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Office Of The President
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MEMORANDUM
September 8, 1989

TO: Members, Board of Trustees
FROM: George A. Pruitt 
SUBJ: President's Report

FY 1990 Budget

On July 1, 1989, The Governor signed the FY 1990 budget for Thomas A. Edison State College. The budget was approved at \$5,583,000, including a state appropriation of \$3,684,000. The College received funding of \$466,000 to institutionalize the Challenge Grant, and received continuation support for the 30 positions that were provided to the institution in the FY 1989 budget within the College's base for FY 1990. The original Governor's recommendation reduced the College's budget by \$78,000 from the FY 1989 amount. The final appropriation by the Legislature reduced the figure an additional \$80,000, for a total reduction of \$158,000. Although a cut of this magnitude is painful, it is manageable and can be accommodated without any major adverse effects on the College's operations. In fact, given the severity of the state's fiscal crisis, there is much reason to be pleased with this outcome.

National Institute

The first annual National Institute on the Assessment of Experiential Learning, held at the Henry Chauncey Conference Center July 16-20, was a huge success. The purpose of the National Institute is to train professionals to manage or initiate programs in prior learning assessment.

The participants were an intelligent, spirited, and interesting group of administrators and faculty from all over the country. They were enthusiastic about the quality of the sessions led by the distinguished faculty, as well as the informal exchange of ideas and experiences with colleagues.

The Office of Testing and Assessment taped the sessions and will be publishing the proceedings. This will be available to the academic community at large for a reasonable fee.

Plans are now being discussed for next year's National Institute.

Payroll

On July 1, 1989 the College assumed the authority and responsibility for producing the College's payroll. The first checks issued pursuant to this authority were given to the staff on Thursday afternoon, July 20. The conversion was successfully achieved, and the activity was uneventful. An extraordinary amount of work went into achieving this feat, and several members of our staff performed heroically. The cutting of payroll checks is a simple matter. However, developing a system to handle the numerous and complex reports associated with payroll is an enormously complicated endeavor. Carron Albert, Director of Personnel, and her staff; Farouk Hassieb, our Controller, and his staff, along with several members of the MIS staff; deserve our special gratitude for a job well-done.

Commencement

Just a reminder that our annual commencement is set for Sunday, October 15 at The War Memorial building at 2:00 p.m. I'm pleased to announce that Dr. Badi Foster, President, AETna Institute for Corporate Education of AETna Insurance Companies has accepted the College's invitation to be our commencement speaker.

Southern New Jersey Technology Consortium (SNJTC)

The cooperation of the College with the SNJTC has resulted in two recent actions through the efforts of Dr. Ruth M. McKeefery, Dean of Academic Programs. The consortium will offer a review course for the Professional Engineer's Examination at four sites in southern New Jersey. The review course is produced by Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and is to be delivered via video tapes with telephone contact to the professors delivering the 36 hours of instruction. The review course will be offered at the FAA Technical Center in Pomona, PSE&G in Salem, Cherry Hill Industrial Center in Cherry Hill, and Brick Computer Science Institute in Brick, New Jersey.

The current issue of The CONSORTIUM Uplink is a special education issue prepared by Dr. Ruth M. McKeefery. The articles emphasize educational opportunities offered by those colleges serving southern New Jersey. Three Edison articles address the Edison Guided Study Program, Thomas A. Edison State College Examination Program (TECEP), and tuition aid policies at businesses and corporations. Copies of the issue are being made available to members of the Board of Trustees.

Division of Public Affairs

The Division of Public Affairs started the new year with several significant personnel changes. With the resignation of Dr. Richard S. Hansen, Dr. Sonja A. Eveslage was appointed as Interim Vice President. In turn, Dr. Lansing Davis was appointed Interim Director of the Center for Corporate and

Public Partnerships. Dr. Davis has been with the College since 1981 and with the Center since its inception. Dr. Davis completed his doctoral work in Adult and Continuing Education in September 1988 at Rutgers University. His dissertation, titled "Deterrents to Bank Managers' Participation in Work-Related Continuing Education," has been instructive in the Center's outreach efforts to the banking industry.

The Office of Communications worked one staff member short as Barbara Waters Eklund, Director of Publications, began a maternity leave scheduled to extend until December. Tom and Barbara are the proud parents of Katherine Joan born July 6 and weighed 9 lbs. 10 oz. at birth.

Admissions

July applications set a new high for the month. The 380 applications received represent a 40 percent increase over last year's 270 applications, and is the fourth highest application month since 1986. Continued focused outreach activities provide the backdrop for the increased applications.

To cultivate Educational Service Officers (ESO) and to encourage them to share Edison information, Mr. Nick Green, Director of Admissions, made a presentation to the Bi-Annual U.S. Army Continuing Education System Conference at Sonthofen, Germany. Because educational service officers are key college information sources on military bases, the link to them is critical as the College works to reach military personnel. Dr. McKeefery will attend the Pacific Theater Educational Officers meeting in Korea this month.

WANG Laboratories deserves special note. A monthly orientation session has been scheduled at Wang Laboratories Carnegie Center location. WANG employees, as well as the employees of other businesses with space at the Center, are invited to the session.

Center for Corporate and Public Partnerships

The Center for Corporate and Public Partnerships convened the first State of New Jersey Advisory Board to assist the Office of Corporate Programs in addressing the educational needs of state agencies and their employees. Currently, the Board is comprised of five state administrators who have worked with the Center, and who are familiar with the College's organizational collaborative activities. This group will serve as a satellite to the larger advisory board of the Center. The Board members made a number of substantive recommendations relating to strategies and services that may enhance the Center's ability to address educational needs.

Communications and College Relations

College Relations. Staff participated in the New Jersey Jubilee exhibit at the New Jersey State Fair held August 4-13, 1989, in Cherry Hill. The College had a booth with Edison literature and materials, and a staff representative was available to handle inquiries from the public.

Media Relations. The weekly column in The Times (Trenton) has been utilized to feature articles about Edison programs and staff initiatives. The topics covered included our participation in the Bi-Annual Conference of the U.S. Army Continuing Education System Conference held in Sonthofen, Germany and the National Institute on Experiential Learning co-sponsored by Thomas A. Edison State College and CAEL.

Photo coverage was arranged for college participation in the Annual New Jersey Black Issues Convention to be held September 20-24, 1989, in Cherry Hill, and the Veterans Affairs luncheon to be held at McGuire Air Force Base on September 26, 1989.

Two of the College's Hispanic staff members appeared in July on Philadelphia's station WPVI-TV's Puerto Rican Panorama. In addition, an interview with the President over a nationally-syndicated radio program distributed to Black-oriented radio stations aired on August 2, 1989 to over 70 stations.

Senior citizens returning to school were highlighted in the annual education issue of the Star Ledger (Newark)--the newspaper with the largest circulation in New Jersey. The article featured interviews with senior citizens who are presently Edison students or graduates.

Office of Development

Steering Committee for Dynalogic Fund-Raising Package. A group of College staff members are serving as a steering committee for the implementation of a complete software package for fund raising and record keeping. This system is compatible with the computer hardware present at the College, as well as the accounting and finance information system now on line. This group met for the first time in June, and will continue to meet monthly in working towards a January 1990 start up. The positive advantages of this addition will be the computer technology support to increase our capability in recording all prospects and donors--not just alumni. Touche Ross (of Trenton) is serving as the quality assurance consultants for the project organization. A strategic plan has been set in place to chart activities, tasks, details, and dates related to the project.

Grants. We have learned that New Jersey Bell has turned down our request for the balance needed to complete the satellite downlink project, but they made an unrestricted gift of \$2,500. Bell presented a restricted \$1,250 stipend as their annual scholarship gift earlier in the year. Mr. George Fricke of the Foundation Board of Directors has been the spear-carrier in our efforts with this corporation. At Mr. Fricke's suggestion, a proposal is being sent to Bell Atlantic requesting the balance of support necessary for completion of the downlink project.

A \$20,000 request to the Merck Company Foundation for our BSN Program has reached the second level of consideration. It should be noted that all grant funds for the BSN Program now have been expended in establishing

assessment test sites for implementation of the final nursing performance examination--the Clinical Performance in Nursing Examination (CPNE) at a site in New Jersey. A final report to The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation regarding their \$15,000 grant for the above purpose was submitted in July.

Alumni Affairs

The 1989 Nominating Committee of the Alumni Association has put together an impressive slate for the annual meeting scheduled for October. Directors are moving up to the Executive Committee level, and new graduates are being selected for Directorships. This year's candidates have been so impressive and eager to serve that the nominees not on the slate are being asked to serve as Associate Directors and committee members.

Alumni are gearing up for the Commencement Awards Banquet to be held at Scanticon-Princeton immediately following Commencement ceremonies. This year, we hope to have more alumni involved in the day's activities.

Bid Waiver Update

The Board of Trustees authorized a bid waiver of \$30,000 for the College to purchase a catalog. On July 19, 1989, 30,000 copies of the catalog were received by the College at a cost of \$29,586.

Resignations

The following people have resigned from the College:

Richard Hansen	-	Division of Public Affairs
Maris Cutting	-	Registrar's Office
Ponda Hynson	-	Registrar's Office
Judy Brown	-	Registrar's Office