

# NEWS BRIEF

OFFICE OF CORPORATE - HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

NUMBER 61  
MARCH 1997

## AIBNJ, Thomas Edison Sign Articulation Agreement

**L**eadership of the American Institute of Banking of New Jersey (AIBNJ) signed an agreement with

Thomas Edison State College in January establishing a unique partnership to enable bankers to use AIB courses that have

been evaluated and recommended for credit by the ACE/PONSI program as a foundation for completing associate and baccalaureate degrees.

"Thousands of bankers throughout New Jersey will benefit from this corporate-college

partnership between AIBNJ and Thomas Edison State College," said Alfred M.

D'Augusta, executive vice president for Human Resources and Administrative Services with Summit Bancorp in Princeton. D'Augusta signed the agreement in his role as president of AIBNJ.

"Through the College Accelerated Program (CAP), bankers may study at AIBNJ and earn up to

**"Thousands of bankers throughout New Jersey will benefit from this corporate-college partnership"**

30 credits directly applicable to a 60-

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## Thomas Edison State College's Silver Anniversary: Inventing the Future of Higher Education

To celebrate the most unique success story in higher education, Thomas Edison State College is observing its 25th anniversary in 1997 with a year-long series of events. From brochures and banners to stationery and even the College's postage meter, everything the College produces will announce this milestone celebration.

"This year's theme, 'Inventing the Future of Higher Education,' certainly characterizes Thomas Edison State College since its beginnings," said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president. "In the

past few years, other colleges have begun to discover the adult learners we have been designed to serve exclusively since our founding 25 years ago. The work we pioneered in meeting the special needs of adult learners has been imitated but not replicated in colleges and universities around the world. I can say with absolute conviction that no educational institution is better suited to today's busy adult than Thomas Edison State College."

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▲ Officials of the American Institute of Banking New Jersey (AIBNJ) and Thomas Edison State College recently signed an agreement enabling bankers to use AIBNJ courses toward associate and bachelor's degrees at Thomas Edison. Shown at the signing at Summit Bancorp are (l. to r.) Karen Miller McMullen, AIBNJ executive director; Alfred M. D'Augusta, executive vice president for Human Resources and Administrative Services at Summit Bancorp and president of AIBNJ, and Dr. Sonja A. Eveslage, assistant vice president for Corporate College Programs at Thomas Edison State College.



THOMAS  
EDISON  
STATE  
COLLEGE



## Four Organizations Undergo Reviews

### Lucent Technologies Technical Services Company

A total of 19 software or system courses were recently evaluated by ACE/PONSI and recommended for credit. This is the first wave of courses offered by Lucent Technologies Technical Services Company, a subsidiary of Lucent Technologies headquartered in Basking Ridge, to undergo an ACE/PONSI review.

The ACE/PONSI evaluated courses at Lucent Technologies are part of a rigorous learning experience tailored to meet the needs of professionals in this highly special-

ized telecommunica-tions field.

### AT&T School of Business and Technology Somerset, N.J.

AT&T School of Business and Technology recently had 19 courses undergo a five-year review, as well as having 22 additional courses reviewed for the first time. To date, AT&T has had the most courses evaluated by PONSI of any organization in New Jersey and is second only to the U.S. Department of Agriculture nationally.

Business and leadership programs at the School provide fundamental and advanced learning in

courses that include principles, theory and practical application in a broad range of subject areas.

Technical programs provide state-of-the-art training in many different topics and skills related to project management and human factors, voice communication technology, Internet and data communications technologies, programming technologies and business systems engineering, and UNIX/PC/Open systems.

### Omega Institute Pennsauken, N.J.

Eleven courses offered at Omega underwent a successful five-year review and continue to be recommended for a total of 25 credits.

The Omega Institute provides paralegal/legal assistant training for the greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey regions. In addition to its paralegal area, additional programs in business, allied health, and hospitality and tourism have been evaluated.

### Lucent Technologies, Inc.- Learning and Performance Center Piscataway, N.J.

The Learning and Performance Center is the new learning arm of Lucent Technologies that brings together technical, business and manufac-



▲ Pictured during the recent ACE/PONSI evaluation at Lucent Technologies Technical Services Company are: seated, l. to r., Dr. Gerry F. Stach, assistant professor of Computer Science/Telecommunication, University of Missouri, and Prof. Robert Saldarini, professor of Information Systems, Bergen Community College. Standing, l. to r., Dan Negron, assistant director, Corporate-Higher Education Programs, Thomas Edison State College; Kathy Brown, manager, Lucent Technologies Technical Services Company; Prof. Thomas Handler, professor of Electrical Engineering Technology, Middlesex County College; Frank Samas, manager, Quality Control, Lucent Technologies Technical Services Company.

turing programs under one learning leader. It combines parts of what used to be the AT&T School of Business, the Technical Education Center, Learning Services and the Network Systems manufacturing training organizations.

Functional now under one umbrella known as the Lucent Technologies Learning and

Performance Center (LPC), the courses focus on improving areas such as software, wireless technology, global business management, sales, diversity, leadership, product/project management and manufacturing.

During a five-year review, eight courses were reviewed carrying the total of 14 credits. ■

## Annual Review Letters Out

All PONSI sponsors recently should have received a package that included Annual Review forms that need to be completed and returned. The Annual Review is an ACE/PONSI requirement that helps ensure the integrity of the program by having sponsors indicate any changes that may have occurred in the courses in the past year. If you have not already done so, please return the Annual Review forms. ■

## PONSI: A Vital Part of Graduates' Successes

The most recent list of graduates from Thomas Edison includes 20 students who have used credits earned through PONSI to meet graduation requirements. (Students officially graduate six times a year when the Board of Trustees meet, and then are invited to attend an annual Commencement ceremony in the fall.)

The list includes a diverse group of students who live here and abroad, and earned credits through evaluations conducted for several sponsor organizations representing many different fields.

Here is a capsule profile:

Graduates who used PONSI credits toward meeting their degree requirements live in New Jersey, but also New York, Tennessee, Connecticut, Texas, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Colorado and Georgia. Foreign countries represented include Israel and England.

Students earned from 6 to 75 credits for PONSI-sponsored work they had completed with the average student earning over 30 credits.

Ten PONSI sponsor organizations were represented among the students who used PONSI credits to complete degree requirements this January (They are noted in the box above):

American Institute of Banking  
Brick Computer Institute (former sponsor)  
Chubb Institute  
National Emergency Training Center  
New Jersey Association of Realtors  
New Jersey Department of Personnel (Human Resource Development Institute)  
Public Service Electric and Gas  
United States Department of Treasury  
Westinghouse Electric Corporation  
Zaidner Institute

Graduates who used PONSI are employed in diverse organizations, but all have expressed how valuable the PONSI program was in helping them to meet their goals. Here are three examples:

### Sharon Bender Knoll Pharmaceutical, BASF

"PONSI-evaluated courses got the ball rolling for me," stated Sharon Bender of Newton, N.J. Bender had been exploring the idea of pursuing a college degree when she learned that real estate courses she had

taken through the New Jersey Association of Realtors had undergone a PONSI review and that she could earn 6 credits. With those credits logged onto a transcript, she was on her way. "It gives you a good feeling to know you're making headway and that what you have already learned counts for something," she commented. It took her four years to complete a Bachelor of Arts degree - she combined several methods of earning credit to accomplish this.

Bender believes the college degree will assist her with career advancement. As an administrator at Knoll Pharmaceutical, part of BASF, she already sees opportunities opening up for her.

### David Clark United States Coast Guard

David Clark of Virginia Beach, Va., recently earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services in the Criminal Justice area. Clark has been in the U.S. Coast Guard for 20 years and participated in the PONSI-evaluated program offered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center where he took courses in criminal investigation training. That training was recommended by PONSI to be equivalent

to 9 college credits.

Clark completed degree requirements using programs from several different courses, including police academy training, Arizona State programs and Brigham Young programs. At Thomas Edison, he participated in the Guided Study program. Most of his credits were earned in the last two or three years when he "stepped up" his initiative to complete a college degree before he retires from the military later this year.

"Most definitely, the college degree is going to help me find a position in law enforcement when I retire from the military," Clark believes. He is interviewing for two positions and believes that the degree is the crucial credential that puts him "heads above the competition."

### Judith Almond PSE&G (Public Service Electric and Gas)

Judith Almond of Salem, N.J., heard about PONSI through a partnership that her employer, the Nuclear Training Center at PSE&G (Public Service Electric and Gas) had with Thomas Edison. The partnership brings Thomas Edison staff and services on-site to work with people interested in pursuing a college education.

"I think a college degree will make me more competitive and

give me more job security," Almond stated. She has worked at PSE&G for 15 years as a senior secretary and has seen many changes occur within the organization, and in the nuclear industry in general.

She began taking courses at Salem County Community College and later Wilmington College but sometimes, as she explained, "I would be sitting in classes and think 'I've been through this, I know this, it is part of what I do everyday.'"

Almond opted to sit for a six-part series of Certified Professional Secretary examinations to document what she already had learned on-the-job. The examinations offered by Professional Secretaries International had been reviewed by PONSI, and she was able to earn 16 credits toward her degree. She also took several CLEP examinations in addition to the college classwork and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in General Marketing.

"You can learn a great deal on the job, and often here at PSE&G, people are working in shifts that prevent them from attending college classes regularly. Examinations and other methods of earning credit are great options that I often recommend to others." ■

## NEWSBRIEF

NEWSBRIEF is published six times a year by the Office of Corporate-Higher Education Programs at Thomas Edison State College. Articles may be reprinted without permission; however, NEWSBRIEF must be credited, and a copy of the publication in which the article appears must be sent to:

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Thomas Edison State College  
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Articulation Agreement

Thomas Edison's  
Silver Anniversary:  
Inventing the Future of  
Higher Education

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### 3

PONSI: A Vital Part of  
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## AIBNJ.....from p.1

credit associate's degree with Thomas Edison," said Karen

Miller McMullen, executive director of AIBNJ, who was present at the signing. The agreement also

## 25th Anniversary.....from p.1

The year's celebration began in January with a ceremony recognizing the College's John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy, which provides impartial policy analysis and review to local and state governments. Other events will include a series of academic presentations, a birthday party with cake and candles, a spectacular Foundation Gala in the fall and an extraordinary Commencement in the Princeton University Chapel honoring College alumni from the first graduating class.

The year also will include the publication of two milestone volumes: a 25-year history of Thomas Edison State College and the first Alumni Directory. Details will be provided to alumni and students in future issues of *Invention*.

But the birthday observances will really take up only a small part of the College's calendar in 1997. "We'll be spending most of our time doing what we do best," said Dr. Pruitt, "inventing an even brighter future for higher education and the adult learners we serve." ■

provides a path for students to complete the degree at Thomas Edison by using services of the College especially designed to meet the needs of today's adult learners. The services include independent study programs, credit by examination and/or portfolio assessment.

Bankers who earn the associate degree then may complete a bachelor's degree in Banking or related areas and many qualify to enroll in Thomas Edison's Master of Science in Management degree, the first MSM in the nation offered by an accredited public college via the Internet.

According to McMullen, AIBNJ

selected Thomas Edison because of "its deep understanding of the adult learner. This relationship with the College is unique because it's more than simply an exchange of credits; it's a partnership between the industry and the College," she said.

There are 71 participating institutions in the AIBNJ program, with 5,700 bankers taking seminars, workshops and evening programs. "AIBNJ courses meet industry demands by providing the most up-to-date banking training available today in postsecondary education," McMullen said. "The combination of AIBNJ and Thomas Edison will result in a

coveted professional credential." ■

ACE/PONSI sponsors can make the most out of the program by encouraging employees to build on successful PONSI evaluation as a route to a college degree. For more information, call the Office of Corporate-Higher Education Programs at (609) 633-6271. ■