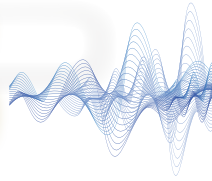




# SIGNALS



Higher Education. For Adults With Higher Expectations.®

## Get a Head Start on Your Master's Degree

### EARN 9 CREDITS TOWARD BOTH YOUR BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S DEGREE AT THE SAME TIME

You do not need career counseling to fathom the higher earning potential associated with a master's degree. But did you know that you can get an important head start on earning that degree?

In the Bachelor's to Master's Program at Thomas Edison State College (TESC), you have the option of earning 9 credits toward your undergraduate degree that can be applied to a master's degree program at the same time. And, you can earn those credits at the undergraduate program tuition rate – saving you both time and expense.

Master's degree students Carol Wilson and Lauren Basta have already put the program to work in their degree pursuit.

enjoyed most has been the knowledge I have gained and the flexibility of the program. It takes determination to stay on top of the assignments, but I have found that the projects are scheduled in a way that allows students to incorporate their course work with other responsibilities."

According to dean of the School of Business and Management, Dr. Michael Williams, "The Bachelor's to Master's Program is perfectly suited for accomplished professionals like Carol. Earning credits in both undergraduate and graduate programs simultaneously provides an accelerated degree completion path, while gaining



Carol Wilson, MBA student

“What I have enjoyed most about my academic experience has been the knowledge I have gained and the flexibility of the program.”

-MBA student Carol Wilson

"I researched the Bachelor's to Master's Program and found out that I could register for three graduate courses while I was still an undergrad," said Wilson, a Master of Business Administration (MBA) program student. Wilson originally transferred her associate degree credits from Burlington County Community College in New Jersey to a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) program at TESC. "I applied and was accepted into the MBA degree program in 2013."

For Wilson, undergraduate course completion came in many modes and laid valuable groundwork for her master's degree studies.

"I used the College's TECEP® exams, an e-Pack® course as well as online and Guided Study courses to fulfill my degree requirements," said Wilson, who works for BAYADA Home Health Care as a client services manager. "Every aspect of my BSBA assignments provided the framework for my MBA studies. What I have

experience with graduate-level course work." Basta selected the Master of Science in Nursing program in which to complete her studies as part of her Bachelor of Science in Nursing to Master of Science in Nursing (BSN to MSN) program track. The W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing student said that the MSN course workload came as no surprise after earning her online BSN degree.

"The BSN courses are already held to a very high standard in terms of content, and the course work parallels the expectations I found in the MSN courses," said Basta, an RN at Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center in Camden, N.J. She has completed 18 credits toward her MSN degree, 9 credits of which she had already completed as an undergraduate.

"Transition to the graduate program was fairly seamless and obtaining my MSN was, without a doubt, a goal I've wanted to accomplish for years. To keep my momentum, I took zero time

off between my BSN and MSN programs and am very glad I made that decision," said Basta. Like Basta, Wilson is finding her master's degree course work both rewarding and inspiring. "It is extremely exciting for me to be working on my MBA," she said. "I have enjoyed meeting people from all over the world in my online courses, including military servicemen and women, which has made the experience all the more enriching."

Interested in applying to a Bachelor's to Master's Program? Here's how to get started:

- ▶ Students interested in applying to the Bachelor's to Master's Program should contact the Office of Academic Advisement at (888) 442-8372 or email [academicadvising@tesc.edu](mailto:academicadvising@tesc.edu) to discuss options. Be sure to include your degree program in the subject line of your email.
- ▶ New students can apply online and select the "Bachelor's to Master's Program" in section four of the "Application for Admission."
- ▶ Applicants and prospective students who have questions about applying to the Bachelor's to Master's Program should contact the Office of Admissions at (888) 442-8372 or email [admissions@tesc.edu](mailto:admissions@tesc.edu).

Eager to find out which MBA myths you should ignore, the five growing nurse specialties that pay 65K a year or more, or the seven ways to earn college credit for what you already know? Visit the College's blog online: [blog.tesc.edu](http://blog.tesc.edu) for answers. ■

# FRONT & CENTER

## New Student? We have a webinar just for you.

### WEBINAR FOR NEW STUDENTS DEMONSTRATES NEXT STEPS TOWARD DEGREE

By Anna Krum  
Senior Student Affairs Specialist

Yearning to learn how to navigate financial aid and tuition plans, registering for your first courses and making an advising appointment? The Learner Support Center (LSC) is excited to announce the rollout of a new webinar geared to your needs. Developed by LSC staff, the webinar walks new students through the administrative and technological next steps as they begin their education with the College.

Topics of the webinar include creating your Online Student Services (OSS) account; navigating tuition plans and accepting financial aid; searching, registering and paying for your course; and navigating the myEdison® portal. Utilizing the College's HelpDesk system, ordering your text books, accessing your courses, and using the College's Web proctoring

program, ProctorU, and Turnitin's online anti-plagiarism platforms are also covered.

Our team customized the webinar based upon the feedback that we received from our students. The webinar will answer many of the questions newly accepted students typically have as they get started fulfilling their degree requirements.

Look for upcoming alerts regarding the LSC's Student Services Webinar, which will be offered on a quarterly basis.

We are driven to base our services on students' feedback and needs, and this webinar is one example of how we continue to evolve. We hope you will join us for our webinars and we look forward to welcoming you to the College.



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

As always, a student affairs specialist is here to assist you with your questions. We can be reached at (888) 442-8372, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., ET. ■

## ASSESSMENT OF PROFESSIONAL AND WORKPLACE LEARNING

### FIND OUT HOW YOUR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING CAN EQUATE TO COLLEGE CREDIT

If you are employed in the building and construction trades; the nuclear utility or sustainable energy field; allied health, aviation, law enforcement, financial or accounting fields; are a member of the U.S. military; or work for the U.S. government, the College's Office for Assessment of Professional and Workplace Learning (OAPWL) could help you get closer to degree completion.

OAPWL has assessed dozens of professional training courses, licenses, certifications and apprenticeships offered by corporations, government agencies, labor unions, military training and professional associations to determine college-level credit equivalencies.

Recently, OAPWL staff completed an academic program review of the National Elevator Industry Educational Program (NEIEP) and assigned credit equivalencies for the industry's training. Last fall, OAPWL collaborated with NEIEP staff to spotlight the College's options for earning credit. The resulting video is available at [www.tesc.edu/oapwl](http://www.tesc.edu/oapwl).

For NEIEP as well as other industries, OAPWL designs academic road maps that show students how to complete their degrees more efficiently and which areas of study best match their credit equivalencies. OAPWL staff also recently completed academic program reviews of UPS Driver Training and Hub Supervisor Training schools, New Jersey State Police advanced training courses, Westinghouse Electric Company's Training and Operational Services courses and U.S. Navy Nuclear Power Training.

Think you may have completed a training program or possess credentials worth college credit? To find a list of programs that have been evaluated for credit, visit [www.tesc.edu/apr](http://www.tesc.edu/apr). Grouped by industry, detailed evaluations show the number of potential credits awarded through OAPWL's academic program reviews, which degree programs will help you get the most out of reviewed credits, what documentation you will need to qualify for course credits and how to get started.



To learn more about the ways OAPWL's academic program reviews can work for you, visit [www.tesc.edu/oapwl](http://www.tesc.edu/oapwl). ■

# LEARNING TO FLY

## AN AERIAL VIEW OF HOMELAND SECURITY

It was when Daryl Lynch began looking skyward that he discovered his true path. In the early days of his 19-year military career, he noticed that the helicopter pilots he worked with genuinely loved what they were doing. He craved the same sense of accomplishment and exhilaration.

"I began my military career in the U.S. Air Force at the age of 18 as a flight medic and quickly realized that the helicopter pilots transporting us seemed to thoroughly love their jobs. I figured, 'why walk when you can fly?' and began to research how I could pursue the same track," said Lynch, a Master of Science in Homeland Security student.

“With the knowledge I’ve gained from my course work, I have a better understanding of the elements critical to the homeland security endeavor.”

-MS in Homeland Security student Daryl Lynch

A military career in aviation without a bachelor's degree at the time necessitated a switch to the U.S. Army's program for warrant officers where he later trained as a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter pilot.

"My lack of a bachelor's degree had me exploring my options. I found that if I pursued a U.S. Army warrant officer track, I would not need a four-year degree to get started," said Lynch, who continues to fly Black Hawks for the New Jersey State Police. It was while serving that he heard about Thomas Edison State College. He said as a working adult with a family, he needed to find a reputable, accredited college that provided the quality education he was seeking. He spoke to fellow military personnel who told him that TESC would meet those standards.

Once he committed to higher education, Lynch never looked back.

Amassing a series of degrees at the College, beginning with a Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology degree in aviation flight technology in 2008, he continued his studies to earn his Master of Science in Management degree in 2011 along with his Master of Arts in Liberal Studies degree and his Graduate Certificate in Homeland Security later that same year.

Lynch is currently enrolled in the Master of Science in Homeland Security degree program while earning a Graduate Certificate in Online Learning and Teaching.

In his civilian life, Lynch now serves as a New Jersey State Trooper in the organization's Aviation Bureau where he patrols the state in an AgustaWestland AW139 helicopter from its fleet.

"I have been a state trooper for nine years; six of those in aviation," he noted. "My degrees are already working for me because I am in a position where I can advance my role with the New Jersey State Police when the opportunity comes along. We fly over and monitor areas

that contain critical infrastructure as identified by the Department of Homeland Security. With the knowledge I've gained from my course work, I have a better understanding of the elements critical to the homeland security endeavor and specific areas of vulnerability. Learning from people in the field of homeland security in my online courses both in and outside of the area of law enforcement has also opened my eyes to other sides of the profession."

Though his course load demands persistent dedication, Lynch manages to remain motivated.

"Staying focused on my course work schedule and not straying too far from the time allotments I've set for myself has helped," he said. "Also remaining focused on my goals of eventually teaching in the field of homeland security helps me stay motivated. The mentors in my courses are outstanding and have set an inspiring example. I have not had a single mentor that I haven't found extremely helpful and knowledgeable."

Outside of career and course work, Lynch spends as much time as he can with his "very understanding" family. "My family consists of my wife, Annie, and my kids, Leigha, Liv, Sal and Nic," he said. "They have all been instrumental in helping me to fulfill my dreams." ■



Master of Science in Homeland Security student Daryl Lynch on the job in the New Jersey State Police hangar at Trenton-Mercer Airport.

## College Launches New Course on the Ethics and Politics of War



Five star generals and peacekeepers alike will tell you that the past is prologue, especially when it comes to the subject of war. A new course, The Ethics and Politics of War (LIB-360), is being offered that provides a historical perspective on the involvement of world powers in global and local conflicts, giving students insight into current geopolitical activity.

The course is offered through the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences and satisfies a general education ethics requirement for all students as well as a political science, philosophy or social sciences area of study elective requirement for students enrolled in the College's BA programs.

# College Partners with an Area Health System and Community College for “Finish in Four”

## OUR LADY OF LOURDES AND CAMDEN COUNTY COLLEGE COLLABORATE ON DUAL ADMISSION BSN



Pictured at the signing ceremony are (seated from left): Dr. Anne McGinley, dean of Nursing, Health Sciences and Human Services at Camden County College; Dr. Lisa Easterby, dean of Our Lady of Lourdes School of Nursing; and Dr. Filomela Marshall, dean of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing at Thomas Edison State College; along with Our Lady of Lourdes School of Nursing students (standing from left): Zachary Weidensaul, Samantha Brant and Gerard Schuler.

The W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing at Thomas Edison State College, Our Lady of Lourdes School of Nursing and Camden County College are collaborating to create a dual admission nursing program that enables students to complete a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree in four years.

The “Finish in Four” program will allow graduates of the nursing cooperative program offered by Camden County College and Our Lady of Lourdes School of Nursing to transfer and apply up to 80 credits to the online RN-BSN program at Thomas Edison State College.

“This partnership answers a key recommendation from the Institute of Medicine report, *The Future of Nursing*, which calls for an increase in the proportion of nurses with a

baccalaureate degree to 80 percent by 2020,” said Dr. Filomela Marshall, dean of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing at Thomas Edison State College. “Many hospitals and healthcare organizations have shown an increase in hiring nurses with a BSN. This trend is driven by the research that demonstrates the educational level of professional nurses is clearly linked to better patient outcomes.”

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). ■

## School of Business and Management Turns up the Pace

### GRADUATE-LEVEL COURSES TRANSITION TO AN 8-WEEK FORMAT

Students in the School of Business and Management’s Master of Science in Management (MSM) and Master of Science in Human Resource Management (MSHRM) degree programs may find they are reaching their course completion goals sooner than expected.

According to Dr. Michael Williams, dean of the School of Business and Management, MSM and MSHRM programs will be moving to an 8-week course format. “In our focus on time-to-completion, the emphasis remains on delivering premium instructional content to students that is repositioned to an 8-week term,” he said. “The accelerated format enables them to earn their degree in a shorter period of time.”

Beginning on July 1, 2015, enrolled students will be able to register for their courses in the new 8-week schedule. Registration periods for the new courses will align with the School of Business and Management’s established Master of Business Administration (MBA) registration schedule with terms beginning in January, March, May, July, September and November.

The School of Business and Management anticipates that most students will welcome the accelerated academic terms, and is working to ensure that existing students are comfortable during the transition. “We have created a one-year transition period for students who need more time to adjust to the new format,” noted Williams. “The School will continue to offer MSM and MSHRM courses in the current 12-week format until June 30, 2016.”

Beginning in July 2016, only the 8-week course format will be offered for those courses. MSM and MSHRM program students who wish to remain in 12-week terms during the one-year transition period should contact their academic advisor before registering for their courses. Advising staff noted that once students move to the 8-week course schedule, they will be expected to continue in that format for the remainder of their program.

“On behalf of my team at the School of Business and Management, I am excited to start this new chapter in graduate business education at Thomas Edison State College and look forward to helping our students make a successful transition to the new course format,” said Williams.



Thomas Edison State College’s School of Business and Management staff (from left) Dr. Michael Williams, dean; Camilla K. Lewis, assistant dean; Dr. James Phillips, associate dean; Alicia Malone, assistant dean; and Susan Fischer, administrative assistant.

Feel free to email the Office of Academic Advising at [academicadvising@tesc.edu](mailto:academicadvising@tesc.edu) if you have questions or need assistance. Be sure to include your degree program in the subject line to assure your message is routed promptly. ■

# Meet a Mentor: Cleophas Tsokodayi, PhD

## MENTOR DR. CLEOPHAS TSOKODAYI SHARES HIS JOURNEY FROM DIPLOMACY TO ACADEMIA

On the move throughout most of his working life, Dr. Cleophas Tsokodayi has impacted international relations and politics – all while completing his own educational journey.

During a career that has spanned the globe, Tsokodayi previously served as a senior career diplomat in the foreign service of his native Zimbabwe, he later became deputy chief of Mission at embassies in Beijing, New York (United Nations), Moscow and Berlin.

Making his mark in the field of international relations, Tsokodayi contributed to the resolution of one of the longest-running disputes in contemporary international politics: the refusal of then apartheid South Africa to end its illegal occupation of Namibia.

In his capacity as deputy permanent representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations, and deputy chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, he participated in 1989 in the drafting and negotiation of all Security Council resolutions that implemented the United Nations settlement plan for the independence of the territory.

Since taking on his most recent role as a mentor for Thomas Edison State College's courses, Global Issues and Society (GLB-301) and The Ethics and Politics of War (LIB-360), Tsokodayi said that his passion now is to transfer his practical knowledge and experience in international relations and diplomacy to his courses.

Global Issues and Society, Tsokodayi explains, allows students to appreciate

and discover how diverse topics such as population, resource management, technology, information, economics, security and governance are all interrelated.

"The challenges humanity faces today transcend borders more so than any other time in history. These challenges include global warming and climate change, migration, organized crime and terrorism, and affect more than one state or region. And, no one government or region can solve them alone. It is these very global issues that call for global governance."

Having been a distance learner himself for part of his education in the 1990s, Tsokodayi explains that he relates to students in his online courses.

"I understand how much the learning model has changed," he says. "The beauty of mentoring adult learners is that you have students who are mature, responsible and have varied life experiences. In many cases, they are experts or managers in their occupations. More likely than not, there is always someone in the course with the knowledge and expertise to come up with the appropriate information."

In addition to mentoring at the College, Tsokodayi serves as an instructor in several distance education courses at Mercy College in New York where he teaches courses on African, European and American history as well as modern African studies.

He holds a Doctorate in History of International Relations and Foreign Policy (PhD) from the Russian Academy of Sciences



Dr. Cleophas Tsokodayi

in Moscow; a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in diplomacy, a master's in international relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University, India; and a bachelor's degree in English literature from St. Stephen's College, Delhi.

Since March 2011, he has been volunteer editor of *Cross Currents*, the monthly newsletter of Saint Stephens Lutheran Church in Silver Spring, Md.

Tsokodayi is the author of *Namibia's Independence Struggle: The Role of the United Nations* (Xlibris, 2011), which chronicles his experiences of the conflict and its eventual resolution. He has also contributed numerous articles on history and international affairs on *Examiner.com*. He is founder and CEO of CJMT Consulting – a company that provides global affairs consulting as well as writing and editing services. ■

### 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 TECEP® COURSES:

**ECO-112** Microeconomics

**MAN-373** Managerial Communications

**PHI-130** Introduction to Critical Reasoning

#### NEW UNDERGRADUATE ONLINE COURSES:

**LIB-360** The Ethics and Politics of War

**NUC-380** Nuclear Rules and Regulations

**PSY-400** History and Systems of Psychology

**RPT-260** Radiation Detection and Instrumentation

**SOS-425** Deliberative Democracy and Social Action

#### NEW GRADUATE ONLINE COURSES:

**MSI-503** Object-Oriented Application Development

**MSI-506** Operating Systems

**MSP-621** Networking for Effective Community Development

# TIPS FOR ENSURING A SUCCESSFUL ADVISING APPOINTMENT

## FIND OUT WHAT YOUR ACADEMIC ADVISOR CAN DO FOR YOU AND HOW TO CONNECT

By Michael Patrick  
Academic Program Advisor  
Patricia Certo  
Senior Academic Program Advisor

Whether it is through video conferencing, in-person, via email or on the phone, keeping an open line of communication with your academic advisor ensures that you have a successful degree journey. Both applicants and enrolled students at Thomas Edison State College can arrange an appointment with Office of Academic Advising staff to plan their degree completion strategy.

As academic advisors, our role is to:

- ▶ **Assist you in understanding your Academic Evaluation**
- ▶ **Explore credit-earning options with you**
- ▶ **Plan, review and approve your course selections**
- ▶ **Guide you in exploring degree alternatives**
- ▶ **Help you adhere to academic policies that will ease your degree journey**

Your advising appointment can be facilitated in many forms including via phone, in-person visits to the campus or through our latest feature, video conferencing. During your appointment, we can examine course selections and discuss specific courses you will need to fulfill your degree requirements. We can also identify the way(s) in which you can earn credit toward your degree. This can include Guided Study courses, prior learning assessment (which includes credit-by-exam and portfolio assessment) as well as the credits awarded for military training, and professional licenses and certifications you may possess.

Scheduling your appointment is easy. For scheduling options with an academic advisor who specializes in your area of study, log into myEdison®, click the "Make an Advising Appointment" link and follow the on-screen

prompts. Be sure to include your last name and your College ID number in the information.

The most popular type of advising session chosen by our students is a 30-minute phone appointment. Once you have scheduled your call, you will receive a confirmation email the evening before your appointment. Students initiate the phone appointment by calling our office at the prearranged time and are connected with their advisor. Please note that this schedule is based on Eastern Time.

If you are more comfortable with a face-to-face meeting, advisors are available for in-person appointments Monday through Thursday, between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Friday, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., ET. Upon arrival at the College, check in with the guard and you will be directed to the Office of Academic Advising.

If face-to-face is your preference, but you are not close enough to the College for this to be an option, we can work with you through advisement video conferencing. All you need is a webcam, Internet connection and the free Cisco Jabber application downloaded to your computer or device.

Whichever the method, in order to have as constructive an advising session as possible, we recommend the following:

- ▶ **Arrive or log in a few minutes early.**
- ▶ **Have your updated Academic Evaluation accessible and a pen ready.**  
It is crucial to have this document close at hand so you can follow along with your advisor and take notes. Academic Evaluations are available through your Online Student Services account.
- ▶ **Be in a distraction-free environment.**  
Choose as quiet and private an area as possible and please do not attempt to operate a motor vehicle at any time during your appointment.
- ▶ **Prepare questions in advance to ensure that all your concerns are addressed.** An advising appointment is a two-way exchange. Writing your questions down in advance of your appointment makes them easier to track during our conversation.



- ▶ **Be prepared to submit course descriptions via email.** It is important to have course description readily available for any courses you plan to transfer from outside institutions into your degree program at the College. Your advisor can review and respond to your plans for potential transfer credits after your advising appointment has concluded.
- ▶ **Register.** After your appointment, you are welcome to register for any planned Thomas Edison State College courses via your Online Student Services account.

If phoning us, visiting in-person or video conferencing is not an option, you may also email us at [academicadvising@tesc.edu](mailto:academicadvising@tesc.edu). Be sure to include your degree program and College ID number in the subject line to help us route your message promptly. You are welcome to use this option if your schedule does not allow for a conventional advising appointment or you would rather address your concerns in writing.

Have a quick, nonarea of study related question that does not require a formal appointment? Call the Office of Academic Advising Expressline toll free at (888) 442-8372, Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., or Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET.

Regardless of the style of interaction you choose, the Office of Advising staff looks forward to working with you toward your degree completion. ■



# TIME TO BREATHE

## COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP PREPARES STUDENTS FOR CAREERS IN RESPIRATORY THERAPY

Just breathe. Rebecca Proffitt understands the implications of that phrase better than most.

As her career in respiratory therapy unfolds, U.S. Army Sergeant Rebecca Proffitt is preparing to care for a range of patients, from newborns with underdeveloped lungs, to patients of all ages suffering from asthma, pneumonia, bronchitis, emphysema, sleep apnea and chronic respiratory issues, to those requiring emergency care.

"I joined the U.S. Army in 2010 to serve my country, and I knew the experience would present new and challenging opportunities," said Proffitt, who earned a Bachelor of Science degree in zoology from Ohio State University in 2007. She recently graduated at the top of her class from the Interservice Respiratory Therapy Program (IRTP) at Fort Sam Houston's Medical Education and Training Campus (METC) in San Antonio, Texas.

“I wanted to identify an occupational specialty that could translate into a career after my military service was completed.”

-U.S. Army Sgt. Rebecca Proffitt

Through the IRTP's partnership with Thomas Edison State College, students like Proffitt complete the program's clinical components, prepare for required national licensure exams and earn their Associate in Applied Science degree from the College in the process. "Our respiratory therapy and clinical requirements began with completing the College's general education requirements in psychology, math and English composition," she said.

Those completing the IRTP are eligible to sit for the National Board for Respiratory Care's Certified Respiratory Therapist (NBRC-CRT) and Registered Respiratory Therapist (NBRC-RRT) exams.

According to Lisa Braun, public affairs officer at the Medical Education & Training Campus at Fort Sam Houston, the Army's respiratory therapy program began in 1975 at Brooke Army Medical Center and moved to the base's Army Medical Department Center and School in 1985. In 1996, Thomas Edison State College began collaborating with the facility. "In 2011, the program moved to the new Medical

Education & Training Campus where we co-located nearly all enlisted Army, Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard medical training," noted Braun. The College signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the facility in 2009, making the collaboration official.

"I have had the opportunity to meet many of our IRTP students during this time," said Dr. Terri Tallon, director of Military Student Services at the Thomas Edison State College. "The success of the program is proven in the high pass rate, with more than 93 percent of the graduates passing the national licensure exam on their first attempt. I recently participated in the commencement ceremonies on base with Rebecca and her class. Standing side-by-side with these individuals who also sacrifice so much for their country is an extraordinary privilege."

Prior to enrolling in the program, Proffitt was assigned and deployed as a small arms/

artillery repairer and spent a combat tour in Afghanistan in 2012.

"I wanted to identify an occupational specialty that could translate into a career after my military service was completed," said Proffitt. "Being a respiratory care therapist is also something I know will be rewarding."

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the job outlook in Proffitt's selected field is projected to grow at a healthy rate of 19 percent through 2022 – faster than the national average<sup>1</sup>.

With her eye on a career in healthcare administration, Proffitt is now preparing to sit for her NBRC-CRT and NBRC-RRT licensure exams in early spring. "Right now, advancement in the military is becoming more and more competitive, but I plan on using my time and educational benefits to improve my rank and to position myself for opportunities in the civilian sector later."

She can attest to the determination and endurance it takes to earn credentials as a



U.S. Army Sergeant Rebecca Proffitt

licensed respiratory therapist while serving as a sergeant in the U.S. Army. Her typical day would begin by reporting at 5 a.m. to her platoon sergeant where she and fellow service members would begin their physical training.

"Afterward, we would report to our classrooms at the base's San Antonio Military Medical Center during our phase II training," said Proffitt. "Our course work and training would conclude at 1700 [5 p.m. on the civilian clock]. There would be many days, however, when we might report earlier or stay late in order to meet our training requirements."

After Proffitt earns her certifications, she plans on continuing her education to earn her Adult Critical Care and Registered Pulmonary Function Technician (RPFT) certifications. In the meantime, Proffitt is heading to Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, for her first assignment as a respiratory therapist.

During her military and educational journey, Proffitt said that she was inspired every day by her husband, Michael, who she said worked very hard to keep her weeks as low-stress as possible so that she could focus on meeting the demands of her schedule.

To learn more about the IRTP program, visit us online: [www.tesc.edu/irtp](http://www.tesc.edu/irtp) or email the College's Office of Military and Veteran Education: [militaryeducation@tesc.edu](mailto:militaryeducation@tesc.edu). ■

<sup>1</sup> Bureau of Labor and Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2014-2015 Edition, Respiratory Therapists*. [www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/respiratory-therapists.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/respiratory-therapists.htm)

# Academic Calendar

	June 2015	July 2015	August 2015
Registration Dates	April 24 - May 16, 2015	May 22 - June 20, 2015	June 26 - July 18, 2015
Late Registration	May 17 - 21, 2015	June 21 - 25, 2015	July 19 - 23, 2015
Course Transfer Period	April 24 - June 5, 2015	May 22 - July 10, 2015	June 26 - Aug. 7, 2015
<b>Term Start Date</b>	<b>May 31, 2015</b>	<b>July 6, 2015*</b>	<b>Aug. 3, 2015</b>
Midterm Exam Week **	July 13 - 19, 2015	Aug. 17 - 23, 2015	Sept. 14 - 20, 2015
Final Exam Week**	Aug. 17 - 23, 2015	Sept. 21 - 27, 2015	Oct. 19 - 25, 2015
<b>Term Ends</b>	<b>Aug. 23, 2015</b>	<b>Sept. 27, 2015</b>	<b>Oct. 25, 2015</b>

\*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.

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