

Higher Education. For Adults With Higher Expectations.®

SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF NURSES

SIMULATION LAB EQUIPMENT AND SCHOLARSHIPS SUPPORT FUTURE RNS

By the time students, staff and supporters congregated to celebrate the opening of Thomas Edison State College's new Nursing Simulation Laboratory in August, some attendees had already formed an indelible bond.

Students in the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing's Accelerated 2nd Degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program were closer to their academic goals thanks to corporate scholarship support and three high-fidelity patient simulators affectionately known as "Janssen, Bristol and Fred" donated by Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Bristol-Myers Squibb and numerous local businesses and individuals.

"The scholarship support from Janssen Pharmaceuticals was a huge help to me and the funding for the simulators helped me learn to deliver life-saving care first hand," said Stephen R. Fox, who had worked as a staff supervisor for a daily newspaper, a financial advisor and a PGA club professional before focusing on a career in nursing. "I'm a divorced father of two small boys and pay most of my tuition and program costs out of pocket. With the scholarship, I can certainly focus more on my education and care for my boys."

The nursing simulation lab, in which Fox and fellow students spent much of their time, is the technological centerpiece of the Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Program, and is used to train the students in a controlled clinical environment. The three high-fidelity human simulators that inhabit the lab can be programmed to replicate many healthcare emergencies and medical conditions, and respond physiologically and verbally to care administered by the students.

"Bristol-Myers Squibb is proud to support the Nursing Simulation Laboratory at Thomas Edison State College," said Frederick Egenolf, director, Corporate Communications & Community Affairs for the company. "Providing nursing students access to these sophisticated learning tools will hone their critical-thinking skills and ultimately improve health care outcomes for patients by ensuring that the students are optimally prepared for their nursing careers."

It is likely that Fox and fellow program students Lauren Apgar, of Pennington, Dennis Malamut, of Trenton, Aidel Ozur, of Lakewood, and Monica Shah, of Lawrence, N.J., need all the support they can get. The Accelerated 2nd

Degree BSN Program is a one-year, intensive academic journey meant only for the most motivated RN-hopefuls. Those admitted to the School's program, already possess a non-nursing bachelor's degree and will be prepared for the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX-RN) once they graduate.

Program student Monica Shah anticipates that the program will provide an excellent return for her personal investment.

"The most attractive aspects of the program are its duration and the high pass rate for the nursing board exams," said

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.

NEW UNDERGRADUATE ONLINE COURSES:

EGM-221-OL
Thermodynamics

EGM-323-OL
Heat Transfer

EGM-330-OL
Fluid Mechanics

ELT-307-OL
Linear and Integrated Circuits

NEW GRADUATE COURSES:

COM-610
Professional Communications Theory

COM-620
Advanced and Professional Business Writing

HLS-501
Natural Disasters and Security Planning

HLS-625
Technology and Information Security

MSP-542
Epidemiology

MSP-678
Finance and Budgeting for Nonprofits



Foreground, from left to right: Patricia Watts Mitchell and Peg Forrestel represent Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. at the School of Nursing's Sim Lab Open House in August. Second row, from left to right: W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing's Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN students Lauren Apgar, Dennis Malamut, Monica Shah, Aidel Ozur and Stephen Fox.

FRONT & CENTER

Help Us Help You

By Anna Krum,
Senior Student Affairs Specialist

LEARNER SERVICES CENTER STAFF IS HERE TO HELP

As a former student and recent graduate of Thomas Edison State College, minimizing administrative tasks was topmost in my mind so I could focus on my course work. Our goal at the Learner Support Center (LSC) is to assist students in a timely and efficient manner so you can too.

We know your time is valuable. Interactions with our staff can be most productive if you follow these pointers:

- ▶ Have your College ID ready when you telephone the LSC.
- ▶ Jot down questions you have before you call the LSC.
- ▶ If you need to register by phone, please have the course code information available.
- ▶ When applying for financial aid, please be sure to complete the FAFSA form and the Thomas Edison State College financial aid form, which can be found on the College's website.
- ▶ Be aware that Academic Evaluations are completed within 20-25 business days once your application is processed and you

receive your acceptance email. Look for an email notification stating that your Academic Evaluation has been formally completed.

- ▶ Information can only be released to a student's representative if a signed *Speak on Behalf Authorization* has been provided to the Office of the Registrar.
- ▶ Please be sure your student profile is current (email address, mailing address, phone number, etc.). Log into Online Student Services to check and update your information.
- ▶ When submitting helpdesk tickets, please be sure to include as much information as possible. This includes your College ID, course code and term. If you are seeking assistance in accessing a student account, please indicate which account (Online Student Services, myEdison®, Moodle, etc.).



Anna Krum, senior student affairs specialist at Thomas Edison State College.

- ▶ Please be sure to determine the correct course textbooks using the College's vendor, MBS Direct. Whether ordering directly from MBS or another vendor, the ISBN number on the MBS Direct website should always be used to ensure the correct textbook is ordered for the course.

Learner Support Center 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. Information is also available on the College's website at www.tesc.edu. We look forward to hearing from you! ■

Selecting the Tuition Plan That is Right for You

CHOOSE FROM COMPREHENSIVE, ENROLLED AND PER CREDIT TUITION PLAN OPTIONS

Before committing to an annual tuition plan, it is best to ask yourself, "How many total credits do I plan to take this year?" Whether you are a student taking multiple courses per term or one who takes one course at a time, Thomas Edison State College has a tuition plan option that will fit your style:

- ▶ **COMPREHENSIVE TUITION PLAN:** Is ideal for students planning on completing their degree on a "full-time" schedule. Students under this plan pay a one-time, flat tuition and may register for up to 36 credits in a single year and receive all College services entitled to enrolled students.

Students who plan to complete their degree on more of a part-time basis and register for less than 24 credits per year should consider either the Enrolled Options Tuition Plan or the Per Credit Tuition Plan.

- ▶ **ENROLLED OPTIONS TUITION PLAN:** Students pay an annual enrollment and a technology services fee (good for 12 months) before they register and pay course tuition on a per credit basis at their own pace. For students who plan to register for between 9 – 21 credits in a single year, this plan may be the best value.

- ▶ **PER CREDIT TUITION PLAN:** This recently introduced option allows students to register and pay tuition on a per credit basis directly after they have applied and are accepted into a degree program. For students who plan to register for up to 6 credits in a single year, this plan may be the best value.

Note: Students who select the Per Credit Tuition Plan with the intention of graduating from Thomas Edison State College have academic residency requirements of 12 credits for an associate degree and 24 credits for a bachelor's degree. Residency requirements are met by earning credits via Thomas Edison State College Online (OL), Guided Study (GS) or e-Pack® (EP) courses, TECEP® exams (TE) or Portfolio Assessment (PF).

To determine which tuition plan is right for you, visit www.tesc.edu, select "Tuition and Financial Aid" from the top menu and choose "Selecting the Right Tuition Plan" from the dropdown. The charts on the resulting Web page will help you estimate your tuition based on how many credits you plan to take. ■

The Rules of Re-engagement

ADULTS BACK TO COLLEGE (ABC) PROGRAM HELPS ADULT LEARNERS PICK UP WHERE THEY LEFT OFF

Individualized support was something Norris Browne desperately needed when he returned to college after years away from course work. He found the answer in the Adults Back to College (ABC) Program at Thomas Edison State College.

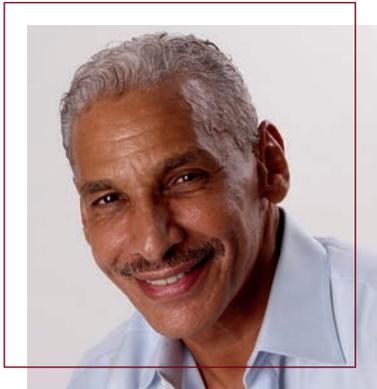


Photo: Ken Walton

Adults Back to College Program student Norris Browne

“One of the most beneficial aspects of the program is the individualized support you receive from a ‘college coach’ who is a staff member assigned to students enrolled through the program,” said Browne, who is completing BA degree requirements. “The coach is a crucial liaison between the returning student and the college system.”

According to Browne, his ABC Program coach is an invaluable resource in helping him to successfully navigate online courses, discussion board assignments, and the admissions, academic advisement, financial aid, course selection and online registration processes. Students enrolled through the program will also find attractive financial incentives associated with the program that help defray the cost of books and registration fees.

“To sum it up, this program is crucial to those who want to make their second time at bat a home run,” he said. “Many of us have found ourselves in a vastly changing and competitive economic environment, where our experience in a particular industry is no longer sufficient to guarantee future success. For me, I knew that returning to college to obtain another degree was the only way to make myself more competitive. Whether you’re returning to college to finish an uncompleted bachelor’s degree or embarking on a new degree program, I think Thomas Edison State College is a solid choice.”

The ABC Program is available to New Jersey residents, but all enrolled students can take advantage of the program’s free webinars and Moodle productivity tools.

► FREE WEBINARS

The free webinar series launched in conjunction with the ABC Program covers an array of topics including time management, maintaining academic integrity, course selection tips and information on the free services available for students through the New Jersey State Library.

The College’s first webinar in the series attracted nearly 100 students, according to Patrice Coleman-Boatwright, coordinator of the ABC Program. “The webinar – Time Management: Tips, Tricks and Strategies for Reaching Your Goals – explored the realities of juggling academic goals amid the demands of work, family and community commitments,” said Coleman-Boatwright. “During the session, our staff covered constructive planning, organizing work space and ways to avoid procrastination, feeling overwhelmed or becoming derailed by distractions with webinar participants.”



► MOODLE PRODUCTIVITY TOOLS FOR ALL STUDENTS

For those seeking ongoing help with time management, the College provides productivity tools through Moodle, the College’s new learning management system. Through Moodle, all students now have their own Google Apps account, which includes a document management system that keeps assignments organized and a personal calendar in which to post due dates and course deadlines. You can learn more about the features in Moodle and take a tour by visiting www.tesc.edu choosing “Current Students” from the main menu and choosing “myEdison®/Course Access” from the resulting dropdown.

“Participation in the ABC Program in tandem with the ongoing webinar series and productivity tools available to all students in Moodle will help our adult learners feel more productive and connected to their goal of completing their degree,” said Coleman-Boatwright. ■

“One of the most beneficial aspects of the program is the individualized support you receive from a ‘college coach’ who is a staff member assigned to students enrolled through the program. The coach is a crucial liaison between the returning student and the college system.”



Pictured from left, ABC Project Director Dr. Garry Keel, director of Academic Advising, Office of Learner Services; ABC Coordinator Patrice Coleman-Boatwright; ABC Coach Carleen Baily, program advisor, Academic Advisement; and ABC Project Director Dr. Ann Mester, assistant dean, Heavin School of Arts and Sciences.

Advisors' Corner

IF YOU ARE A NEW STUDENT OR JUST NEED HELP SELECTING A COURSE, AN ADVISOR CAN HELP.

Whether you are enrolling in your first college course or are coming to Thomas Edison State College with transfer credits, military training, professional training, licenses and certifications, staff in the Office of Academic Advising are available to help guide you to degree completion.

According to Nia Abuwi, associate director of Academic Advising, if you are a new student with no previously earned college credits, you have a multitude of course options.

"Students starting fresh have many options because practically any course will fit into their program requirements," said Abuwi, who suggests students use the opportunity to acclimate to the online learning environment. "When selecting your first courses, choose subjects that interest you. This makes your initial learning experience more engaging," she said. "We highly recommend Living in the Information Age (SOS-110) as an initial online course."

Perrishe L. Fields, a student enrolled in the Associate in Arts degree program at the College, agreed. Fields said that she enjoyed SOS-110 because all the course materials were available online.

"It's a great introductory course to help you test the waters and there's no need to purchase a textbook," noted Fields. "Also, the course contains online basic skills tutorials that I had to complete with a certain percentage of correct responses. These assessments serve as an effective refresher for returning students and help identify any weaknesses you may have."

Students with previously earned credits, licenses or certifications can turn to an academic advisor to assist with course selection; however, timing is important. Abuwi noted that new students should wait for receipt of their completed Academic Evaluation prior to making their initial advising appointment.

"Every applicant and enrolled student at the College receives a customized Academic Evaluation from the College, this document is an invaluable planning tool that will show you where your previously earned credits – via transfer credits and licenses and certifications that have been evaluated for credit – will fit into your degree program and shows you what courses you have left to take," said Abuwi. "The document enables advisors to suggest additional courses to complete your degree."

Abuwi explained options that will help you make the most out of your academic advising experience:

- ▶ Call the Advisement Expressline (1-888-442-8372) Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday until 4 p.m. Calls to the Expressline are typically less than 10 minutes in length and are answered by an advisor assigned at the time of your call.
- ▶ For more in depth questions, schedule a 30-minute appointment through your myEdison® student portal. During this appointment, the advisor will review your evaluation and discuss appropriate courses to complete your degree. Be sure to schedule your appointment well in advance of registration deadlines.



Nia Abuwi, associate director of Academic Advising

- ▶ Email us with your questions if you find it more convenient than calling. We will make every effort to respond to your questions within 3-4 business days. Submit your email through your myEdison® 'Help' tab. Remember to include your degree program (AA, AAS, BA, BSBA, BST, etc.) in your email.
- ▶ Fax us at (609) 777-2956 or write to us when you have items that are more easily sent via U.S. Postal Service to: Thomas Edison State College, 101 West State St., Trenton, NJ 08608-1176.

Always include your first and last name along with your 7-digit College ID number in all correspondence. Visit the College's website, www.tesc.edu, and select "Current Students" on the upper left side of the page and "Advisement" from the dropdown to find out more. ■

MBA Preparatory Program

A GATEWAY TO YOUR MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DEGREE

If you are a professional with a non-business undergraduate degree in the areas of education, medicine, law, healthcare, humanities or the arts or someone seeking refresher courses in business fundamentals, then let's talk business. The Thomas Edison State College MBA Preparatory Program is a three course, noncredit program that prepares adults who already possess a non-business undergraduate degree for admission to the Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree program. Learners who successfully complete the MBA Preparatory Program can apply for admission to the MBA degree program in the

College's School of Business and Management. The online program follows a customized curriculum in the following areas.

FIRST FOUR WEEKS

(two courses taken simultaneously)

- ▶ **Principles of Microeconomics** (MBP-006) Four (4) week course
Cost - \$795
- ▶ **Principles of Financial Accounting** (MBP-007) Four (4) week course
Cost - \$795

NEXT EIGHT WEEKS

- ▶ **Principles of Statistics** (MBP-008) Eight (8) week course
Cost - \$ 1,195

The program offers maximum flexibility and students need only to take the courses they need. Visit www.tesc.edu/business/MBA for more information or call Dr. Michael Williams at (609) 984-1130, ext. 3202, or email mwilliams@tesc.edu for more information. ■

Meet a Mentor: Khaled M. Abdel Ghany

SUBJECT MATTERS

Meet A

Mentor

Dr. Khaled M. Abdel Ghany wears a number of hats at Thomas Edison State College and finds each of them pleasing. In addition to mentoring accounting courses, Abdel Ghany is a subject matter expert who collaborates with College staff to develop courses for undergraduate and graduate programs.

want you to give more examples or more explanation.

"In the online class, it takes extra effort to make the students understand the material by just responding to their emails or participate in the weekly online discussion. On the other hand, the online classes allow



Khaled M. Abdel Ghany

“Working with the College’s course design team, it normally takes about three months to have the course designed, completed and ready to be offered to the students.”

"To design a course, it takes deep examination of course materials, including the text book, published research and articles," Abdel Ghany explained. "The course should be designed to develop critical-thinking skills for the students, while providing the basic knowledge about the subject matter. Working with the College's course design team, it normally takes about three months to have the course designed, completed and ready to be offered to the students."

Abdel Ghany, who is a senior auditor in the Office of the Inspector General in Washington, D.C., is also an adjunct professor of accounting, taxation and auditing at Strayer University and DeVry University in Northern Virginia.

"I also teach traditional onground courses," noted Abdel Ghany, who has been teaching for more than 26 years. "The difference is that the online classes take more time and effort. In the classroom, it is easy to look into the students' eyes and know that they do not understand the material or they

many students to express themselves more freely and to ask more questions than the students in the classroom, who are sometimes shy to speak up in front of everyone."

Abdel Ghany, who has been with Thomas Edison State College for three years, mentors courses for the Master of Science in Management (MSM) degree program, including Forensic Accounting, Accounting and Finance and Intermediate Accounting III.

"Dr. Abdel Ghany has been our subject matter expert in the development of the College's Master of Science in Management degree in accounting," noted Camilla King Lewis, assistant dean, School of Business and Management. "He was our consultant in the presentation of the area of study in accounting proposal, which was unanimously approved by our curriculum committee. Dr. Abdel Ghany's attention to detail and his industry knowledge have helped us create an outstanding graduate accounting program."

Abdel Ghany has brought his expertise to advance the College's pursuit of a new Master of Business Administration degree.

"He was instrumental in providing guidance to our new accounting mentors and developing a course for the College's new MBA degree program that was launched in the fall of 2012," added King Lewis. "We are fortunate to have a mentor who is a leader in his field of research and Global Managerial Auditing."

Abdel Ghany earned his PhD in accounting as well as an MA from Mansoura University in Egypt, and a BS from Cairo University. He holds a CPA license from Maryland State. His articles have also appeared in notable publications, including the *CPA Journal*, *Pennsylvania CPA Journal*, *Journal of Government Financial Management*, *Tennessee CPA Journal* and *Managerial Auditing Journal*.

Abdel Ghany lives in Springfield, Va., with his wife, his 15-year-old son and 14-year-old daughter. ■



Changes to the Academic Calendar

By Jennifer Stark, Assistant Director
Academic Records and Registration

THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR UNVEILS A NEW, MORE STUDENT-FRIENDLY ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Stark Notes

Changes have been implemented to the undergraduate and graduate academic calendars to synchronize term dates with your schedule, alert you to final grade postings and allow more time to register for courses.

▶ TERM START DATES AND "WEEK 1" DATES ARE NOW SYNCHRONIZED

Term start dates will now begin on the first Monday or Tuesday of the month. For example, the College's October term will begin Tuesday, October 1; the November term will begin Monday, Nov. 4, and December term will begin Monday, Dec. 2. This will allow the term start date and the start of Week 1 assignments to start on the same day.

▶ TERM END DATE

All terms will now end on Sunday rather than Saturday. This will allow students an additional

day to complete assignments, exams and final requirements.

▶ FINAL GRADES

The final grade posting schedule is now available on our website: www.tesc.edu/academics/Grade-Submission-Calendar.cfm. This will alert students as to when they can expect to view their final grades via their Online Student Services account and when they can expect to receive their grades in the U.S. mail.

▶ REGISTRATION PERIODS

The College has extended its regular registration period to within 15 days before the start of the term. Late registration has been extended to within 10 days before the start of the term to accommodate students who may have missed the regular registration period. Be sure to register for courses early to avoid late fees and filled

Stark Notes



courses. Please note: The January 2014 term registration period has been shortened so that course registration closes prior to the Holiday break.

To view the College's academic calendars, visit our homepage, www.tesc.edu, and click on "Academics." ■

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2	3	4	5

SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF NURSES

» (continued from front cover)



Frederick H. Egenolf, director, Corporate Communications and Community Affairs for Bristol-Myers Squibb, talks with Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN students Monica Shah and Aidel Ozur.

the North Carolina resident who relocated to the Trenton, N.J., area while she is completing the program. "For me, it's devoting 48 weeks to something that will reap a lifetime of rewards."

In Janssen Pharmaceuticals' view, local communities reap the most rewards – while addressing a projected nursing shortage – by nurturing students like Fox and Shah.

"We at Janssen Pharmaceuticals invest in programs that align well with our mission to advance the health of our local community," said Peg Forrestel, director of Contributions and Community Affairs at Janssen Pharmaceuticals.

"Thomas Edison State College's Nursing Simulation Laboratory and Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN programs complement Johnson & Johnson's Campaign for Nursing's Future by addressing a projected nursing shortage in an innovative, collaborative way. Janssen is proud to play a role in supporting the College's efforts to prepare and develop competent and adaptive nurses for the workforce," she said.

The financial support that Shah received has lightened her financial burden and allowed her to focus on the most important aspects of the nursing program. She said that the corporate support has helped her immeasurably with textbooks, tuition and fees. "The funding played a significant role in that I had plenty of access to state-of-the-art equipment and could focus more on why I enrolled in the program which was to learn how to help and advocate for patients," she said.

Outside of the simulation lab, Capital Health's facilities in Trenton provide the onground, clinical portion of the students' training. "The single greatest attribute I will take away from my clinical experiences at Capital Health is confidence," said Fox. The time spent on an active hospital floor treating patients together

with my online course work, class lectures and simulation lab experiences give me the assurance that I'm prepared for the profession."

For more information on the Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN and other programs available through the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing, call (609) 633-6460, email nursing@tesc.edu or visit: www.tesc.edu/nursing. ■

The THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION played a key role in supporting the simulation laboratory by raising more than \$270,000 to help purchase the simulators. Supporters include: Bristol-Myers Squibb, The Gary & Diane Heavin Community Fund, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., The Karma Foundation, The James Kerney Foundation, New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Company, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc., The Provident Bank Foundation, The Roma Bank Community Foundation, The Fred C. Rummel Foundation and numerous individuals.

Are You Right for Portfolio Assessment?

By Todd Siben, Assistant Director
of Portfolio Assessment

*ATTENTION WRITERS, SALESPEOPLE AND CREATIVE TYPES –
WE MAY HAVE YOUR METHOD OF EARNING COLLEGE CREDIT.*

Portfolio assessment and prior learning assessment (PLA) may be the most nontraditional method of earning credit, even at nontraditional institutions. It is different than most other methods of earning credit. So, what makes someone a good candidate for portfolio assessment?

My response to that question is based on years of observation. I've probably reviewed in excess of 100,000 portfolios in my years at Thomas Edison State College and, as a result, I have some thoughts about the characteristics of people who are the most successful with utilizing the College's portfolio assessment process in earning college credit. These include:

▶ **WRITERS:** Narrative is a critical part of a portfolio assessment when breaking down and articulating the details of your college-level knowledge. This includes detailing the 'who, what, where, when and how' you acquired the knowledge and applied it to real-life setting, and what documentation you can provide to support your narrative. For this reason, writers tend to find the PLA process to be within their grasp.

▶ **SAVERS:** Portfolio assessment can be ideal for those who save everything. When you need a copy of a certificate you've earned, you know where to find it. Whether it's in an old file cabinet in your attic or a shoebox in your garage, you know exactly where it is because you keep things like that for day when you know you will need it! Because of this, you may have an easier time than most in documenting your accomplishments.

▶ **PAPER-CHASERS:** Portfolio assessment can be a good option for those who love the challenge of definitively proving a point by using documentation to make their case. If you are up for the challenge of substantiating your claim of college-level knowledge by documenting evidence and incorporating that evidence into a detailed report, you will most likely excel at producing a strong PLA portfolio.

▶ **LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONALS:** Portfolio assessment is typically a good match for people in law enforcement because they understand that many things can be viewed as evidence as long as you can show how it helps prove your case. Training in writing detailed, descriptive reports also positions law enforcement professionals well for developing a PLA portfolio.

▶ **IN-HOUSE EXPERTS:** Are you the person in your organization who is the in-house "expert" on something? It can be anything, from Microsoft Excel or digital photography to project planning. Portfolio assessment can be a good option for people who have a body of knowledge that colleagues recognize that can also be equated to a college-level course.

▶ **STORYTELLERS:** At least a portion of the narrative you write in your portfolio assessment is a story about something you've done or experienced. A good storyteller does not leave out the details and can go through the events in order, select the truly salient information and tell them in a way that is captivating and informative.

▶ **SALESPEOPLE:** You know this type. They are always selling something, whether it's a product or a new idea. Are you the determined type who expresses yourself well and persuades others to share your perspective? If so, portfolio assessment could be for you.

▶ **CREATIVE TYPES:** Portfolio assessment is especially well-suited for those in the creative or performing arts because they have

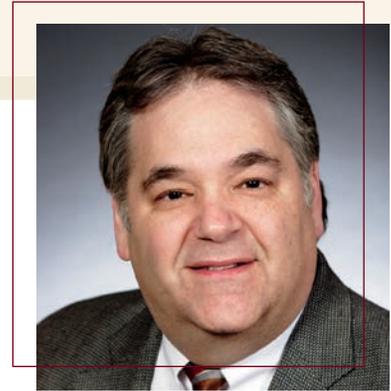
learned to archive their accomplishments (whether it is on film, video, CD, DVD, MP3 or in written reviews) and promote their current projects. For example, visual artists can show their creative output and exhibition history and actors or musicians can share their recorded performances, playbills and reviews of their performances.

▶ **CONCEPTUALIZERS:** If you can envision a relatively complex process from start to finish or are especially good at anticipating outcomes, you may be a good match for portfolio assessment and successfully structuring a PLA portfolio.

▶ **PARENTS OF NEWBORNS:** The month following a birth of a new baby (assuming your newborn has settled into a schedule) may be a good time to tackle a portfolio assessment. This method of earning credit may be ideal for this chapter of your life because it allows you to work on the portfolio in five or ten minute intervals, especially when your time and attention are torn between your baby and course work.

▶ **THOSE WITH APPLIED SKILLS:** Although much of the information about portfolio assessment accentuates the college-level knowledge you possess, those who have concrete, real-world expertise in a specific subject area and can substantiate the knowledge are often successful with portfolio assessments.

Do any of these characteristics sound familiar? If so, then perhaps there is college credit already in your arsenal that has yet to be validated. The best way to find out is to contact me by email at PLAWeb@tesc.edu. ■



Todd Siben, Assistant Director of Portfolio Assessment



Todd Siben, assistant director of Portfolio Assessment, chats with attendees during a recent Admissions Open House at Thomas Edison State College. To find out more about the prior learning assessment process, email PLAWeb@tesc.edu. Is someone you know considering returning to college to earn their degree? If so, have them contact the College by phone: (888) 442-8372 Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST or email admissions@tesc.edu for more information.

Academic Calendar

November 2013

December 2013

January 2014

Registration Dates	Sept. 20 - Oct. 19, 2013	Oct. 25 - Nov. 16, 2013	Nov. 22 - Dec. 14, 2013
Late Registration	Oct. 20 - 24, 2013	Nov. 17 - 21, 2013	Dec. 15 - 19, 2013
Course Transfer Period	Sept. 20 - Nov. 8, 2013	Oct. 25 - Dec. 6, 2013	Nov. 22, 2013 - Jan. 10, 2014
Term Start Date	Nov. 4, 2013	Dec. 2, 2013	Jan. 6, 2014*
Midterm Exam Week **	Dec. 16 - 22, 2013	Jan. 13 - 19, 2014	Feb. 17 - 23, 2014
Final Exam Week**	Jan. 20 - 26, 2014	Feb. 17 - 23, 2014	March 24 - 30, 2014
Term Ends	Jan. 26, 2014	Feb. 23, 2014	March 30, 2014

*Term start date applies 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.

COLLEGE UNVEILS NEW COURSES IN PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

New graduate courses and certificate programs available

The Heavin School of Arts and Sciences at Thomas Edison State College is proud to announce new graduate courses in professional communications and a new Graduate Certificate in Professional Communications. The online, 12-credit graduate certificate is designed to sharpen students' communications skills, especially in the new media shift that encompasses all fields of communication from education to healthcare to public policy to business.

Two new courses are now available as part of the Professional Communications curriculum:

- > **COM-610 Professional Communications Theory**; and,
- > **COM-620 Advanced and Professional Business Writing.**

For more information, email gradstudies@tesc.edu.

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