



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

TO: Members, Board of Trustees

FROM: George A. Pruitt
President

SUBJECT: Report of the President

I. Automation

The College has received final approval for the acquisition of a Wang mini-computer. The relevant paperwork has been processed and we expect delivery of the equipment before Christmas. The acquisition represents a long awaited and well deserved Christmas present for the College. Our MIS staff Drew Hopkins and David Oakley are especially commended for the excellent work they did in preparing the documentation and justification which resulted in the purchase of the computer.

II. ACE Conference on the External Degree

Edison State College was well represented at the Annual National Conference of the American Council on Education which was held at Columbus, Ohio, November 7-9. The presentations were made to this group by Susan Simosko, Paul Jacobs, Jack Phillips, and Arnold Fletcher. I delivered the keynote address. We were all very well received by scholars and educators throughout the country. It was a welcome contrast to be well known and famous in light of our diligent efforts to overcome our anonymity with the public in New Jersey. The staff presentations were well done.

III. Commencement

The Eleventh Annual Commencement of the College took place on October 30, 1983 at the War Memorial Auditorium here in Trenton. It was an excellent event and continues to be our most gratifying activity. It is enormously pleasing to have the opportunity to meet with our students and to match people with our programs and administrative activities. It is more than rhetoric to say that this College touches and changes lives. The opportunity to come face to face with our students continually reinforces this notion. Ernie Boyer gave an excellent address and we were indeed fortunate to have him as our guest. Commencement was preceded by a small luncheon with some of our trustees, local educators, and college presidents and was followed by our annual dinner for graduates and alumni. All in all, it was a good and productive day for the College, its graduates, and alumni.

IV. Edison State College and the Cooperman Initiative

On Tuesday, November 15, I had the occasion of meeting with Dr. Cooperman, Commissioner of Education for the State of New Jersey. At this meeting I had the opportunity to explore in some detail Dr. Cooperman's well publicized initiative. My individual meeting was followed by a group meeting later that afternoon with Dr. Cooperman, members of his staff, and the Council of State Colleges. Following that meeting I wrote Dr. Cooperman expressing my support for his initiatives as well as Edison's cooperation in appropriate areas. Certainly Edison is aware of and committed to the notion that competencies and learning can be achieved external to traditional College classes. While much of the press treatment of the Commissioner's proposal has centered around what is perceived to be a recommendation that "less qualified" teachers would be allowed in the classroom, I am convinced that the proposal is a good faith effort to increase standards over what is already a much used "alternative" route to achieving teacher certification. Many qualified persons, including most of the faculties at our Colleges and Universities, would currently be ineligible to meet certain requirements to teach in secondary schools. I would be delighted to elaborate further as to the principle ingredients of the Cooperman plan and a potential role for Edison in it.

V. Telecourses and Electronic College

Planning and discussions with the Department of Higher Education staff continue towards the development of Edison being a provider of instruction through media delivered formats. The function of these efforts represents an area of much significance for the College. As you will recall, Tom Seessel has continually raised questions trying to clarify an element of our mission as to whether we are or should become active participants in providing learning experiences for our students through the electronic college. We will for the first time take an active role with the learning our students receive while enrolled as an Edison State College student. Shortly, a proposal will be presented to the Department of Higher Education to have Edison be the institution in New Jersey responsible for upper division Telecourse instruction. Edison's role would be to register students for telecourses, to provide instructional materials which are part of the course, as well as to do the testing. This extension of Edison's mission for meeting the needs of adult students has the support of State College Academic Vice Presidents and the Chancellor's Office. The College continues to work on the implementation of the FIPSE grant To Educate the People. A meeting will be held on December 6 with Dr. Otto Feinstein of Wayne State University on the details of the grant with representation from the community colleges, the Department of Higher Education, and Edison.

VI. Progress Report on Project Learn

Significant progress has been made over the past several months to implement Project Learn:

- * An Advisory Board has been appointed.
- * Three micro-computers (IBM-PC/XT) have been ordered.
- * Various computerized guidance systems have been reviewed. Edison staff have provided direct input into both SIGI for adults and Discover II.

- * An evaluation plan has been completed.
- * A survey of other NJ colleges' computerized guidance systems to establish a referral network has been completed.
- * A successful one day Conference was held in June at Edison State College; 65 people were in attendance.
- * A workshop for counselors has been scheduled for February.
- * Numerous public presentations have been given to disseminate information about Project LEARN and the services of Edison State College.

Year activities will focus on providing direct services to students and increasing the new "New Jersey Network."

VIII. Externalizing the College

The Community Programs staff have made significant progress in marketing Edison services to corporations in New Jersey. As of this date, 160 organizational contacts have been made with corporations. As examples, these contacts have resulted in a portfolio development workshop at the Savings Bank of Central Jersey, briefings for employees at Brick Computer Institute, Singer Kearfott, DeVry Institute (4), and the National Bank and Trust Company of Gloucester County, and Program on Noncollegiate Sponsored Instruction evaluations at Upgrade Unlimited, AT&T (2), Chubb Institute, and the American Paralegal Institute. These services to corporations are being marketed through the Center for Management Education and Services.

Our inclusion in the Navy Campus has provided the opportunity for Jules Kahn to make presentations to Navy personnel on board the USS Patterson and the USS Farragut. I am also pleased to announce that the College has been accepted as a member of the Servicemen's Opportunity College Associate Degree Network. Inclusion in this Network of colleges, serving the military through associate degrees, will mean increased visibility for the College throughout the education structure in the military.

In relation to media coverage, the College was asked to participate in the New Jersey Job-A-Thon which was broadcast live over Channel 9, WOR-TV, on October 27, 1983. Rich Hansen was a guest resource person covering the topic of "Getting College Credit for What You Know."

IX. Committees of the Board

Now that the Chairman of the Board has made appointments to the relevant committees, the staff would like to plan initial committee meetings for each of the three standing committees during the month of January.

X. Foundation

Attached to this report you will find a copy of the most recent Foundation audit report. I will have available for you at the meeting copies of the revised Foundation by-laws for your inspection, including appropriate editorial changes made at the last meeting for your inspection.