

Capital Campus

DECEMBER 2014

Support. Promote. Engage.

Staff Giving Demonstrates Commitment to the Mission and Goals of the College

Support. Promote. Engage. These three basic principles are the grounds on which the Thomas Edison State College Foundation and Office of Development base their hard work year after year. At October's Lunch and Learn, attendees were given an inside look into the consistent positive progress the Foundation has made during the last five years, and its vision, detailed in its new strategic plan, for the years to come.

"This has been an extraordinary year for both the College and the Foundation," noted **John Thurber**, executive vice president of the Foundation and the College's vice president for Public Affairs. "While the College launched new programs

"Having 52 percent of our colleagues already donating speaks volumes about our shared commitment to the mission and goals of the College."

*-Misty Isak,
Director of Development-*

and broke ground for the Nursing Education Center, the Foundation provided record levels of financial support for scholarships and new academic programs."

Misty Isak, director of Development, noted key numbers and figures that help to support and showcase the continued success of the Foundation. With this year's golf outing at Jasna Polana in Princeton this past May, the Foundation raised more than \$66,500, which made it the most successful golf outing to date. Not to be outdone, the Foundation's Gala, held at the Hyatt Regency Princeton in October, generated more than \$171,000, also the most successful gala to date.

Not only does the Foundation raise funds to promote the College's mission and help achieve its goals, but it also gives back to the College in the form of grants and scholarships. This year alone, the Foundation submitted 30 grant proposals for funding to support College programs and has had an impressive 83 percent success rate thus far. Having already received grants this year from organizations such as Helene Fuld Health Trust and PSEG, the Foundation continues to track the status of additional major grant proposals to round out the calendar year, for amounts which exceed \$800,000. The funds granted to the Foundation are dispersed strategically to the College as specific needs arise. One such need is the increased number of scholarships being offered to students that are, in part, funded by the Foundation. For the year 2014 alone, the Foundation has funded 90 scholarships, 51 more scholarships than were awarded in 2013.



Office of Development staff (from left) Fred Brand, director of Corporate and Foundation Relations; Jennifer Guerrero, associate director, Annual Fund and Donor Relations; Erica Spizzirri, director, Advancement Services; Jaclyn Joworissak, advancement associate; and Misty Isak, director of Development.

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Milady Gonzalez, confidential assistant to the Vice President for Public Affairs

Focus On: Milady Gonzalez

Palmer, Gonzalez gained an increased love for the city she calls home. When Palmer left office, Gonzalez felt she, too, was ready for a change.

Since joining the College, Gonzalez has served as the confidential assistant to the Vice President for Public Affairs, **John Thurber**, handling the responsibilities for the Division of Public Affairs. She provides the necessary administrative support, ensuring that day-to-day duties are carried out efficiently with professionalism and excellence.

"Anyone who knows her would attest to Milady's gracious personality and dedication to her responsibilities," noted Thurber. "Her combination of strong professional skills and great personal warmth makes her ideally suited for her role. Her knowledge of the Trenton community is very helpful."

When she is not working directly with Thurber, Gonzalez supports the Division, which is comprised of the offices of Alumni Affairs, Communications and Development, in its efforts to advance the mission of the College.

"We work to enhance the College's reputation and promote strong relationships

with our alumni, donors and friends. We are actively involved in outreach to our communities and stakeholders," she noted.

Gonzalez gushed that working at the College has been a "true blessing in her life" and that she wholeheartedly enjoys the opportunity to work with a team of people that brings out the best in her. "All of my colleagues continue to be extremely supportive. We work very well together and stay focused on the success of the team as a whole."

With her love of Trenton and the College; consequently, comes her love of the community, most notably through her involvement with church. "I am extremely active in my church, the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption. I have been the president of the Parish Council for more than six years and director of the Seeds of Hope Choir (Coro Sembrando Esperanza) for the last 27 years," she explained.

Gonzalez has been happily married to her husband, Reynaldo, for more than 20 years. The couple has two children, Matthew and Giana. "They are the loves of my life", she said, "My husband is my number one supporter in all that I do, both professionally and personally."

When **Milady Gonzalez** began her career at the College in 2010, she was no stranger to the city, the Kelsey Building or even **Dr. George A. Pruitt**. A lifelong resident of Trenton, Gonzalez noted that it was Thomas Edison State College's President George A. Pruitt's enthusiasm about the College that impressed her some years ago.

"I soon learned about the amazing work the College was doing for the city, and the programs and courses offered, which give adults the opportunity to fulfill their educational goals," she explained.

Having worked at the time as the executive secretary to then Trenton Mayor Douglas H.

Grande Ball Most Successful Event Ever



College staff volunteered at the 23rd Annual Thomas Edison State College Foundation Grande Ball held at the Hyatt Regency Princeton on Oct. 4. Their time and hard work helped contribute to the most successful Gala in the history of the event, and it would not have been possible without them. The Gala Committee and the Foundation thank you!

Pictured from left are Beverly Dash, confidential assistant, Office of the President; Jennifer Guerrero, associate director, Annual Fund and Donor Relations; Jaclyn Joworisk, advancement associate; Roxanne Globis, director of Alumni Affairs; Fred Brand, director of Corporate and Foundation Relations; Jenn Montone, assistant director of Purchasing; Misty Isak, director of Development; Erica Spizzirri, director of Advancement Services; and Alisha Miller, associate director, Military and Veteran Education. Not pictured Gillian Wyckoff, director, Learner Support Center.

College Makes Gift of Life a Community Affair

Thomas Edison State College staff and members of the local Delta Upsilon Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity were on hand during the Sept. 26 Community Blood Council of New Jersey's blood drive held in Prudence Hall.

"This is the second year that the local fraternity collaborated with us on the blood drive," said **Michelle Leonard**, a human resources specialist at the College who helps organize the event. "According to the Community Blood Council of N.J., Inc., units collected and supplies of blood components from drives are in very short supply, so donating is more critical than ever."



Delta Upsilon Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity members (left to right, standing) Donald Davis; Dr. Garry M. Keel, former director, Office of Academic Advising; and Ron Williams join donor John Thurber, vice president for Public Affairs, during the Community Blood Council of New Jersey's blood drive.

College Hosts Community Involvement Fair

Fair Fosters Volunteerism

The College's Community Service Committee sponsored a Community Involvement Fair in Prudence Hall and The Great Hall on Nov. 13 that had more than 40 local organizations participating. Exhibitors disseminated information on services and volunteer opportunities to College staff and the public during the event that attracted more than 150 attendees.

"As part of the College's ongoing commitment to public service, we encourage our staff to make a difference by volunteering for local nonprofit organizations and charities," said **Robin Walton**, vice president, Division of Community and Government Affairs. "The growing success of these fairs is an indicator of the desire of College staff, residents, and public and private employees in Trenton to engage in this local community."

Walton noted that a special thanks goes to the event co-chairs, **Kristin Gonzalez**, Division of Community and Government Affairs, and **Heather Brooks**, Office of Human Resources, as well as committee members **Michelle Leonard**, Office of Human Resources; **Maureen Marcus**, Division of Planning and Research; **Melissa Maszczak**, Office of the President; and **Melissa Van Aken**, Office of Human Resources.



Picnic Fun!



Judy Lucas, secretarial assistant I, Office of the Vice President and Treasurer; **Tracy Tosti**, associate director, Office of Facilities and Operations; and **Olga Napoleon**, secretarial assistant III, Office of Facilities and Operations, staffed the registration table at the College Picnic on July 25. This year more than 280 staff, family and friends attended the picnic, which featured a Seashore Adventures Double Lane Slide, softball game and the popular "Years-of-Service" Auction.

Happy Birthday U.S. Marine Corps!

College staff celebrate military achievement during USMC birthday observance

A retrospective and cake cutting ceremony celebrating the 239th birthday of the United States Marine Corps took place at the College on Nov. 10. The event was hosted by **Dr. Ray Young**, associate vice president and dean of Learner Services, and **Dave Anderson**, associate vice president for Enrollment Operations. This year's staff guest of honor was **Craig R. Smith**, director of Veterans Affairs at the College. Smith served in a variety of roles during his 22 years of service with the United States Air Force, most recently as a director of International Training and Development.



Pictured left to right are: Dave Anderson (colonel, USMC-ret.), Dr. Ray Young (lieutenant colonel, USMC-ret.) and Guest of Honor Craig R. Smith (senior master sergeant, USAF-ret.).

Staff Honored at State of the College



At the Thomas Edison State College State of the College address, held at the War Memorial on Sept. 18, **Dr. George A. Pruitt**, president of the College, recognized **Nettie Edwards**, assistant controller, Office of the Controller, and **Bill Thompkins**, imaging specialist, Office of Management Information Systems, for 25 years of service to the College.

Test-Drive an Online Course

The Office of Admissions announces the roll-out of the online test-drive course

The new online test-drive course was born from an idea crafted by **Jasmine Lynch**, senior admissions counselor. Lynch saw a need for a free online course that anyone, prospective and newly enrolled students alike, could take as a way to experience online courses through the College.

There is no cost to test drive the course, which is self-paced and features brief videos that guide participants through the course and reviews all of the key actions that take place in an online course at Thomas Edison State College. Registration is quick and easy and, once enrolled; the course is available for 30 days.

"Many of our students have been removed from college for at least 10 years and are hesitant to return to higher education. Factor in technology, and the idea of returning seems even more daunting," Lynch explained. "Sharing my own experience with online course work has helped put some prospective students at ease prior to enrollment, but there were others who wanted to actually experience it for themselves."

After learning that the College would be using Moodle, Lynch immediately researched what the new learning platform had to offer in that area. "Moodle allows for more flexibility in course development and reduces cost. I saw no better time than the present to create a free test-drive course."

Lynch noted that the Center for Learning and Technology did an excellent job bringing this course to life, and that she looks forward to seeing the positive effect it will have on student enrollment.



Staff Activities



Marie R. Power-Barnes was a featured speaker at Converge 2014: A Higher Education Marketing Conference held Oct. 13 – 15 in Nashville, Tenn. Power-Barnes' presentation was titled "Utilizing Market Research to Inform Academic Program Development, Facilitate Collaboration and Impact Your Institution's Bottom Line."



Barbara George Johnson (center), MPH, JD, executive director, The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy, was recognized for her work with the New Jersey Urban Mayors Association as it was honored during the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey's 25th Anniversary Celebration in Monroe Township, N.J., on Oct. 16. Helen Steblecki (left) vice president/director of Community Relations, Citi Bank, and Staci Berger (right), president/CEO, Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey, pause to congratulate Johnson following the ceremony.

Michael Williams, PhD, dean of the School of Business and Management, and **Joseph Youngblood II**, PhD, JD, vice provost and charter dean of the John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies, presented "The Psycho-Dynamics of Leadership Coaching" at the Garden State Council Society of Human Resource Management annual conference in Atlantic City, N.J., in October.



Dr. Michael Williams



Dr. Joseph Youngblood II

Juliette Punchello, director of Academic Advising, and **Gillian Wyckoff**, director of the Learner Support Center, presented at the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) 24th Annual Strategic Enrollment Management Conference, The Origin and Future of Strategic Enrollment Management, in Los Angeles, Calif., October 27-29. Their presentation was titled "Thomas Edison State College: Utilizing Emerging Technologies at the Learner Support (One-Stop) Center." Additionally, Punchello and Wyckoff collaborated with Academic Impressions to offer a webinar, "Online One-Stop: Improving Efficiency and Quality of Service" on Nov. 3. Colleagues from more than 35 institutions attended the webinar.



Juliette Punchello



Gillian Wyckoff

Punchello and **Heather Brooks**, director of Human Resources, attended the Title IX Investigator Training School & Certification course, a two day seminar held at Chestnut Hill College, Philadelphia, PA, Nov. 4-5. The course outlined best practices for investigations and processes related to any type of civil rights complaint as well as delved into an understanding of the Title IX law.



Heather Brooks

David Hoftiezer, director of the Office of Admissions, recently attended the 84th annual MSACROA conference in Niagara Falls, N.Y. The conference focused on new and trending issues within the registrars and admissions offices.



David Hoftiezer

Jasmine Lynch, senior admissions counselor, Office of Admissions, attended the NODA - The Association for Orientation, Transition, and Retention in Higher Education conference in Orlando, Fla. on Nov. 2 -5. The conference theme was Trailblazing, Staying Relevant and Leaving a Legacy.



Jasmine Lynch

Welcome New Staff



Mildred Akumu-Taylor has been appointed program assistant in the Office of Strategic Partnerships. Akumu-Taylor is located on the 1st floor of the Canal Banks Building and may be reached at extension 4245.



Colleen Doran has been appointed program advisor II in the Office of Academic Advising. Doran is located on the 2nd floor of the Academic Center and may be reached at extension 3065.



Joshua Hoftiezer has been appointed program advisor II in the Office of Academic Advising. Hoftiezer is located on the 2nd floor of the Academic Center and may be reached at extension 3345.



Kimberly Morton has been appointed senior graduate admissions counselor in the Office of Admissions. Morton is located on the 1st floor of the Canal Banks Building and may be reached at extension 3492.

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Employee giving is another one of the major components of the Foundation's fundraising effort, with vital support from staff members generously donating their time and money each year. With the critical year-end period about to start, the Foundation predicts yet another increase in the total amount of employee giving. Whether staff choose to donate through payroll deduction or make a one-time gift each year, no amount of money contributed is too big or too small.

"Having 52 percent of our colleagues already donating speaks volumes about our shared commitment to the mission and goals of the College," said Isak. "We are hopeful to surpass that level of participation this year."

To learn more about the Thomas Edison State College Foundation, sign up for payroll deduction or make a one-time gift, visit and explore the Foundation's new website at www.tescfoundation.org. For more information about the Office of Development or to receive a copy of the Lunch and Learn PowerPoint presentation, please contact **Jaclyn Joworisak** at jjoworisak@tesc.edu.

Capital Campus is produced by the Office of Communications and the Office of Institutional Marketing and Publications at Thomas Edison State College. To submit a story idea for the newsletter or for more information, please contact Linda Soltis at extension 2065.

Trenton Y5K and Half Marathon

Staff from Thomas Edison State College has been running around Trenton, literally, participating in College sponsored events.

Sponsored through the Division of Community and Government Affairs, the Trenton Y5K race was held on Oct. 4 and had staff participation that included **David Hoftiezer, Tricia Graff, Kristin Gonzalez, Sharon Torpila** and their families.

The College was also one of the sponsors of the Trenton Half Marathon held on Nov. 8. Staff participants at that event, which included a 10K, 5K and Kids Run as well as a finishers' festival, were **Nykea Ali, Dennis Devery, Graff, Gonzalez** and their families. Furthermore, the College sponsored

the Art All Day held on Nov. 8 with staff participation by Torpila and her family.



Pictured from left are Sharon Torpila, David Hoftiezer and his son, David Jr., and Tricia Graff displaying their red finisher ribbon following the Y5K race.

HALLOWEEN



A ghoulish good time was had by all at the College's Halloween Party held in the Kuser Mansion on Oct. 31. Pictured from left are Office of Strategic Partnerships staff **Veena Sheshadr**, temporary employee; **Michele Huntley**, principal clerk transcriber; **Kelli Parlante-Givas**, associate director; **Janet Eickhoff**, associate vice president; and **Mildred Akumu-Taylor**, program assistant, who were packaged up in "brown" boxes and scheduled for UPS pick-up!