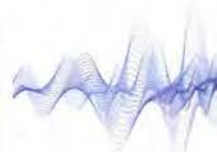




# SIGNALS



Higher Education. For Adults With Higher Expectations.®

## Bringing the Proctored Exam to You

### PARTNERSHIP MAKES TAKING EXAMS MORE CONVENIENT

Thomas Edison State College is partnering with the online proctoring service, ProctorU, to enable thousands of its students to take exams online in their homes at times that work around their schedules.

Seth Karl Goehring is one of them. ProctorU enables the busy father of three young children and active member of the Minnesota National Guard to take his final exams at his Crookston, Minn., home while completing his Associate in Applied Science degree at Thomas Edison State College.

"Online proctoring means I don't have to travel to a test site," said Goehring. "I was a little nervous before my first experience, but I soon realized that there was nothing to worry about. After the initial set-up, I forgot the proctor was even there." The convenience is a boon for nontraditional students. Prior to online proctoring, students like Goehring had to schedule exams at testing sites with a live proctor who was preapproved by the College.

Online proctoring was introduced to Thomas Edison State College students in 2010 to allow them to take exams from the convenience of their home or office using any computer equipped with a webcam and high-speed Internet access. Since then, ProctorU has monitored nearly 50,000 exams for the College's students.

*"I already have a variety of day-to-day stresses. The ability to have my exams proctored online, seven days a week, alleviates one of them."*

"At ProctorU we offer flexible proctoring options to people that may not otherwise be able to complete their degrees," said ProctorU Executive Vice President Jarrod Morgan. "In our collaboration with schools like Thomas Edison State College, we've seen active duty military take their exams from the front lines of Afghanistan and Iraq along with thousands of other students who have been able to pursue their college education thanks to our partnership."

Students connect to a live proctor that they can see on their computer screen when it is time to take their exam. Students complete an ID authentication process and receive real-time assistance from the proctor if they encounter technical difficulties.

"I already have a variety of day-to-day stresses," said Goehring. "The ability to have my exams proctored online, seven days a week, alleviates one of them."

Goehring has been a member of the Minnesota Army National Guard for nearly 11 years and currently holds the rank of sergeant first class. He joined the U.S. Army in 2003 after graduating from high school and was able to attend college for one year before deploying to Iraq for 22 months. When he returned home to a full-time job, he said he had to put earning his degree on the back burner.

» Page 3

### COURSE NEWS

Note: A complete listing of all undergraduate and graduate courses and their availability may be found on the College website at [www.tesc.edu/courses](http://www.tesc.edu/courses).

#### NEW UNDERGRADUATE ONLINE COURSES:

**BIO-310-OL** *Man's Best Friend: The Biology and Behavior of Dogs*

**SOS-370-OL** *Challenges in U.S. and Global Public Health*

#### NEW GRADUATE ONLINE COURSES:

**EDT-710-OL** *Practicum in Educational Technology and Online Learning*

**HLS-610-OL** *The Psychology and Sociology of Disaster*

**HLS-640-OL** *Funding and Program Administration for Homeland Security*

The inspiration behind Seth Goehring's degree completion are (from left to right) his son, Christian; wife, Alicia; daughter, Audrey; and son, Kolton.



# FINANCIAL AID SHOPPING SHEET

## ONLINE SHOPPING AT ITS BEST

Are you interested in figuring out the cost of taking courses before registering for a single credit?

Put away your calculators, because there is a new, interactive online tool that will help you do just that. Thomas Edison State College has implemented the Financial Aid Shopping Sheet that helps students who are receiving financial aid to estimate college costs over time.

"This resource is designed to help students estimate the cost of attending Thomas Edison State College so they can easily compare us with other institutions," said David Anderson, associate vice president for Enrollment Operations. "Students are not required to complete the Financial Aid Shopping Sheet; however, by doing so, they will be able to make an informed decision based on enrollment costs and potential financial aid funds available for their education."

Do you know someone who is considering returning to college? Let them know about this online tool. Both prospective and enrolled

students can access the Financial Aid Shopping Sheet on the College's website by visiting [www.tesc.edu/shoppingSheet](http://www.tesc.edu/shoppingSheet).

Contact (888) 442-8372 or the Office of Financial Aid: [finaid@tesc.edu](mailto:finaid@tesc.edu) for more information. ■



The Financial Aid Shopping Sheet provides an estimate of costs and potential sources of financial assistance and demonstrates Thomas Edison State College's adherence to the Principles of Excellence under Presidential Executive Order 13607. Final calculations are based on data supplied by users and are intended for informational and comparative purposes only. Final calculations are not official financial aid awards and financial aid decisions are not based on information in the Financial Aid Shopping Sheet.



# NJCBAH Honors Best of BSBA Students

## ASSOCIATION INDUCTS THREE INTO HONOR SOCIETY

The New Jersey Collegiate Business Administration Association (NJCBAH) inducted three Thomas Edison State College Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) students into its statewide honor society on May 2.

The NJCBAH recognizes undergraduate students who have excelled in their studies in business education and honorees represent the top 1 percent of business students in their respective colleges and schools. Established in 2003, the NJCBAH Honor Society annually honors students who are pursuing associate or bachelor's degrees in business, have completed a minimum of 35 percent of course work from the nominating institution and are in good academic standing. ■



Pictured from the left are NJCBAH inductees John Harth, who is pursuing a BSBA degree in operations management; Anna Tyburski, who is pursuing a BSBA in marketing; and Lisa Passaretti, who is pursuing a BSBA in accounting.

# Learner Services Center Tips that Could Save You Time and Worry

By Anna Krum,  
Senior Student Affairs Specialist

## DO YOU HAVE ADVISING, FINANCIAL AID OR COURSE QUESTIONS? WE HAVE YOUR ANSWERS.

As an adult student, your time is valuable. In an effort to keep your degree path as clear as possible, the following are some time-saving tips that will help you move through your program more efficiently and focus on completing your degree.

Answers to frequently asked questions:

### ► When will I know if my College application was accepted?

Applications are processed within 7-10 business days from the date your application and application fee were submitted. You will receive an acceptance email once the application is processed, which will contain your College ID.

### ► When will I receive my Academic Evaluation?

Academic Evaluations are completed within 20 business days from the date your application is processed and/or your transcripts are received at the College. You will receive an email notification once the evaluation has been completed, and you will be able to view your evaluation through Online Student Services.

### ► How do I schedule an advising appointment?

Academic advising appointments can be made through the myEdison® student portal. You will find the link to schedule the appointment under the "Student" tab. You can make an advising appointment as soon as you have received your Academic Evaluation and are enrolled.

### ► Is there more than one application for financial aid?

Yes, students are required to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as well as the Thomas Edison State College Application for Financial Aid. Financial aid requests cannot be processed until both applications have been received by the College. FAFSA forms need to be completed on a yearly basis. Visit [www.tesc.edu/finaid](http://www.tesc.edu/finaid) to

access these forms as well as the new Financial Aid Shopping Sheet which will help you estimate the cost of taking courses.

### ► Will my financial aid award cover the cost of textbooks?

Financial aid awards do not cover the purchase of textbooks. Students using financial aid are responsible for ordering and purchasing their own textbooks.

### ► When can I expect my financial aid refund?

Financial aid disbursements are made within 45 days of the start of the term. If you are due a refund, it will be mailed to you once the disbursement has been made.

### ► Where do I obtain the information to purchase textbooks for my course(s)?

Students may obtain textbook information through the College's textbook vendor, MBS Direct, by visiting their site: [www.mbsdirect.net](http://www.mbsdirect.net). Although it is not mandatory that you purchase your textbooks through this vendor, be sure to use the ISBN found on their website to ensure you are purchasing the correct textbooks for your course.

### ► When will my courses appear in Moodle, my online course space?

Courses are open to students the Friday before the term begins. It is suggested that you login to myEdison® as soon as the course(s) is open to allow plenty of time to contact the College should you have any concerns.



Anna Krum, Senior Student Affairs Specialist in the Learner Services Center at Thomas Edison State College

### ► How do I request a College transcript?

All transcript requests must be done in writing, using the *Transcript Request Form*, which can be found on the College website at [www.tesc.edu/current-students/Request-Transcript.cfm](http://www.tesc.edu/current-students/Request-Transcript.cfm). Transcripts are processed within five business days of receipt of your request. Please note that there will be a \$10 fee per transcript.

### MORE HELPFUL HINTS:

- To save time when calling us, it's helpful to have your College ID ready.
- Log in to myEdison® as soon as your course is open to ensure you have access. Your courses will appear 24 - 48 hours before the term begins.
- Familiarize yourself with Knowledge Base Articles in myEdison®. The information provides answers to commonly asked questions.

As always, the student affairs specialists at the Learner Support Center are happy to speak with you. Please contact us by emailing [LSC@tesc.edu](mailto:LSC@tesc.edu) or call us at (888) 442-8372, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Eastern Time. ■

# Bringing the Proctored Exam to You *(continued from front cover)*

"After years of thinking that I would never finish college, I researched several military-friendly institutions that offered online degree programs," said Goehring who plans to enroll in a bachelor's degree program at the College once he completes the degree requirements for his associate degree.

"I could not be happier with my choice, and finding the balance to complete my courses has been easier than I expected. Now that I'm completing my AAS degree, I'll continue on to pursue my Bachelor of Science degree in homeland security and emergency preparedness. It might take a little longer to

reach my goal, but I like to believe that I am proof that anyone can do this."

To find out more, visit [www.proctoru.com/tesc](http://www.proctoru.com/tesc). ■

## Survey of Graduates

### COLLEGE RECEIVES HIGH MARKS FROM RECENT GRADS

In an era swirling with skepticism over the value of a college degree, the findings from a survey of recent graduates affirm Thomas Edison State College's reputation as a provider of high quality collegiate learning opportunities for its adult learners.

"The Graduate Survey, which is administered annually by the Division of Planning and Research, provides us with a valuable and comparative measurement of recent graduates' satisfaction with our programs and their perceptions of our impact on their educational, personal and career objectives," said Dr. Deborah Duffy, a senior research analyst in the division. "We are always thankful to those who take the time to complete our surveys. This is our way of capturing the voice of our students, which is essential to our ability to continue to meet their needs."

A total of 2,936 undergraduate students who received their degrees between July 2012 and June 2013 (FY 2013) were invited to participate in this year's survey, of which 378 responded, yielding a 13 percent response rate.

"Of the graduates that completed our survey, 97 percent indicated that they would recommend the College to others," noted Duffy. "As an institution serving students already employed in positions across a multitude of sectors, the power of their positive recommendations cannot be underestimated."

#### GENERAL FINDINGS FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2013 GRADUATE SURVEY:

- The College continued to receive high marks from graduates, with 96 percent of survey respondents giving the College an overall rating of "Good" or "Excellent."
- The College's degree programs and requirements continue to be well-regarded by graduates, as are the College's online courses, prior learning assessment options and TECEP® exams, all of which received overall satisfaction ratings of "Good" or "Excellent" by more than 90 percent of FY 2013 graduates.
- The ease of transferring credits from other institutions continues to be a significant strength for the College, with nearly two-thirds of graduates taking advantage of this option and nine out of 10 rating the experience as either "Good" or "Excellent."
- Graduates also identified some areas that the College can improve upon, such as the timeliness of mentor feedback and the availability of technical support. Ratings for the timeliness and helpfulness of staff have increased over the past five years, reflecting positive changes that have taken place.

"The quality of our academic programs and services are a matter of continuous focus for our staff," noted Duffy. Staff from the Division of Planning and Research discussed the survey



Dr. Deborah Duffy, senior research analyst at Thomas Edison State College

results with the College's senior management, the deans and their staff. "The survey's findings, together with other measures of student satisfaction and learning, are used to maintain our strengths and continually improve upon areas that impact students' overall experience," she said.

If you have questions concerning the survey or its results, please contact the Division of Planning and Research by emailing [planningandresearch@tesc.edu](mailto:planningandresearch@tesc.edu). ■

## Turnitin for Students

### ONLINE SERVICE HELPS KEEP YOUR WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AS ORIGINAL AS YOU ARE

Turnitin, the online plagiarism prevention service, is being implemented in most of Thomas Edison State College's online courses that contain at least one written assignment.

The originality report that Turnitin generates is structured to point out instances of unoriginal content or citation errors before you submit your assignment. This will allow you to make necessary corrections to content before your work is evaluated and graded by your mentor. Only one or two assignments in each course will require a Turnitin Originality Report.

"The service will give students an opportunity to fine-tune their work while helping them to improve their writing and citation skills

before submitting their assignments," said Dr. Henry van Zyl, vice provost for Academic Administration and Dean of Graduate Programs. "Most importantly, it will maintain the academic integrity students expect from their Thomas Edison State College degree program."

It is essential to remember that only you will have access to the originality reports generated by Turnitin on your work. You will have opportunities to remedy instances of unoriginal content before uploading the final Turnitin report along with your assignment to your mentor.

"Turnitin is a free service for our enrolled students and we have structured their



assignments in their Moodle course space so that their final Turnitin originality reports can easily be uploaded with the applicable assignments," said van Zyl.

Visit [www.tesc.edu/turnitin](http://www.tesc.edu/turnitin) to learn more. If you have questions about using the service, contact the Learner Support Center by email: [LSC@tesc.edu](mailto:LSC@tesc.edu) or by calling (888) 442-8372 Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Time. ■

## Meet a Mentor: Dr. Patricia O'Neill

### MENTOR, SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT AND HUMANITARIAN

When the College was looking for a content expert for a new history exam, it did not have far to search. Dr. Patricia O'Neill, who has served as a mentor in the College's online Western Civilization I and II courses for nine years, was the perfect match.

"The College's Center for the Assessment of Learning had contacted me to create a new TECEP® history test for our students," said O'Neill. "Since I have taught HIS-101 and 102 courses for a number of years in various formats, it was a natural fit."

O'Neill and fellow Heavin School of Arts and Sciences mentor, William "Bill" Lipkin, were assigned different components of the World History from 1600-Present (HIS-126) exam for the College's TECEP® credit-by-exam program. She and Lipkin created a test description that will serve as the students' study guide and exam questions aligned with the topics.

Credit-by-exam programs like TECEP® have become increasingly popular among students who want to complete their degree requirements more efficiently while containing costs. More recently, credit-by-exam programs have been



History Mentor Dr. Patricia O'Neill and husband Dr. Marinus Koning trekking Mount Kilimanjaro.

of Pennsylvania, an MA in history at the University at Buffalo, the State University of New York, and her PhD in history at the University of Washington. She serves on the faculty of Central Oregon Community College, Oregon State University - Cascades and Excelsior College. She is the recipient of numerous academic awards and has presented at a number of international

and Culture (HIS-261) online and Guided Study courses for the College.

When O'Neill is not overseeing courses and content, she and husband Dr. Marinus Koning, are immersed in the humanitarian effort they launched, Reach Another Foundation.

"Through our work with our foundation, we have been going to Ethiopia since 2009, bringing donated medical and educational supplies," said O'Neill. "We are accompanied by specialists and medical professionals who give of their time to perform surgery on babies suffering from hydrocephalus and help train local surgeons in complex surgical procedures."

Interested in seeing how credit-for-testing can work in your degree program? Visit [www.tesc.edu/TECEP](http://www.tesc.edu/TECEP). To learn more about the free, open course option for students, visit [www.tesc.edu/opencourse](http://www.tesc.edu/opencourse). To explore the humanitarian work of O'Neill's Reach Another Foundation, visit [www.reachanother.org](http://www.reachanother.org). ■

Our students submit thoughtful and well-crafted Discussion Board assignments and written work.

instrumental in developing new pathways for students to earn credit, including the College's free open course option through its partnership with the Saylor Foundation.

According to O'Neill, the HIS-126 exam used an associated Saylor Foundation course as a guideline to create multiple choice and short answer questions spanning political and military developments from the 1600s through postwar global society.

"The objective is to test students' familiarity with the subject matter in one single, comprehensive exam while incorporating ways to assess their analytical and critical-thinking skills," she noted.

In her own academic journey, O'Neill earned her BA in history at the University

conferences and scholarly symposiums. O'Neill is also an active member and volunteer for civic councils, auxiliaries and university and health associations in and around her hometown of Bend, Ore.

According to O'Neill, the College's adult learners are very clear in their academic goals and highly motivated to learn.

"Our students submit thoughtful and well-crafted Discussion Board assignments and written work. Many students in the HIS-102 course are either in the military and/or they are history majors, so they are very interested in the world wars, the big 'isms' and the dissolution of the Soviet Union," noted O'Neill, who has also mentored Introduction to Chinese History



## FERPA

### CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR PRIVACY AS A STUDENT? SO ARE WE.

You may think that FERPA (the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974) only protects traditionally-aged college students. However, as an adult learner, did you know that your privacy is protected under the same law?

FERPA, also known as the Buckley Amendment, is a federal law protecting the privacy of students' educational records. In accordance with FERPA law, Thomas Edison State College only shares limited information about you with the public and can only disclose the following 'directory information' without your consent: Your name, email address, enrollment status, area of study, degree/honors conferred and dates of degree conferral.

This information may be released for any purpose at the discretion of the College. However, students have the right to withhold the disclosure of directory information by written notification to the College's Office of the Registrar.

FERPA laws also afford you the right to access, inspect and review your educational records. FERPA also provides guidelines to students to amend or correct inaccurate or misleading data in their records through informal and formal hearings and establishes the right of students to file complaints with the FERPA office concerning alleged failures by the institution to comply.

#### WHAT THE COLLEGE CANNOT RELEASE REGARDING YOUR EDUCATIONAL RECORD:

► No school official can discuss your educational record over the phone, in writing or in person with someone other than you without your explicit written and signed consent. If you have a spouse, parent, child, employer or other person that you would like to have access to your records or speak to the College on your behalf, you will need to send a signed release that will be entered in your student file in the Office of the Registrar. The signed release should include the name, relationship and amount of access the person can have to your record. Please include all aspects of your record that you are willing to disclose, from academic advising records and grade reports to any billing information associated with your degree pursuit.

By Jennifer Stark, Assistant Director  
Academic Records and Registration



► Your College ID number cannot be provided over the phone. We can send you an email containing that information to the email address we have on file for you. For this and other reasons, make sure the email address we have on file for you is up to date.

► Final grades cannot be disclosed over the phone, by email or by fax. Students who wish to see their final grade(s) can do so on Online Student Services, through their Academic Profile or on their Academic Evaluation. An official grade report is also mailed a few weeks after your term ends.

► Transcripts cannot be released by email or fax. We can, however, release a transcript to another institution once you have completed and signed a TESC Transcript Request Form. The College can also release electronic transcripts through the National Student Clearinghouse.

The privacy of your education record is a major priority in the College's Office of the Registrar. "When in doubt, don't give it out," is a common phrase seen and heard in our office. This policy is extended to all of the College's officials through mandatory training and ongoing communications that uphold the privacy of students' records.

If you want to learn more about FERPA laws and how they affect you or members of your family, visit the U.S. Department of Education's site at [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov) and enter search term "FERPA." You can also call (800) 872-5327 or contact:

#### Family Policy Compliance Office

U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20202-8520

Visit the College's Office of the Registrar Web page: [www.tesc.edu/registrar](http://www.tesc.edu/registrar) for links to more FERPA information, academic calendars, transcripts and verification policies, course registration guidelines, information about Academic Evaluations and instructions regarding commencement and graduation. ■



## Protecting the Homeland

### LAWRENCE DEBELLIS IS BUILDING ON HIS MILITARY CAREER TO CONTINUE HIS SERVICE IN THE STATES

Lawrence DeBellis' educational journey took him from the dusty roads of Baghdad to the limitless universe of online learning.

DeBellis, a U.S. Army veteran who served 10 years, plans to continue service to his country as a civilian by pursuing a career in homeland security.

The Thomas Edison State College student expects to complete his Bachelor of Science degree in homeland security and emergency preparedness this summer. He was accepted into the College's Bachelor's to Master's Program and is currently taking his first master's-level course.

"The flexibility of online learning at Thomas Edison State College was pivotal in my decision to begin my educational journey," DeBellis explained. "Often my schedule is unpredictable and the ability to complete course work at my own pace has made my dreams of being a college graduate possible. Completing my college degrees while maintaining my 3.8 GPA will prove to me that I have the aptitude to compete with my peers entering the homeland security field."

During the first six years of his military career, DeBellis worked as a multi-channel transmission

systems operator/maintainer. Deployed to Iraq in 2005, he was assigned to a personal security detachment for VIP's, command teams, staff and various other detailed missions, where, he said, "I spent more time on the roads of Baghdad than anything else for the majority of the year."

DeBellis spent the second half of his military career working as a human intelligence collector and interrogator and noted that he had a tremendous amount of professional and personal success within the field. He was medically retired in 2013 after combat injuries began to take their toll and retired with an honorable discharge as a staff sergeant.

While serving a tour of duty in Hawaii in 2007, he met with Thomas Edison State College military education counselor Maria Marte at the Schofield Barracks Education Center. "Marte described college in a way that no one else had in the 15 years since I had graduated high school," said DeBellis, who learned how his military training could translate into credits in the area of homeland security.

"I have enjoyed the flexibility of online learning," DeBellis said. "I have had dozens of mentors and professors at this point and my favorite



Lawrence DeBellis

aspect is that they are chosen from within their professional fields. This, incorporated with the syllabus material, has prepared me for entering the homeland security and national defense field."

"Just as my wife, Jenn, supported my Army career, she has continued to support me through my college experience," DeBellis added. "As I transitioned from the Army, Jenn prompted me to attend school full time to complete my degree program while I have the opportunity."

DeBellis and his wife live in the greater Seattle area. In his spare time, DeBellis noted, he enjoys playing the guitar and photographing the seemingly unlimited outdoor canvases that the northwest has to offer. He is a proud alumnus of the Wounded Warrior Project, a veterans' service organization that offers programs, service and events for wounded military veterans. ■

## School of Nursing Earns CCNE Accreditation

### DEAN CONFIRMS THAT SUCCESSFUL ACCREDITATION IS A COMMUNITY EFFORT

The W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing at Thomas Edison State College was recently awarded full 10-year accreditation for its bachelors and masters degree programs by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The accreditation resulted from an onsite evaluation of the School's programs conducted in October 2013.

"CCNE accreditation is a particularly validating endorsement," said Dr. Phyllis Marshall, dean of the School. "The Commission is the principal accrediting body for nursing schools and the only national accrediting agency dedicated exclusively to evaluating bachelor's and graduate-level nursing education programs. We were grateful to have the support of the entire College community in this endeavor,

and look forward to our continued role in the advancement of nursing education."

The accreditation process also provided a forum for students and graduates of the program to share their experiences, as both learners and active practitioners, with CCNE evaluators.

Recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education, the CCNE is an autonomous accrediting agency contributing to the improvement of the public's health. CCNE ensures the quality and integrity of baccalaureate, graduate and residency programs in nursing. To find out more about the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing and its other accreditations, visit [www.tesc.edu/nursing](http://www.tesc.edu/nursing). ■



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

Academic Calendar	September 2014	October 2014	November 2014
Registration Dates	July 25 - Aug. 16, 2014	Aug. 22 - Sept. 12, 2014	Sept. 18 - Oct. 18, 2014
Late Registration	Aug. 17 - 21, 2014	Sept. 13 - 17, 2014	Oct. 19 - 23, 2014
Course Transfer Period	July 25 - Sept. 5, 2014	Aug. 22 - Oct. 3, 2014	Sept. 18 - Nov. 7, 2014
<b>Term Start Date</b>	<b>Sept. 1, 2014</b>	<b>*Sept. 29, 2014</b>	<b>Nov. 3, 2014</b>
Midterm Exam Week**	Oct. 13 - 19, 2014	Nov. 10 - 16, 2014	Dec. 15 - 21, 2014
Final Exam Week**	Nov. 17 - 23, 2014	Dec. 15 - 21, 2014	Jan. 19 - 25, 2015
<b>Term Ends</b>	Nov. 23, 2014	Dec. 21, 2014	Jan. 25, 2015

\*Term start date applies to both graduate and undergraduate courses.

\*\*Select courses have midterm examinations or online proctored midterm and final examinations; please refer to your course materials for details.

SUMMER 2014 • VOL. 16, NO. 3 • WWW.TESC.EDU