



# THOMAS EDISON STATE UNIVERSITY

**THOMAS EDISON STATE UNIVERSITY**

**FY 2017 INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE REPORT**

**Submitted to:**

**New Jersey Higher Education**

**Prepared by:**

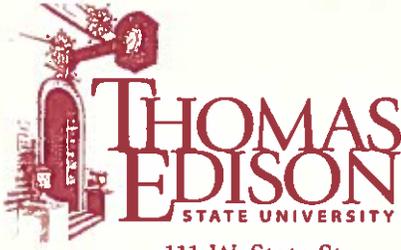
**Thomas Edison State University  
Trenton, New Jersey**

**September 15, 2017**

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## THOMAS EDISON STATE UNIVERSITY FY 2017 INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE REPORT

### INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE SUMMARY

Established in 1972, Thomas Edison State University provides flexible, high-quality, collegiate learning opportunities for self-directed adults. The University is one of New Jersey's senior public institutions of higher education and was granted university status by the New Jersey Secretary of Higher Education in December 2015. Thomas Edison State University is the only University in New Jersey dedicated exclusively for adults and offers degree programs at the associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctorate level, undergraduate and graduate certificates, and noncredit professional certificates.

For more than four decades, the University 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. *The New York Times* called Thomas Edison State University "the college that paved the way for flexibility."

The entire academic program at the University 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 University-level knowledge acquired outside a traditional classroom. Thomas Edison State University makes it possible for adult students to pursue their education without sacrificing their personal or professional responsibilities.

George A. Pruitt  
President

September 2017

## **MISSION & PURPOSE**

### **Mission**

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

### **Purpose**

Thomas Edison State University was established as Edison College in 1972 by the State of New Jersey and chartered by the New Jersey Board of Higher Education. The University 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 University 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 University 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 University's accreditation was reaffirmed through FY 2022. During FY 2017, the five-year Periodic Review was completed and submitted to the Middle States Commission for Higher Education.
2. **Professional accreditation.** The W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing's baccalaureate and master's programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) through June 2024. The W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing's baccalaureate and master's degree programs and graduate certificate programs are approved by the New Jersey Board of Nursing.

Thomas Edison State University's Master of Arts in Educational Leadership Program, which is designed to prepare educators for roles in school leadership, was awarded Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) accreditation by the Inquiry Brief Commission of the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) for a period of seven years, from April 2015 through April 2022. This accreditation certifies that the forenamed professional education program has provided evidence that the program adheres to TEAC's quality principles.

Thomas Edison State University's Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Master of Science in Management, Master of Science in Human Resources Management, and Master of Business Administration programs were awarded initial accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). The accreditation status is effective as of April 27, 2017.

Thomas Edison State University bachelor's degrees in Nuclear Energy Engineering Technology and Electronics System Engineering Technology are accredited by the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering Technology (ABET). The accreditation status is effective until August 2018. ABET is a specialized accrediting agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

Thomas Edison State University's associate degree program and undergraduate certificate in Polysomnography were awarded continuing accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) for a period of ten years, from March 17, 2017 to 2027.

**B. NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED**

1. Number of undergraduates by attendance status

Thomas Edison State University  
Table II.B.1:  
Undergraduate Enrollment by Attendance Status, Fall FY 2016

	<b>Full-Time</b>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<b>Total</b>
Number	48	11,653	11,701
Percent	0.4%	99.6%	100%

Source: IPEDS Fall Enrollment Survey  
Please note, Thomas Edison State University's Fall 2016 IPEDS Enrollment Survey counts are based on only the enrollment counts as of October. In the past, the Fall Enrollment Survey counts included all students who enrolled during the fiscal year.

2. Number of graduate students by attendance status

Thomas Edison State University  
Table II.B.2:  
Graduate Enrollment by Attendance Status, Fall FY 2016

	<b>Full-Time</b>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<b>Total</b>
Number	--	788	788
Percent	--	100%	100%

Source: IPEDS Fall Enrollment Survey  
Please note, Thomas Edison State University's Fall 2016 IPEDS Enrollment Survey counts are based on only the enrollment counts as of October. In the past, the Fall Enrollment Survey counts included all students who enrolled during the fiscal year.

3. Number of noncredit students served. During FY 2017, there were 164 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 2016, there were 17,511 students enrolled at the University.

**C. CHARACTERISTICS OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

1. Mean math, reading, and writing SAT scores. This section is not applicable to Thomas Edison State University.
2. Enrollment in remediation courses by subject area. This section is not applicable to Thomas Edison State University.
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 University  
Table II.C.3.a:  
Undergraduate Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity, Fall FY 2016

	Full-time		Part-time		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
White	19	39.6%	5,927	50.9%	5,946	50.8%
Black	10	20.8%	1,657	14.2%	1,667	14.2%
Hispanic	6	12.5%	1,129	9.7%	1,135	9.7%
Asian*	2	4.2%	533	4.6%	535	4.6%
American Indian	--	--	52	0.4%	52	0.4%
Alien	1	2.1%	155	1.3%	156	1.3%
Race Unknown*	10	20.8%	2,200	18.9%	2,210	18.9%
Total	48	100.0%	11,653	100.0%	11,701	100.0%

\* Note: Asian includes Pacific Islanders and Unknown includes 2 or More Races.

Source: IPEDS Fall Enrollment Survey

Please note, Thomas Edison State University's Fall 2016 IPEDS Enrollment Survey counts are based on only the enrollment counts as of October. In the past, the Fall Enrollment Survey counts included all students who enrolled during the fiscal year.

Thomas Edison State University  
Table II.C.3.b:  
Undergraduate Enrollment by Gender, Fall FY 2016

Gender	Full-time		Part-time		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	10	20.8%	6,466	55.5%	6,476	55.3%
Female	38	79.2%	5,187	44.5%	5,225	44.7%
Total	48	100%	11,653	100.0%	11,701	100.0%

Source: IPEDS Fall Enrollment Survey

Please note, Thomas Edison State University's Fall 2016 IPEDS Enrollment Survey counts are based on only the enrollment counts as of October. In the past, the Fall Enrollment Survey counts included all students who enrolled during the fiscal year.

Thomas Edison State University  
Table II.C.3.c:  
Undergraduate Enrollment by Age, Fall FY 2016

	Full-time		Part-time		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
LT 18	--	--	10	0.1%	10	0.1%
18-19	1	2.1%	100	0.9%	101	0.9%
20-21	1	2.1%	357	3.1%	358	3.1%
22-24	7	14.6%	1,045	9.0%	1,052	9.0%
25-29	15	31.3%	2,391	20.5%	2,406	20.6%
30-34	11	22.9%	2,357	20.2%	2,368	20.2%
35-39	5	10.4%	1,915	16.4%	1,920	16.4%
40-49	8	16.7%	2,244	19.3%	2,252	19.2%
50-64	--	--	1,121	9.6%	1,121	9.6%
65+	--	--	32	0.3%	32	0.3%
Unknown	--	--	81	0.7%	81	0.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>11,653</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>11,701</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: IPEDS Fall Enrollment Survey. Please note, Thomas Edison State University's Fall 2016 IPEDS Enrollment Survey counts are based on only the enrollment counts as of October. In the past, the Fall Enrollment Survey counts included all students who enrolled during the fiscal year.

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 University  
Table II.C.4:  
Financial Aid from Federal, State & Institution-Funded Programs, AY 2015-16

	Recipients	Dollars(\$)	\$/Recipient
<b><u>FEDERAL PROGRAMS</u></b>			
Pell Grants	2,256	4,793,000	2,124.56
University Work Study			-
Perkins Loans			-
SEOG			-
PLUS Loans	7	23,000	-
Stafford Loans (Subsidized)	2,161	6,614,000	3,060.62
Stafford Loans (Unsubsidized)	2,409	12,139,000	5,039.02
SMART & ACG or other			-
<b><u>STATE PROGRAMS</u></b>			
Tuition Aid Grants (TAG)	61	98,000	1,606.56
Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF)			-
Outstanding Scholars (OSRP)			-
Distinguished Scholars			-
Urban Scholars			-
NJ STARS	7	65,000	9,285.71
NJCLASS Loans			-
<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 number of active military students enrolled, the University examines residence by military status. As the table below indicates, among nonmilitary students, 56 percent of the enrolled students were New Jersey residents. Five percent of the military students were also N.J. residents.

Thomas Edison State University  
Table II.C.5:  
FY 2016 Enrollment by Military Status and Residence

Residence	Non-Military		Active Military		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
New Jersey	7,045	55.7%	260	5.3%	7,305	41.7%
Out of State	5,381	42.6%	4,423	90.9%	9,804	56.0%
International	96	0.8%	7	0.1%	103	0.6%
Unknown	124	1.0%	175	3.6%	299	1.7%
Total	12,646	100.0%	4,865	100.0%	17,511	100.0%

Source: Thomas Edison State University, FY 2017 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 University.
  - b. Two-year graduation rate (community colleges). This section is not applicable to Thomas Edison State University.
  - c. Three-year graduation and transfer rate by race/ethnicity (community colleges). This section is not applicable to Thomas Edison State University.
2. Third-semester retention rates (by attendance status). This section is not applicable to Thomas Edison State University.
3. Time-to-Degree Completion. Since Thomas Edison State University enrolls primarily adult students who often bring in credit upon enrollment, the University monitors time-to-degree completion to examine how long it takes graduates to earn a degree from the University.

As presented in Table II.D:3a below, during FY 2017, the associate degree graduates took, on average, 3.8 years to graduate, the bachelor’s degree graduates took 4.1 years to graduate and the master’s degree graduates took 3.1 years to graduate.

Thomas Edison State University  
Table II.D.3.a:  
FY 2017 Graduates Time-to-Degree Completion by Degree Level

	Associate	Baccalaureate	Master’s
Overall	3.8	4.1	3.1

Source: Thomas Edison State University, FY 2017 Year End Data File: Degrees Awarded.

The University 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 University  
Table II.D.3.b:  
FY 2017 Graduates Time-to-Degree Completion by Degree Level and Residence

	Associate	Baccalaureate	Master’s
NJ Residents	3.5	4.5	3.1
Out-of-State Residents	3.9	4.0	3.3

Source: Thomas Edison State University, FY 2017 Year End Data File: Degrees Awarded.

4. **Student Learning Outcomes.** In keeping with its mission, Thomas Edison State University is committed to maintaining high standards of academic integrity and of quality service to its students. To achieve this goal, the University engages in outcomes assessment, a process through which the effectiveness of the University and its programs is evaluated against institutionally determined standards. Thomas Edison State University'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.

a. Undergraduate Institutional Learning Outcomes

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

- Written Communication
- Oral Communication
- Information Literacy
- Quantitative Reasoning/Literacy
- Diversity/Intercultural Literacy
- Ethical Leadership
- Civic Engagement
- Critical Thinking

b. Institutional Graduate Learning Outcomes

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

- Apply in-depth knowledge of the current major questions, theories, debates and methodologies in their 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 organization and community decision making.
- 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 University.
2. Percentage of course sections taught by full-time faculty. This section is not applicable to Thomas Edison State University.
3. Ratio of full- to part-time faculty. This section is not applicable to Thomas Edison State University.
4. Mentor characteristics: race/ethnicity and gender. Thomas Edison State University signs letters-of-agreement with subject-matter experts. These mentors and consultants engage with the academic units of the University 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 2017, there were 797 mentors. The gender and race/ethnicity of the mentors are presented below.

Thomas Edison State University  
 Table II.E.4.a:  
 Gender of Mentors, FY 2017

Gender	Total	%
Female	423	48%
Male	373	52%
Blank	1	0%
Total	797	100%

Thomas Edison State University  
 Table II.E.4.b:  
 Race/Ethnicity of Mentors, FY 2017

Race/Ethnicity	Total	%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	10	1%
Asian	47	6%
Black/African American	90	11%
White	623	78%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	0%
Hispanic/Latino	10	1%
Other	7	1%
Blank	9	1%
Total	797	100%

**F. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Board of Trustees is the premier governing body of the University. 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 University, including the approval of degree programs and standards, budget recommendations to the governor, and appointments of all University 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 University  
Table II.F.1  
Race/Ethnicity and Gender of the Board of Trustees, FY 2018

Race/Ethnicity	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
White	5	-	5
Black	2	3	5
Hispanic	1	-	1
Asian	-	-	-
American Indian	-	-	-
Total	8	3	11

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

Thomas Edison State University  
Table II.F.2  
Board of Trustees, FY 2018

Name	Title	Affiliation
Dr. Fred J. Abbate (Deceased 8/11/2017)	Adjunct Professor	Drexel University
Dr. Kemi Alli	CEO and Chief Medical Officer	Henry J. Austin Health Center
Richard W. Arndt	Retired	American Cancer Society
Franklin Clyburn (Vice Chair)	CEO, Global Oncology	Merck & Co., Inc.
Gregory S. Gazurian	Data Analyst	
Rev. J. Stanley Justice	Presiding Elder	Dover, Delaware Area AME Churches
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 University
Apryl Roach	Administrative Manager, Compliance Officer	Franklin Township Sewerage Authority

3. URL Information. For information about the Thomas Edison State University Board of Directors, please go to: <http://www.tesu.edu/about/Board-of-Trustees.cfm>.

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

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

**Undergraduate Degree Programs and Certificates.** Thomas Edison State University offers seven associate degrees and 16 bachelor's degrees (including four joint degree programs with the Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey's 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 Arts, Associate in Arts in Human Services, Associate in Science, Associate in Science in Business Administration, Associate in Science in Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and Associate of Science.

The Bachelor's Degree Programs include: Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity, Bachelor of Science in Data Science and Analytics, Bachelor of Science in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, Bachelor of Science in Human Services, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership, and Bachelor of Science in Professional Studies. There are also several joint degree programs offered with the Rutgers School of Health Professions: Bachelor of Science in Health Information Management, Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences, Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging Sciences, and Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics.

The University offers three types of Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs: RN to BSN, RN to BSN/MSN, and an Accelerated 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 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.

The University also awards Certificates in the following professional areas: Accounting, Communications, Computer Information Systems, Computer Science, Criminal Justice, Cybersecurity, Diversity, Electronics, Finance, Health and Wellness, General Management, Gas Distribution, Human Resources Management, Labor Studies, Marketing, Operations Management, Organizational Leadership, Polysomnography, and Psychology.

**Graduate Degree Programs and Certificates.** The University currently offers fifteen master's degree programs and one doctoral program (Doctor of Nursing Practice). The master's degree programs are 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, Master of Science in Healthcare Management, Master of Science in Homeland Security, Master of Science in Hospitality Management, Master of Science in Human Resources Management, Master of Science in Information Technology, Master of Science in International Business

Finance, Master of Science in Management, Master of Science in Management – Public Service Careers, 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.

The Master of Business Administration is a 39-credit accelerated, online, and career-focused MBA degree that prepares individuals for leadership roles in firms and organizations. The entire program can be completed in 12-15 months. The Master of Public Service Leadership is a 36-credit program offered entirely online and meets the accelerating demand for education and careers in public service. The Master of Public Service Leadership has been developed in alignment with the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) standards for accreditation.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree, launched in FY 2017, prepares nurse leaders with competencies in advanced nursing practice, organizational leadership, economics and finance, healthcare policy and technology. It is a 36-credit program that can be completed online in 18 months.

There are also 18 graduate Certificate programs offered: Clinical Trials Management, Cybersecurity – Critical Infrastructure, Data Analytics, Digital Humanities, Educational Leadership, Fundraising and Development, Geropsychology, Homeland Security, Human Resources Management, Industrial-Organizational Psychology, Nurse Educator, Nursing Administration, and Nursing Informatics, Online Learning and Teaching, Organizational Leadership, Professional Communications, Project Management, and Strategic Planning and Board Leadership for Nonprofits.

There are also several Bachelor's to Master's degree programs available that enable undergraduate students to earn up to 12 graduate credits that apply to both their bachelor's degree and a master's degree at the University.

More information about the degree programs offered by the University and the majors/ areas of study offered is available on the University website, <http://www.tesu.edu/academics/index.cfm>.

## 2. Other

**Affiliation with New Jersey State Library.** Legislation codifying in statute the affiliation of the New Jersey State Library with Thomas Edison State University 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 University. 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 2017 National Institute was *The Art & Science (and Business) of PLA*. The keynote speakers were Dr. Alan Mandell, College Professor of Adult Learning and Mentoring at SUNY Empire State College, and Dr. Jon Talbot, Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) at the Centre for Work Related Studies at the University of Chester, England. More information about the Institute can be found at <http://www.tesu.edu/national-institute/>.

**Noncredit Certificates and Courses.** Through the John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies, Thomas Edison State University 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, Cyber/Homeland Security, Fitness Training and Fitness Management, Human Resources/Career Development, Nonprofit Management, Nutrition, and Radiation Safety. More information about these noncredit certificates and courses can be found at: <http://www.tesu.edu/watson/Find-Noncredit-Program.cfm>.

## **H. MAJOR RESEARCH AND PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

Thomas Edison State University 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 University, contributes to the public service activities of the University (see “Other” section below). Highlights of some of the University’s activities are provided below.

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

The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy assists decision makers to address the key public policy issues they face through its research and 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: Center for Civic Engagement and Leadership Development, including Leadership Trenton, Center for the Positive Development of Urban Children, Center for Health Policy Development, Center for Technical Assistance and Capacity Building, including Inter-Governmental Affairs, and the Center for the Urban Environment. The Institute also serves the New Jersey Urban Mayors Policy Center/Urban Mayors Institute in several ways, including holding conferences, meetings, workshops, municipal retreats, policy review and analysis.

Highlights from the Institute’s activities during FY 2017 include: receiving a grant to expand a training program for early childhood educators that helps increase teachers’ cultural awareness of students from diverse backgrounds; serving on the Healthy Homes and Communities steering committee to address the State of New Jersey’s lead epidemic; and guiding the development of the Capital City Farm, the 2-acre urban farm in East Trenton that is in its second year.

At the national level, the Institute participated in an ongoing national project on a climate change mitigation policy that included co-chairing a national workgroup and planning a collaboration with the New School in Manhattan, New York, and the Center for Earth, Energy and the Environment in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Additionally, funded by the United States Economic Development Administration, the Institute developed and submitted an urban focused Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) on behalf of 20 New Jersey municipalities, which focused on economic growth in the region.

The Institute was also actively engaged in state conferences, such as collaborating with NJ Spotlight for the NJ Spotlight on Cities conference in Newark and conducting a session on “The Gubernatorial Race and the Urban Agenda” during the New Jersey League of Municipalities Annual Conference.

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 2017, the Division sponsored a Community Involvement Fair at which more than 40 local organizations provided information on services and volunteer opportunities to more than 150 College staff and the public. Other events sponsored by this division of the University included the Trenton YMCA 5K race, the Trenton Half Marathon, and events at Passage Theatre.

The University's Division of Community and Government Affairs also partnered with the Trenton Health Team, a community health improvement collaborative, serving Trenton, New Jersey.

## Military and Veteran Activities

The University hosted a Veteran Career and Resource Event at the Sun National Bank Center in Trenton, which included service providers and representatives from various organizations to help support the transition and postsecondary advancement of the nation's veterans. The event was free of charge for all active duty military, veterans and their families. Additionally, the University was awarded a grant to support the University's Military and Veteran Portal Career Enhancement Initiative, which will help service members' transition to civilian jobs.

## **I. MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS UNDERWAY IN FY 2017**

In FY 2017, the relocation of the offices and staff to the Glen Cairn Hall building was completed. The 35,000-square foot building is equipped with state-of-the-art nursing simulation laboratories, lecture halls, conferences rooms, a testing center, and a green roof that creates an outdoor space for students and staff.

## **OTHER INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION**

### **University Selected Highlights**

**Educational Quality through Innovation Partnerships program.** The University was selected by the U.S. Department of Education as one of the eight institutions for an experimental federal pilot program, Educational Quality through Innovation Partnerships (EQUIP). The program aims at promoting, expanding, and measuring college access, affordability, and student outcomes. Through this program, students who enroll in programs offered by non-traditional training providers have access to federal student aid for the first time.

**Scholarship Grant from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) awarded scholarship funds to the University to benefit students enrolled in undergraduate programs related to the nuclear energy industry.

### **New Jersey State Library Selected Highlights**

**Career Connections.** The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development partnered with the New Jersey State Library (NJSL) and local public libraries to expand opportunities for New Jersey job seekers to connect with employment and training resources. NJSL received a grant during FY 2017 to become one of the New Jersey Career Connections sites that provides several services, such as comprehensive jobseeker assistance, referrals to local One-Stop Career Centers, and training opportunities using the Career Connections framework and specialized library resources.

**Adult Literacy and Community Library Partnership Pilot Program.** The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development also partnered with NJSL and local public libraries in implementing the Adult Literacy and Community Library Partnership Pilot Program. This program funded 11 local public libraries to provide adult literacy training on adult basic education and/or English Language proficiency skills. The training was conducted in cooperation with New Jersey's federal Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title II adult literacy instructional service providers.

**Disaster Preparedness Training & Activities.** NJSL partnered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region II to bring a series of free preparedness activities to libraries throughout the state. The goal was to promote personal and community preparedness for various scenarios (e.g., active shooter, hurricane, flooding, and power outage), as well as small business and pet preparedness.

**The New Jersey Digital Newspaper Project.** NJSL is collaborating with Rutgers University Libraries and the New Jersey State Archives to digitize significant historical newspapers from the state and make them available to anyone in the world. Over a two-year period, the project will digitize and catalog at least 100,000 newspaper pages, originally published between 1836 and 1922. The West-Jersey Pioneer/Bridgeton Pioneer, Jersey City News, and Perth Amboy Evening News were selected for digitization.