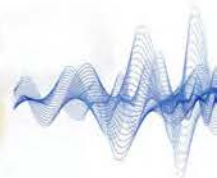




SIGNALS



Higher Education. For Adults With Higher Expectations.®

Partnership Delivers New Pathway to a Degree

COLLEGE'S COLLABORATION WITH SAYLOR FOUNDATION CREATES 'OPEN COURSE OPTION' FOR STUDENTS

Two disruptors in higher education – free, open online courses and prior learning assessment – have joined forces. The resulting union is good news for adult learners.

Thomas Edison State College and the Saylor Foundation have collaborated to develop a new degree pathway that allows students to take free, open courses and apply what they have learned in those courses to earn credit using the College's prior learning assessment program. Credits earned via the Open Course option can be applied to most undergraduate degree programs at Thomas Edison State College. In fact, students can complete the entire Associate in Science in Business Administration degree program exclusively through this option if they wish.



Marc Singer, vice provost of the College's Center for the Assessment of Learning.

"In the past two years, there has been much debate about how open, online courses benefit students," said Marc Singer, vice provost of the College's Center for the Assessment of Learning. "Our Open Course option enables students to take high-quality open courses through Saylor Foundation at no cost and then apply what they learned in those courses by taking our

assessments. This process allows them to earn credit that can be applied directly to a degree program at Thomas Edison State College."



The option allows students to earn credit by taking Saylor's open courses at no cost or time constraints and either passing a TECEP® exam or other credit-by-exam program associated with the course. Students may also choose to complete a portfolio assessment at the College documenting that they have gained the college-level knowledge aligned with their program requirements. More than 20 Saylor courses are part of the Open Course option, as are the College's new online prior learning assessment courses, PLA-100 and PLA-200.

"This is a compelling option for adult learners who prefer to work independently, enjoy credit-by-exam programs and are candidates for prior learning assessment," said Dr. Michael Williams, dean of the School of Business and Management. "This model offers students a more flexible, efficient way of completing their degree that has potential of saving time and tuition dollars."

In addition to the College's TECEP® exam option, credits can also be earned by passing a College-Level Exam Program (CLEP) exam or Saylor's National College Credit Recommendation Service (NCCRS) exams.

Please note that to earn a degree from Thomas Edison State College, students must be considered 'enrolled' by selecting an annual tuition plan.

For more information on the Open Course option, visit www.tesc.edu/opencourse. To find out how you can earn the credit you deserve, visit www.tesc.edu/degree-completion. ■

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.

NEW UNDERGRADUATE ONLINE COURSES:

CHE-121-OL General Chemistry I w/Lab

CHE-122-OL General Chemistry II w/Lab

HUS-101-OL Introduction to Human Services

PHY-115-OL Physics I w/Lab

PHY-116-OL Physics II w/Lab

NEW GRADUATE ONLINE COURSES:

HLS-611 International Legal Ethical Issues

HLS-615 Domestic and Global Intelligence

HLS-625 Technology and Information Security

MSP-661 Fundraising in Nonprofits: Challenges and Opportunities

NEW TECEP® EXAMS:

CIS-107-TE Computer Concepts and Applications

ETH-210-TE Environmental Ethics

NEG-401-TE Negotiations and Conflict Management

THE SCHOOL OF NURSING WELCOMES NEW ADVISOR

MEET BSN ADVISOR MARGARET "MAGGIE" CIOCCO

Do you need help with interpreting your Academic Evaluation or selecting courses for your Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree? Maggie Ciocco, MS, RN, BC, can assist. Ciocco recently joined the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing as an undergraduate programs advisor.

acute, long-term and subacute areas," she noted. She continues to serve as a nursing lab reservist for Ocean County College's Nursing Program.

Inducted into Sigma Theta Tau, Lambda Delta Honor Society in 1996, she was awarded the Hannelore Sweetwood Mentor of the Year Award by the chapter in 2012. She is also a member of the National League for Nursing; Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology; and the National Nursing Staff Development Organization.

"I've earned my own degrees through nontraditional means, so I understand the concerns of our nursing students," said Ciocco, who earned her AAS degree in nursing from Ocean County College, her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Seton Hall University and her Master of Science degree in Nursing in the area of adult primary health from Syracuse University. She is ANCC board certified in Medical-Surgical nursing.

"In addition to my loves of teaching and writing, I feel my greatest sense of accomplishment when I help nurses meet their true potential," she said.



Maggie Ciocco, MS, RN, BC,
undergraduate programs advisor

Do you know an RN that wants to reach his or her true potential? Tell them to visit the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing website to find out how: www.tesc.edu/nursing.

Need an advising appointment? Select the "Make an Advising Appointment" link in your Moodle course space. Nursing students can also contact the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing by calling (609) 633-6460 or by emailing nursing@tesc.edu. ■

I've earned my own degrees through nontraditional means, so I understand the concerns of our nursing students.

Ciocco brings more than 25 years of experience in onground clinical and nursing education to her role in assisting online nursing students with their academic goals. "I've taught students in high- and low-fidelity nursing skills labs, and have provided staff development education in

College Selected for Federal Scholarship Program for Nuclear Program Students

Thomas Edison State College was the only senior institution of higher learning in New Jersey selected to participate in a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) scholarship program for undergraduate students pursuing degrees in the nuclear energy field.

The scholarships were offered through the department's Nuclear Energy University Programs (NEUP) and are \$5,000 for one year. Eligibility requirements include: U.S.



citizenship or status as a legal permanent resident; enrollment in a NEUP-accepted institution; and current enrollment in a nuclear science, engineering or an area of study related to the nuclear industry.

At Thomas Edison State College, students enrolled in the College's undergraduate programs in Energy Systems Technology, Nuclear Energy Engineering Technology, Nuclear Engineering Technology and Radiation Protection were invited to submit scholarship applications or visit www.NEUP.gov. Thomas Edison State College is one of only 62 U.S. colleges and universities selected for eligibility in the program.

Students are urged to review ongoing scholarship opportunities by visiting www.tesc.edu/scholarships. ■



Thomas Edison State College President Elected Chair of Middle States Commission on Higher Education

DR. GEORGE A. PRUITT JOINS COMMISSION AT PIVOTAL TIME

Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College, has been elected chair of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Pruitt began his two-year tenure on Jan. 1, 2014, after being elected chair at the commission's meeting on Nov. 21, 2013.

Three new commissioners also joined the commission on Jan. 1, including Dr. F. Javier Cevallos, president of Kutztown University; Dr. Margaret McMenamin, president of Union County College; and Mr. Javier Miyares, president of University of Maryland University



Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College

It is a great honor to be selected by my peers to chair such an esteemed body that is known for its extraordinary work to ensure quality in higher education...

"It is a great honor to be selected by my peers to chair such an esteemed body that is known for its extraordinary work to ensure quality in higher education," said Pruitt. "I am honored to follow my colleague and friend, Dr. Barbara Gitenstein, president of The College of New Jersey, who did an exceptional job serving as our last chair."

Pruitt said the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act will be a focus for Middle States and other regional accrediting agencies in 2014, especially its relation to quality assurance and keeping the accreditation process consistent and autonomous.

"It goes beyond just updating standards. We are in the midst of a national discourse that is considering what accreditation is and what it should be," he said. "It is critical that we maintain voluntary accreditation to keep the process relevant so quality is assured."

College. Joining Pruitt on the commission's executive committee are Dr. Gary L. Wirt, vice president of Goldey-Beacom College (vice chair); Dr. Robert K. Clark, professor, STEM and Health Division, Cumberland County College; Dr. Karen Kershenstein, president, KWK Enterprises (public member); Mr. David J. Rhodes, president of the School of Visual Arts; and Dr. Karen Stout, president of Montgomery County Community College.

Pruitt has served as president of Thomas Edison State College since 1982. Previously, he served in executive leadership positions at Illinois State University, Towson State University, Morgan State University, Tennessee State University and the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning. He has also served on the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI), which advises the U.S. secretary of education on the recognition of accrediting agencies. During his tenure on NACIQI, Pruitt served four secretaries of education under three presidents. ■



The Middle States Commission on Higher Education is a voluntary, nongovernmental, membership association that is dedicated to quality assurance and improvement through accreditation via peer evaluation. Middle States accreditation instills public confidence in institutional mission, goals, performance and resources through its rigorous accreditation standards and their enforcement. The commission is recognized by the U.S. secretary of education to conduct accreditation and preaccreditation (candidacy status) activities for institutions of higher education in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, including distance education and correspondence education programs offered at those institutions. The commission is also recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) to accredit degree-granting institutions that offer one or more postsecondary educational programs of at least one academic year in length in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and other geographic areas in which the commission conducts accrediting activities.



College Partners with Dade Moeller to Offer Radiation Safety Training Course

NEW RADIATION SAFETY OFFICER (RSO-100-PS) COURSE

Thomas Edison State College has partnered with the prominent radiation protection firm, Dade Moeller, to develop the Radiation Safety Officer (RSO-100-PS) course. The online, noncredit course is designed to train students to lead businesses and industries in maintaining a safe working environment in facilities licensed or registered to possess radioactive materials and/or radiation producing machines.

The collaboration marks the first time that the Dade Moeller Training Academy's Radiation Safety Officer classroom-based course, which has been taken by more than 2,500 radiation safety officers over the past 23 years, is being offered online to a national audience of adult learners.

The 45-hour Radiation Safety Officer course is designed to prepare students to meet mandated federal and state training requirements for radiation safety. The course is being offered jointly by the College's School of Applied Science and Technology and John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies and provides the fundamentals of regulatory requirements,

policies and implementation practices for working with and supervising those who work with radioactive materials.

Successful completion of this course will satisfy part of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission's requirements for obtaining the necessary licensure to function as a radiation safety officer. The course fee is \$995 and includes all course materials. The course will be offered four times a year and registration is available for upcoming July 14, 2014, or Sept. 15, 2014, terms.

Turn what you have learned into 3 credits:

Once you have completed the course, enhance your expertise by taking the College's recently developed TECEP® exam (APS-289-TE Radiation Safety Officer). The exam provides students who have completed either the College's online, noncredit course or Dade Moeller's classroom-based course with the opportunity to earn 3 credits that can be applied to an associate or bachelor's degree at the College. Note: separate tuition and registration are required for TECEP® exams. ■

About

Dade Moeller

Headquartered near the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford nuclear site since its founding in 1994, Dade Moeller is an employee-owned company that provides a full range of professional and technical services to federal, state and commercial clients in support of nuclear, radiological and environmental operations. Its Dade Moeller Training Academy has long been recognized as one of the foremost providers of education and training on a complete range of radiological and occupational safety topics. The company employs more Certified Health Physicists (radiation safety scientists) than any other company in the United States. Further information about radiation protection and occupational safety training through Dade Moeller Training Academy is available by calling (800) 871-7930, via email at training@moellerinc.com or by visiting the Dade Moeller Training Academy website at www.moellerinc.com/training.

Foundation Funds Master's Degrees in IT

ANSWERING THE DEMAND FOR DEGREE PROGRAMS IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Thomas Edison State College Foundation has awarded a \$185,000 grant to the School of Applied Science and Technology that will fund the creation of a new information technology area of study in the Master of Science in Applied Science and Technology (MSAST) degree program.

The MSAST degree in information technology will be launched later in 2014, and will be designed to prepare students to develop, implement, operate and manage information systems in a variety of organizations. The Foundation grant will also cover a subsequent launch of a Master of Science in Information Technology (MSIT) degree program.

"I am honored that the Foundation selected this project to be funded," said Dr. John O. Aje, dean of the School of Applied Science and Technology. "Our graduates will gain a broad technical understanding of current

and emerging technologies in the IT field, knowledge of systems engineering concepts and the evolving implications on business."

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the total number of master's degrees in information technology conferred in the U.S. has grown 162 percent between 2008 and 2012. While the number of degrees conferred has grown significantly, the number of institutions offering programs has not. The MSAST and MSIT degree programs at Thomas Edison State College are designed to meet the needs of busy adult learners and provide access to programs of study tailored for this growing field.

To find out more about these and other programs currently available in the School of Applied Science and Technology, visit www.tesc.edu/ast or email appliedsciandtech@tesc.edu. ■



Dr. John O. Aje, dean of the School of Applied Science and Technology

Meet a Mentor: Dr. David E. Weischadle

COURSE TECHNOLOGY IS A CONTINUING SAGA THAT DR. DAVID E. WEISCHADLE KNOWS ALL TOO WELL

Weischadle recalls the days when typos on term papers exacted an enormous cost.

"My initial contact with TESC was through my wife, Dr. Mary Ann P. Weischadle," said the Thomas Edison State College mentor and course developer. "She earned her associate and bachelor's degrees in business administration from TESC during the 1980s before pursuing her doctoral studies. In those prepersonal computer days, mistakes or omissions on written assignments meant having to retype entire pages."

David Weischadle is grateful to be in the midst of a new technological chapter serving as a mentor and curriculum specialist in the Master of Arts in

and Resolution (CCR-610), is a perfect opportunity to continue my interest."

Weischadle earned his Bachelor of Science degree, Master of Education degree (EdM) and Doctor of Education degree (EdD) from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. After three decades of serving as a professor teaching onground classes for Montclair State University, he views mentoring online as a stimulating new stage in his career.

"My exposure to distance learning began in the early 1990s while consulting with corporations in the areas of employee training and development. I began mentoring at TESC at that time," he noted. "Course technology and distance learning



Dr. David E. Weischadle

Weischadle said the courses he helps develop and mentor also give him the inspiration to explore literary interests of his own. "I recently wrote a novel titled '228' structured around the U.S. Army's 228th Signal Company in which I served as an officer during the Vietnam War."

In addition to mentoring, Weischadle serves on the College's Academic Council and the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee.

He has been published widely in the areas of leadership and management and consults with the U.S. Department of Education, most recently in the initiative for "Race to the Top" funding.

Weischadle and his wife live in Hamilton, N.J. The couple has two sons, David and Douglas, who are entertainment attorneys and producers in Boston and New Jersey.

His novel, 228, is available through Barnes & Noble and Amazon.com, or by visiting www.228thenovel.com. To find more about the programs available through the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences, visit www.tesc.edu/heavin. ■

“I find mentoring an ever-expanding experience made ever more expansive by our adult learners.”

Liberal Studies (MALS), Master of Arts in Educational Leadership (MAEdL) and the Master of Arts in Educational Technology and Online Learning (MAETOL) programs for Heavin School of Arts and Sciences. With a professional history that spans education, publishing, business and military service, he is now happily blending all four.

The MALS program, in particular, has enabled him to return to his roots – the social sciences.

"I began my career as a seventh grade social studies teacher," said Weischadle. "My interest in the fusion of leadership with liberal studies centers on my own experience as a student and an applied social scientist trying to identify issues and solve problems. As a result, the College's course that I mentor, Change, Conflict

gave me a whole new field in which to work. I have facilitated online courses for a number of institutions since."

Weischadle said that Thomas Edison State College's students are model adult learners and describes them as wonderful colleagues to mentor.

"I probably learn more from them than they learn from me," he noted. "Also amazing are the experiences students bring to their course work. In many cases, mentors like me often just get out of the way and simply make suggestions to them on how to write more effectively. I find mentoring an ever-expanding experience made ever more expansive by our adult learners."



Meet A Mentor

NO WAITING NECESSARY

WHEN IT COMES TO TAKING A COURSE, THE TIME IS NOW.

There is no need to delay your academic progress until the summer or fall. At Thomas Edison State College, new undergraduate terms begin every month. This flexibility allows you to take courses within a timeframe that fits your schedule and comfort zone.

When it comes to registering for courses, there is no time like the present. Here are some reasons why:

► **YOU HAVE MORE CHOICES.** By registering early, you have a better chance of obtaining the course, course section and mentor you want. A common misconception is that our online and Guided Study courses do not fill up. They do. There are limits in most courses on the number of students we enroll. This allows adequate time for the mentor to grade students' work and for interactions on the course discussion boards. You can view the section availability for each of your courses through Online Student Services at the time of registration.

► **YOU CAN AVOID UNNECESSARY FEES.** There is a late fee applied to students who register under the Comprehensive, Enrolled Option and Per Credit Tuition plans during the late registration period. Always refer to

the College's Academic Calendars (visit www.tesc.edu and click the "Academics" dropdown) to view course registration deadlines. The fee for late registration is currently \$153 and is nonrefundable. We recommend that students who do not want to incur a late fee wait until the following month to register for courses.

► **YOU HAVE MORE TIME TO OBTAIN TEXTBOOKS AND REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS.** The majority of our students use the College's online bookstore, MBS Direct, and other online vendors through which to order course materials. Anyone who has ever ordered a textbook online can tell you that mail delivery times can vary greatly. Choosing courses and registering early provides time to order and receive the materials in advance of the term start date.

► **YOU HAVE TIME TO CHANGE YOUR MIND (AND YOUR COURSES).** The College offers the ability to submit a *Request for a Course Transfer* from one course to another within the same term. Registering early gives students an opportunity to consult with an academic program advisor about different options for making this transfer. No fees apply for a course transfer as long as the

By Jennifer Stark, Assistant Director
Academic Records and Registration

Stark Notes



tuition and credits for the course you are transferring to are equivalent. Complete the online form for course transfers by visiting www.tesc.edu, selecting "Current Students" and "Student Forms" from the dropdown. The Office of the Registrar will make the change to your schedule as long as your newly selected course is available. Changes are confirmed by email and students should wait to order the new course materials until the course transfer is confirmed by the College.

The benefits of registering for courses early can position you for a good start in your term, allowing time to prepare for your new course(s), avoid unnecessary fees and bring you one step closer to degree completion. ■

NURSING STUDENT EARNS SCHOLARSHIP

NEW JERSEY LEAGUE FOR NURSING SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT BRINGS STUDENT ONE STEP CLOSER TO 'DREAM CAREER'



Jeanie Hubert

If you or a loved one required professional nursing care, you would want Jeanie Hubert in the room.

Hubert, a registered nurse, is forthright about her love for her profession, but is even more fervent about what she has yet to accomplish. "Though I am close to having my Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree in hand, this is just the beginning of my journey," she said.

The W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing RN to BSN student is a graduate of Raritan Valley Community College in Branchburg, N.J., where she earned her diploma and certification in nursing. Hubert is currently employed as an RN for a subacute rehabilitation unit in a long-term care facility.

When aiming for her dream career as a certified nurse midwife, Hubert was determined that she would not allow financial impediments to cloud her vision. The New Jersey League of Nursing (NJLN) Scholarship Committee became an important ally in her quest when it recently awarded her a scholarship to cover expenses relating to her course work.

"I'm so invested in igniting my career as a bachelor's-prepared nurse that I will simply not let financial obligations stand in the way of my dreams," said Hubert. "As a proud nursing student of Raritan Valley Community College and, now, Thomas Edison State College, I have

colossal plans for my career in healthcare that include refining my bedside expertise."

In order to be considered among the competitive pool of scholarship hopefuls, Hubert had to submit an essay that detailed her nursing career plans and a letter of reference. "In addition, the NJLN took my GPA into account along with my goals for the future," said Hubert, who added that she has had an extremely positive experience with the College's online RN-BSN program.

"I'm able to work full time and intern as an RN while completing my courses. I am taking one class per term and find that I have more than enough time to complete my course work from week to week," she noted. "I would recommend this program to anyone who is looking to complete their BSN degree."

Hubert is already enrolled in her 500-level nursing courses, which will transition her to graduate-level nursing studies. "Advanced Health Assessment (NUR-516) was extremely applicable to me in my profession because it sharpened my health-assessment and clinical-

reasoning skills, which are integral in the field of nursing." Hubert also said that she derived much from working with fellow online students throughout the course.

"The most gratifying part about being a nurse is the simple act of caring for others," said Hubert. "I consider myself truly blessed because my job is not simply a job – it is my passion. When I come to work every day, I ask myself, 'What can I do to make a difference in my patients' lives today?' With every interaction I have at work – whether with a patient, co-worker or our patient's family members, I put the health and well-being of my patients first. The gratitude they express to me in return is probably the most rewarding feeling I have ever experienced."

Hubert resides in Ringoes, N.J. ■

Organized in 1915, the NJLN promotes excellence in nursing education by providing scholarships to qualified in-state residents who are pursuing or advancing their career as professional nurses. To find out more, visit www.njln.org. To find out more about the programs in the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing, visit www.tesc.edu/nursing.

New Electronic College ID Card for Students

No more searching through your wallet for your College ID

The College recently implemented a new electronic version of your College ID card to make things easier, more accessible and convenient.

As a student, you can now access and download your College ID card via the Academic Profile section of Online Student Services anytime and anywhere. The College anticipates that the new electronic delivery of College ID cards will enhance student service and eliminate the need to send the paper-based cards through the mail.

Still have questions about your new electronic College ID? Staff in the Learner Support Center (LSC) can help. Contact them via email at: Lsc@tesc.edu. ■

And, the Survey Says...

By Anna Krum,
Senior Student Affairs Specialist

WE VALUE YOUR OPINION

In the Learner Support Center (LSC) we strive to continuously improve our students' learner services experience and we value your feedback. To better help us gauge your satisfaction with our services, the LSC implemented a short student survey at the conclusion of each phone call with a Learner Support Center Student Affairs Specialist. The survey consists of five easy questions and allows you to leave additional comments that the LSC team will review.

We encourage you to complete the survey and share your experience with us each time you contact the LSC. The survey will provide us with valuable information that will help us to be optimally prepared to assist you whenever you need our support.

As always, the LSC student affairs specialists are available to answer your questions and provide information. Please call (888) 442-8372, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Eastern Time and have your College ID ready for faster service. ■



Academic Calendar

May 2014

June 2014

July 2014

Registration Dates

March 21 - April 19, 2014

April 25 - May 17, 2014

May 23 - June 18, 2014

Late Registration

April 20 - 24, 2014

May 18 - 22, 2014

June 19 - 23, 2014

Course Transfer Period

March 21 - April 9, 2014

April 25 - June 6, 2014

May 23 - July 4, 2014

Term Start Date

May 5, 2014

June 2, 2014

***July 1, 2014**

Midterm Exam Week **

June 16 - 22, 2014

July 14 - 20, 2014

Aug. 11 - 17, 2014

Final Exam Week**

July 21 - 27, 2014

Aug. 18 - 24, 2014

Sept. 15 - 21, 2014

Term Ends

July 27, 2014

Aug. 24, 2014

Sept. 21, 2014

*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.

SPRING 2014 • VOL. 16, NO. 2 • WWW.TESC.EDU

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TRENTON, NJ
PERMIT NO. 112

SIGNALS
THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE
Higher Education. For Adults with Higher Expectations.
101 W. State St. • Trenton, NJ 08608-1176