



THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE FY 2015 INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE REPORT

Submitted to:

New Jersey Higher Education

Prepared by:

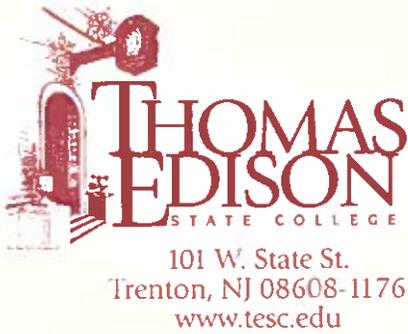
**Thomas Edison State College
Trenton, New Jersey**

September 15, 2015

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THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE FY 2015 INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE REPORT

Institutional Profile Summary

Established in 1972, Thomas Edison State College provides flexible, high-quality, collegiate learning opportunities for self-directed adults. The College is one of New Jersey's 11 senior public institutions of higher education.

Thomas Edison State College is the only college in New Jersey dedicated exclusively for adults and offers degree programs at the associate, bachelor's and master's level, undergraduate and graduate certificates, and noncredit professional certificates.

For more than 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.

Dr. George A. Pruitt
President

September 2015

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 regionally accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 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. In June 2012, the College's accreditation was reaffirmed through FY 2022.
2. **Professional accreditation.** The W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing baccalaureate, master's and graduate certificate programs are approved by the New Jersey Board of Nursing and accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). The W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing baccalaureate and master's programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) through June 2024.

Thomas Edison State College's Master of Arts in Educational Leadership Program, which is designed to prepare educators for roles in school leadership, was awarded accreditation by the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) by the Inquiry Brief Commission of the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) in April 2015, extending through April 2022.

The Thomas Edison State College bachelor's degree in Nuclear Energy Engineering Technology is accredited by the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering Technology (ABET). The program was accredited in October 2010 and the next comprehensive review is scheduled for FY 2018 (2017-2018). ABET is a specialized accrediting agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

Thomas Edison State College's associate degree program and undergraduate certificate in Polysomnography was awarded initial accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). The initial accreditation status is valid from March 16, 2012 until March 31, 2017.

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 FY 2014

	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total
Number	154	19,989	20,143
Percent	0.8%	99.2%	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 FY 2014

	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total
Number	--	1,352	1,352
Percent	--	100%	100%

Source: IPEDS Fall Enrollment Survey

3. Number of noncredit students served. There were 143 students who took noncredit courses through the John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies in FY 2015.

4. Unduplicated count of students enrolled during the year. During FY 2014, there were 21,495 students enrolled at the College.

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 FY 2014

Race/Ethnicity	Full-time		Part-time		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
White	75	48.7%	11,128	55.7%	11,203	55.6%
Black	33	21.4%	2,887	14.4%	2,920	14.5%
Hispanic	17	11.0%	1,629	8.1%	1,646	8.2%
Asian*	12	7.8%	898	4.5%	910	4.5%
American Indian	--	--	131	0.7%	131	0.7%
Alien	--	--	213	1.1%	213	1.1%
Race Unknown*	17	11.0%	3,103	15.5%	3,120	15.5%
Total	154	100.0%	19,989	100.0%	20,143	100.0%

* 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 FY 2014

Gender	Full-time		Part-time		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	68	44.2%	10,614	53.1%	10,682	53.0%
Female	86	55.8%	9,375	46.9%	9,461	47.0%
Total	154	100%	19,989	100.0%	20,143	100.0%

Source: IPEDS Fall Enrollment Survey

Thomas Edison State College
Table II.C.3.c:
Undergraduate Enrollment by Age, Fall FY 2014

Age	Full-time		Part-time		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
LT 18	--	--	13	0.1%	13	0.1%
18-19	--	--	147	0.7%	147	0.7%
20-21	5	3.2%	580	2.9%	585	2.9%
22-24	9	5.8%	1,392	7.0%	1,401	7.0%
25-29	60	39.0%	4,061	20.3%	4,121	20.5%
30-34	27	17.5%	4,152	20.8%	4,179	20.7%
35-39	22	14.3%	3,062	15.3%	3,084	15.3%
40-49	24	15.6%	4,302	21.5%	4,326	21.5%
50-64	4	2.6%	2,192	11.0%	2,196	10.9%
65+	--	--	58	0.3%	58	0.3%
Unknown	3	1.9%	30	0.2%	33	0.2%
Total	154	100.0%	19,989	100.0%	20,143	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 2013-14

	Recipients	Dollars(\$)	\$/Recipient
<u>FEDERAL PROGRAMS</u>			
Pell Grants	2,470	5,582,000	2,259.92
College Work Study			-
Perkins Loans			-
SEOG			-
PLUS Loans	2	32,000	-
Stafford Loans (Subsidized)	2,714	8,950,000	3,297.72
Stafford Loans (Unsubsidized)	2,912	14,737,000	5,060.78
SMART & ACG or other			-
<u>STATE PROGRAMS</u>			
Tuition Aid Grants (TAG)	106	283,000	2,669.81
Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF)			-
Outstanding Scholars (OSRP)			-
Distinguished Scholars			-
Urban Scholars			-
NJ STARS	1	1,000	1,000.00
NJCLASS Loans	4	23,000	5,750.00
<u>INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAMS</u>			
Grants/Scholarships			-
Loans			-

Source: NJIPEDS Form #41 Student Financial Aid Report

5. Percentage of students who are New Jersey Residents. Due to the number of active military students enrolled, the College examines residence by military status. As the table below indicates, among nonmilitary students, 60 percent of the enrolled students were New Jersey residents. Six percent of the military students were also N.J. residents.

Thomas Edison State College

Table II.C.5:

FY 2014 Enrollment by Military Status and Residence

Residence	Non-Military		Active Military		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
New Jersey	9,060	59.5%	342	5.5%	9,402	43.7%
Out of State	5,880	38.6%	5,520	88.2%	11,400	53.0%
International	121	0.8%	32	0.5%	153	0.7%
Unknown	177	1.2%	363	5.8%	540	2.5%
Total	15,238	100.0%	6,257	100.0%	21,495	100.0%

Source: Thomas Edison State College, FY 2014 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. Because 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 II.D:3a below, during FY 2015, the associate degree graduates took, on average, 3.2 years to graduate, the bachelor’s degree graduates took 3.5 years to graduate and the master’s degree graduates took 3.2 years to graduate.

Thomas Edison State College
Table II.D.3.a:
FY 2015 Graduates Time-to-Degree Completion by Degree Level

	Associate	Baccalaureate	Master’s
Overall	3.2	3.5	3.2

Source: Thomas Edison State College, FY 2015 Board of Trustees Presentation.

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 II.D.3.b:
FY 2015 Graduates Time-to-Degree Completion by Degree Level and Residence

	Associate	Baccalaureate	Master’s
NJ Residents	2.9	3.7	3.3
Out-of-State Residents	3.2	3.5	3.0

Source: Thomas Edison State College, FY 2015 Board of Trustees Presentation.

4. **Student Learning Outcomes.** In keeping with its mission, Thomas Edison State College is committed to maintaining high standards of academic integrity and of quality service to its students. To achieve this goal, the College engages in outcomes assessment, a process through which the effectiveness of the College and its programs is evaluated against institutionally determined standards. Thomas Edison State College's institutional outcomes are closely mapped to the Essential Learning Outcomes of the Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) initiative as documented by the Association of American Colleges and Universities. The Academic Council at Thomas Edison State College has approved seven general education learning outcomes for all undergraduates and six institutional learning outcomes for all graduate students. In addition, there are established program outcomes. The specific outcome areas are listed below.

a. **General Education Undergraduate Learning Outcomes**

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

I. **Intellectual and Practical Skills**

- Communication (both written and oral)
- Information Literacy
- Quantitative Reasoning/Literacy

II. **Personal and Social Responsibility**

- Diversity/Intercultural Literacy
- Ethical Leadership
- Civic Engagement

III. **Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World**

- Critical Thinking

b. Institutional Graduate Learning Outcomes

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

Apply in-depth knowledge of the major questions, theories, debates, and methodologies in organization, field, or profession.

Use critical analysis and research to make informed decisions and to improve an organization, field, or profession.

Communicate effectively to positively impact an organization, field, or profession.

Apply ethical principles and theories in research, evaluation, organizational culture, and communities.

Interpret cultural influences in organizations and communities.

Create sophisticated arguments supported by quantitative evidence.

c. 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.

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 2015, there were 779 mentors. The gender and race/ethnicity of the mentors are presented below.

Thomas Edison State College
 Table II.E.4.a:
 Gender of Mentors, FY 2015

Gender	Total	%
Female	363	48%
Male	413	53%
Blank	3	0%
Total	779	100%

Thomas Edison State College
 Table II.E.4.b:
 Race/Ethnicity of Mentors, FY 2015

Race/Ethnicity	Total	%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	10	1%
Asian	44	6%
Black/African American	89	11%
White	610	78%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	2	0%
Hispanic/Latino	10	1%
Other	4	1%
Blank	10	1%
Total	779	100%

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 II.F.1
Race/Ethnicity and Gender of the Board of Trustees, FY 2016

Race/Ethnicity	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
White	6	-	6
Black	2	2	4
Hispanic	1	-	1
Asian	-	-	-
American Indian	-	-	-
Total	9	2	11

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

Thomas Edison State College
Table II.F.2
Board of Trustees, FY 2016

Name	Title	Affiliation
Dr. Fred J. Abbate	Adjunct Professor	Drexel University
Dr. Kemi Alli	CEO and Chief Medical Officer	Henry J. Austin Health Center
Richard W. Arndt	Retired	American Cancer Society
Anthony Buffardi	Planning and Control Coordinator	Takara Belmont USA, Inc.
Franklin Clyburn (Vice Chair)	CEO, Global Oncology	Merck & Co., Inc.
Christopher Hanf	Senior Benefits Analyst	Meridian Health Corporation
Rev. J. Stanley Justice	Pastor	Mt. Zion AME Church
Eric R. Lear	Managing Partner	Lear & Pannepacker, LLP
Brian T. Maloney (Chair)	Consultant	
Gualberto Medina	Executive VP in Brokerage Services	CBRE
Marilyn R. Pearson	Philanthropic Consultant, VP	TPB Legacy Group
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 seven associate degrees and 12 bachelor's degrees (including six joint degree programs with the Rutgers School of Health Related Professions). 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 Applied Science (a joint degree with the Rutgers School of Health Related Professions), Associate in Arts, Associate in Arts in Human Services, Associate of Science (a joint degree with the Rutgers School of Health Related Professions), Associate in Science in Applied Science and Technology, Associate in Science in Business Administration, and Associate in Science in Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

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 Information Management (a joint degree with the Rutgers School of Health Related Professions), Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences (a joint degree with the Rutgers School of Health Related Professions), Bachelor of Science in Human Services, Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging Sciences (a joint degree with the Rutgers School of Health Related Professions), Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics (a joint degree with the Rutgers School of Health Related Professions), Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership, and Bachelor of Science in Professional Studies.

The College offers three types of Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs: RN to BSN, RN to BSN/MSN, and an Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN. 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 2nd 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.

The College also awards Certificates in the following professional areas: Accounting, Computer Information Systems, Computer Science, Dental Assisting, Electronics, Finance, Fitness and Wellness Services, Gas Distribution, Human Resources Management, Labor Studies, Marketing, Operations Management, and Polysomnography.

Master's Degree Programs and Certificates. The College currently offers 13 master's degree programs: Master of Arts in Educational Leadership, Master of Arts in Educational Technology and Online Learning, Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, Master of Business Administration, Master of Public Service Leadership, Master of Science in Applied Science and Technology, Master of Science in Homeland Security, Master of Science in Hospitality Management, Master of Science in Human Resources Management, Master of Science in International Business Finance, Master of Science in Management, Master of

Science in Management – Public Service, and Master of Science in Nursing (MSN). Graduates of the MSN degree program earn a Nursing Administration, Nursing Education, or Nursing Informatics certificate, in addition to the MSN degree, depending on the area of study they select.

There are also 15 graduate Certificate programs offered: Clinical Trials Management, Critical Infrastructure and Cybersecurity, Digital Humanities, Educational Leadership, Geropsychology, Homeland Security, Human Resources Management, Industrial-Organizational Psychology, Nursing Administration, Nursing Education, and Nursing Informatics, Online Learning and Teaching, Organizational Leadership, Professional Communications, and Project Management.

There are also several Bachelor's to Master's degree programs available that enable undergraduate students to earn 9 graduate credits that apply to both their bachelor's degree and a master's degree at the College.

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 National Institute provides an intensive learning experience for professionals in education who are involved in the assessment of adult and experiential learning. The theme of the June 2015 conference was *PLA 20/20*, which explored several directions for prior learning assessment. The keynote speakers were Dr. Meg Benke of SUNY Empire State College and Dr. Rich Roberts of the Center for Innovative Assessments.

Noncredit Professional Certificates. Through the John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies, Thomas Edison State College offers online noncredit certificates and courses that are built around the unique needs of adult learners. Professional courses and/or certificates are offered in Building/Construction Management, Business/Management/Entrepreneurship, Cyber/Homeland Security, Fitness Training and Fitness Management, Human Resources/Career Development, Nonprofit Management, Nutrition, Radiation Safety, Teaching, and Workshops for Social Workers and Mental Health Providers. More information about these noncredit certificates and courses can be found at: <http://www.tesc.edu/watson/Find-Noncredit-Program.cfm>.

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 Division of Community and Government Affairs. 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 assists decision makers to address the key public policy issues they face through its research, analysis and by broadening the range of ideas, perspectives and options. The Institute utilizes a practical, hands-on approach to support and inform the people and legislators of the State. The Institute comprises several integrated policy centers: the 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 Mayors’ Association/Urban Mayors Institute through conferences, meetings, training sessions, and policy review and analysis.

Highlights from the Institute’s activities during FY 2015 include a grant from the TD Charitable Foundation to support a mentoring program that helps increase teachers’ cultural awareness of students from diverse backgrounds. In addition, the Institute’s English Language Learners Summer Institute and Mentoring Program piloted an initiative to use iPads to increase childhood literacy in Head Start programs in Trenton and Hunterdon County, NJ. The Institute partnered with the Hispanic Information and Telecommunication Network’s Early Learning Collaborative to provide these multimedia learning tools to enable preschool teachers to link technology with early childhood learning in classrooms that serve children from homes where English is a second language.

For more information about the John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy and its centers, visit <http://www.tesc.edu/watson/institute/index.cfm>.

The Division of Community and Government Affairs

As part of its ongoing commitment to public service, the Division of Community and Government Affairs sponsors a number of community service activities each year. During FY 2015, the division sponsored a Community Involvement Fair at which more than 40 local organizations provided information on services and volunteer opportunities to College staff and the public. Other events sponsored by the College included the Trenton Y5K race, the Trenton Half Marathon, the Art All Day and Art All Night events, and the African American Cultural Festival. The division also hosted various collection drives throughout the year to benefit local non-profit organizations, including Habitat for Humanity, the Rescue Mission of

Trenton, and UIH Family Partners. The College is also a partner of the Trenton Health Team, a community health improvement collaborative serving Trenton, NJ.

I. MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS UNDERWAY IN FY 2015

Two major capital projects were completed at the College during FY 2015. The College opened the newly redesigned and renovated Center for Learning and Technology, which includes a media production studio facilitating the development of more advanced, interactive technology for online courses. The College also completed renovations to the Kelsey Building and Townhouse complex, including the reconfiguration of existing offices to maximize the use of space. Construction of the College's Nursing Education Center, which began in FY 2014, continued through FY 2015 and is scheduled to be completed in FY 2016. The Nursing Education Center will house state-of-the-art simulation laboratories, lecture halls, a testing center, and a parking garage.

Several technological and operational initiatives designed to help students meet their educational goals were implemented in the past year, including more streamlined processes for tracking academic progress and ordering transcripts. The College also now offers students the option of communicating with academic advisors via video conferencing in addition to phone and email contact.

OTHER

New Statewide Prior Learning Assessment Network. Thomas Edison State College is serving as the anchor institution for the New Jersey Prior Learning Assessment Network (NJ PLAN) pilot program, which will allow students to earn college credits via tests or portfolio assessments that demonstrate their college-level knowledge. The program, in which several NJ institutions of higher education are participating, will make completing a college degree more feasible for adult learners with college-level knowledge acquired outside the traditional classroom.

New Jersey State Library Selected Highlights

Training for State Library Patrons and an Online High School Completion Program. The New Jersey State Library (NJSL) provides ongoing lunchtime classes and webinars on topics ranging from genealogy and legal research to using e-books and grant seeking. In FY 2015, the NJSL launched an online high school completion program, Career Online High School (COHS), using a grant from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The NJSL COHS pilot program allows New Jersey residents to earn an accredited high school diploma and career certificate online through their local library.

Active Shooter Response Training. In response to tragic mass shootings that have marred public spaces and given that libraries are one of the few public places anyone can walk in unimpeded, NJSL hired a consulting firm comprised of former New Jersey state troopers to conduct “Run. Hide. Fight.” training at four public libraries. Response in the library community was strong and interest levels will continue to be monitored in the coming year to gauge and weigh the prioritization of funding additional training in this area.

Mental Health First Aid Workshops. NJSL provided free training for 100 library staff in Mental Health First Aid using an Outreach to Consumers grant from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Middle Atlantic Region (NN/LM MAR). This training enables library staff to deal calmly and effectively with customers who may be suffering from stress or mental health issues in their lives.

New Jersey Cultural Alliance for Response. In collaboration with the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the State Museum, NJSCA, New Jersey State Archives, New Jersey Historical Commission, and the State Office of Historic Preservation, NJSL established the New Jersey Cultural Alliance for Response (NJCAR), a network of cultural organizations, associations, agencies, and persons dedicated to preserving cultural assets and sustaining operations before, during, and after disasters.

Sitecues Anywhere Assistive Software. NJSL’s Talking Book and Braille Center initiated a reimagining project to include the assistive software, Sitecues Anywhere®, on Outspoken Library kiosk computers in 38 public libraries. Sitecues Anywhere® offers magnification and text reading of any web page on the Outspoken Library kiosk. The assistive software is also featured on NJSL’s website.