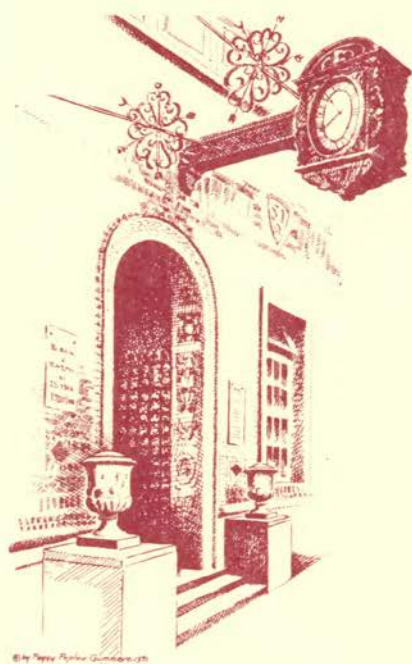


# The Presidential Inaugural



Thomas A. Edison State College

*The Inauguration of  
Dr. George Albert Pruitt  
as the Third President of  
Thomas A. Edison State College*

The Ninth of July  
Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-three  
in the New Jersey State Museum Auditorium

## The Academic Procession

The College Staff  
The Academic Council  
The Institutional Representatives  
The Platform Party

## Learned and Professional Societies Represented

American Association of State Colleges and Universities  
American Council on Education  
Council for the Advancement of Experiential Learning  
Council for Advancement and Support of Education

## Institutions Represented

1766 Rutgers, The State University  
1804 Ohio University  
1812 Princeton Theological Seminary  
1826 Lafayette College  
1852 Antioch University  
1855 Kean College of New Jersey  
1855 Trenton State College  
1857 Illinois State University  
1865 Rider College  
1866 Towson State University  
1867 Chicago State University  
1868 Bloomfield College  
1869 Clark College  
1869 Southern Illinois University System  
1876 Meharry Medical College  
1897 Voorhees College  
1908 Georgian Court College  
1908 Montclair State College  
1912 Tennessee State University  
1923 Glassboro State College  
1927 Jersey City State College  
1939 Caldwell College  
1942 Fairleigh Dickinson University  
1961 Northeastern Illinois University  
1961 Ramapo College of New Jersey  
1966 Essex County Community College  
1966 Mercer County Community College  
1967 Wright State University  
1968 Bergen County Community College  
1969 The Union For Experimenting Colleges And Universities  
1981 Warren County Community College



## The Inauguration Program

*Alan Ferguson, Vice Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, presiding*

The Academic Procession

The Welcome and Statement of Occasion

The Invocation

Special Greetings

History and Mission of Thomas A. Edison State College, *Chancellor  
T. Edward Hollander*

Introduction of Special Guests

Introduction of Representatives from Learned Societies

Address by *Morris T. Keeton, President, Council for the Advance-  
ment of Experiential Learning*

Musical Selection, *Dr. Arnold Fletcher, Vice President Emeritus,  
Thomas A. Edison State College*

The Investiture

Presentation of the President  
Bestowal of the Medallion

The Inaugural Address

Benediction

Recessional

*The reception will be held in the museum galleries immediately following the  
recessional.*

## Dr. George Albert Pruitt

Dr. George A. Pruitt, who today is officially invested as the third President of Thomas A. Edison State College, has held a number of significant leadership positions in higher education. Before coming to Edison State College in December 1982, he was the Executive Vice President of the Council for the Advancement of Experiential Learning (CAEL), a national association of colleges and universities that support the concept that students should receive college credit for academically relevant noncollege learning.

He also served as Vice President and Professor of Education at Tennessee State University, Nashville, Tennessee; Vice President, Executive Assistant to the President, and Associate Professor of Urban Affairs, Morgan State University, Baltimore, Maryland; Dean of Students, Towson State College, Towson, Maryland; Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Instructor in Education, Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois.

Dr. Pruitt attended the University of Illinois, and received the Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from Illinois State University. He received his Ph.D. from The Union Graduate School in Cincinnati, Ohio.

He has served as an accreditation evaluator for the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator for the American Association for Higher Education; member of the Board of Trustees of the Greater Baltimore Medical Center and the Board of Trustees of the Nashville Urban League. He has been honored with numerous citations and awards for public service and contributions to higher education.

## Presidents of the College

Dr. James Douglas Brown, Jr.	1972-1978
Dr. Lorraine R. Matusak	1979-1982
Dr. George A. Pruitt	1982-

## Board of Trustees

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Chancellor T. Edward Hollander, *Ex Officio*  
Commissioner Saul Cooperman, *Ex Officio*

The Honorable Thomas H. Kean  
Governor  
The State of New Jersey



# Thomas A. Edison State College

## *A Unique Role in Adult Higher Education*

The important research of the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education (1967-1973) produced a number of reports which recommended the development of college degree opportunities to underserved populations. Of particular emphasis to the Commission was the need to provide flexible and accessible, yet high-quality, college opportunities for an ever-increasing adult student population.

One innovative approach to the challenge of the Carnegie Commission has been the external degree college: an institution through which a student can earn college credits and degrees without physically attending classes on campus. Thomas A. Edison State College, Trenton, New Jersey, is perhaps the most outstanding external degree institution in the country.

Thomas A. Edison State College was founded in 1972 by the New Jersey Board of Higher Education. In line with priorities identified by the Carnegie Commission, Edison State College was charged with expanding the educational opportunities of adult learners. The College developed under two guiding assumptions: 1) Many adults, through work, leisure activities, and formal or informal training activities, acquire college-level knowledge for which they have not been awarded college credit, and 2) college credit should be granted for the *demonstration of college-level knowledge*, regardless of the source of that knowledge. Hence, Thomas A. Edison State College does not offer instruction; rather it specializes in the *evaluation* of knowledge, the ultimate criterion for credit in any college.

The Edison State College student body, average age 39, represents unique adult learners who have been unable to complete a college degree for personal, financial, or work-related reasons. Self-directed, often with a hard-won mastery of exacting subject matter, Edison State College students have found the college which serves their needs as adults.

Edison students may earn credit through one or all of the following methods: demonstrating, through documentation and/or performance, learning gained outside the college classroom; passing course-equivalent examinations; and transferring credits earned at other colleges. Credits transcribed through these methods may be applied to three associate and four baccalaureate degree programs covering studies as diverse as liberal arts, business, technologies, health services, and human services.

The ultimate test of a college program is quality. Edison State College is proud of the quality of its graduates and of its academic programs. Edison graduates have been accepted into more than 125 graduate schools nationwide, including most of the Ivy League. Nearly one-half of Edison graduates apply to graduate school, and 84 percent are accepted into the school of their first choice.

As a leading institution in nontraditional adult higher education, Thomas A. Edison State College is committed to continuously expanding the educational opportunities of adult learners.