

# Capital Campus

DECEMBER 2013

## Wyeth Mural Graces the College Atrium

### *Important Painting That Depicts Trenton History Remains in City*

A famous N.C. Wyeth mural, which depicts George Washington's visit through Trenton on the way to his 1789 New York presidential inauguration, is now located in the atrium of Thomas Edison State College's main entrance.

Wells Fargo is loaning the painting, owned by the bank, to Thomas Edison State College. The need for Wells Fargo to find a new home for the mural was necessitated by the bank's relocation of its One West State Street retail banking store to a new site across the street at 50 East State Street. The smaller bank location opened Oct. 28 and is not large enough to accommodate the monumental painting.

"This mural is an important part of Trenton history, and it was always our desire to keep it in the city in a space where people could continue to enjoy it," said Brenda Ross-Dulan, Wells Fargo's Southern New Jersey regional president. "We are delighted that Thomas Edison State College has agreed to prominently display this mural at its West State Street campus."

The oil on canvas mural formally titled, "Reception to Washington on April 21, 1789, at Trenton on his way to New York to Assume the Duties of the Presidency of the United States" was commissioned in 1930 by First Mechanics National Bank (a legacy company of Wells Fargo) and, since then, has been on display at One West State Street. The mural, which measures approximately 17 feet tall by 12 feet wide, was professionally moved to the College in October.

"This mural is an important part of Trenton history, and it was always our pleasure to keep it in the city..."

Brenda Ross-Dulan  
Regional President  
Wells Fargo, Southern N.J.

"We are honored to house this historic work of art and continue to make it available to residents and visitors of Trenton and Mercer County," said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of the College. "It is fitting that the mural is located so close to the site of the Battle of Trenton, where Washington led the Continental Army to a historic victory that helped turn the tide of the American Revolution."

N.C. Wyeth, who lived from 1882 to 1945, was one of America's greatest illustrators. During his lifetime, Wyeth created more than 3,000 paintings and illustrated 112 books. According to the Brandywine River Museum's N.C. Wyeth Catalog, the artist used an article published in the *Columbian Magazine* on April 25, 1789, that describes Washington's entrance into Trenton as a reference for the mural's creation, which he painted in his studio in Chadds Ford, Pa.

"We are very pleased that Wells Fargo decided to keep this historically significant painting in Trenton and gratified to be selected to serve as the painting's steward," said John P. Thurber, vice president for Public Affairs at the College. "We look forward to a growing partnership with Wells Fargo." Thurber noted that the final step in the installation process would come soon with the design and placement of a platform below the painting on which to display three pieces of marble inscribed with the title of the painting.



Final adjustments are made as N.C. Wyeth's famous mural of George Washington visiting Trenton is lifted into place in the main atrium of Thomas Edison State College in Trenton on Sunday, Oct. 20, 2013.

Photo by John Thurber, vice president for Public Affairs at Thomas Edison State College.



# Focus On: Charlene Martucci

A shoulder to lean on may not be in her job description, but **Charlene Martucci**, fiscal administrator, Office of Military and Veteran Education, explained that it is often one of the most rewarding duties she performs.

Unlike their traditional, right-out-of-high-school counterparts, adults often find it difficult to take that first step toward earning a degree. Martucci, who earned her bachelor's degree as an adult at Rider University, acknowledged that she can relate.

"I was afraid to get started, which is why I love working with the students here – I know how they feel and I know that sometimes a little hand holding in the beginning can pay off in a big way," explained Martucci, who also earned a Master of Science in Management degree from the College. "It's not easy to go back to school when you've been out for so long, and you've got a family and a job and a host of other responsibilities. You have all kinds of doubts and worries that you will not be able to succeed. I know how much I needed that shoulder to lean on at first, and I try to offer that to our students to get them going."

Martucci worked at Rider for 10 years before taking the assistant bursar position with the College in May 2002. Currently working with the military tuition assistance (TA) program, she noted that the office is always busy and there is a lot of interaction with students.

"Students register online and we hold a spot in the class for them until they get their authorized TA, so I'm in constant communication with them reminding them to send the paperwork and coding it into our system, helping them through problems, etc.," said Martucci, who gets a daily report that lists registered students who have not paid or submitted TA. "I reach out to them and guide them through the process, so that their benefits will cover costs."

Predictably, Martucci works closely with the offices of the Registrar and Bursar as well as the Office of Financial Aid. "It gets pretty hectic right before the start of a term, but we get through it together, and the students really appreciate our help."

It's not surprising that collaboration and helping others carries over into her other activities. Martucci is currently serving her third term as president of AFT Local 4277. Her duties involve working with the membership, serving on committees and meeting with legislators to discuss higher education issues and issues pertaining to the middle class.

"The highlight of my presidency, however, has been our ongoing 'Support our Troops' campaign, which was started in memory of Army Sgt. Keith Buzinski, who was killed in Afghanistan on April 7, 2011," Martucci reflected. "Keith was just 26 years old when he lost his life and was the son of one of my childhood friends. We have gifted so many Thomas Edison State College deployed



Charlene Martucci, Fiscal Administrator  
Office of Military and Veteran Education

students and their units in his memory, and it's been an extremely rewarding experience."

Recently, Martucci was honored as the "Knights of Labor" awardee at the 26th Annual Knights of Labor Dinner hosted by the Mercer County Central Labor Council (CLC). In addition to the plaque from the CLC, she received resolutions from the Senate and Assembly, and Certificates of Recognition from the Mercer County Clerk and the Trenton City Council.

Martucci lives in Mercerville, N.J., with her husband and high school sweetheart, Fred. They have three sons, Freddie, Douglas and Michael. "Doug and his wife, Nicole, have a 5-year-old daughter, Chloe, whom we try not to spoil too much. They also live in Mercerville, so spoiling Chloe is pretty easy!" The Martuccis also share their home with two dogs, Murphy and Murdoch.

## College Staff Participated in AIDS Walk in Philly

Staff from Thomas Edison State College participated in and donated to AIDS Walk Philly held on Oct. 20. The annual event is produced by AIDS Fund and is a 12K walk around the Philadelphia Art Museum. With the help of generous donations from **Janet Eickhoff, Anna Krum, Janelle Smith, Loretta Perkins, Lorilyn Lewis, Jasmine Lynch,**

**Andrew Bugdal** and the friends and family of **Stefanie Hitchner**, \$520 was raised for AIDS awareness, prevention education, testing and research. "This year I received overwhelming support from Thomas Edison State College staff for a cause that is close and personal to me," said **Kayana Howard**, student affairs specialist, Learner Support Center.



Thomas Edison State College staff and family and friends at AIDS Walk Philly.

## Admissions Open House

The Office of Admissions held a College-wide Open House on Saturday, Oct. 26, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participants from Heavin School of Arts and Sciences, School of Business and Management, School of Applied Science and Technology, John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies, and W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing along with the offices of Admissions, Financial Aid, Academic Advisement, Military and Veteran Education and Alumni Affairs, and the Center for the Assessment of Learning were on hand to share information. Those attendees who were interested in applying were able to do so that day, with the help of Admissions staff.

"This Open House was another success. Many attendees commented on how happy they were to have the opportunity for 'face time' with deans of the programs in which they were interested. Many were also pleased to be able to speak with administrative departments, to ensure they take appropriate steps to get started with their academic studies with us. Our alumni were warm and engaging, and they made attendees feel welcome to ask questions," said **Vanessa Meredith**, associate director in the Office of Admissions.



Jasmine Lynch (left), senior admissions counselor, talks with prospective students at the College's Open House.

## Staff Activities

**John P. Thurber**, vice president for Public Affairs, was recently elected to serve as chairman of the board of the Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber serves 950 member businesses with more than 125,000 employees in the Mercer, Middlesex, Somerset, Hunterdon and Somerset county area. The Chamber offers a range of programs and activities to fulfill its role as central New Jersey's "Champion for Business." Thurber will serve as chairman for a two-year term starting on Jan. 1, 2014.



John P. Thurber

**Dr. Michael Williams**, dean of the School of Business and Management, presented "Competency-Based Education: Proof of Professionalism" at the *Administrative Issues Journal* Conference sponsored by Southwestern Oklahoma State University held at the National Center for Employee Development (NCED) in Norman, Okla., in November. The *Administrative Issues Journal* is an international organization publishing peer reviewed, multidisciplinary research including business administration, healthcare administration, education administration, nursing administration and public administration.



Michael Williams

**Allison Chambers**, associate director, Military and Veteran Education, attended the Council on Military Education in the South (COMETS) annual board meeting at Fort Hood, Texas, Oct. 2-4. As board registrar, Chambers facilitated the comprehensive planning of COMETS' annual conference, April 7-9, 2014, as well as led discussions on support efforts for regional Advisory Council on Military Education (ACME) organizations in the southwest. COMETS was founded in 1992 to promote and support quality education programs for military personnel, their dependents and defense civilians stationed in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas. Chambers also attended Fort Hood's consolidated recognition ceremony on Nov. 14 to support Thomas Edison State College graduates.



Allison Chambers

**Alison Hansen**, associate director, Military and Veteran Education, attended Coast Guard Northern New England (Portland, Maine) and Coast Guard Boston, Mass., education fairs Sept. 29-30 as well as the Council of Military Educators of South Carolina (COMESC) annual conference in Myrtle Beach, S.C., Oct. 16-18, wherein she was elected as a member-at-large for the newly renamed Carolinas Council of Military Educators (CCOME). Hansen also had the opportunity to meet with Department of Education senior personnel to discuss national-level military spouse education programs, policies and initiatives in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 21. While in D.C., Hansen met with Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) senior leadership and represented Thomas Edison State College at the Army Association of the United States' annual conference.



Alison Hansen



## College Lunch and Learn Informs Staff

### Division of Planning and Research: Explains the 'Why?' Behind What We Do

Staff who attended the Division of Institutional Planning and Research's Lunch and Learn in October expecting to be barraged by institutional data were in for a surprise. **Dennis Devery**, the division's vice president and session presenter, did not toss vast amounts of institutional facts and figures at the audience (though data clearly reinforced his message). Instead, his presentation focused on developing a winning organizational mindset for the adult learner marketplace.

"Our continued success and growing enrollment hinges on a culture of improvement."

Dennis Devery  
Vice President, Division of  
Institutional Planning and Research

"The Golden Circle video I presented underscored the importance of leaders and staff members in understanding 'why' an organization exists," said Devery of Simon Sinek's TED Talks presentation. "Sinek offers a persuasive view: Successful organizations do not concentrate on what they do, they focus on why they do it."



Similarly, when Devery first met **Dr. George A. Pruitt**, he was impressed with the president's approach to the institution's mission; i.e., 'The Why.' "Essentially, as a prospective student, if you believe you can improve your life with a college degree and you are ready to commit to the effort and you believe you can achieve that goal if provided access to flexible options that accommodate your complex adult life at an affordable price, then, we are the College for you," said Devery.

Some data was interwoven into Devery's presentation:

- > FY2013 Enrollment was 20,877 – the highest in the College's history
- > 95 percent of our graduates said they would or have recommended the College to others
- > 48 percent of the students enrolled in the College's graduate-level programs came through the College's undergraduate programs

"Our continued success and growing enrollment hinges on a culture of improvement," noted Devery. "Managerial approach influences staff productivity, which, in turn, influences our collective face to the adult learner marketplace."

You can receive a copy of the presentation by contacting [mmarcus@tesc.edu](mailto:mmarcus@tesc.edu).

## Community Involvement Fair

### Fair Fosters Community Involvement

The College's Community Service Committee sponsored a Community Involvement Fair on Oct. 29 in Prudence Hall that brought in more than 20 local organizations. Exhibitors disseminated information on volunteer opportunities to the staff and public during the biannual event that attracted more than 100 attendees.



"In the College's ongoing mission to give back to our community, we encourage our staff to make a difference by volunteering for local nonprofit organizations and charities," said **Robin Walton**, vice president of the Division of Community and Government Affairs. "Special thanks go 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 **Dennis Devery**, Division of Planning and Research; **Melissa Maszczak**, Office of the President; **Michelle Leonard**, Office of Human Resources; **Melissa Van Aken**, Office of Human Resources; and **Antoinette Lewis**, Collegiate Credit Assessment Center."

## Gift of Life Goes Community-Wide

Thomas Edison State College and the Delta Upsilon Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., joined forces to co-sponsor a Blood Drive and Bone Marrow Match Registry in September at Thomas Edison State College. The local fraternity chapter collaborated with the College and the Community Blood Council of New Jersey along with local volunteers from the Icla Da Silva Foundation's 'Be the Match' program on the successful event. Fraternity members and numerous College staff came out to either donate blood or register as bone marrow donors.

According to **Michelle L. Leonard**, a human resources specialist at the College who helped organize the event, 22 units plus 16 whole blood units and three double Alyx donations were collected during the day-long drive. "This was one of our most successful onsite blood drives to date," said Leonard. "The 41 units collected will typically help 123 people in need of transfusions or blood components."



Clockwise from left: Delta Upsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi fraternity member and director of Advising in the College's Office of Learner Services, **Dr. Garry M. Keel**, and fellow fraternity members **Harold Vereen**, **Donald Davis** and **Ron Williams** join **Virginia Ferreira** of the Icla Da Silva Foundation (second from right) and donor **Nancy Broglie** from the College's Office of the Bursar (in chair) during the blood drive.

Those interested in participating in future blood drives are urged to visit the Community Blood Council of New Jersey's site: [www.givebloodnj.org](http://www.givebloodnj.org) to find out how they can help. To volunteer as a potential bone marrow donor with the Icla Da Silva Foundation's "Be the Match" program, contact Virginia Ferreira: [Virginia@icla.org](mailto:Virginia@icla.org)





## Nursing Accreditation



Thomas Edison State College nursing students and alumni participated in the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) continuing accreditation session on Oct. 7. The CCNE visit took place Oct. 7-9, 2013, and one of the sessions gave nursing students and alumni an opportunity to evaluate the College's nursing program. A final decision on accreditation will be made in spring 2014.

## Summer Institute

The New Jersey Cultural Competency and English Language Learners Summer Institute and Mentoring Program's mentors had a day of professional development at Kean University in Union, N.J., with Dr. Julie K. Biddle, author of the *Three Rs of Leadership: Building Effective Early Childhood Programs through Relationships, Reciprocal Learning and Reflection*. Biddle is an associate professor at Antioch University Midwest in Yellow Spring, Ohio.



*Pictured from the left, first row, are Dee Bailey, mentor; Ana I. Berdecia, program director; Dr. Arlene Martin, executive director of Professional Impact NJ at Kean University; Dr. Julie K. Biddle, author/speaker; Marilyn Quintana, mentor; and Kim M. Cornell, director of Special Initiatives of Professional Impact NJ at Kean University; second row, from left, are mentors Kamili Leath, Liliana Attar and Odessa Davis.*

## Staff Activities

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Janet Eickhoff



Kelli Parlante-Givas



Todd Siben

**Janet Eickhoff**, associate vice president of Strategic Partnerships, and **Kelli Parlante-Givas**, associate director of Strategic Partnerships, recently visited more than 300 Thomas Edison State College prospective and current UPS students. The Strategic Partnership team made presentations, offered general advisement and answered questions for UPSers throughout California, Texas, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New Jersey. The team has also been building relationships with companies like Wawa and Starbucks. The College is honored to partner with some of the largest, most respected corporations in

the world such as Capital Health, Charles Schwab, McDonalds, Prudential and PSEG. To learn more about the partnering or the Corporate Choice® program visit [www.tesc.edu/partners](http://www.tesc.edu/partners).

**Todd Siben**, assistant director, Office of Portfolio Assessment, did a presentation at the Annual CAPLA Conference in Toronto, Canada, on Nov. 19. CAPLA is the Canadian Association of Prior Learning Assessment and the presentation was about PLA benefits to student, institution and community, and about the variety of credit earning methods used at the College.

Siben also held an information session at Mercer County Community College for students interested in transferring to the College and using PLA on Nov. 7.

**Dr. Henry van Zyl**, acting dean, Heavin School of Arts and Sciences, and vice provost for Academic Administration; **Matthew Cooper**, associate provost, Center for Learning and Technology, and **Rachael Cooper**, assistant director, Office for Assessment of Professional and Workplace Learning, recently visited the University of South Africa (UNISA) in Pretoria, South Africa, to follow up on the

## A Growing Year

### Learner Support Center's First Year in Review



The College's Learner Support Center (LSC) recently celebrated its one year anniversary. Since 'opening the front door' to applicants and enrolled students, the LSC has been instrumental in assisting students with the administrative aspects of their academic journeys, allowing them to focus on completing their education.

"As we celebrate our one year anniversary, I am reminded of the more than 100,000 student calls and engagements we have experienced in that time!" said **Juliette Punchello**, the director of the LSC. "Our dedicated team of student affairs specialists continues to amaze me with their passion to serve applicants and enrolled students throughout their lifecycle with the College."

In addition to the calls, the 14,000 HelpDesk tickets LSC staff responded to centered on

academic, administrative and operational matters related to courses, evaluations, testing and fiscal concerns including tuition, credit card payments, financial aid and billing. LSC staff also helped students with course registrations, transcript requests and military education issues.

The LSC has also been instrumental in designing a Web page to provide student support for the new myEdison® portal and Moodle LMS conversion, creating more than 100 new HelpDesk Knowledge Base articles for students and enhancing Online Student Services functions.

LSC specialists are available to assist students Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. ET at (888) 442-8372 or via email: [LSC@tesc.edu](mailto:LSC@tesc.edu).



Dr. Henry van Zyl



Matthew Cooper



Rachael Cooper



Dennis Devery

progress it has made with the introduction of portable courses delivered on USB drives. UNISA adopted and adapted the FlashTrack® technology developed by Thomas Edison State College and named their version of this delivery mode DigiBand. The USB drive is being distributed on a bracelet, hence the name, and is currently being used by 78,000 UNISA students. A collaboration agreement has existed between UNISA and Thomas Edison State College since October 2000. Several projects have resulted from this agreement, including a dual degree program.

**Dennis Devery**, vice president for Planning and Research, gave the opening keynote address to the New Jersey Court Reporters Association Convention in Atlantic City in October. Robert Boccolini, president of the New Jersey Court Reporters Association and an alumnus of Thomas Edison State College, asked Devery to speak about the importance of lifelong learning and the value of institutions like Thomas Edison State College to adult learners, because Boccolini knew firsthand how the College had changed his life. Many of the conference participants acknowledged that they had some

## Bake Sale!



**Debbie Lutz**, secretarial assistant, Office of the Provost and Vice President, manages her table during October's Multi-Building Bake Sale. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the College's Holiday Party.

college credits, but had not completed their degrees because life got in the way. Devery's presentation entitled, "Life Long Learning a Hedge for the Future," provided the conference participants with an understanding of how technological, regulatory and cultural change has impacted multiple industries throughout history. The presentation then provided information concerning how lifelong learning and institutions like Thomas Edison State College provide adults with the ability to see the change coming, and adapt and prepare in changing economic conditions.



## Leadership Trenton Collaborative LOT Program Recognized

The Trenton Chapter of the NAACP, during its 100th Anniversary Freedom Fund Banquet on Oct. 27, selected the LOT Program (Leaders of Tomorrow) to receive its Education Award. The LOT Program is a collaboration between Thomas Edison State College's Leadership Trenton Program and three other agencies: Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Mercer County, Princeton-Blairstown Center and Center for Supportive Schools (formerly the Princeton Center of Leadership Training). This collaboration is funded by the United Way of Greater Mercer County.



*Pictured, seated from left, are Ariel Matos, Horacio Hernandez, Morgan Silk, and Chavonne Lenoir Perotte. Standing, from left, are Ana I. Berdecia, senior fellow, The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy (representing Leadership Trenton/adult mentors); and Jodi Inverso, development director, United Way of Greater Mercer County.*

*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.

## Welcome New Staff



**Craig Smith** has been appointed director of Veteran Affairs in the Office of Military and Veteran Education. Smith is located on the 2nd floor of the Academic Center and may be reached at extension 2193.



**Panagiotis Tzetzos** has been appointed program assistant in the Office of Instructional Services. Tzetzos is located on the 10th floor of 50 W. State Street and may be reached at extension 2129.



**Monica Meehan** has been appointed clerk typist in the Office of the Registrar. Meehan is located on the 1st floor of the Academic Center and may be reached at extension 3125.

## CONGRATS!



Thomas Edison State College staff celebrated their own achievements at the College's 41st Annual Commencement ceremony on Sept. 28, 2013, at Sun National Bank Arena in Trenton. Pictured from the left are **Cathy Punchello-Cobos, MSM**; **Shelia Taylor, BA**; **Sandy Holden, BA**; **Matthew Brown, BA**; and **Tracy Tosti, AA**.



*Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year!*