

# TESU *IN* TRENTON

Thomas Edison State University (TESU) is an active and responsive member of the Trenton community. We partner with local groups and officials in programming to serve our residents and promote economic growth. Thomas Edison staff members have a long history of volunteerism in the community, whether serving on local not-for-profit boards, participating in city organizations or supporting a variety of drives and collections. Here is just a snapshot of some of our most recent activities.

## *Community-serving programs*

- More than 20 local nonprofit organizations have signed up to work with TESU's Academic Community Program, which pairs students with nonprofits to create real-world solutions to the challenges faced by these organizations.

- We partnered with the 15th legislative district, The Father Center of New Jersey, The Burke Foundation and St. Francis Medical Center to present Thriving in Today's Society: Leadership, Advocacy and Empowerment for Men. This half-day summit focused on educational attainment, mental and physical health needs, career development and financial stability and attracted over 85 attendees from the local community. This summer TESU is again partnering with the 15th legislative district to host a second empowerment summit. Taking place on Women's Equality Day, The Women's Empowerment Summit will focus on empowering local women with a focus on professional and personal development.

- TESU annually sponsors a Community Involvement Fair to expand community partnerships through community engagement with residents, nonprofit organizations and local agencies within and around the city of Trenton.

- University staff participate in the Mayor's Annual Clean-Up Day effort through a partnership with

the city of Trenton and local neighborhood groups. The University received a "good neighbor" award for its active involvement in this initiative.

- For nearly 15 years, The Center for the Positive Development of Urban Children has conducted The New Jersey Cultural Competency and English Language Learners (ELL) Institute and Mentoring Program to provide professional development and mentoring to early childhood and elementary teachers in Trenton and throughout New Jersey. The program helps to teach theory and best practices in cultural competency; first and second language acquisition; and English learning strategies.



*University President Merodie Hancock bumps elbows with nursing student Priyal Parikh at a vaccination clinic for local residents at the Trenton Fire Department.*

## *Reaching out*

- TESU delivered more than 140 meals to hospital nursing staff and other frontline healthcare workers throughout Trenton and Mercer County during COVID-19, funding these meals with personal donations from the TESU leadership team and purchasing the meals from Trenton area restaurants and the Trenton Farmers Market.

- TESU student nurses are volunteering to help vaccinate residents at COVID-19 vaccination sites in the city.

- TESU is serving as a periodic COVID-19 testing site for local community residents.



# *Together, making positive changes in our community*

- TESU Lunch and Learns provide a quarterly opportunity for local nonprofits to inform University and New Jersey State Library (NJSL) staff about their mission, local priorities and how employees can engage and volunteer.

## *Promoting economic growth*

- TESU leadership served on Mayor Reed Gusciorda's Education and Workforce Transition Committee.
- TESU leadership works with several regional business organizations on efforts including advocating for the creation of initiatives that focus on increasing diversity and inclusion.
- TESU is committed to supporting Trenton's economic vitality through its capital investments in its downtown campus.
- TESU was a founding board member of Greater Trenton and actively supports its efforts to advance the economic revitalization of Trenton.
- TESU has been an active partner with the Trenton Downtown Association and Mercer County Improvement Authority to promote economic growth.

## *Using institutional resources to benefit community*

- Leadership from Thomas Edison contributes to a variety of boards throughout the city and county. The intrinsic link between education, business demands and the economic stability of the state of New Jersey are a primary focus of many of these discussions. TESU board membership includes: Greater Trenton Inc.; Mercer County Improvement Authority; Trenton Downtown Association (TDA); Princeton Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce; United Way of Greater Mercer; Robert Wood Johnson Hamilton; and Dress For Success, Central Jersey; Trenton Health Team CAB, Trenton Area Stakeholders Group, Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership, Trenton 4Cs, and Burlington County Regional Chamber of Commerce's DEI Task Force.
- The University hosts drives and collections through both its local unions and staff to benefit families in the city of Trenton. Among the organizations

TESU has collected for are the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, the Trenton Animal Shelter and Dress For Success, Central Jersey. The Annual AFT Holiday Drive provides holiday gifts for children serviced by Children's Home Society of NJ, and TESU and NJSL staff provide ongoing support for military students and their units through the collection of supplies for "care-packages" that are mailed regularly.

- TESU hosted a Community Reception to consider ways to partner with local nonprofits to address local priorities and needs..

## *Providing meeting space and sponsorships*

- TESU hosts meetings for local outside organizations for free or minimal cost, and provides sponsorships for many local events.

## *A Trenton workforce*

- TESU and NJSL employ more than 350 people at their downtown locations. The University provides more than \$1.5 million annually in direct support of Trenton businesses.
- Approximately 15,000 students are enrolled and more than 2,000 degrees are conferred each year.
- TESU hosts interns from the Mercer County Summer Youth Employment Program during the summer. This program is designed to support Trenton youth by providing summer jobs and developing young talent through skill and professional development.



*Members of the American Federation of Teachers union collect gifts for area children for the holidays.*