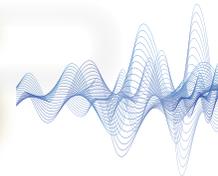


# SIGNALS



Higher Education. For Adults With Higher Expectations.®

## POINTS FOR ORIGINALITY

### Is Plagiarism Lowering Higher Ed?

Traditionally, college students would comb bookshelves to find a resource or two for their current writing assignment. The digital age has changed that; along with, some say, the importance students place on original material.

That disconnect is not surprising.

Mainstays of our increasingly synergetic online community – social media, file sharing, photo sharing, user-contributed resource sites and mashups – may be blurring the distinctions between original and derivative content.

Master of Science in Management (MSM) student Lisa Ridgway sees a correlation between the rise of plagiarism in higher education and the prevailing digital culture.

“Online interaction has removed a layer of contact. As a society, we have become comfortable with everything on the Internet being accessible and free,” she said. “Copying and pasting someone else’s words into an assignment page without attribution is viewed as a victimless crime, but those who do so are devaluing the education process.”

#### What constitutes plagiarism?

Appropriating someone else’s written work, words or ideas as your own without acknowledging the source is plagiarism. All of the College’s course syllabi and the College *Catalog* are clear on the point: “Using someone else’s work as your own is plagiarism... If you copy phrases, sentences, paragraphs or whole documents word-for-word... or, if you paraphrase without identifying the author, then you are plagiarizing.” A detailed statement of what constitutes academic honesty and plagiarism is included in every course syllabus with a clear message that violators are subject to disciplinary action and possible dismissal from the College.

#### Acknowledge your sources

The recent surge of cribbing content is being met with an equivalent wave of software programs that help educators sniff out plagiarized material. For many students, however, slip-ups may be partly unintentional, resulting from a lack of familiarity with citation rules or by simply forgetting to differentiate between where their own narrative ends and someone else’s begins.

Dr. Henry van Zyl, vice provost for Academic Administration at the College, agrees that the transgression is not always intentional.

“Adult learners are dealing with so many feeds that they may forget where they saw someone else’s statement when it comes time to compose their own paper,” he said. “It is important to keep track of sources along the way to avoid confusion.”

For the most part, the College’s mentors adhere to the American Psychological Association (APA) standards for citation formatting. Van Zyl urges students to make sure they understand their mentors’ preferences and immediately seek clarification if they have questions.

For Ridgway, who keeps her *APA Style Manual* close at hand, proper citation rules extend beyond formal written assignments.

“Students need to acknowledge sources in their online course Discussion Board postings



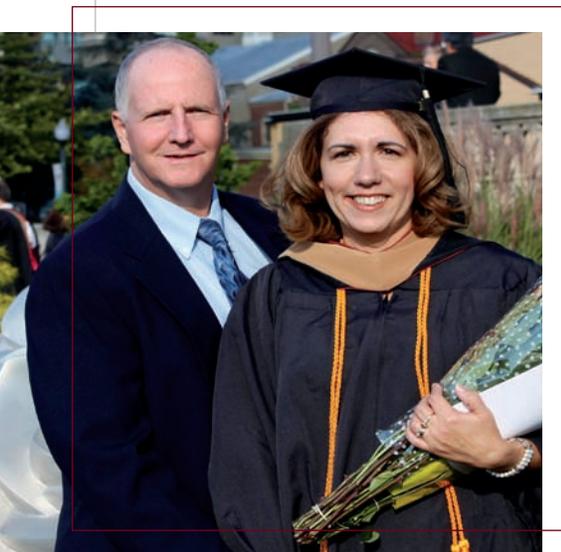
Dr. Henry van Zyl, vice provost for Academic Administration at Thomas Edison State College

as well,” she said. “Not only are they recognizing the authors, but the disclosure allows other students wishing to research the subject further, the opportunity to go directly to the source.”

Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) student, Julie Szolomayer, is also vigilant when citing sources.

“What works for me is jumping to my ‘References’ section and logging the author and

» Page 7



Master of Science in Management degree student Lisa Ridgway and her husband, Joe, during Commencement 2011 when she received her BSBA degree in accounting from the College.

### 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:

ACC-415-OL  
Advanced Audit

BIO-211-OL  
Human Anatomy & Physiology I

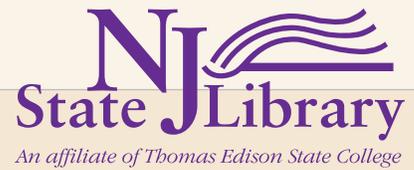
BIO-212-OL  
Human Anatomy & Physiology II

MUS-220-OL  
Music History I

MUS-221-OL  
Music History II

# Enrollment Has its Privileges

YOUR NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY CARD PROVIDES ACCESS TO A WEALTH OF ONLINE RESOURCES



Applying for a New Jersey State Library (NJSL) card is easy and free. All Thomas Edison State College students, whether in or out of the state of New Jersey, are eligible to receive one. As a NJSL cardholder, you have access to a broad range of full-text online journals, career assistance sites, databases, electronic journals, e-books and downloadable audio books that you can utilize as a resource for your academic assignments, career enhancement or just for pleasure.

NJSL's electronic resources include:

► **ABI/INFORM COMPLETE:** Contains the ProQuest Research Library database and features a mix of scholarly journals, trade publications and thousands of full-text national magazine and newspaper articles. A 'Cite this link' tool embedded in all articles instantly formats citations in APA and MLA styles for students.

► **ACADEMIC ONEFILE:** A premier source for peer-reviewed, full-text articles from the world's leading academic journals and reference sources.

► **BUSINESS SOURCE PREMIER:** Contains the latest company and industry news, trade publications, and full-text content for market research reports, industry reports, country reports, company profiles and Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threat (SWOT) analyses.

► **CAREER TRANSITIONS:** Available through NJSL's <http://njworks.org>, offers a resume builder, career interest assessment guide, interview simulations, career networking tips and access to social services.

► **COLLEGE SOURCE ONLINE:** Contains more than 57,000 national and international college catalogs in complete cover-to-cover, Adobe Acrobat PDF format.

► **ELLIS ISLAND PASSENGER RECORDS:** Searchable archive of more than 22 million passengers and crew that passed through Ellis Island, N.Y., between 1892 and 1924.

► **FROST & SULLIVAN:** In-depth reports on market trends and marketing strategies. F&S also offers the latest Industry research, economic research, technology research, executive briefings and industry forecasts by country.

► **HOOVER'S ONLINE:** Provides free, in-depth company information, history, financials, industry and competitors' information.

► **JOB AND CAREER ACCELERATOR:** 'Career Transitions', is an <http://njworks.org> initiative providing information on careers, job opportunities, resume and cover letter preparation, interview guidance, occupational practice tests and a job search tracking dash board to monitor your job search progress.

► **MEDLINEPLUS:** The National Institute of Health's website produced by the National Library of Medicine. Searchable articles include information about diseases, conditions and wellness issues, health topics, drugs and supplements. Companion site, MedlinePlus, provides health information in more than 40 languages.

► **MORNINGSTAR INVESTMENT RESEARCH CENTER:** Provides information on more than 20,000 stock and mutual funds and includes industry information.

► **THE NEW YORK TIMES:** Provides full-text article archives from 1980.

► **NEWSBANK:** Includes full-text archives from more than 1,000 U.S. newspapers.

► **NURSING RESOURCE CENTER:** Supported by Gale/Cengage Learning, features more than three million articles and peer-reviewed publications designed for those enrolled in a college or vocational nursing program. Includes articles on diseases and conditions, assessments, diagnostics, interventions, drugs and care plans.

► **PROQUEST CRIMINAL JUSTICE:** Indexes more than 460 U.S. and international criminal justice journals and includes full-text titles. Coverage from 1969.

► **REFERENCIA LATINA:** Comprehensive Spanish language database that offers content from a variety of sources including full text for more than 100 reference books and dozens of general interest magazines in an array of subject areas.

► **TEACHER REFERENCE CENTER:** provides indexing and abstracts for 280 periodicals.

► **WALL STREET JOURNAL:** provides full-text archives of the Eastern edition from 1984.

To obtain your NJSL card, complete a Thomas Edison State College Student Borrower Registration form by visiting [www.njstatelib.org](http://www.njstatelib.org) Choose "For the Public" from the main menu and "Get a Library Card" from the dropdown; or call (609) 278-2640, extension 103, for assistance. ■

## Need Your College Transcript?

THE COLLEGE MAKES IT EASY TO REQUEST AND TRACK YOUR OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT

Thomas Edison State College processes 14,000 transcript requests a year for delivery to students, graduates, employers, scholarship committees and various institutions. Students wishing to request their transcript can find information and instructions to do so by visiting the College's homepage, [www.tesc.edu](http://www.tesc.edu), clicking on "Current Students" and selecting "Request a Transcript" from the resulting dropdown. Once your Transcript Request form is processed, you can track its status via your Online Student Services account under the "Transcript Request Status" link.



# Fight or Flight?

## FOR TRENTON-BRED INDEPENDENT FILM PRODUCER KELL RAMOS, THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A GOOD CONFLICT

The owner of Somar 2 Productions LLC, Thomas Edison State College student Kell Ramos is known for his film documentaries celebrating Trenton, N.J., entrepreneurs, artists and characters-in-residence. It was his unalloyed exposé of street life, however, that caught the attention of the History Channel's *Gangland* producers. The documentary television series drew heavily upon Ramos' inside perspective and extensive video archives of the city's coarser side.

"In 2004, the Bloods were becoming a powerful gang in Trenton," he said. "I was in the local mortgage and real estate business at the time and could see that the situation was having an adverse effect on the influx of new residents and businesses."

Ramos' tendency to face down the fearful resulted in a meeting with one of the gang leaders.

"I felt compelled to meet the gang members and find out more about them," he said. "I was introduced to a leader of the Blood set named Messiah, who addressed the audience at the 2006 Covenant of Peace Summit in Trenton and asked him if I could tell his story. He agreed and I filmed for two years, compiling hours of inter-

Ramos' forthright style also encompasses his academic pursuits.

"Just to be clear, I do not like school at all. Period," admitted Ramos with a laugh. "But I want the degree so that no one has an excuse for not giving me what I deserve. I never want to hear: 'Oh we like you but can't use you because you don't have a college degree.'"

The College's accessibility is also attractive to Ramos as he pursues his BA degree in communications.

"I am taking advantage of the College's financial aid and student loans right now," he said. "Because of the high costs associated with my production efforts, the affordability is important to me." Ramos also noted that the online course format is perfect for him because of its minimal impact on his busy working schedule.

Ramos heard about Thomas Edison State College in 2009 from fellow students at Mercer County Community College. "I liked the convenience of being able to do my work whenever it fit my busy schedule," he said. "At

“Because of the high costs associated with my production efforts, the affordability is important to me.”

views and footage. In the interim, I produced and marketed a street DVD online titled *Trenton Live* in Harlem highlighting a July 4, 2007, celebration involving hundreds of members of the Bloods who had convened in New York City. A&E's *Gangland* was already in its fifth season on the History Channel when the producers became interested in profiling east coast gang life. They stumbled across my DVD online and approached me to license my footage."

The national prestige that resulted, however, left Ramos stigmatized locally.

"I took a lot of heat from fellow Trentonians for following the gangs and giving them a voice," he said. "People were calling me 'The gang guy.' My position among the city's community suffered for it for a time. But I followed my heart and passion and the project wound up reaping benefits for me in the long run."

the time, I was working on the Trenton video series *Urban Evolution*, which aired on WMCN-TV to the New Jersey and Philadelphia TV market, while taking care of my growing family. I had no time to breathe, let alone travel to and from a campus."

Ramos said he feels vindicated by the positivity surrounding the *Urban Evolution* series,

"The series engendered positive feelings about Trenton and was well received," he said. "I got a lot of work because of that project, and I believe it redeemed me in the eyes of some of the locals who felt betrayed over the *Gangland* exposure."

Ramos' latest video project, *Exodus?*, a 10-episode documentary for television, examines Ramos' internal debate: Should he remain in the city he alternately loves and loathes; or, should he move his family?



Kell Ramos

"The mass of workers who vacate the city by 5:01 p.m. are on their own exodus," he said. "They're out, they want to go home and I can't blame them. If just a small percentage of them lived in Trenton, however, I think we would have a powerful city again."

In spite of his doubts, Ramos has a special place in his heart for the city.

"I started out as a kid in the Bronx, N.Y., until my preteen years when my family decamped to Bordentown, N.J. As a city-bred teenager living in an unfamiliar suburb, I felt completely out of my element," he said. "But when I stumbled upon the magic that was nearby Trenton, the city became a savior to me because I felt that I was home."



Kell Ramos and his wife, Tamara

Ramos currently lives in Trenton with his wife, Tamara, son Eli and daughter Ruby. Tamara, who works for the state of New Jersey and is an active visual artist, is also a Thomas Edison State College student.

More on Ramos' work and upcoming projects can be viewed by visiting [www.kellramos.com](http://www.kellramos.com). ■

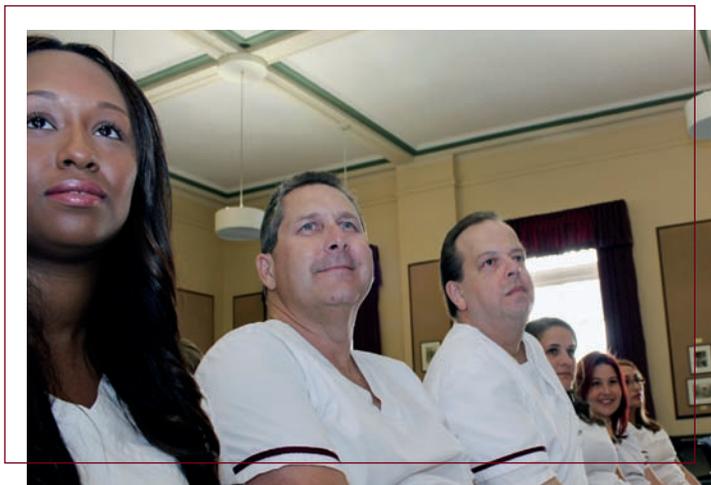
# Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Program Celebrates First Wave of Graduates

*STUDENTS OF THE INAUGURAL PROGRAM ARE CELEBRATED DURING CEREMONY*

**W**. Cary Edwards School of Nursing of Thomas Edison State College celebrated its inaugural Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Program Graduation with a pinning ceremony in September.

"This first Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN class is a remarkable group," said Dr. Phyllis Marshall, dean of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing. "They will bring a wealth of knowledge, compassion, adaptability and professionalism to the field of nursing."

The Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN program is a concentrated, one-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program designed for adult learners who already possess a non-nursing bachelor's degree and are interested in becoming registered nurses. To find out more about the programs available through the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing, visit [www.tesc.edu/nursing](http://www.tesc.edu/nursing).



*Graduates of the program (in photo, from left to right) Brittany Arrington, Gerald Bertekap, Carl Coleman, Rachel Boka and Lisa Dellon look on as the dean of the School, Dr. Phyllis Marshall, addressed graduates and their families during the ceremony.*

# College Launches Master of Arts in Educational Technology and Online Learning

*DEGREE PREPARES GRADUATES TO CREATE AND DELIVER ONLINE COURSES*

**T**homas Edison State College, a pioneer in the use of educational technologies to create learning opportunities for adults, is grooming its students to carry the heritage forward.

The Heavin School of Arts and Sciences recently launched a Master of Arts in Educational Technology and Online Learning degree, which will



prepare graduates to become leaders in educational technology as well as develop and administer online programs for learners, from preschool to higher education, including adult learners.

The 36-credit program is offered completely online and infuses a series of applied professional studies in educational technology, online learning, educational leadership and curriculum development.

"The curriculum provides a solid grounding in both relevant academic theory and applied practice," said Dr. Susan Davenport, dean of the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences. "Graduates will be prepared as educational technology leaders who are able to articulate and apply best practices in the creation and delivery of online courses for a variety of students, from pre-K and college through corporate training and continuing education."

Graduates of the program will be positioned to respond to a growing alternative to campus-based study. According to a 2011 study conducted by the Babson Survey Research Group and the College Board, 65 percent of the 2,500 academic leaders surveyed said that online learning is a critical part of their long-term strategy. The program also provides ample opportunities for the personalization of curriculum sequence to meet students' individual career goals. The first class for the new program is scheduled to begin in the January 2013 term. For more information, contact the College at [gradstudies@tesc.edu](mailto:gradstudies@tesc.edu) or visit [www.tesc.edu/heavin](http://www.tesc.edu/heavin). ■

# Prior Learning Assessments (PLA) Gives You the Credit You Deserve

## ALUMS DISCUSS THE SIGNIFICANT ROLE PLA PLAYED IN THEIR DEGREE COMPLETION

**A**fter more than 30 years of experience in marketing, fundraising, public speaking, entrepreneurship, business communications and nonprofit management, Karen Hatcher, BA '11, could basically teach those subjects. So, when Hatcher discovered Thomas Edison State College's prior learning assessments (PLA), she knew she stumbled on an academic windfall.



*Karen Hatcher, BA '11*

"In completing PLAs for my Bachelor of Arts degree in liberal studies, I tapped into my college-level experience, business acumen and many of the competencies I already possessed," said the 2011 graduate and president/owner of Centered Consulting, LLC, who completed nearly 50 credits toward her degree using the method of earning credit.

"The PLA process allows adult learners like Karen to earn credit for knowledge gained through learning experiences that can be equated to what is taught in an accredited college course," explained Todd Siben, assistant director of Portfolio Assessment at Thomas Edison State College's Center for the Assessment of Learning.

Once Hatcher understood the process, she was hooked.

"Once I became accustomed to the procedure and found my pace, I began earning about 3 credits per month through PLA," noted Hatcher, who described the process: "Once registered I would be assigned the PLA objectives for the course and would then create an outline to match the course objectives. Once the outline was approved by the assigned mentor, I'd write the narrative for those objectives. My narrative usually consisted of 10 to 15 pages that substantiated my background and college-level knowledge relating to the course

selected. My developing portfolio would also contain pertinent letters of reference, transcripts, certificates, performance appraisals or samples of my work. For each PLA, I worked with an assigned mentor who oversaw the process to completion."

Hatcher agreed that it does take a level of personal discipline, but added that the gratification in completing 3 credits per month using this method made it well worth her commitment.

"The College's academic calendar allows you to begin a new PLA every month; however, I would recommend against starting two portfolios at the same time," noted Hatcher. "Staggering them keeps the workload more manageable." Hatcher also recommended that students' get their feet wet by considering which prior learning assessments best match their existing college-level knowledge and attempt one just to get started.

Alum Rolando Gorostiza, BSAST '07, discussed the vital role that PLA played in his own degree pursuit.

An early adopter of Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) at a technical school where he was employed, Gorostiza was considered the go-to person by his colleagues on the subject. His talent soon attracted the attention of a resourceful supervisor who gave him an ultimatum.

"I was told, not asked, to begin teaching the program at my workplace. One day my superior stated 'you're going to begin teaching CAD,' and that was it," he said. The full-timer and busy father of three spent weekends pouring over books on the subject and playing with the program, feverishly ramping up his skills for the students he would be instructing in the following weeks.

The experience, though nerve-wracking, would serve as his comeuppance once enrolled at the College.

"After 25 years in the engineering business, with experience in cosmetics, fragrances and food manufacturing processes, packaging design and staff instruction, I had obtained certifications, professional experience and training, which I included in PLA portfolios at Thomas Edison State College," noted Gorostiza, who enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology program in engineering graphics in 2006 and was an alum



*Todd Siben, assistant director of Portfolio Assessment at Thomas Edison State College's Center for the Assessment of Learning*

by 2007. He is currently a manager at L'Oreal USA's Technical Center in Clark, N.J.

"I was careful to structure my submissions so that they would mesh with the content in the individual course descriptions I selected," he said. Devoting 10 to 15 hours a week to the endeavor, Gorostiza completed 12 PLAs (36 credits) in approximately six months at the College. His enterprising approach did not escape the notice of the American Council on Education (ACE) who selected him as the recipient of their 'Adult Learner of the Year' award in 2008.

"Karen and Rolando represent ideal candidates for PLA because of the level and type of applied, experiential knowledge they accumulated in their careers," noted Siben, who is happy to clarify the process for students who may still be unsure about attempting this method of earning credit.



*Rolando Gorostiza, BSAST '07*

"As methods of course-completion go, PLA is unique - students who are still curious about the process should feel free to contact me via e-mail: [PLAWeb@tesc.edu](mailto:PLAWeb@tesc.edu) with any questions." Siben also provides detailed explanation and instructions for students who want to attempt PLAs in his recent blog "Is PLA Right for You?" which can be viewed by visiting the College's Blog page, [www.tesc.edu/blog](http://www.tesc.edu/blog). ■

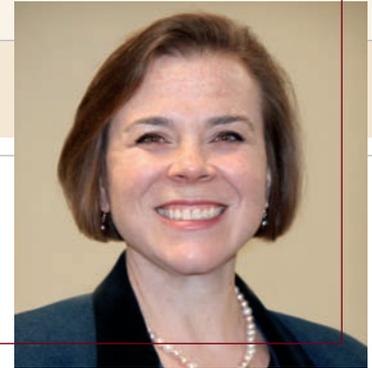
# New Learner Support Center Unveiled

COLLEGE'S NEW CENTER WILL IMPROVE SERVICE TO STUDENTS

In an evolving effort to provide exceptional service to students, the College recently established the Learner Support Center (LSC).

"As the newest office within the Enrollment Management and Learner Services Division, the Learner Support Center will deliver more

*The Learner Support Center will deliver more efficient handling of inquiries from our students while providing world-class customer service.*



*Juliette Punchello, director of Thomas Edison State College's new Learner Support Center*



efficient handling of inquiries from our students, while providing world-class customer service," said Juliette Punchello, director of the new center.

Under the new structure, students receive answers to many of their questions during their initial contact with the College, without the need to have their call transferred to other departments. The team of student affairs specialists responds to common student queries including tuition plan questions, academic evaluations, receipt of transcripts, proctor request forms, financial aid awards, system login difficulties and resetting passwords. Student issues that require assistance from other

departments are facilitated through the LSC team and students are contacted as soon as their issue is resolved.

According to student affairs specialist (and recent graduate of the College) Anna Krum, "It is rewarding to be a single source of contact and assist students on a daily basis in the LSC. Our team helps students with managing many of the administrative functions associated with earning their degree, allowing them to focus more on their ultimate goal — completing their course work."

To reach a Learner Support Center team member, call (888) 442-8372, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., EST, or e-mail [learnersupportcenter@tesc.edu](mailto:learnersupportcenter@tesc.edu). ■

# Student Course Load Policy

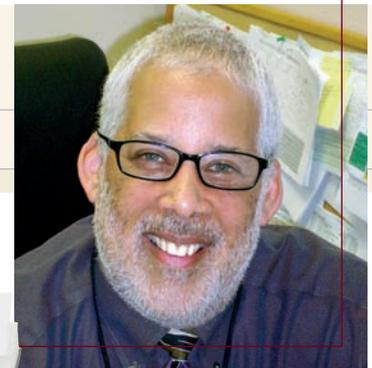
COLLEGE SETS LIMITS ON EXCESSIVE COURSE LOADS

Overachievers take note: Under the College's current course load policy, undergraduate students are permitted to enroll in a maximum of 36 credits during an academic year or 12 credits during any one term (a maximum of 6 credits per term for graduate students). Students are urged to stay within those boundaries.

"Exceeding the maximum credit load during any one term is generally not recommended and requires special permission from a student's academic advisor and/or dean's office," said Dr. Garry Keel, director of the Office of Academic Advising. "Students who anticipate having to take more than 12 credits during a 12-week term should contact their advisor before attempting to register."

Online implementation of this policy took effect during the November 2012 term.

Students, who now register for their courses online and attempt to exceed the maximum credit load, will notice a feature that automatically prevents them from completing the registration process without approval. The same feature, however, will include an electronic means of requesting and processing an approval for an excessive credit load. Students opting for phone registration or those faxing in their registration requests, who wish to exceed the course load limit, will be instructed to contact the advisement office before their registrations are processed.



*Dr. Garry Keel, director of the Office of Academic Advising.*



Students with questions can contact the Office of Academic Advisement by visiting: [www.tesc.edu](http://www.tesc.edu), selecting "Current Students" and "Advisement" from the dropdown for instructions on contacting an advisor or arranging an advising appointment. ■

# ANNUAL FUND 2012

## VITAL FUNDING FOR THE COLLEGE'S PROGRAMS COMES FROM STUDENTS JUST LIKE YOU

Thomas Edison State College Foundation relies on donations from alumni, friends, mentors, employees (and yes, even students) in support of the Annual Fund. Annual Fund donations are unrestricted funds that enable the College to respond quickly to new opportunities and ensure that each year the College is able to provide students with up-to-date technology, course enhancements, academic support and more.

### ▶ HOW HAS THE ANNUAL FUND HELPED STUDENTS?

Between 2008 and 2011, more than \$100,000 was dedicated to improving technological services and course delivery to our students. Among other advancements, students are now able to access their courses on smart phones and other portable devices. In 2012, \$100,000 was raised from Annual Fund donations to help launch the new MBA degree program.

These funds come from students just like you, and your donation is tax deductible. The Thomas Edison State College Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit and all gifts are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

### ▶ I'M STILL A STUDENT. DOES MY PARTICIPATION REALLY MATTER?

Yes! Organizations that rank U.S. colleges and universities look at participation from donors (alumni, students, employees and mentors) as an indicator of the quality of an institution. In addition, many foundations and corporations look at participation as a basis to determine whether the College is a good investment. Every dollar you donate makes a difference.

### ▶ MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY. GIVE TO THE ANNUAL FUND.

To find out more, visit [www.tescfoundation.org](http://www.tescfoundation.org). ■

## NLNAC Accreditation

*Students and alumni of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing participated in the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) accreditation/reaccreditation sessions last spring at Thomas Edison State College. The process resulted in a recent reaccreditation of the School's BSN program and initial accreditation for its Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program and graduate certificate programs. To find out more about NLNAC, visit [www.nlnac.org](http://www.nlnac.org). To view a complete list of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing's accreditations, visit [www.tesc.edu/nursing](http://www.tesc.edu/nursing).*



## Points For Originality

» (continued from front cover)

article immediately after I insert the quote into the body of my paper," she said. "I don't fuss over the complete reference or put it in any certain order, but merely jot it down and return to the paper. Once my paper is finished, I return to the reference page and fine tune the information applying the correct format."

Students can find instructions on logging in to Smarthinking through the "Online Tutoring Resources" section under the General Information tab in their online courses. Students may also enter a College Helpdesk ticket for guidance.

### ▶ KNOW YOUR OPTIONS

The College understands that course loads can become overwhelming. However, for those who are experiencing difficulty with formatting or completing their assignments on time, there are options.

"In addition to what is available via student course spaces, we have resources to help students improve their writing skills and apply proper APA/MLA formatting in their writing," noted van Zyl. "Many students find Smarthinking, an online student tutorial service, very useful, and it is free for students registered in our courses."

Students can access Smarthinking at <http://smarthinking.com>.

According to the site, Smarthinking connects students to expert educators for 24/7 assistance in writing, math, reading, science, business, Spanish language, computer technology, nursing and allied health. The site also features a writing lab component where students can get personalized feedback on their written drafts. Students should note that live tutors respond to their submissions, so they should allow at least 48 hours for a response and critique.

"The College stands by and accommodates adult learners who are genuinely working toward completing their degree requirements," added van Zyl. "Those who are feeling overburdened can also submit a *Request for a Course Extension* form through their mentor to obtain more time to complete their assignments. If health issues suddenly arise, and special accommodations are necessary, students can seek immediate assistance by contacting the College's ADA office at [ada@tesc.edu](mailto:ada@tesc.edu)."

To find out more about Thomas Edison State College's policies on plagiarism and the associated disciplinary sanctions, refer to Section 4 of the College *Catalog*. Links to student forms and the College *Catalog* can be found under the "Current Students" dropdown on [www.tesc.edu](http://www.tesc.edu). ■

# Academic Calendar

	February 2013	March 2013	April 2013
Registration Dates	Dec. 21, 2012 - Jan. 16, 2013	Jan. 22 - Feb. 13, 2013	Feb. 19 - March 16, 2013
Late Registration	Jan. 17 - 21, 2013	Feb. 14 - 18, 2013	March 17 - 21, 2013
Course Transfer Period	Dec. 21, 2012 - Feb. 8, 2013	Jan. 22 - March 8, 2013	Feb. 19 - April 5, 2013
<b>Term Start Date</b>	Feb. 1, 2013	March 1, 2013	April 1, 2013 *
Midterm Exam Week **	March 18 - 23, 2013	April 15 - 20, 2013	May 13 - 18, 2013
Final Exam Week**	April 22 - 27, 2013	May 20 - 25, 2013	June 17 - 22, 2013
<b>Term Ends</b>	April 27, 2013	May 25, 2013	June 22, 2013

\*Term start dates apply 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.

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