

SIGNALS

S T U D E N T N E W S L E T T E R



Maximize Your Career-Related Credits

HOW ONE STUDENT IS EARNING HER BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PROFESSIONAL STUDIES ON HER OWN TERMS

A fresh perspective, accessibility and options were what Angela Powell was seeking in a degree program. She found that and more in the University's recently launched Bachelor of Science in Professional Studies (BSPS) program.

"It's been a new, fresh experience as I journey into the next phase of my life and career," said Powell, of Hamilton, N.J.

Currently in the market for a new professional role, Powell cites the discipline of her course work as her inspiration for applying to organizations as well as revamping her resume. "I plan to utilize my degree by pursuing an entrepreneurial-related career as well as further my experience as a professional event planner," she said.

Powell's previous work and academic experience runs the gamut from sales and marketing to office management and executive administration. She entered into the program with a solid knowledge base.

"In addition to my past work experience, I also run two of my own businesses. One as a bankruptcy petition preparer to file petitions for those who cannot afford to hire an attorney and as a Zumba instructor, teaching classes locally twice a week in the Trenton area," she explained.

For students like Powell, the BSPS degree is transfer friendly, particularly for those who have already earned an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree. Traditionally, the vocational focus of AAS programs and specificity of the course work made it difficult for the courses to be matched to equivalent requirements for most bachelor's degree programs.

Designed to capitalize on previously earned professional or career-related credits, the program offers increased flexibility and enables students to demonstrate competency in business theories, practice and policymaking.

"The Bachelor of Science in Professional Studies degree program is designed to enhance current workplace skills," said Alicia Malone, assistant dean, School of Business and Management at the University. "It offers students an education that combines theory with practical experience;

consequently augmenting their abilities for career advancement, job retention and job mobility."

Also designed with flexibility in mind, the degree includes 'tracks' from which students can select. In the first area of specialization, students pick from either the professional or specialized career track depending on the field they'd like to pursue.

Within these tracks, students can either select from a broad range of courses that fall under four main categories; leadership, supervision, communication and organizational, or elect to enroll in more specialized courses that align with specific careers. These include, but are not limited to, paralegal/legal studies, real

estate, drafting and culinary arts/hospitality. The second track includes the option to earn either a professional undergraduate certificate in addition to the BSPS degree or to take courses in the area of supportive professional studies. It is here that focus can shift on earning an additional credential in human resources management, marketing, organizational leadership or finance; or to pursue further study in supportive fields of business.

To learn more about the BSPS program, visit <http://www.tesu.edu/business/bsps>. ■

"THE BSPS DEGREE PROGRAM HAS GIVEN ME THE FREEDOM TO SELECT FROM A VARIETY OF COURSE OPTIONS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE MY GOALS."

Angela Powell

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"The BSPS degree program has given me the freedom

Angela Powell,
BSPS Program Student





University Named a Best Value for its MSIT Program

THOMAS EDISON STATE UNIVERSITY SCORES IN "BIG DATA" CATEGORY

Thomas Edison State University (TESU) has been named to Value Colleges' list of the "Top 50 Best Value Big Data Graduate Programs" of 2016.* The University was the only New Jersey-based institution to make the list. The University's Master of Science in Information Technology (MSIT) program was singled out for the distinction.

According to Value Colleges, an online resource to the best values in undergraduate and graduate education, the Top 50 ranking includes only accredited institutions that "strike up a balance between affordability and value." The University was ranked 38th on its best 'Big Data' programs listing.

According to the publisher, nearly 100 colleges and universities in the U.S. offer some sort of online degree with an emphasis in Big Data. The School of Applied Science and Technology's MSIT program was lauded by the publication

as an online graduate program that provides a solid foundation in IT surrounding six areas of study that prepares students with the expertise and knowledge required for leadership roles in IT.

The program's six areas of study include Cybersecurity - Critical Infrastructure; Data Management and Analytics; Health Information Technology; Information Assurance; Network Management; and Software Engineering. The 36-39-credit graduate program can be completed in less than two years on a part-time basis without necessitating that students sacrifice their professional and personal responsibilities. All courses are offered completely online, so students can access and complete their assignments on their own schedule and set their own pace.

To learn more about the MSIT program, visit www.tesu.edu/ast/msit.

*Source: www.valuecolleges.com/rankings/best-online-big-data-programs-2016/ ■

New Name Approved for Undergraduate Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Program

CHANGE REFLECTS FIELD'S EVOLVING STRUCTURE

On April 15, 2016, at the recommendation of the John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies, the Thomas Edison State University Undergraduate Council approved a name change for the Bachelor of Science degree in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness program. The area of study has been renamed the:

Bachelor of Science degree in Homeland Security and Emergency Management program.

This change will become effective July 1, 2016, for the 2017 *Undergraduate Catalog* year. This change better reflects the program's focus and the evolving structure of the homeland security and emergency management profession. This is a name change only and does not alter the

curriculum or learning outcomes associated with the area of study.

How will the name change affect you?

According to Christopher Schultz, assistant dean and director of the John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies, students graduating before July 1, 2016, will retain the Bachelor of Science in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness degree name on their student records and diplomas. Students graduating after July 1, 2016, will have the option to either keep the former degree name or use the new degree name in their records and on their diploma. Please email cschultz@tesu.edu before June 30, 2017, to let him know which option you prefer. In your subject line please indicate "BS.HSEP Change." ■



Christopher Schultz, assistant dean and director of the John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies

Wondering What to Expect as a TESU Student?

OUR NEW 1-CREDIT COURSE HAS THE ANSWERS.

The Cornerstone: Lifelong Learning Strategies (TES-100) course is a self-directed, self-paced online course designed for new undergraduate students. It is structured to provide you with the tools that will help you acclimate to your academic experience, navigate our learning environment, clarify the University's learning processes, programs and policies and provide you with practical tips and strategies to help make you a more successful student. Please note that TES-100 will be a required introductory course for all students who enroll after July 1, 2016. About the TES-100 course:

- > The course is designed around online study materials and an associated series of online quizzes that you progress through without mentor interaction.
- > Course work is structured to help you become accustomed to online learning while evaluating and strengthening your skills in writing, math and information literacy.
- > New course terms begin every month, so you have 12 opportunities each year to register for the course.
- > TES-100 terms are 12 weeks in duration; however, the course is self-paced so you have the option to complete it in a shorter timeframe.
- > Students are encouraged to register for the TES-100 course during their first term at the University.
- > A one-time tuition cost for enrollment in the TES-100 course is \$300 for students enrolled under the Per Credit Tuition Plan.
- > Tuition cost for the course is included for students enrolled in the Comprehensive Tuition Plan.
- > The 1-credit students earn by taking the TES-100 course can be utilized toward an elective requirement in any degree program.
- > Grades for the TES-100 course will be recorded as CR (Credit) or NC (No Credit) on your transcript and will not affect your grade point average.
- > You can register for the course through Online Student Services (OSS). Look for the "TES Cornerstone" course in the subject list.

For more information about the new course contact the Learner Support Center at LSC@tesu.edu or (888) 442-8372.

NJCBAA Inducts BSOL Student Michael Schramm

The New Jersey Collegiate Business Administration Association (NJCBAA) inducted Thomas Edison State University Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership (BSOL) degree student Michael Schramm, of Randolph, N.J., into its statewide honor society on April 29 at the New Jersey State House in Trenton.

The NJCBAA recognizes undergraduate students who have excelled in their studies in business education, and honorees represent the top 1 percent of business students at their respective colleges and schools.

Established in 2003, the NJCBAA Honor Society annually honors student pursuing associate or bachelor's degrees in business, who have completed a minimum of 35 percent of course work from the nominating institution and are in good academic standing. ■

Pictured with Michael Schramm, NJCBAA Honor Society inductee (right), are School of Business and Management assistant deans Alicia Malone (left) and Camilla King Lewis.



COURSE NEWS

Note: A complete listing of all undergraduate and graduate courses and their availability may be found on our website at www.tesu.edu/courses.

NEW UNDERGRADUATE ONLINE COURSES:

AOJ-101 *Introduction to Law Enforcement*

AVF-472 *Airport Management I*

AVT-305 *Airline Marketing and Customer Services*

AVT-306 *Crew Resource Management*

BPS-495 *Bachelor of Science in Professional Studies Capstone*

COM-265 *Communication in the Digital Age*

ETH-230 *Ethics in the Digital Age*

NEW GRADUATE ONLINE COURSES:

ACC-701 *Auditing and Accounting Information Systems*

APS-610 *Cost Estimation and Financial Management for Engineers and Technologists*

DHM-710 *Mapping Time, Space and Identity*

DTM-531 *Advanced Database Systems*

GER-620 *Geropsychological Interventions*

GER-710 *Geropsychological Consultation*

IAS-551 *Foundations of Information Assurance*

IOP-620 *Unearthing and Enhancing Organizational Talent through Psychology*

IOP-710 *The Psychology of Leadership, Motivation and Teamwork*

MNP-510 *Project Management for Public Service*

MNP-511 *Organizational Research for Public Service*

MNP-525 *Project Leadership and Communications in Public Service*

MNP-530 *Human Resources Management for Public Service*

MNP-540 *Finance and Accounting for Managers in Public Service*

MPL-710 *Capstone in Public Service*

MSH-506 *Hospitality Management Capstone*

TESU Mentors in the News

Ronald A. Long, Esq., was recently lauded by Dearborn Publishing Company for his editorial contributions to the company's 13th edition of *Modern Real Estate Practice in Pennsylvania*. Long is a professor at Montgomery County Community College, Pa., as well as a practicing real estate attorney, real estate broker and certified real estate instructor in Pennsylvania. At the University, he mentors Constitutional Issues (POS-310), Business Law (LAW-201), American Civil Rights Movement (HIS-210) and Ethics and the Business Professional (PHI-384) courses.



Brandi Megan Granett, PhD, a W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing mentor and technical support contact, announced that her latest novel, *Triple Love Score* (Wyatt-MacKenzie Publishing), is slated for fall 2016 release. Granett is also the author of *My Intended* (William Morrow and Company) and *Cars and Other Things that*

Brandi Megan Granett, PhD

Get Around (CreateSpace Publishing). Her short fiction works have appeared in *Pebble Lake Review*, *Folio* and *Pleiades Magazine* and she is currently a literary blogger for *Huffington Post*. At the University, Granett mentors Professional Writing (NUR-614) and Introduction to Children's Literature (LIT-221). ■

BSN Students Learn Lessons Through Charitable Work

For students enrolled in the Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Program, downtime is a rarity.

In addition to shouldering the customary pace and responsibilities of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing program, students are also expected to work with area charitable



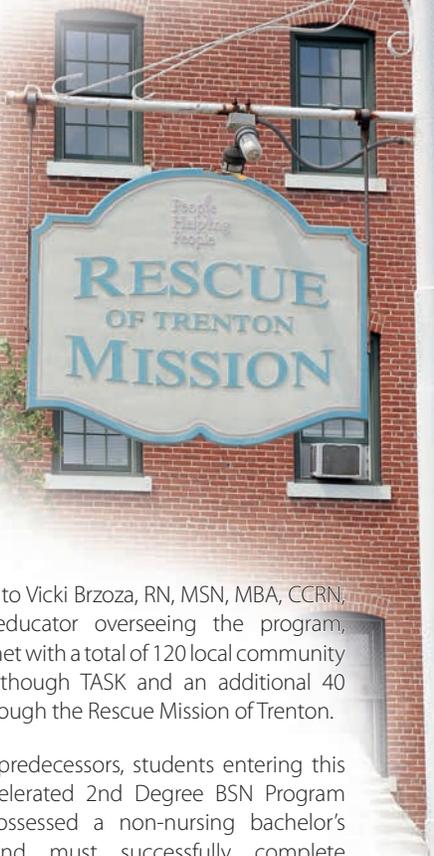
Pictured from left to right: 2016 Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN students Cesar Rivero, Derya Barc, Allison Schulte, Nijole Montvilaite and Kirsten Wenzel

organizations. According to instructional staff in the program, doing so brings them within closer proximity of the communities they may one day serve. Students in this year's cohort worked with Mercer County, N.J.'s Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK) and Rescue Mission of Trenton.

The exchanges and clinical interactions provided students a firsthand glimpse into the effects that economic disadvantage can have on the quality of healthcare of those living in underserved communities. Students monitored blood pressure and dispensed educational information on appropriate lifestyle choices, productive ways to relieve stress and good nutrition options for patrons.

According to Vicki Brzoza, RN, MSN, MBA, CCRN, a nurse educator overseeing the program, students met with a total of 120 local community members through TASK and an additional 40 people through the Rescue Mission of Trenton.

Like their predecessors, students entering this year's Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Program already possessed a non-nursing bachelor's degree and must successfully complete 60 credits within the program's 12-month timeframe. Their course work encompasses in-class and online formats as well as a clinical component requiring them to perform in a demanding direct patient care environment for 20 hours a week at a local health system. ■



School of Nursing Announces Pre-BSN Program

PROGRAM MAKES PRE-LICENSURE ENROLLMENT POSSIBLE

The W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing will be accepting diploma nursing school graduates who are planning to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN) during the next calendar year into its Pre-Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Pre-BSN) program. The program presents an opportunity for prelicensure nursing students to earn 6 credits toward their BSN degree before taking the NCLEX-RN exam. Students waiting to take the NCLEX-RN will be able to register for two

nursing courses in the School's BSN program: Nursing Informatics (NUR-340) and Advancing Nursing Practice (NUR-342).

Prelicensure students will have one year from the date of admission to the program to pass the NCLEX-RN exam. Newly registered nurses will then need to submit a copy of their valid RN license in order to become officially admitted. In the meantime, Pre-BSN program students enrolled in the program will have full access to nursing advisors and all resources available to BSN program students.

"We anticipate that Pre-BSN students can gain valuable insight from more seasoned BSN students, who in turn, will benefit from the fresh perspectives offered by more recent associate and diploma program graduates," said Maggie Ciocco, MS, RN, BC, nursing program advisor. For more information, email nursing@tesu.edu or call (609) 633-6460. ■

Meet A Mentor

Meet a Mentor: Warren Gramm

FINDING HARMONY IN ONLINE EDUCATION

"When I completed graduate school, I searched high and low for every college and university that had a music program," explained TESU Mentor Warren Gramm. "When I reached out to Thomas Edison, it seemed I was in the right place at the right time. Coincidentally, the prior learning assessment (PLA) department was looking for a mentor to participate in its music portfolio review process. I am happy to say I have been teamed up with the University for 10 years."

In addition to mentoring two online music history courses, Music History I (MUS-220); Music History II (MUS-221), Gramm mentors both sections of the PLA prerequisite courses, Introduction to Prior Learning (PLA-100) and Introduction to Portfolio Development (PLA-200). However, it is his work reviewing portfolios that presents some of the most interesting mentoring experiences.

"As a subject matter expert with TESU in the field of music, I also find myself reviewing portfolios completed by students through the PLA program who look to gain credit for their work and experience in various fields of music," he explained. "I have seen an incredibly diverse amount of portfolios. Some of my favorites over the years have been Rock and Roll History and Bluegrass Fiddle."

Gramm, who also teaches music full time in Jersey City (N.J.) Public Schools, noted that he could not possibly entertain a university position part time in the traditional setting that had anything but evening classes. "Even then, my duties as a husband and father would surely suffer if I were to be absent multiple evenings every week. It seems that mentoring, or studying for that matter, at TESU provides

flexibility for all parties, which might be the only way it can successfully occur."

Gramm, who has taught guitar classes at the community college level, pointed out the advantages of mentoring and learning online.

"In actuality, the flexibility and quick response time of an online course with a mentor far surpasses that of a traditional classroom setting in many ways. When my students have questions, they should expect to receive a response to their email from me within a few hours. Courses like music history and theory fit very well in the mentor/online mold that has been created at TESU. Students are able to work through material on their own time and at their own pace, which works well for a history-based course. Students benefit from this type of flexibility as well as the online discussion forums, which spark great music conversations, just like the ones found in a traditional classroom."

Working with the diversity of an online population is another advantage that is both gratifying and fulfilling according to Gramm.

"Being a mentor at TESU is an extremely rewarding process. I never would have thought

"THE FLEXIBILITY AND QUICK RESPONSE TIME OF AN ONLINE COURSE WITH A MENTOR FAR SURPASSES THAT OF A TRADITIONAL CLASSROOM SETTING IN MANY WAYS."

Warren Gramm

I might play a part in so many people's lives in helping them pursue and receive what is taken for granted by people these days, a college degree. I have had the privilege of working with adults that are of a traditional college age as well as those entering into retirement. There is no specific mold to which someone has to conform to when it comes to TESU. The one aspect of mentoring that has surprised me the most is the diversity of students that I have had the pleasure of working with. Specifically, I never



Warren Gramm

imagined that I would have the honor to work with so many members of the armed forces serving our country in places like Afghanistan and Japan, and defending our nation here in the United States. To help someone attain a degree who is currently serving in the military is a task that I don't take lightly. I know I am fortunate to play such a role and am extremely grateful for it."

Gramm holds a bachelor's degree from The College of New Jersey in guitar performance as well as a master's degree in the same field from The Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University. He is currently enrolled at Boston University pursuing a Doctorate in Music Education.

In addition to music, Gramm loves photography. In his spare time, he and his wife, Kelly, run a small business that specializes in family and wedding photography. The family is also involved in their church where Gramm performs, and, he noted, "When it comes to having two small children, my greatest hobby is being a father!"

Gramm, who lives in Rockaway, N.J., added, "I have been married to my beautiful and most patient wife for almost eight years. We have two children, Catherine, who is 3, and Matthew, who is 5 months old." ■

Janssen Pharmaceuticals Funds Nursing Scholarships for Students

Two nursing students are one step closer to their academic goals thanks to funding from a local scholarship program.

Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., recently awarded the Thomas Edison State University Foundation a grant to fund scholarships for two Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) Program students for the year 2015 - 2016.



Scholarship recipients from left to right: Mercy Nnebe and Michele Porchiazzo

"Nurses are vital to the health of our community, and programs like this are critically important in helping to address the projected nursing shortage," said Peg Forrestel, director of Community Affairs at Janssen Pharmaceuticals. This is the fourth consecutive year that Janssen has funded scholarships for the University's nursing students.

Scholarship recipients Michele Porchiazzo and Mercy Nnebe, of Ewing, N.J., are grateful for the support. Given the rigorous nature of the program, self-funding can present a challenge.

"My hope has always been to inspire my children," said Porchiazzo, of Toms River, N.J. "Having four children is demanding, but with the help of this scholarship I will be able to focus on my education and dream of becoming a nurse. I want to motivate my children and set an example for them to pursue their own higher education dreams."

The scholarships, established in 2012, are awarded based on academic performance and demonstrated financial need. Students who have been selected have met specific eligibility requirements, including superior academic performance and New Jersey state residency.

Students enrolled in the program must avoid employment due to the rigorous nature of the 12 month curriculum. Their potential eligibility for Pell grants and other federal financial aid is limited because students already hold a baccalaureate degree in another

discipline. With a 2015-2016 class size that is the largest since the program's inception in 2011, the financial need of this year's cohort is the greatest to date.

To find out more about the Janssen Pharmaceuticals Scholarship, visit: www.tesu.edu/tuition/Janssen-Pharmaceuticals-Scholarship.cfm. ■

The Financial Aid Process Just Got Easier

CHECKING YOUR FINANCIAL AID STATUS AND SUBMITTING FORMS HAS NEVER BEEN THIS SIMPLE

Thomas Edison State University's Office of Financial Aid has made updates that will better support students by providing them 24/7 access to check their financial aid status without having to make a phone call or compose an email. The office's goal is to ensure that students can always view the status of the documents needed to process and receive their financial aid each term.

Here's how you can review your financial aid records while they are still in process:

Login to the myEdison® student portal and select Online Student Services. Under the "Communications" link select My Documents to view any items indicated as "Missing" or "Received" in your file by our staff.

Also, students may now complete any necessary financial aid paperwork via eForms. eForms can be emailed from our staff directly to the student whenever necessary. Students can complete and sign the eForm(s) electronically and also print copies of the forms for their personal records. eForms eliminate the need to complete, fax or mail forms to the University and speeds up your financial aid processing time.

The Office of Financial Aid staff wants to ensure students can easily learn the status of their financial aid files and are able to submit their documentation as easily and expeditiously as possible.

Have questions?
Contact us: finaid@tesu.edu. ■

Forward Vision

MILITARY VETERAN PROFILE: CPL. MICHAEL DOUB

Becoming a U.S. service member was not part of student Michael Doub's original plan.

As a multisport athlete at Surry Community College in Dobson, N.C., he helped his basketball team land a top 10 position in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) standings. As a baseball player for Surry, he was a closer – a relief pitcher specializing in final inning strike outs during tied or close games. Everything was falling into place.

"Initially, it was not a goal of mine to serve in the military," said Doub, a clinical radiology engineer at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, N.C. "At Surry I earned All-Conference, All-Tournament and All-Region honors. My sights were set on continuing my education and pursuing an athletic career."

His athletic abilities attracted the attention of coaches at Ferrum College, and Doub was accepted to the Virginia school to play baseball and basketball. Midway through his junior year, however, he said juggling his academic and athletic responsibilities, while grappling with mounting finances, began to take a toll. "At the start of the second semester, money for textbooks ran dry – as a computer programming major, that's not a good situation."

With family members unable to offer financial support, Doub was forced to leave school.

Back home in Winston-Salem, a U.S. Marine Corps recruiter spotted him and passed along

his contact information. "At that point, I had applied for countless positions, ranging from security guard to janitor, but I never received any call backs." In the days that followed, Doub realized he might benefit from the discipline and leadership experience that the USMC could offer.

"I was first stationed at Camp Lejeune with 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marines, otherwise known as 'The Warlords' – ooh rah! My military operating specialty (MOS) was in electro-optical ordnance repair. I served two tours in Iraq earning my Combat Action Ribbon and was honorably discharged as a USMC corporal in January 2008," he noted. "All told, I completed five years active service and three years inactive reserve."

In between earning an associate in applied science (AAS) degree in electronic engineering and a second associate degree in biomedical equipment technology, Doub watched manufacturing jobs leave the region as he

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BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY, IT WILL ALL
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Michael Doub

considered the ways his training would translate to the civilian workforce. He found correlating job openings as a biomedical imaging engineer and made sure his course work connected to the requirements. An instructor recommended Thomas Edison State University (TESU), and Doub applied to the Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology (BSAST) degree program in biomedical electronics. At the same time, an internship resulted in an offer for a full-time position at Wake Forest Baptist Hospital.

"Staff at TESU and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs have been a huge help in my transition," remarked Doub. "I transferred a ton of previous college credits to TESU in addition to credits for my military experience. Many courses that I assumed would only be applicable in the military actually transferred to my degree program," said Doub, who hopes his degree will position him for managerial roles in the future.



Cpl. Michael Doub, pictured here in Iraq

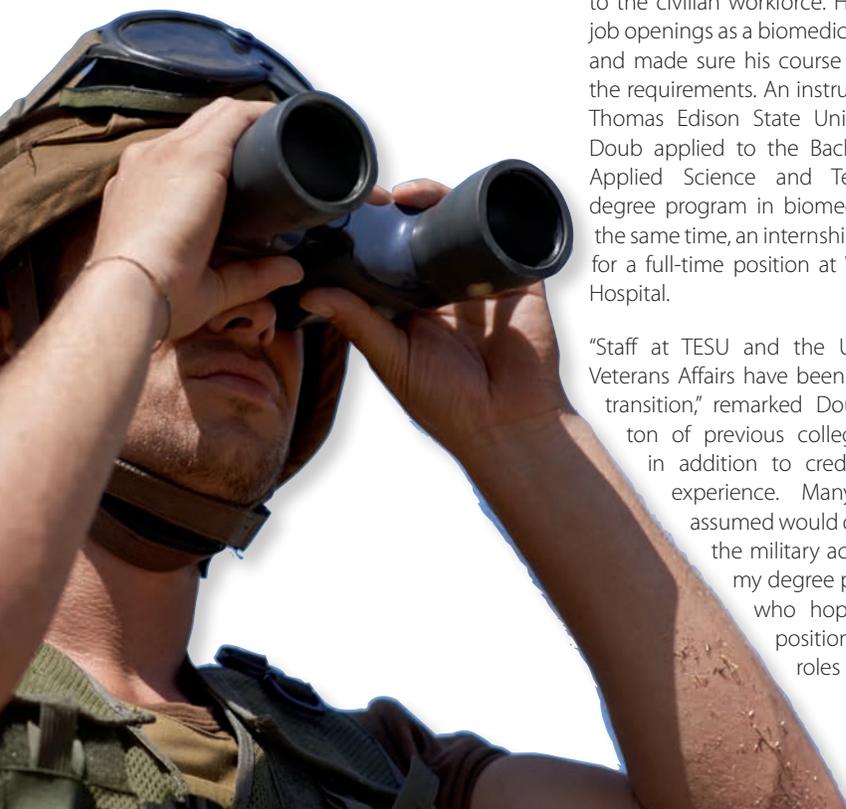
In spite of his outward success, however, Doub admits that his transition to civilian life was challenging.

"I'm the type who tries to square everything away before I step into a mission, and I really applied myself in my End of Active Service Training classes, but it was difficult. From dealing with finishing college, to starting a family, and not being 100 percent sure of what my source of income would be next, I would end up taking jobs that were not necessarily a good fit," he recounted. "But the main thing was, I had a goal. Without a goal in mind, you can't start toward it. Luckily, my wife, Amanda, was very supportive, and I have a good family that stuck with me. For my fellow veterans, I will say this: The road is hard. The road is long. But at the end of the day, it will all be worth the effort."

Doub recommends that veterans look for something that interests them and offers solid prospects for the future. He said he watched many of his friends pursuing fields that were a mismatch for them – often due to shifts in their local job market – thereby wasting precious time and having to enroll or re-enroll in school to pursue a different track.

"Minimally, you have to look at where you live or want to live and examine the surrounding job market. Draw on your military experience, make the best use of your tuition assistance benefits, discover what kind of jobs are available and find out what you know you will be happy doing."

For guidance in your degree completion or to find career and health services resources, visit veterans.tesu.edu. ■



Academic Calendar

	August 2016	September 2016	October 2016
Registration Dates	June 24 – July 16, 2016	July 22 – Aug. 13, 2016	Aug. 19 – Sept. 10, 2016
Late Registration	July 17 – July 21	Aug. 14 – Aug. 18	Sept. 11 – Sept. 15
Course Transfer Period	June 24 – Aug. 5	July 22 – Sept. 2	Aug. 19 – Sept. 30
Term Start Date	Aug. 1, 2016	Aug. 29, 2016	Sept. 26, 2016*
Midterm Exam Week **	Sept. 12 – Sept. 18	Oct. 10 – Oct. 16	Nov. 7 – Nov. 13
Final Exam Week**	Oct. 17 – Oct. 23	Nov. 14 – Nov. 20	Dec. 12 – Dec. 18
Term Ends	Oct. 23, 2016	Nov. 20, 2016	Dec. 18, 2016

* Term start date applies to both graduate and undergraduate courses.

** Certain courses have midterm examinations or online proctored midterm and final examinations; please refer to your course materials for details.

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