

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 Center for Education Policy and Practice Initiatives. 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 environmental justice, working with Big Brothers/Big Sisters and the Trenton High School Mentoring Program, hosting the New Jersey Cultural Competency and English Language Learner Summer Institute and Mentoring Program, and collaborating with several statewide organizations to prevent bullying in the public schools. Institute staff also assisted with the sustainability plan for the City of Newark, provided advice and consultation to the New Jersey Urban Major’s Association, and assisted with the preparation of two Economic Development Association grants, the Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant and the Technical Assistance Grant.

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, continues to serve a major role in the 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. The major activities of this partnership involve beautification and security improvements in downtown Trenton.