

SPRING 2015

# Invention

THE MAGAZINE OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE



## Trail Blazer

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE  
BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN '85

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ANDREW FELLER, MBA '14



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Cover Story: 8

Trail Blazer: U.S. Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman '85

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### Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

When it comes to public service, perhaps John F. Kennedy said it best when he made the famous remark, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."

This issue of *Invention* focuses on a woman whose life has been dedicated to serving the public long before she became the first African-American woman elected to Congress from New Jersey.

We are honored to bring you the story of U.S. Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman '85, who represents New Jersey's 12th Congressional District. The daughter of the late John S. Watson, the renowned New Jersey legislator for whom our Watson Institute for Public Policy and School of Public Service and Continuing Studies are named, shares how she came to dedicate her life to public service and the role Thomas Edison State College played in helping to shape her career.

Also in this issue, we meet musician Philip Wick '93, who has performed with some of the most iconic entertainers of the 20th century, including Ray Charles and the Glenn Miller Band. Wick tells us how Thomas Edison State College helped him complete his education without sacrificing his passion for teaching music to students both young and old.

We are also pleased to introduce you to Andrew Feller '14, an improvement analyst with the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission. Feller shares how our Master of Business Administration program is helping him to achieve both professional and personal success.

Lastly, we are excited to share news from around the College, including photos of our new Center for Learning and Technology and an update on our campus expansion projects.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Invention*.

Sincerely,

Dr. George A. Pruitt  
President

## College Expands Campus and Completes Kelsey Renovation

Thomas Edison State College recently completed two major campus enhancement projects that position the institution for future growth and are revitalizing downtown Trenton.

The College expanded its campus in the city's historic State House district in November when it opened the Center for Learning and Technology at 102 West State Street. The three-story, 12,500-square-foot building, which formerly served as the offices of the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, is now home to the College's course development team.

"Coming to this excellent new space to work is a real privilege for us," said Matthew Cooper, associate provost of the Center for Learning and Technology. "The open design and layout helps to stimulate our team's creativity and supports our work to enhance how we deliver the

The College also completed renovations to its main campus offices, the Kelsey Building and Townhouse complex, in February. This project included the replacement of the building's roof and mechanical systems and the reconfiguration of existing offices to maximize space, which resulted in the creation of a new computer lab, two conference rooms and 17 new offices and workstations.

The total cost of the Kelsey and Townhouse renovation was approximately \$2.3 million, of which \$1.9 million was supported by a bond for capital improvements at New Jersey colleges and universities.

Construction on the College's Nursing Education Center, which is transforming the blighted Glen Cairn Arms site at Calhoun and West State streets in Trenton, is well underway. Crews have completed the concrete foundation



(from left) Exterior of the Center for Learning and Technology; lobby and meeting space in the center; structural steel frame of the Nursing Education Center.

academic experience to our students through our courses." The renovation created a modern office space that includes two conference rooms overlooking the intersection of West State and Barracks streets with views of the College's landmark Kelsey Building as well as a media production studio and 23 offices and workstations.

The media production studio will play a leading role in the center's work to add interactive, multimedia technology to more of the College's online courses. Cooper said his team is working on implementing advanced object-oriented simulations to create targeted learning experiences that help demonstrate complex concepts and theories covered in courses. An example of this technology can be found in virtual clinical simulations that are now featured in four nursing courses for both undergraduate and graduate students.

The total cost of the Center for Learning and Technology project was approximately \$2.3 million, of which \$1.4 million was supported by a bond for capital improvements at New Jersey colleges and universities.

and erection of the building's structural steel frame. The 34,700-square-foot building will include state-of-the-art nursing simulation laboratories, lecture halls, conference rooms and a testing center. The building will also have a two-level, 48,000-square-foot parking garage to accommodate 96 vehicles. Construction is scheduled to be completed in spring 2016.

The total cost of the project is approximately \$26.2 million, of which \$12.7 million is supported by the Building Our Future Bond Act approved by New Jersey voters in November 2012.

Each of the sites will feature Thomas Alva Edison artifacts and memorabilia donated by John and Eileen Martinson. The collection includes many genuine inventions of Edison.

"These projects mark the largest capital improvements to our campus in the College's history and position our institution to continue its mission to serve adults with flexible, high-quality academic programs," said Chris Stringer, vice president for Administration and Finance. "We are proud to invest in our future here in Trenton."

## New Jersey Future to Honor College with 2015 Smart Growth Award



New Jersey Future will honor Thomas Edison State College; the architecture firm, Clarke Caton Hintz; and the city of Trenton with a 2015 Smart Growth Award for the institution's campus expansion project and the project's role in revitalizing New Jersey's capital city.

The expansion includes the new Center for Learning and Technology located at 102 West State Street, renovation of the landmark Kelsey Building at 101 West State Street and development of the Nursing Education Center, which is transforming the intersection of West State and Calhoun streets in Trenton, NJ. The College partnered with the city of Trenton to acquire the blighted Glen

Cairn Arms complex, which paved the way for the College to clear the site and create a new landmark building at the location. Clarke Caton Hintz designed the Nursing Education Center, the Center for Learning and Technology and renovations at the Kelsey Building and Townhouse complex.

New Jersey Future is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that brings together concerned citizens and leaders to promote responsible land-use policies. Since 2002, New Jersey Future has honored the best examples of smart planning and sustainable growth and development in the state through its Smart Growth Awards.

Additional Smart Growth Award winners include Military Park in Newark, N.J.; the Washington Street Complete Redesign Project in Hoboken, N.J.; the My East Camden project in Camden, N.J.; the Netherwood Transit-Oriented Development Plan in Plainfield, N.J.; 18 Park in Jersey City, N.J.; and Camden SMART in Camden, N.J. The awards were presented on June 4 at the Newark Club in Newark, N.J.

## College Vice President Named to NJHA Board

Robin Walton, vice president for Community and Government Affairs at Thomas Edison State College, was recently appointed as hospital trustee to the Board of Trustees of the New Jersey Hospital Association (NJHA).

"It is an honor to be chosen to serve on this distinguished board," said Walton. "Thomas Edison State College has a commitment to serving its communities, and the NJHA plays a vital role in promoting community health endeavors and other initiatives to build a healthier New Jersey."



The New Jersey Hospital Association is a not-for-profit trade organization committed to delivering support and services to

the state's hospitals and other healthcare providers. It shares a collective goal of providing quality, affordable and accessible healthcare to the people of the Garden State.

Founded in 1918, NJHA has grown to become one of the largest and most influential healthcare organizations in the state.

Walton serves as the past chairwoman for the Board of Directors for Children's Specialized Hospital and represents the hospital on Robert Wood Johnson Healthcare Corporation's Strategic Planning committee. She is a member of Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership's Policy Committee and the Trenton Health Team Community Advisory Board. Walton also serves on the national Higher Education Government Relations Task Force.



Robin Walton, vice president for Community and Government Affairs

## Accelerated BSN Graduates Earn 100 Percent Pass Rate on National Nursing Licensure Exam, Again

The New Jersey Board of Nursing recently reported that 2014 graduates of Thomas Edison State College's accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN).

The College's Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Program, launched in 2011, is a 12-month program designed for those who already possess a non-nursing bachelor's degree and are interested in

these graduates put into the program," said Dr. Filomela Marshall, dean of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing. "For the second time in three years, we are honored by this outcome and the performance of our graduates. They have invested a great effort and were fully committed to putting their lives on hold."

Graduates of the program say it is very difficult, but worth all of the hard work to achieve the goal of joining the nursing profession as a registered nurse.



Daniela Arce, RN, BSN '13

*"We cannot say enough about the hard work and dedication these graduates put into the program."*

*> Dr. Filomela Marshall, dean of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing*

becoming a registered nurse. The 2014 outcome marks the second time that graduates of the program achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the NCLEX-RN exam in a given year. The first graduates of the program who took the exam in 2012 also earned a 100 percent pass rate. The 2014 cohort is the third graduating class of the program.

*"We cannot say enough about the hard work and dedication*

"Obtaining my BSN degree through Thomas Edison State College's accelerated program has greatly impacted my life," said Daniela Arce, RN, BSN '13, a nurse at Capital Health. "If it was not for W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing, I would not be where I am at this moment. This program has given me a solid foundation to be competent in the nursing field."

The program provides a blend of online and classroom-based courses and nursing simulation sessions provided by Thomas Edison State College as well as a live, clinical experience that takes place at Capital Health in Hopewell Township, N.J., which has hired many graduates of the program.

"The accelerated BSN program has been great for both the College and Capital Health. We want these students to come here because it gives us the opportunity to see what they are capable of," said Eileen Horton, RN, MSN, MSM '00, chief nursing officer and vice president of Patient Services at Capital Health. "Having them on-site allows us to get to know them and for them to get to know us, so if they do get hired by Capital Health, their transition to joining our nursing staff goes much easier."

The pass rate information reported to the College by the New Jersey Board of Nursing was provided by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and reflects the results of all first-time NCLEX-RN test takers from the College who took the exam in 2014.



## Heavin School of Arts and Sciences Launches New Graduate Programs

The Heavin School of Arts and Sciences recently launched new areas of study in Industrial-Organizational Psychology, Digital Humanities and Geropsychology that are offered under the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies degree program and as stand-alone graduate certificates.

"Our focus is helping students build broad-based skills in communication, collaboration and fostering creativity and applying those skills to their careers and their personal lives," said Dr. John R. Woznicki, dean of the Heavin School of

Arts and Sciences. "These new graduate areas are designed to prepare students to excel in emerging 21st century fields."

The Industrial-Organizational Psychology specialization focuses on human behavior in the workplace and prepares students with the skills required to manage and resolve complex workplace situations and conflicts and facilitate organizational change to improve working conditions.



Dr. John R. Woznicki, dean of the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences

The Digital Humanities specialization helps students learn to apply critical inquiry to creatively implement the tools of digital media in their careers and develop digital competency. The need for graduate study in the digital humanities is motivated by the relevance of applying human critical-thinking and problem-solving skills in professions that are increasingly reliant on new technologies for efficiency, growth and innovation.

Geropsychology is a subfield within the discipline of psychology that applies

psychological theory and research to understanding the aging process and helping people maintain a higher quality of life as they age. The program provides students an opportunity to develop the skills needed to work with older adults and their families in a wide variety of healthcare settings.

To learn more about these new programs, visit [www.tesc.edu/heavin](http://www.tesc.edu/heavin).

## New Accelerated Graduate Business Programs Coming in July

The School of Business and Management is preparing to launch two new accelerated master's degree programs in July that have been recently approved by the New Jersey Presidents' Council, which prepare students to become strategic business leaders in the hospitality industry and at organizations operating in a global marketplace.

The Master of Science in Hospitality Management and Master of Science in International Business Finance are both 36-credit programs that are practitioner-focused and offered entirely online. Each program features eight-week courses and can be completed in about 12 months.

### Master of Science in Hospitality Management

- > Prepares students to lead and work effectively in the core business sectors of the hospitality industry
- > Curriculum focuses on globally-framed, cultural-specific models of hospitality management, including historical overview; trends and issues in the hospitality industry; gaming and resort markets; and relevant business, management and operations topics

### Master of Science in International Business Finance

- > Facilitates the assimilation of skill sets and knowledge for those aspiring to leadership positions in organizations with a global focus
- > Curriculum provides a solid foundation in international business management with particular emphasis on the skills required for financial management in diverse cultural, economic, legal and financial environments

"The Hospitality Management graduate program fills a significant need for educational and professional development in the hospitality industry," said Dr. Michael Williams, dean of the School of Business and Management. "Our master's program in International Business Finance prepares students to become effective leaders at organizations that serve clients internationally."

To learn more about these new programs, visit [www.tesc.edu/business](http://www.tesc.edu/business).

## Foundation Funds Development of College's First Doctoral Program

The Thomas Edison State College Foundation has awarded a grant to the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing to develop the College's first doctoral program.

The \$205,000 grant will fund the creation of an online Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), a post-master's doctorate with a specialty area in Systems-Level Leadership that focuses on the improvement of evidence-based outcomes using theoretical knowledge and systems-level initiatives to advance nurses to the highest level of nursing practice. The 36-credit program is designed to prepare nurse leaders with competencies in advanced nursing practice, organizational leadership, economics and finance, healthcare policy and technology.

the DNP. The program is also ideal for graduates of other MSN programs who are interested in pursuing an online doctoral degree at the College.

Nursing is one of several healthcare disciplines to offer practice-oriented doctorates. The need for DNP programs is driven by the changing demands of the country's complex healthcare environment, which require high levels of scientific knowledge and practice expertise to assure quality patient outcomes.

According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the number of students enrolled in DNP programs in the U.S. increased from 11,575 to 14,688 from 2012 to 2013, and during that same period, the number of DNP graduates increased from 1,858 to 2,443.



Dr. Filomela Marshall, dean of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing

of advancing the education of nurses and, by extension, improving the healthcare of our community."

Marshall noted that the program is offered entirely online, which makes the College's DNP stand out from others.

*"The development of the DNP is aligned with the College's strategic plan and its goal of creating academic programs that respond to market needs."*

> Dr. Michael Toscani, chair of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation Board of Directors

"Our DNP graduates will have the ability to use and evaluate the best evidence to improve healthcare at all levels of practice," said Dr. Filomela Marshall, dean of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing. "This program provides the opportunity for further seamless academic progression for our graduates and existing students. The ability to obtain the DNP degree in a continuous manner further enhances graduate enrollment at the College and reduces the need for students to go elsewhere."

The program is designed to be completed in 18 months. Graduates of the College's Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program will be able to transfer and apply 3 credits toward

Numerous professional organizations have completed studies recognizing the need for DNP programs, including the landmark 2010 study by the Institute of Medicine, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*, which called for a push to double the number of doctorate-prepared nurses by the year 2020.

"The development of the DNP is aligned with the College's strategic plan and its goal of creating academic programs that respond to market needs," said Dr. Michael Toscani, chair of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation Board of Directors. "We are honored to support the College's first doctoral program, which continues our proud tradition

"One of the things that makes our program unique is that it is entirely online and offers students three different scholarly immersion courses," she said. "We also have no physical campus residency requirement, which is rare for a DNP program. Our years of being a leader in providing programs for registered nurses have taught us that there is little reason for students to travel great distances to achieve their educational goals."

Enrollment in the DNP program is scheduled to open in 2016, depending on state and accrediting body approvals.

## Leveraging Virtual Clinical Simulation to Achieve Better Patient Outcomes

How do nursing students in an online course develop and improve their diagnostic and critical-thinking skills outside of a formal clinical setting?

For approximately 2,200 registered nurses enrolled in Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree programs at Thomas Edison State College, it is through an innovative virtual clinical simulation program. The program enables students to interact with avatars in an online course and practice critical diagnostic reasoning skills from the convenience of their homes, after their nursing shifts end.

The program is supported by the Investors Foundation, Bristol-Myers Squibb, PNC Foundation, Fred C. Rummel Foundation, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, Inc., Provident Bank Foundation and Roma Bank Community Foundation.

"Education is extremely important to nursing, and nurses today need flexibility and academic rigor, so when it comes to developing courses for working nurses, sometimes we have to think outside of the box," said Dr. Filomela Marshall, dean of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing. "Thanks to the support of many organizations, we have been able to enhance interaction and bring the clinical lessons to life in an online format."

Marshall said the avatars are sophisticated digital representations of patients in a variety of healthcare scenarios who describe their symptoms to students in the courses.

"There is a critical need for highly skilled healthcare professionals in our state and across the country," said Linda Bowden, PNC Bank regional president for New Jersey. "We can think of no better way to help prepare our next generation of nursing professionals for successful careers than by supporting the cutting edge virtual clinical simulation program at Thomas Edison State College."

Currently, the nursing program has integrated the interactive technology into four courses. Plans are underway to expand the technology to more undergraduate and graduate nursing courses.

"The Provident Bank Foundation is honored to support this project, which is directly related to two of our funding priorities – education and the healthcare," said Jane Kurek, executive director of the Provident Bank Foundation. "The virtual clinical simulation program at Thomas Edison State College enables nursing students to improve their clinical diagnostic skills and apply those skills when caring for patients in our communities."

To view a sample simulation, visit [www.tesc.edu/vcsnursing](http://www.tesc.edu/vcsnursing).

Save the Date

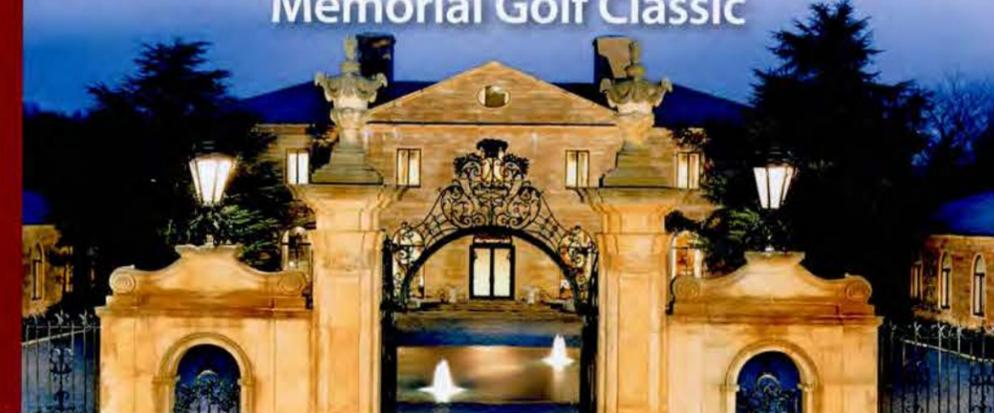
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THE THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION  
ANNOUNCES  
The 21st Annual Thomas C. Streckewald  
Memorial Golf Classic



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or contact us at (609) 984-1588, ext. 2080, or [development@tesc.edu](mailto:development@tesc.edu).

# Trail Blazer

Bonnie Watson Coleman '85 Continues  
a Legacy of Breaking Barriers





# Trail Blazer

Some families produce legacies of doctors, police officers, teachers or entrepreneurs where talents are passed down with deep-rooted pride that spans multiple generations.

Bonnie Watson Coleman '85 can tell you what it is like to be a part of one of these families.

The daughter of acclaimed New Jersey legislator John S. Watson, she has followed in her late father's footsteps by breaking barriers in politics and expanding her family's legacy of public service.

It was these moments of clarity that began to light the fire inside of Watson Coleman, bringing about her passion for assisting others and becoming the voice of those who needed a champion.

When her father was elected to office, he would often call upon his daughter to write his speeches. Although some were never used, he would garner and share her ideas and visions, which helped to build a foundation of experience and empowerment onto which she would begin to stand.

*"In my family, we were taught that to whom much is given, much is required. We had a responsibility to use the talents and gifts we had to make lives better."*

> U.S. Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman '85

In 2014, Watson Coleman became the first African-American woman elected to Congress from New Jersey. Prior to her election to Congress, she served eight consecutive terms in the New Jersey Assembly and is the first African-American woman to serve as majority leader of the state assembly and chair of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee.

"In my family, we were taught that to whom much is given, much is required. We had a responsibility to use the talents and gifts we had to make lives better," said Watson Coleman. "My dad was a prime example in the public service realm of giving voice to those most vulnerable."

Her father, for whom the College's Institute for Public Policy and School of Public Service and Continuing Studies are named, was also the nation's first African-American to chair an appropriations committee.

"To be associated with a college – my alma mater – the way that we are is a real blessing to my family," she said. "My father never dismissed my or my brother's opinions just because we were young. We would sit around our dining room table and discuss national, state or local issues. Whatever we had to say, daddy would listen."



U.S. Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman meets with constituents in her Washington, D.C., office.

This foundation was not complete without an education. Watson Coleman was driven, and this drive included the hard work of earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in social sciences/history from the College in 1985.

"I was able to work around my schedule and do a combination of taking courses and tests, and completing independent studies," she said. "It was a great experience as an adult learner. I appreciated and approached the learning experience differently."

The discipline Watson Coleman put into practice allowed her to focus fully on her course work, and complete it, acting as her own guide. With this experience and education, she has been able to immerse herself and succeed in a career that depends largely on self-motivation.

Since her election to the 114th United States Congress, where she represents New Jersey's 12th Congressional District, Watson Coleman quickly realized that there is no such thing as an average day on Capitol Hill.

"I certainly was expecting more of a routine, so I'm surprised that it changes every day. Although there is no average day, there are a couple things that you know you're going to do," she explained. "You're going to read briefings, hold a series of meetings, and meet with constituents from your district and other entities that want to come in and share their concerns."

But it doesn't stop there. In her role, Watson Coleman is also tasked with attending committee and subcommittee meetings, in addition to voting.

"You're going to be called to vote and you better get there within 15 minutes for the first vote," she said. "It's really quite an intense pace when you sit back and really reflect on it all."

In the evening, she meets with caucuses and attends receptions, all while finding time to fundraise and lead her own life outside the political world.

"When I'm in Washington, D.C., I have very little personal life. I am lucky enough to have my husband here most of the time," she said. "It's very comforting to me and we get a chance to be together."

Family, Watson Coleman explained, is a bond that can never be broken, and her family's support was important when she was considering the decision to run for Congress.

"We talked about what this meant," she said. "They said, 'We want you to go do it, we're here for you,' and they've been here for me through this whole process."



The endless family support Watson Coleman receives drives home one of the most important takeaways from her father's own career in politics. Knowing what you believe in, she noted, and sticking to it no matter how unfavorable it may be, is significant.

"If it's the right thing, then it's the right thing. Sometimes it isn't politically expedient, but you have to live with yourself at the end of the day," she said.

As a member of both the Homeland Security and Oversight and Government Reform committees, Watson Coleman has been given the opportunity to see the important aspects of government working for the people.

Through it all, Watson Coleman distinguishes God as her greatest inspiration.

"I read my Bible every day. I try to be guided by the principles of doing good and having a life worthy of living," she said. "There is inspiration all around me and the constituents for whom I serve and work inspire me because they're depending on me."

Watson Coleman lives in Ewing, N.J., with her husband, William. They have three adult sons and two grandchildren.



Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College, and Bonnie Watson Coleman at the College's 34th Commencement in 2006, during which she was awarded an honorary degree.

## Striking a Chord



Photo credit: Princeton Daily Clarion

*When it comes to music and finishing your degree, Philip Wick '93 knows that persistence is key.*



Photo credit: Princeton Daily Clarion

Even though Wick is an accomplished pianist, he understands that achieving success is not always black and white, like the keys on a piano. The road to performing with some of the most important entertainers of the 20th century and building a successful career in education has been paved by his desire to share a love and passion for music with others.

Wick, a U.S. Army veteran, has toured with the Glenn Miller Band and worked with some of the most iconic figures in the entertainment industry, including Bob Hope, Ray Charles, Mel Tormé, Rosemary Clooney, Fats Domino, The Lettermen and Blood, Sweat and Tears.

For the past 28 years, Wick has been teaching music to students at Wabash Valley College (WVC) in Mt. Carmel, Ill. Even while earning his degree, he continued to teach at WVC, taking advantage of his employer's tuition assistance program to earn credit. He would sneak in study time between teaching courses and meeting with students.

Wick began his education at Indiana State University and earned 118 credits before leaving to pursue a career as a professional musician. Years later, Wick struck up a conversation with his minister who recommended that he look into Thomas Edison State College.

"The program that would have taken 60 more credits to complete at my state college, took me just 18 credits to complete at Thomas Edison State College," he said. "With that in mind, it just made sense to complete my degree at TESC. I am greatly indebted to Thomas Edison. Without them, I probably would not have graduated from college."

Wick distinctly remembered one of the last course requirements before earning his Bachelor of Arts degree in music.

"One of my music mentors called me and told me that I would be taking an exam over the phone. For one solid hour he shot questions at me just as hard and as fast as he could," said Wick. "It was a true test of all I had learned."

Originally from Albion, Ill., Wick was introduced to music at a young age. "When I first started playing piano I did not like it," he said. "My lessons cost \$1 each back in 1947. The rule was that I could quit

Since performing with the Glenn Miller Band more than 35 years ago, Wick continues to play at small venues and for local organizations. He still "keeps his fingers in it," and makes time to play each day.

*"I've always been interested in music. It always intrigued me and it still does. I'm still learning. It's impossible to learn it all in one lifetime."*

> Philip Wick, BA '93

anytime I wanted to, but I never wanted to be a quitter. I felt that as long as my parents were putting out \$1 a lesson, I owed them seven hours a week in practice time."

Around the age of 15, things changed for Wick. He went from a boy who loathed playing to becoming a self-disciplined musician.

At 16, Wick began to play with bands and answer ads to perform as a soloist at local clubs and hotels. The hard work of his formative years would pay him dividends later in his career.

"I happened to be playing at the same hotel as Glenn Miller when his band's piano player left in a huff in the middle of their engagement. They were scheduled to play the next night and asked if I could fill in as their pianist. They wound up inviting me to complete the balance of their 18-day tour," he recalled.

"My granddaughter started playing violin, so at age 50, I started to learn as well," he noted.

Having already commanded the piano, he has also played the trombone, tuba and string bass.

At the ripe age of 76, Wick doesn't think he's even scratched the surface of all there is to learn in the world of music.

"I've always been interested in music. It always intrigued me and it still does," he said. "I'm still learning. It's impossible to learn it all in one lifetime."

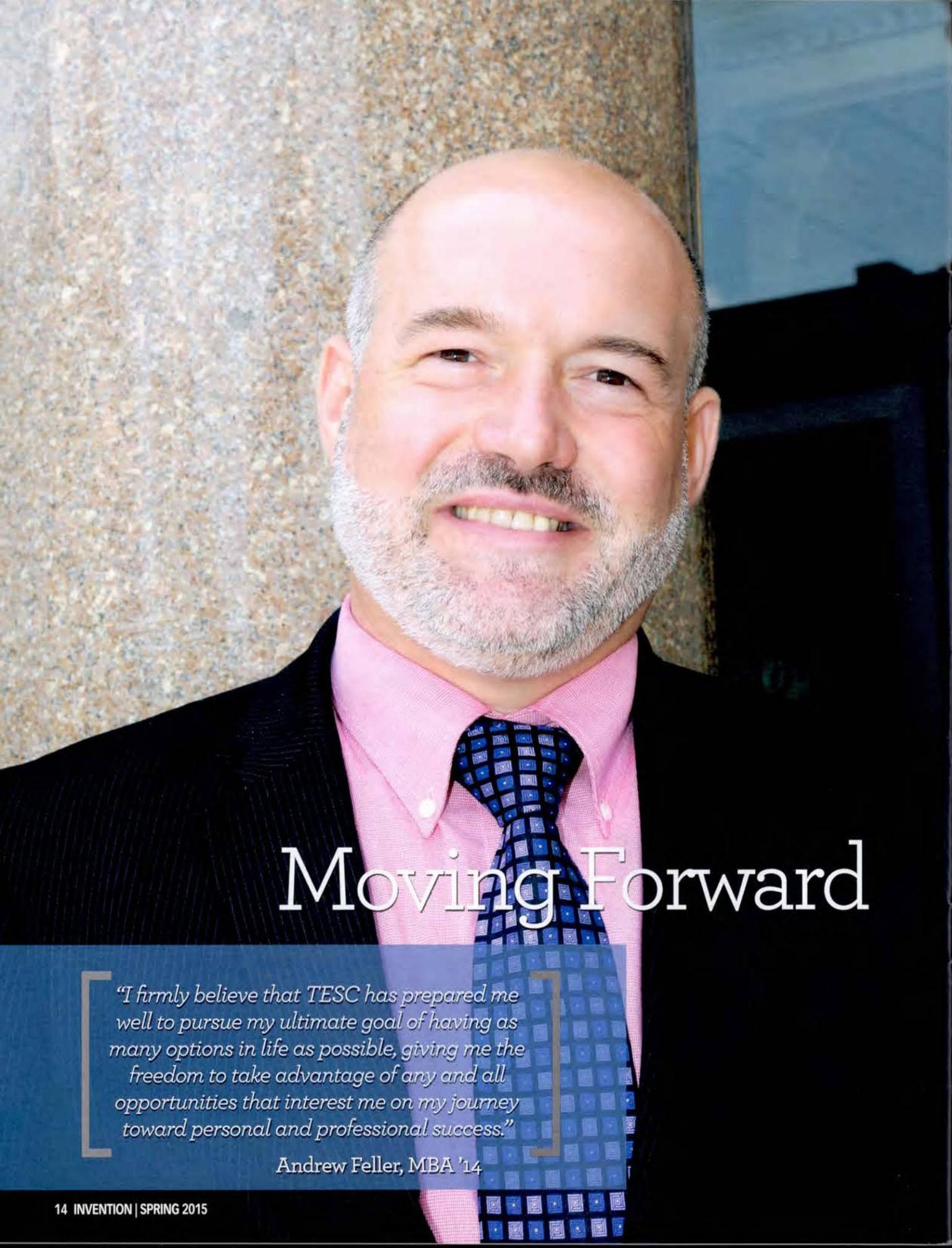
Wick simply loves music, any way it comes packaged.

Wick lives in Princeton, Ind., with his wife of 30 years, Brenda. He has a daughter, a son and two stepsons. Wick also has three grandchildren, five step-grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



Photo credit: Princeton Daily Clarion

## Philip Wick, BA '93



# Moving Forward

*"I firmly believe that TESC has prepared me well to pursue my ultimate goal of having as many options in life as possible, giving me the freedom to take advantage of any and all opportunities that interest me on my journey toward personal and professional success."*

Andrew Feller, MBA '14

## Alumni Profile



ven before he completed his Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from Thomas Edison State College in June 2014, Andrew Feller had already embarked on his next educational quest: a Graduate Certificate in Project Management.

Feller, an improvement analyst at the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (NJMVC) in Trenton, NJ, said many people lauded the College at the commission and he realized a graduate education was required to advance.

"As with so many industries, obtaining a graduate-level degree is required by my agency in order to be considered for higher opportunities in a competitive environment," he said. "The MBA program was ideal in that it not only prepared me to make better business decisions as a manager, but it has also proved to be an invaluable tool in my personal life in terms of managing my own investments and advising my family on financial matters."

The flexibility and convenience of the College's program was the ideal blend for his demanding schedule.

"The MBA program at Thomas Edison State College was a perfect fit for me and my busy lifestyle," he added. "I was able to study for and complete assignments at times that were convenient to me. I found the content of each class to be relevant to the world at large, which not only gave me a better understanding of current events, but also opened my eyes to business developments on a global scale. I firmly believe that TESC has prepared me well to pursue my ultimate goal of having as many options in life as possible, giving me the freedom to take advantage of any and all opportunities that interest me on my journey toward personal and professional success."

Feller, who joined the NJMVC in 2003, currently supervises the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) Transmittal Unit, which acts as liaison between the commission and the OAL court system.

"We 'transmit' motor vehicle related cases to the OAL for formal hearings before administrative law judges," he explained. "Once the issue has been resolved, the cases

are returned to my office and we enter the result into the NJMVC database. I make regular appearances in court, either as an expert witness or to represent the state's position on matters related to administrative code or individual driving records."

Feller's interest in self-excellence inspired him to enroll in the College's Graduate Certificate in Project Management before he completed his MBA. He noted that a colleague had explained how valuable understanding project management is when running a unit, because the NJMVC is continually undertaking projects to make its services faster, friendlier and more efficient.

"At that time, I was halfway through the MBA program and was already thinking of what I would do next," said Feller, who has just passed the midpoint toward earning the project management certificate. "By then online learning was a natural part of my everyday routine and I wanted to capitalize on that momentum."

It is not unusual for graduates to offer accolades to parents upon receiving their degrees and often those grads are in their 20s. For the 47-year-old Feller, his words of gratitude to his mom and dad were for instilling in him the value of a quality education and for encouraging him to pursue his master's degree.

"I remember discussing my plans to enroll at Thomas Edison State College with my parents back in 2009," Feller recalled. "I was concerned, saying, 'I am already 42 years old, which means I won't graduate until I'm 46 or so!' They replied, 'Son, you will turn 46 one day, and you can do that with or without a graduate degree, the choice is yours.' How true...thanks mom and dad!"

Feller said he is considering pursuing a second graduate degree – the Master of Science in Management – and applying the 12 credits he will have earned upon completion of the project management certificate to the new degree.

"It is important to remember that sometimes the longest journey really does begin with the first couple of steps, and that education is something to be constructed at whatever pace works for you," he said. "Nowhere is this more true than at TESC."

## Andrew Feller, MBA '14

**Jay Appleton BSAST '93**

Jay Appleton has been named project executive/program manager at GREYHAWK, a construction management and consulting firm headquartered in Moorestown, N.J. Before joining GREYHAWK, Appleton served as vice president for a local commercial real estate development and design-build firm. In his new role, Appleton leads large and diverse project teams in the development of educational and healthcare facilities, commercial buildings, churches, cultural institutions and mixed-use/residential projects. In addition to his degree, Appleton is licensed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a Professional Engineer, with specialization in Civil, Sanitary, and Structural Engineering. Appleton was also recently appointed to the Management and Governance Committee of the Urban Land Institute – Philadelphia District Council.



**Bob Beecher BSHS '09**

Bob Beecher was recently hired by G4S Secure Solutions as the emergency preparedness and response coordinator for all Cisco offices in the Americas. Based at Cisco's headquarters in San Jose, Calif., Beecher oversees the monitoring and maintenance of the Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), all emergency preparedness and response programs, and the company's volunteer Emergency Response Team programs. His scope of responsibility includes more than 25 countries and extends from Canada to Chile. Beecher was previously the emergency and safety manager at Para Los Niños, a nonprofit agency serving children and their families in the lowest income areas of Los Angeles. He also served on the board of directors of BICEPP (Business and Industry Council on Emergency Planning and Preparedness), an association of emergency management and business continuity professionals based in Los Angeles.



**Wayne E. Diana ASPSS '05**

Wayne E. Diana retired as a lieutenant from the South Plainfield Police Department in South Plainfield, N.J., effective April 1, 2015. Upon receiving his associate degree, Diana completed a 27-year educational journey that started while he was on active duty in the Marine Corps from 1976 to 1979. In 2006, Diana became a certified substitute school teacher, and intends to work in his hometown school system during retirement.

**Harry "Chip" DiCorcia ASPASS '03, BSHS '06**

Harry "Chip" DiCorcia was inducted into the Point Pleasant Beach Public Education Foundation's Hall of Fame at its March 27 dinner. DiCorcia has long served as a trustee for the Point Pleasant Beach Public Education Foundation, helping the foundation get its start in 1992. He is a 1978 graduate of Point Pleasant Beach High School having been an active participant on many sports teams including football, baseball, wrestling and indoor track. DiCorcia began his career in 1982 working for the Point Pleasant Beach Police Department as a special officer. After more than a decade of service, DiCorcia rose through the ranks and was promoted to police lieutenant. Throughout his 28-year career, he received six departmental awards in recognition of his commitment to public safety. DiCorcia now serves as department chair for Homeland Security at Ocean County Community College.

**Anthony DiNota BSAST '97**

Anthony DiNota has been promoted to president of Heli-One, CHC's helicopter maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) segment. For a majority of the past year DiNota has served as chief commercial officer for Heli-One. He now oversees the entire organization of the world's largest independent provider of helicopter MRO services, including MRO operations in Boundary Bay, British Columbia; Fort Collins, Colo.; Stavanger, Norway; and Rzeszow, Poland. DiNota brings 30 years of experience in rotary and fixed-wing aviation to his new position. Prior to his work with Heli-One, DiNota worked at Airbus Helicopters as the executive vice president for Commercial Sales, Marketing, Training and Customer Support.

**Joseph Geleta BSHS '93**

Joseph Geleta has been named executive director of the NJ 2-1-1 following a nationwide search. Geleta joins the organization after retiring from the New Jersey State Police following a 30-year career, holding positions as state police academy trainer, assistant chief with the communications bureau and culminating with his most recent role as recovery bureau captain/bureau chief for New Jersey's Super Storm Sandy efforts. As the recovery bureau captain/bureau chief at the New Jersey State Police, Geleta supervised more than 60 personnel and oversaw distribution of millions of Super Storm Sandy recovery dollars. He maintained lines of communication between federal, state and local agency partners around recovery operations. Geleta also served as communications bureau lieutenant/assistant bureau chief from 2009 to 2013 where he managed more than 200 public safety tele-



communicators assigned to the 9-1-1 call center and dispatch units across the state. Enhancing awareness is a key component of Geleta's plans for NJ 2-1-1. He aims to increase NJ 2-1-1's role in the community with added exposure through advertising and promotion.

**Lawren E. Greene MSHRM '14**

Lawren E. Greene was recently named senior technical project manager in the infrastructure and operations group within integration services at ADP (Advanced Data Processing). Prior to working at ADP, Greene was employed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City as the sole technical project manager within the IS&T (Information Systems and Technology) group for six years.



**Matthew Hines AA '13, BA '14**

Matthew Hines has written *Menacing Waters*, an action/adventure story, under the pen name Gore Harrison. This first episode of a four-part series, is being sold on *Amazon.com*. Hines also received a promotion to his first management position at Jackson Hewitt Tax Service.

**Jenell Leonard BA '06**

Jenell Leonard has been appointed by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder as the director of the Michigan Film Office. Prior to her appointment, Leonard served as director of external and strategic affairs for Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, where she has worked on initiatives related to good government/state employee engagement, employment disability, autism, mental health and the New International Trade Crossing. Leonard also organized the 2013 Council of Great Lakes Governor's Summit on Mackinac Island and previously served as legislative staff in the Michigan House of Representatives.



**KEEP US POSTED!**

Please send your news to [invention@tesc.edu](mailto:invention@tesc.edu)

Be sure to include your first and last name, your address, your preferred phone, the year you graduated and what degree you earned.

**Robert L. McGowan MSM '00**

Robert L. McGowan, a licensed nursing home administrator (LNHA), was recently appointed as member consultant of the Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Mercer County, RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) Advisory Council. McGowan, who is a retired U.S. Air Force veteran, continues to be an active volunteer.

**Gena Montalbano BSBA '07, MSM '09**

Gena Montalbano works as a national account executive with Clearent Intelligent Processing. She is tasked with offering a variety of products and services to businesses to ensure they run effectively and securely in the payment industry.

**Francis "Fran" O'Leary BA '05**

Francis "Fran" O'Leary has been named head coach of the University of Massachusetts men's soccer team. O'Leary, who brings experience at multiple levels of collegiate soccer, has also spent time coaching at the professional level. He has 17 winning campaigns and 234 career victories in 24 years as a college head coach, while averaging more than 13 wins per season. His teams have participated in six NCAA tournaments and have reached the national semifinals twice. A native of Dublin, Ireland, O'Leary will be the 10th head men's soccer coach in program history. Prior to his new position, O'Leary had spent the past two years with Toronto FC in MLS (Major League Soccer) as the assistant coach and director of player recruitment. O'Leary and his wife, Julie, were married in 2002 and have two children.

**Addie (Gibson) Osborn BA '12**

Addie (Gibson) Osborn completed massage therapy school in October 2014. She married Lon Osborn on Dec. 13, 2014.



Updates can also be sent to:

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# ALUMNI AND STUDENT NETWORKING EVENTS

[tesc.edu/alumnievents](http://tesc.edu/alumnievents)

## JUNE

29 > Society for Human Resource Management  
Las Vegas, NV

## SEPTEMBER

16 > Princeton, NJ

## OCTOBER

7 > New York, NY

## NOVEMBER

5 > New Jersey Education Association,  
Atlantic City, NJ

18 > New Jersey League of Municipalities,  
Atlantic City, NJ

## SAVE THE DATE

Thomas Edison State College Foundation's  
21st Annual Thomas C. Streckewald Memorial  
Golf Classic

> Monday, July 13  
TPC Jasna Polana, Princeton, NJ



CONNECT WITH US!



For more information about these events or having an event near you,  
contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (609) 633-8592 or [alumni@tesc.edu](mailto:alumni@tesc.edu).