

Capital Campus

JUNE 2016

Staff Support Thomas Edison State University Foundation Day of Giving

Thomas Edison State University Foundation held its first Day of Giving on March 16 and Thomas Edison State University (TESU) staff made up more than 25 percent of the donors that participated that day.

Todd Siben, assistant director, Portfolio Assessment, Center for the Assessment of Learning, noted, "Like so many of my co-workers who have been here for a long time, I've remained here 27 years because I believe in the mission of the institution, the value of our work and the commitment we demonstrate every day. My wife, sister-in-law, older brother and several close friends earned degrees here. My son grew up with "Take Your Children to Work Day" and did a summer internship here. I'm immensely appreciative for all of that. With our support, the institution can continue its excellent work."

Jennifer Montone, assistant director of Purchasing, Office of the Treasurer, added,

"I give to TESU because I believe in the mission and goals of the University. I am a better person because of the education I received as a bachelor's and master's student here; I give so that others can become better people as well."

It was a team effort by the offices of Development, Alumni Affairs and Communications staff to manage the 24-hour event. Development staff **Misty Isak**, associate vice president, **Jen Guerrero**, director of the Annual Fund, **Leanne Kochy**, director of Major Giving, **Erica Spizzirri**, director of Advancement Services, **Fred Brand**, director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, **Jaclyn Joworisak**, Donor Relations and Advancement associate, and **Michelle W. Robinson**, Gift Processing and Data Management associate; and Alumni Affairs' staff **Roxanne Globis**, director, and **Li-yun Young**, program assistant, teamed up to send emails, make phone calls, process gifts and manage stewardship.

Katie Brommer, assistant director, Digital Communications, assisted by **Kristen Lacaille**, editorial program assistant, Office of Communications, developed and ran the Day of Giving's editorial strategy, which involved creating, posting and sharing channel-specific messaging and content that engaged the University's social media audience. The successful social media strategy generated more than 1,700 engagements in 24 hours, along with videos garnering 5,483 views and 381 likes, comments and shares.

One of the highlights of the event was a donor's challenge for the University to garner 125 donors in 24 hours and, if successful, the donor guaranteed an



Jennifer Montone, assistant director of purchasing, Office of the Treasurer

additional \$5,000. That challenge was met by 5 p.m. at which point the donor added another \$2,500 to the challenge if the Foundation could reach 200 donors by midnight. That goal was surpassed with a total of 237 donors in 24 hours; the total raised was more than \$27,662.

Day of Giving by the numbers:

- ▶ Total Donors: 237
- ▶ Total Dollars: \$27,662.86
- ▶ Donor Challenge: \$7,500
- ▶ First-Time Donors: 67
- ▶ Employee Donors: 61
- ▶ Employee Donations: \$3,781

"The Office of Development would like to thank everyone who donated and volunteered their time as part of our first Day of Giving, and we look forward to building on the momentum for another great year," said Isak.



Todd Siben, assistant director, Portfolio Assessment, Center for the Assessment of Learning

Focus On: Annie Born

Although **Annie Born** only recently marked her two-year anniversary as a Thomas Edison employee, her true tenure with the University is much longer.

Born, a VA compliance officer in the Office of Military and Veteran Education, has worn many hats over the years, including student, consultant for the TESU Foundation and Foundation Gala volunteer.

"As a prospective student, I was drawn to the flexibility that Thomas Edison afforded me as I completed my degree," said Born, who earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English in 2010. "Being a new mother, I was thankful for the online learning environment that allowed me to complete my work at any time of day or night.

"As an employee re-entering the workforce, I was drawn to Thomas Edison for many reasons – first, I believe in the University and its mission of serving nontraditional students; second, I appreciate the University's unwavering commitment to the city of Trenton, a town dear to me; third, I find the people of this place tend to be capable, kind and united in the pursuit of helping our students succeed, academically and beyond."

As the VA compliance officer, Born is charged with assisting colleague **Craig Smith**, director of Veteran Affairs, and the rest of the VA team, by confirming that the University's veteran students are progressing successfully through their degree programs. Born and the team also work to ensure that

the University complies with the stringent regulations put forth by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; ensuring students can continue to use veteran benefits to further their educational goals.

"Of course, this means that I get to do my favorite part of the job: work directly with students to facilitate their success," Born enthused. "What I most enjoy about working at the University is twofold: I love that I have the daily opportunity to interact with our military and veteran students, helping them navigate their way through their academic careers. Whether I am speaking with a stateside student to assist with VA paperwork or I am emailing with an active duty service member who's been deployed to Afghanistan, I love to be the person who helps solve problems to ensure our students can continue to earn their degrees. I also truly enjoy welcoming new students to the University and helping guide them through their first couple of terms as they learn the ropes of online learning."

Born noted that her personal experience as a student at Thomas Edison has certainly informed the type of service she provides for its military and veteran students.

"I understand how it feels to return to higher education after a hiatus, and I can empathize with students who are pursuing a degree while caring for a family, working, volunteering and serving significant roles in our communities."

In addition to helping students, Born



Annie Born, VA compliance officer, Office of Military and Veteran Education

enjoys the people with whom she shares that endeavor. "Another compelling reason I love coming to work is that my colleagues are second to none. Each and every one of the folks in the Office of Military and Veteran Education cares deeply about the students we serve, and they are all wonderful people who I am honored to call friends."

Born and her children, Baker, age 9, and Sadie, age 7, recently moved from their "beloved hometown of Trenton" to Yardley, Pa., mainly to be closer to the children's school and "to have a bit of a backyard with some trees to climb."

In her spare time, Born enjoys playing tennis with her beau, Mike Cooper, on their USTA team out of Bucks County Racquet Club – "Go, Volley Llamas!" She also loves to cook, go on adventures and take bike rides with Cooper and the kids. She is a parent volunteer at Newtown Friends School and recently served as a trustee on the Board of Mercer Street Friends.

Staff Activities



Sylvia G. Hamilton



Jeanine Nagrod



Denise M. Tate



Ritamarie Giosa



Dr. Ana Maria Catanzaro

Sylvia G. Hamilton, associate vice president, Enrollment Management Planning and Assessment, has been elected to serve on the Board of Directors of ACE Women's Network – New Jersey. Members of the Board of Directors are responsible for coordinating efforts to further the goals of the national American Council on Education (ACE). These efforts include identifying women to assume leadership positions within institutions of higher education and planning/sponsoring activities to promote that advancement.

Jeanine Nagrod, director, Office for Assessment of Professional and Workplace Learning, was invited by SUNY Empire State College to give a virtual presentation on professional learning evaluations in the college's PLA Webinar Series in January.

Dr. Denise M. Tate, associate dean, Undergraduate Nursing Programs, is a co-author and wrote Chapter 10: "Mary Breckenridge: Angel on Horseback" in the textbook *Nursing's Greatest Leaders: A History of Activism*, published by Springer Publishing in February.

W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing staff **Ritamarie Giosa**, nursing program advisor, and **Dr. Ana Maria Catanzaro**, associate dean for Graduate Programs, presented "A Process Model for Enhancing the Quality of Practicum Preparation in the Online Graduate Nursing Program" at the ANCC (American Nurses Association Credentialing Center) Master's Conference in Houston, Texas, in February.

Jennifer Guerrero, associate director of the Annual Fund and Donor Relations, Office of Development, presented on employee giving campaigns at the Northeast Annual Giving Conference in March.

Carla Colburn, associate director of Academic Advising, attended the 2016 Region 2 NACADA Conference entitled, "Capitol-izing on Student Success through Academic Advising" held in East Hyattsville, Md., in March. Colburn read session proposals prior to this event and served as a volunteer during the conference.

Program Advisors **Colleen Doran** and **Joshua Hoftiezer** represented the Office of Academic Advising at the Thomas Edison State University Day held at Bergen Community College in March.

Todd Siben, assistant director, Portfolio Assessment, attended an Open House for adult students at Brookdale Community College to provide information about the NJPLAN for potential students and for staff from other New Jersey institutions in April.

Robert J. Burton, assistant director, Office of Veterans Affairs, was selected as a panelist and asked to present his doctoral paper, "Shared Governance: The Politics and Policymaking of Shared Service Agreements and Public Private Partnerships in Municipal Government" to The Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) 2016 Regional Student Conference at George Mason University in April.

Dr. Michael Williams, dean of the School of Business and Management, served as a judge in Human Resource Management for the February 2016 New Jersey Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) State Leadership Conference.

Drew Hopkins, CIO, and **Chip Stoll**, director, MIS, completed a case study with Pearson Embanet entitled, "After-hours help desk services assist online students around the world."



Carla Colburn



Todd Siben



Robert J. Burton



Dr. Michael Williams

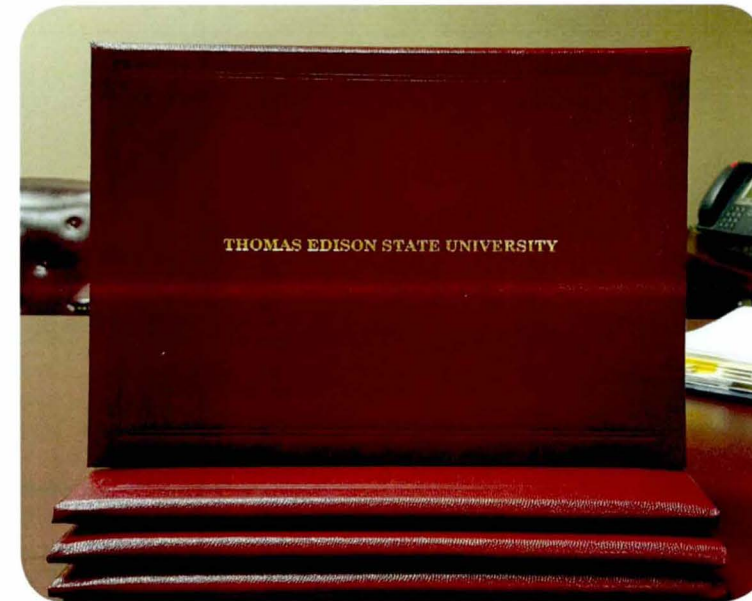


Chip Stoll

Take Your Child to Work Day

A fun-filled day of activities and learning were the order of business for the 50 sons, daughters, nieces, nephews and grandchildren that attended the Take Your Child to Work Day at Thomas Edison State University on April 28. The agenda included a greeting by **Dr. George A. Pruitt**; a presentation by staff from the Center for Learning and Technology (CLT), trips to the Old Barracks and New Jersey State Library; and a pizza party.

"Last year was my son's first year participating in Take Your Child to Work Day, so I was thrilled that he wanted to come back," said **Gillian Wyckoff**, director, Learner Support Center. "He thought this year's program was fun, especially the Minecraft presentation by CLT, and enjoyed spending time with his friends and making new ones; he is definitely looking forward to coming back next year! I commend our Office of Human Resources for keeping the ideas fresh, and spending so much time and energy on this event for our kids."



Alumni Request University Diplomas

Approximately 1,950 Duplicate Diplomas Mailed

With the recent transition to University status, Thomas Edison graduates were given the opportunity to request a duplicate diploma with the new University name and University Seal.

The Office of the Registrar is happy to announce that approximately 1,950 duplicate diplomas were requested by and mailed to alumni of the University. This effort was successful based on the coordination of a number of offices and staff, and the Office of the Registrar, in addition to its staff, would like to thank and recognize the Office of the Bursar, Mail Operations, and the Office of Alumni Affairs for helping with this project.

JetBlue Grant Supports BSAST Degree in Aviation Management



Pictured from the left, Dr. John Aje, dean; Marcus Austin, TESU Aviation Management student; Janet Eickhoff, associate vice president; Stephanie Hood-Irwin, TESU Aviation Management student; Cody Cleverly, senior analyst, Academic Programs, JetBlue Airways; and Donald Cucuzzella, assistant director.

The School of Applied Science and Technology was awarded a \$25,000 grant from the JetBlue Foundation. **Dr. John Aje**, dean, and **Donald Cucuzzella**, assistant director, School of Applied Science and Technology; and **Janet Eickhoff**, associate vice president, Office of Strategic Partnerships and Outreach, traveled to Orlando, Fla., on March 31 to receive the award and participate in the JetBlue Foundation granting event. In addition, the team toured JetBlue's training facilities (JetBlue University) at the Orlando International Airport. The grant will be used to help develop courses for the University's Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology degree in Aviation Management. Two TESU students enrolled in the degree program joined the team on the trip.

Operation College Promise Held Certificate for Veterans' Service Providers (CVSP) Training in Savannah

More than 70 veterans' service professionals representing 51 different colleges and universities from 16 states and the District of Columbia participated in Operation College Promise's Certificate for Veterans' Service Providers (CVSP) professional development training in March at Armstrong State University in Savannah, Ga. The signature training program designed by Operation College Promise (OCP) educates and empowers U.S. military veterans' service providers to support veterans as they reintegrate to civilian life and achieve their academic goals.

Watson Institute Predecessor Remembered

The 25th anniversary of the founding of the Trenton Office of Policy Studies (TOPS) was celebrated on April 17. **John Thurber**, vice president for Public Affairs, was the founding executive director of TOPS, which was the predecessor for The John S. Watson Institute for Policy Studies.

TOPS was established by a Memorandum of Understanding signed by **Dr. George A. Pruitt** on April 17, 1991. That document defined its purpose as providing policy research and analysis to support more effective decision making by leaders in the public and nonprofit sectors, with its initial focus on the city of Trenton. TOPS received both the state and national Excel Award from the National Center for Public Productivity as a model program to enhance the effectiveness of the public sector. Following its renaming as the The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy, **William Watson** became the executive director in August 1996. He was succeeded in that role by **Dr. Joseph Youngblood II** and, ultimately, by **Barbara George Johnson**, who currently serves in that role.

Community Involvement Fair



(From left) Angela Chatman, executive assistant, Division of Community and Government Affairs, and Milady Gonzalez, confidential assistant to the Vice President for Public Affairs, visited with Passage Theatre Company representative Elizabeth Zuckerman during the Community Involvement Fair on April 13.

This year's Community Involvement Fair, which brought together more than 43 nonprofit organizations from the Trenton area and approximately 160 attendees to the University, was the most successful event of its kind to date. The event, held on April 13, reminded University staff and community participants of the power of volunteerism and collaboration. CASA of Burlington and Mercer, NJSL Talking Book and Braille Center, One Simple Wish, Passage Theatre, Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, Trenton Health Team, United Way of Greater Mercer and Urban Mental Health Alliance were among the agencies and nonprofits taking part.