

Capital Campus

AUGUST 2017

Dr. George A. Pruitt to Retire as President

One of the longest-sitting college or university presidents in the country

Dr. George A. Pruitt will retire as president of Thomas Edison State University at the end of this year, after more than three decades of leading New Jersey's only institution of higher education dedicated exclusively for adults.

"Serving as president of this wonderful University has been the single, greatest privilege of my professional life," said Pruitt. "I have no words to express my appreciation to the trustees, past and present, as well as my colleagues who have joined in the work of transforming the lives of the students we serve."



on the University and on higher education in this country is extraordinary," said Maloney. "We are grateful for Dr. Pruitt's remarkable leadership and his record of accomplishment over the past 35 years."

Pruitt was appointed as the school's third president in December 1982. Since then, he has led the institution's evolution into a comprehensive University with diverse academic programs that serve a wide range of students and organizations. He is one of the longest-sitting college or university presidents in the country.

Under Pruitt's leadership, Thomas Edison State University: became an early adopter

"Serving as president of this wonderful institution has been the single, greatest privilege of my professional life."

- Dr. George A. Pruitt, president

Pruitt formally notified the University Board of Trustees of his decision to retire in early June. Brian Maloney, chair of the Board of Trustees, said the board would form a search committee to oversee a national search to find the institution's next president.

"It is hard to imagine Thomas Edison State University without George Pruitt as its president. The impact that he has made

of online learning and one of the first schools in the country to offer online courses and degree programs; inaugurated what became one of New Jersey's largest nursing programs; became the largest provider of collegiate programs for active-duty military personnel in New Jersey and one of the country's largest providers of collegiate programs among senior public institutions serving the military and veterans; preserved historic buildings to

develop the University's campus in Trenton and transformed a key gateway to the capital city with the development of Glen Cairn Hall; established the National Institute on the Assessment of Adult Learning to teach educators throughout the world the best practices in the assessment of prior learning and experiential learning; assumed responsibility for the New Jersey State Library; and achieved university status.

Pruitt became a national and statewide leader in higher education as president of Thomas Edison State University. He served five secretaries of education under three presidents of both parties during his tenure as a member of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity. He continues to play a pivotal role testifying before Congress about the role of accreditation, the impact on adult students of federal initiatives proposed by the U.S. Department of Education and the importance of considering the needs of nontraditional students when determining education policy. Pruitt also served as chair of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the regional accrediting body for colleges and universities located in the Mid-Atlantic region. In addition, he was identified as one of the country's most effective college presidents in a study of presidential leadership funded by the Exxon Education Foundation.

In New Jersey, Pruitt was instrumental in working with other college and university presidents in securing autonomy for senior public institutions of higher learning in the state.

Continued on page 2 >>

Focus On: Charles Campbell

Charles Campbell, director of Interactive Media and Academic Technology in the Center for Learning and Technology (CLT), travels to New England on weekends during football season to watch his beloved Patriots, and he brings that same passion and dedication to his work here at Thomas Edison State University.

"I love the mission of the University," said Campbell, who joined TESU four and a half years ago as an instructional designer. "Education is incredibly powerful, and the way Thomas Edison prioritizes making quality education accessible and affordable is something I really believe in."

Campbell's team of instructional technologists and media specialists are involved in managing the technology that supports the creation and day-to-day operation of the courses. This includes the learning management system Moodle as well as the tools that help to make TESU courses interactive and engaging, like Edison Live! and Kaltura. On the media side, the team creates customized media to help bring course content to life. This includes things like instructional videos, course trailers, interviews, animations and graphics.

"I'm very fortunate," Campbell enthused. "I get to work with a really talented team here at the CLT, where we have an opportunity to work with the schools and other offices of the University to create courses and programs for our students."

Highlighting some of behind-the-scenes work happening at the Center, Campbell added, "Several CLT team members are

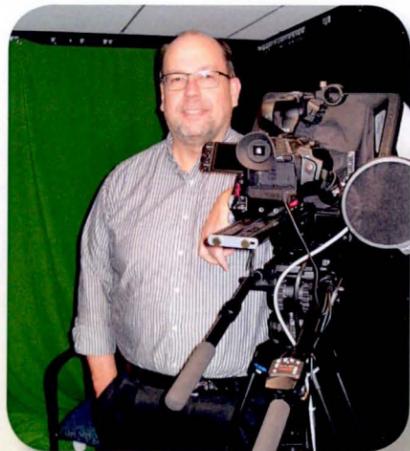
actively involved in blogging for the University and have done some great pieces on the interactive technology tools we have deployed in our courses, which include videos created in our in-house media creation studio."

Campbell holds an MBA and a PhD, both from Eastern University. His prior professional life was in nonprofit and special education work, so he was certified in middle and secondary education. Before joining TESU as an employee, Campbell was a University mentor working with the CLT and the John S. Watson School for Public Service and Continuing Studies.

"What I like best about at TESU is the combination of the mission of Thomas Edison with the people I get to work with every day. This is really an amazing place, and I love that I work with a group of people for whom no challenge is too big. The culture here is centered on constant improvement, collaboration and active problem solving, and I love being a part of that."

According to **Matthew Cooper**, associate provost, Center for Learning and Technology, Campbell has remarkable leadership qualities.

"Charlie has an undeniable talent for pulling teams together and bringing out the best in his colleagues," said Cooper. "He leads by example and is fearless in engaging new problems and opportunities with creative solutions. He often the first to dive into a problem or project and ask, 'What are we missing and how can we improve it?' The



Charles Campbell, director of Interactive Media and Academic Technology, Center for Learning and Technology

enthusiasm and raw joy that he brings to his work is absolutely contagious."

Campbell lives in the Lehigh Valley in Pennsylvania with his wife, Tina, and the couple has two grown children: Amanda is an ELL teacher in Lynn, Mass., who got engaged in February; and Zachary who works in finance and got married in January.

In his spare time, Campbell likes traveling with his family, "especially the part where we get to immerse ourselves in other cultures and traditions; I think that travel and education are keys to breaking down barriers and creating better understanding of each other." The avid sports fan, who grew up in Massachusetts, also enjoys cheering on his favorite football team at home games and on the road. In fact, the Campbells still have their New England Patriots season tickets. "The people I work with never tire of me talking about the Patriots and, really, all of the Boston sports teams," Campbell mused.

Women's Professional Network Host Story of Success Event



Members of the Women's Professional Network (WPN) of Thomas Edison State University (TESU) recently attended a Story of Success event featuring Dr. Jianping Wang, president of Mercer County Community College. Wang shared her personal journey of success, while offering members advice on ways to advance themselves and empower others. Seated (left to right) are TESU staff **Michelle Leonard**, senior human resources operations administrator; **Jaclyn Joworisk**, donor relations and advancement associate; and **Kristin Gonzalez-Woolston**, associate director, Strategic Partnership Management. Standing (left to right) are TESU staff **Megan Grandilli**, graphic designer; **Melissa Maszczak**, assistant to the president; **Julia Herman**, director of integrated advertising strategy; **Beverly Dash**, confidential assistant; Dr. Jianping Wang, guest speaker; and **Samantha Rhein**, program assistant; and N.J. State Library Talking Book and Braille Center staff **Karen Carson**, volunteer coordinator. For further information about WPN, please visit www.tesu.edu/wpn.

Nursing School Hosts Presentation on Battling Addiction

The W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing Upsilon Rho Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society presented an educational program on April 25 at Glen Cairn Hall. Rosemary Smentkowski MSN, CARN, an alumna of the School's BSN and MSN programs and certified addiction nurse, presented *All Hands on Deck in Battling Addiction...Where is Nursing?* along with Narcan education. A video of the program is available for viewing on the Upsilon Rho homepage at <http://upsilonrho.nursingsociety.org/home>.

Staff Activities

Wendy Lang, director, Operation College Promise (OCP), participated in the first Centers of Influence (COI) Tour and Army Team Experience hosted by the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU) at Fort Benning, Ga., in April. Lang had the opportunity to test her marksmanship skills by receiving instruction from some of the best marksmanship instructors in the world. In May, Lang toured Ft. Lee, Va., home to the Quartermaster Corps, which serves as a major training facility for logistical support for all service branches. Lang was also the recipient of the Stockton Student Veterans Organization's "2017 National Advocacy Award" for OCP's work in disseminating model campus programs that help military-affiliated students earn their degrees.



Wendy Lang



Christopher J. Schultz

Christopher J. Schultz, assistant dean and director, Continuing Studies, John S. Watson School for Public Service and Continuing Studies, co-moderated the Service Learning and Leadership Special Interest Group (SIG) at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Higher Education Symposium. The SIG is designed to further the emergency management community's collective goals in bridging the gap between academia and practice.



Lisa Whitfield-Harris

Lisa Whitfield-Harris, undergraduate advisor/diversity coordinator, W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing, had a research article, "The Lived Experience of Black Nurse Faculty in Predominantly White Schools of Nursing," published in the *Journal of Transcultural Nursing* in April.



Ana I. Berdecia

Ana I. Berdecia, director, Center for the Positive Development of Urban Children, received the 2017 Aletha R. Wright Award for Excellence in Early Care and Education from the New Jersey Early Care and Education Alliance at the 22nd Annual Learning Symposium in May.



Maureen Clark-Gallagher

Maureen Clark-Gallagher, assistant dean/director of Distance Learning, W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing, was recently appointed to serve as vice president of Membership for the New Jersey State Nursing Association - Region 4.



Jessiah Styles

The Office of Strategic Partnerships and Outreach team embarked on "Tour de UPS," presenting the benefits of the TESU and UPS partnership in HUBs nationwide. **Jessiah Styles**, associate director, Strategic Partnerships, attended UPS Career Fairs in Jacksonville, Fla., and UPS Willow Grove, Pa., in May. **Thomas Phillips**, associate director, Strategic Partnership Initiatives, visited UPS Laurel, Md., in May; and UPS Milwaukee and Madison, Wis., in June. **Kelli Parlante-Givas**, director, Strategic Partnership Management, visited UPS sites in Reno, Nev., and Minnesota and St. Paul, Minn., in May; and Jacksonville, Fla., and HUBs in South Carolina, Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota in June.



Thomas Phillips



Kelli Parlante-Givas

Pruitt Retires Continued...

He also served as chair of the 50-member New Jersey Presidents' Council and was the only sitting college or university president appointed to Gov. Chris Christie's Higher Education Task Force, which made important recommendations to position New Jersey's higher education institutions for the future.

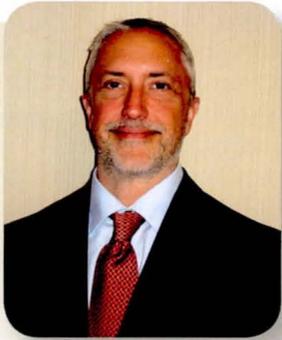
Prior to his appointment as TESU president, Pruitt served as executive vice president of the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning. He previously served as vice president for Student Affairs and professor of Education at Tennessee State University in Nashville; vice president, executive assistant to the president and associate professor of Urban Studies at Morgan State University in Baltimore; dean of students at Towson State University in Towson, Md.; and assistant to the Vice

President for Academic Affairs and director of the High Potential Students Program at Illinois State University in Normal, Ill.

"I could not have imagined the career I have had, and being able to work with such an incredible group of people," said Pruitt. "I believe the future of Thomas Edison State University is bright and look forward to the next chapter in my career."

Following a one-year sabbatical, Pruitt will serve as a distinguished fellow at the University's John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies, where he will concentrate on public policy work focused on leadership, governance and quality assurance.

Welcome New Staff



Dr. Steve Garwood has been appointed director of Transformational Learning in the John S. Watson School for Public Service and Continuing Studies. Garwood is located on the 2nd floor of Kuser Mansion and may be reached at extension 4288.

Capital Campus is produced by the Office of Communications at Thomas Edison State University. To submit a story idea for the newsletter or for more information, please contact Linda Soltis at extension 2065.

New Office of Admissions and Enrollment Services Created to Serve TESU Customers

As the University continues to evolve proactively to meet the needs of prospective, applicant, admitted and enrolled students, the Office of Admissions and the Learner Support Center have joined forces to become the Office of Admissions and Enrollment Services.

Some of the key changes include:

> There are no longer two individual offices (i.e., Office of Admissions and the Learner Support Center) to serve applying and enrolled students. Therefore, the new Office of Admissions and Enrollment Services is working to get the website and student communications ready to reflect this change and asks that other offices and department review communications that might mention the Learner Support Center.

> The hours of operation for the Office of Admissions and Enrollment Services are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to reflect the standard University hours.

> The toll free (888) 442-8372 phone number has been replaced with (609) 777-5680. This number is not toll free.

> The email enrolled@tesu.edu will replace LSC@tesu.edu. During the transition, emails sent to LSC@tesu.edu are being forwarded to enrolled@tesu.edu. Other emails will remain in use and will not change (i.e., info@tesu.edu; admissions@tesu.edu).

> The Admissions and Enrollment Services team will be able to assist new, and first-time

nonmilitary, non-nursing undergraduate applicants with interpreting their academic evaluation and identifying the first two courses for which they may register. The office will continue to work closely with the Office of Academic Advising to hand off those students who need to be provided more program planning, degree completion planning, external course planning, etc., as well as specific populations (like second degrees and re-enrolls) that require additional support selecting courses.

> The University offers a 24/7 chat feature to prospective students on the website. This service is hosted by "JetSpring," an external company. If JetSpring representatives engage with an individual who needs more information than they are able to provide, they will "warm" transfer that person to a member of Admissions and Enrollment Services team during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.). After hour chat needs will be managed by JetSpring submitting an email to Admissions and Enrollment Services for follow up the next morning.

"The evolution of combining these two student facing groups is a natural progression toward the University's priority of providing accurate, timely, friendly and personalized student services while keeping the needs of the students in the forefront," said **Juliette Punchello**, senior director, Office of Admissions and Enrollment Services. "We are excited to be working together to meet the needs of our students and help them achieve their dreams of earning a college degree."

New Jersey State Nurses Association Legislative Day



Maureen Clark-Gallagher (fifth from right), assistant dean and director of Distance Learning, W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing, **Vicki Brzoza**, W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing/Capital Health nursing instructor (fourth from right) and a host of nurses from the New Jersey State Nurses Association, came together to positively influence policy and healthcare legislation affecting their profession and the healthcare community it serves at the New Jersey State Nurses Association Legislative Day on June 22 at the State House in Trenton, N.J.