urban Mayor’s Association through conferences, meetings, training sessions, and policy review and analysis.

Highlights from this year include advocacy on issues related to climate change, clean air, clean water, and clean neighborhoods, working with Big Brothers/Big Sisters and the Trenton High School Mentoring Program, and collaborating with several statewide organizations on an initiative to reduce childhood obesity. Institute staff also reviewed and assessed state policy on Urban Enterprise Zones, affordable housing, school reform, Board of Public Utility regulations, and land use.

For more information about the John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy and its centers, please go to: <http://www.tesc.edu/3553.php>.

### 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. During FY 2011, the Partnership implemented a street-light improvement project, identified parking solutions, and received a grant for a beautification project.

## **I. MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS UNDERWAY IN FY 2011**

The College was involved in several technology initiatives this year. The initiatives included development of a formal Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Plan and various system upgrades.

The Academic Center was equipped with a new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system to ensure maximum energy efficiency. The process of restoring the Kuser Mansion has begun; an architect firm has been selected and employees have been relocated to other College buildings for the duration of the restoration project.

### III. OTHER

#### New Jersey State Library Selected Highlights

**NJ State Library Grant.** In July 2010, Thomas Edison State College was awarded a \$5.1 million federal grant to support the New Jersey State Library's Broadband Technology Opportunity Program, a project designed to add computer workstations, upgrade Internet connectivity and provide job search assistance and workforce development programs at hundreds of libraries throughout New Jersey. The grant was provided by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's Broadband Technology Opportunity Program. The award, along with a \$1.5 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, is being used to add computers at 124 libraries, upgrade connectivity at 79 libraries, and provide job search assistance, employment skills, workforce development programs and other online resources at 365 libraries across New Jersey. In addition, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation gave an additional \$1.5 million to the New Jersey State Library to support E-rate technical assistance, which will help sustain the project's services.

**Renovation of Four Public Libraries.** The SWAT Team, a brainchild of the State Librarian's Blue Ribbon Task Force on the Future of Libraries, revamped the interior spaces of four public libraries on a shoestring budget. Four additional libraries have been selected for the next round.

**New Software Program.** The library purchased a software program that will allow local libraries to enter their statistics on a monthly basis in order to respond to legislative and media inquiries.

**New Jersey State Library Talking Book and Braille Center.** This year the focus of the Center was to reach out to military veterans. New "Outspoken Library" kiosks were installed at several Veteran Hospitals. The "Outspoken Library" is becoming a national model for easy and efficient downloading of digital titles for individuals who have difficulty holding or reading a regular book; these kiosks are in 33 public libraries with at least one unit in 17 NJ counties.

**New Jersey State Library Information Center.** The NJ State Library Center continued to present webinars of interest to state workers. There were also nine author talks held throughout the year.

**Websites Launched.** The NJWorks@YourLibrary website was implemented along with toolkits for libraries and the "It's Time to Land that Job" statewide campaign. The new State Library website was launched in April. Several partnerships were established this year to promote literacy and reading.

**Inaugural Spring Commencement:** Thomas Edison State College established a Spring Commencement to better accommodate the growing number of its graduates and their families who attend commencement. The inaugural Spring Commencement Ceremony took place on Saturday, April 16, 2011 at 2 p.m., in the historic College Avenue Gymnasium at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J. Approximately 200 graduates from 21 states and their families attended the Spring Commencement Ceremony.

The College will now have two commencements each year, one in the spring, and the other in the fall.

**Partnership with Teach for America:** Thomas Edison State College recently formed a partnership with “Teach For America,” a national organization that recruits outstanding college graduates from a variety of backgrounds to teach for two years in traditionally underserved urban and rural public schools. The collaboration allows “Teach For America” alumni from across the U.S. to earn a graduate degree and certification in the Master of Arts in Educational Leadership program of the college.