



distance & independent

adult • learning

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

TRENTON, N.J.

SIGNALS

FALL 1996

VOLUME 2 NO. 2

The Degree Pathways Program

A Partnership between Thomas Edison State College and County/Community Colleges

In 1993, Thomas Edison State College initiated a partnership (the New Jersey Baccalaureate Degree Completion Program) with the county/community colleges in New Jersey to offer baccalaureate degrees at a distance to adult students completing associate's degrees. The very popular New Jersey Baccalaureate Degree Completion Program has been a great success and has enabled people throughout the State to earn baccalaureate degrees without having to leave their home counties.

Since its inception, this partnership between Thomas Edison State College and New Jersey's county/community colleges has grown steadily in size and scope, and there are plans to eventually extend the program outside of New Jersey. Now, to better reflect its mission to students, the name of the program has been changed from New Jersey Baccalaureate Degree Completion Program to the Degree Pathways Program. The Degree Pathways Program offers students the information and support

they need to make the step from one degree to the next—from the associate's degree to the bachelor's degree. DIAL students in New Jersey may be especially interested in completing degrees via Degree Pathways, since they already have experience with courses delivered at a distance and may contact their local county/community college for courses offered there.

Students in the Degree Pathways Program earn

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FACULTY PROFILE: Dr. Joseph C. Santora

Whether they are researching the rain forest of Central America, on-leave to direct a significant new initiative for the National Science Foundation in Washington or "retired" after a stellar career as a performing artist, faculty who serve Thomas Edison State College as mentors in the DIAL program are at the tops of their fields and enjoy sharing their teaching skills and extensive knowledge with adult students.

Dr. Joseph C. Santora is no exception. In addition to being a full professor at Essex County College, where he has worked for 21 years, Dr. Santora has traveled the world, speaking, researching and publishing in the field of management and leadership.



▲ Dr. Joseph C. Santora

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Register early to avoid mail delays during holiday rush!

WINTER '97 REGISTRATION:
Oct. 28- Nov.29, 1996

LATE REGISTRATION:
(\$50 fee)
Nov. 30- Dec. 6, 1996

WINTER SEMESTER BEGINS:
Jan. 6, 1997

Letter from the Director

This past week as I skimmed through the Wall Street Journal, I came across yet another article on colleges and universities using distance education technology to deliver their programs. This article focused on some of the highly ranked MBA programs (University of Michigan, Purdue University, Duke University) and their high tech push into the off-campus world.

With the plethora of distance education material in both the professional and popular media, a new perspective is emerging in higher education. No longer is distance education viewed as a peripheral activity, but rather as one that may hold the compass for the future. Those of us who have been traveling this road for some time find this new attention interesting, often naive and frequently unnerving.

One thing seems to be certain: those of you who have been pursuing your educational goals at a distance are closer to the mainstream than ever before. In fact, I'm sure many of you could give sound advice on what works and does not work. Hopefully, institutions will seek such advice as they deploy a wide array of technologies to serve their student populations.

DIAL's most recent venture into the era of new technology involves our first use of an interactive television (or ITV) classroom. In such a classroom, the students and the faculty member are linked with as many as three additional sites (for now, confined to New Jersey). Students at each site can see and hear each other as well as the faculty member. Thus, students in Newark can carry on a conversation with students in Toms River while the faculty and students at the South Plainfield site join in also. Classes meet one night a week, every other week throughout the semester.

If you think you would like to participate in an ITV class, please call us at (609) 292-4000, and we will put you on the mailing list for future class announcements.

William J. Seaton
Associate Vice President

Santora.....FROM P. 1

Dr. Santora's most recent trip took him to Australia, where he was appointed Visiting Professional Fellow at the Leadership Center at Monash-Eliza Business School, part of Monash University. He spent his time interviewing top Australian executives from the profit

sector to develop case studies similar to the Harvard Case Studies. He also taught in the Executive Development Program.

Two of the cases he developed while in Australia have already been accepted by Prentice Hall to be published in 1997.

From his work, Dr. Santora has observed that many managers worldwide still adopt U.S. management practices and believe that Americans are the great innovators. He found executives, CEOs and managing directors in Australia to be "more laid back, more accessible than Americans at their levels." He was surprised and pleased to be able to interview high ranking officials whose counterparts in the U.S. would more than likely have been unavailable to him.

He has interviewed many executives and sees a vivid distinction between leaders and managers, observing that very few people can be both. "Leaders provide the vision - they look beyond the day-to-day operations and want to think about where the company will be in three years, then five, then ten. Managers are more like the people who ran the 'mom and pop' type operations: they sold something, they replaced it and things pretty much stayed the same."

This summer's trip was the first extended time Dr. Santora had spent in that part of the world. "Australia, a continent of only 18 million people, reminds me of what the United States was like 35 years ago as far as friendliness and a sense of community and closeness. There are wonderful town centers and people seem to genuinely be involved in communities," stated Dr. Santora.

On the graduate level at Thomas Edison, Dr. Santora is a learning facilitator for part I of "Organizational Manage-

ment and Leadership Seminar."

Although he was only two weeks into the course when interviewed, Dr. Santora was excited about the course, especially with the extra appeal of working with the students on-line. In this first class, he is working with a group of AT&T employees, and he anticipates excellent exchanges as they discuss the theories in relation to what is happening in the business community today. Like many Thomas Edison students who work while attending college, there is the opportunity to apply theory learned in a course to hands-on-work experiences, thus enhancing the learning.

In addition to the work for the Master of Science in Management Program, Dr. Santora also has mentored Guided Study courses. He continues to serve on teams that evaluate education and training which occurs outside the collegiate sector and makes college credit recommendations for PONSI (Program on Noncollegiate Sponsored Instruction), an American Council on Education Program operated by Thomas Edison's Office of Corporate-Higher Education Programs.

Dr. Santora earned his Ed. D. in Administration Policy/Urban Education, at Fordham University in New York. In the '80s, he was a mid-career fellow at Princeton University, in the Woodrow Wilson Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. ■

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Pathways.....FROM P. 1

associate's degrees on county/community college campuses and then go on to complete Thomas Edison State College baccalaureate degrees through a variety of methods, including the many options offered by DIAL.

The Degree Pathways Program makes good sense for many county/community college students because Thomas Edison State College meets specific needs for some students that other four-year institutions do not. For example, Thomas Edison State College offers credit in flexible, often nontraditional formats that work especially well for community college graduates who have concentrated on career-oriented associate's degrees.

To facilitate the move from the county/community college associate's degree to the Thomas Edison State College baccalaureate degree, advisors, administrators and other staff work together in Degree Pathways Program

teams. The teams gather information and share it with students to determine the most efficient path to a baccalaureate degree. Thomas Edison State College offers six degrees (with more than 100 specializations, or "majors") at the baccalaureate level.

Thomas Edison State College advisors are in an excellent position to encourage students to earn credit toward baccalaureate degrees by taking appropriate classroom-based courses offered by the community college, as well as through Thomas Edison's distance-delivered, nontraditional options. Students may choose one or more of the following options, depending on learning-style preference and on availability of appropriate offerings:

- DIAL Guided Study Courses
- DIAL On-Line Computer Classroom Courses
- DIAL Contract Learning Courses

- Portfolio Assessment
- Examinations
- Correspondence (Independent) Study Courses
- Classroom Instruction

For more information about the Thomas Edison State College Degree Pathways Program, contact the Thomas Edison State College Office of Admissions at (609) 292-6565. ■

DIAL Welcomes New Guided Study Mentors

- **Ronald Calissi**, MBA Management, Fairleigh Dickinson University; J.D., Law, Seton Hall Law School
- **Jerald Cilente**, M.A., New School for Social Research
- **Joanne Goldenberg**, M.S. Computer Science, Fairleigh Dickinson University
- **Louis Gross**, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania
- **William Hunter**, M.A., Biology (Education), Fairleigh Dickinson University
- **Michael Schwartz**, M.A., English; M.A., Education, Temple University
- **Dr. Pamela Straker**, M.A., Ph.D., Hofstra University





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DIAL Students Awarded Scholarship

Two DIAL students were recently selected to receive American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Local 4277 Thomas M. Eklund Scholarships.

Linda Duncan of Willingboro, N.J., and Mary-Ellen Sabatino Casiere of Nutley, N.J., are the first recipients of the Scholarship. Both students are currently enrolled in DIAL courses and have taken DIAL courses in the past.

"Education is the key to success in our country today," said Duncan, in applying for the award. "Obtaining a Thomas Edison degree would broaden my educational background, and improve my employment opportunities."

DIAL students enrolled at Thomas Edison State

College may apply for this award to cover Thomas Edison State College fees, if they are deemed qualified for financial aid by the College's Office of Financial Aid and Veteran's Services. DIAL course tuition is one of the College fees covered under the Scholarship's

guidelines. Other fees covered include the Annual Enrollment Fee, Portfolio Assessment and Testing fees (TECEP, DANTES, CLEP, ACT/PEP, etc.). The application deadline is August 1. For more information, call the Financial Aid Office at (609) 756-2430. ■

COURSE PROFILE: C Programming

Students will have the opportunity to study and gain experience with C Programming, one of the most popular computer languages, in a course to be offered for the first time this Winter semester. In this 3-credit course students learn to write, debug and run programs in C lan-

guage – the increasingly popular UNIX-related, intermediate-level software development language. The course covers operators, variables, loops, functions, pointers, input-output, data types, structure and file operations.

To participate in this

course, students will need regular access to a computer with C compiler software, either an MS-DOS computer, or a Macintosh with PC emulation or with Soft PC installed. ■

