


Thomas A. Edison State College
101 West State Street
CN 545
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Office Of The President
(609) 984-1105

M E M O R A N D U M
September 14, 1990

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

As is our custom, the President's Annual Report to the Board serves as the President's Report for the September annual meeting of the Board. However, there are some matters of significance which have occurred since the June meeting that I would like to brief you on.

Digital Equipment Corporation Gift. I am delighted to inform you that the College has received the single largest gift in its history from the Digital Equipment Corporation. The "street value" of the equipment to be received by the College is approximately \$650,000. This grant will allow the College to become its own "host" for the CALL Network. Currently, we are dependent on the New Jersey Educational Computing Network (NJEEN) for the network which enables our students and faculty to communicate with the College. Following the implementation of the grant, we will have this capability in-house here at the College. It should be further noted that the equipment we will receive is "state-of-the-art" technology and is configured with 100% redundancy to provide for backup of the operating system.

The College is especially indebted to the active leadership of Foundation Board member John Fischer. It was John's advocacy within Digital and strategic leadership that was the critical factor in the success of our proposal.

Development of the Capital Institute. We have had on the drawing board for some time the idea of developing the capacity, through the Center for Corporate and Public Partnerships, of an initiative to apply the resources of academia to inform public policy development. You have heard us discuss this initiative under the heading of "The Capital Institute." Coincidentally, we have been approached by Douglas Palmer, the new Mayor of Trenton, for assistance in the development of a nonpartisan "think tank" to assist the city in coping with the many challenges facing our state's capital. The timing is fortuitous for both the city and the College, and we are engaged in discussions to describe how such an organization can be made operational.

While the City of Trenton is a significant client, we see the potential of others, including state government, the business community, etc. We will be seeking private funding to supplement any resources made available by the College and the city to initiate this enterprise. There is a potential for this initiative to represent a significant enhancement in the public service role of Thomas Edison State College.

FY 1991 Budget. On July 1, 1990, the Governor signed the FY 1991 budget for Thomas Edison State College. The budget was approved at \$6,246,240, including a state appropriation of \$3,332,000, reduced from \$3,899,000 by the amount of \$567,000 or 14.5%. The College continued to receive the \$466,000 allocation in Challenge Grant funds institutionalized in the FY 1990 budget. The FY 1991 salary program is calculated at \$273,000 to be received in quarterly increments of \$68,250 with the first increment due on September 30, 1990. This represents an increase of 8.6% over the FY 1991 original appropriation.

This 14.5% reduction was managed by freezing 10 positions and increasing student fees revenue by 7%. By taking the above actions, the College was able to avoid any major adverse effect on its operation.

Storm Clouds Remain on the Budget Horizon. Despite unprecedented cuts in state spending coupled with a large increase in state taxes, the state's fiscal condition for FY '92 continues to look bleak. Higher education has been given preliminary planning information by the state to anticipate another 8% reduction in state appropriations. While at this point this figure represents a planning assumption, it does not bode well for the future. I will keep you advised as the budget process proceeds.

Bid Waiver Updates. At the March 9, 1990 Board meeting, bid waivers were approved for publishing an Admissions Viewbook and a Guided Study course registration bulletin.

- 1) The Admissions Viewbook, now called The Prospectus, was printed by Marketing Graphics at a cost of \$38,548. The estimated cost was approximately \$36,000.
- 2) The Guided Study course registration bulletin was printed by Parker Printing Company at a cost of \$13,025. The estimated cost was approximately \$13,000.

Resignations. The following people have resigned from the College:

Barbara Waters-Eklund	- Office of Publications
Idalie Munoz	- Office of Communications and College Relations
Mildred Smith	- Nursing Office
Muriel Jones	- Registrar's Office
Susan Hendler	- Admissions Services