

SIGNALS

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Courses in a Flash THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE INTRODUCES NEW FLASH-BASED COURSES FOR STUDENTS

The array of course completion options currently available to Thomas Edison State College students is about to include a small but mighty member.

Beginning in spring 2009, students can have entire courses, known as FlashTrack courses, delivered to them on a single flash drive. The device, which is smaller

than a pack of gum, will contain the same structure and functionality of a typical Thomas Edison State College course, but will not require a constant online connection. Students will still need the Internet to submit assignments, but not to receive or complete course assignments.

"Our new mobile learning platform will give students more flexibility to do their course work while commuting, on military deployment, sitting on the beach or in any instance where Web connectivity is not convenient or immediately available," said Dr. P. Henry van Zyl, vice provost, Center for Directed Independent Adult Learning at Thomas Edison State College. "It recreates the online experience in an offline setting."

The new Mobile Learning Initiative is being made possible with funding from the Thomas Edison State College Foundation. FlashTrack courses will be available to students through MBS Direct, the College's online book store. The 2GB devices will be mailed to students with everything preloaded to complete their courses including software necessary to accomplish their tasks: MS Office-compatible applications, including spreadsheet; enhanced media players; antivirus protection; PDF and photo-viewing software; along with an e-mail and Web utility for students to access the Internet when a connection becomes available.



"The flash drive acts in much the same way a computer hard drive does but it is portable, secure, reusable and completely self-contained," noted van Zyl. "The storage capacity of today's flash drives is tremendous."



Dr. P. Henry van Zyl, vice provost, Center for Directed Independent Adult Learning at Thomas Edison State College.

Van Zyl said the portability and integrity of the flash drives will be an attractive option to deployed military personnel, mass transit riders and busy adults who are mobile more often than they are at a stationary location. The devices are compatible with both PCs and MACs, so students using the new format can go from computer-to-computer, or device-to-device, completing and saving their course work each time without leaving a digital footprint.

"The flash drives are completely secure," added van Zyl. "There's nothing left behind on the host computer – all personal and course information is

continued on the inside

COURSE NEWS

Note: A complete listing of all undergraduate courses and their availability may be found on the College Web site. Go to www.tesc.edu/listall.php.

NEW ONLINE COURSES:

ACC-402	Advanced Accounting II
CMP-354	Networking Technologies
EAS-201	Science and Disasters
HIS-306	African American History

NEW STANDARD PLAs:

AOJ-211	Motor Vehicle Laws and Traffic Control
AOJ-246	Principles of Investigation
ART-111	Painting I
ART-221	Two-Dimensional Design
BUS-301	Managing Business Projects
ELE-141	Electrical Wiring
MUS-142	Applied Music I
MUS-143	Applied Music II
MUS-302	Music Theory II
MUS-379	Conducting I
THA-120	Acting I

School of Professional and Continuing Studies Earns "Excellence in New Programming" Award



School of Professional and Continuing Studies Assistant Dean Barbara Eklund

The School of Professional and Continuing Studies recently received the UCEA (University Continuing Education Association) Mid-Atlantic Region's Excellence in New Programming Award for a customized training program it has developed. The School was honored at UCEA's awards dinner and ceremony at their annual conference on Oct. 5.

The School created the award-winning training program for PROCEED, INC.: The National Center for Training, Support and Technical Assistance. PROCEED is a social service-based agency in Elizabeth, N.J., funded in part through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The School developed and delivered a blended human resources overview course for 21 professionals who direct HIV/AIDS-prevention education programs throughout the country. The pilot project included program directors that had considerable counseling education and experience, but little or no human resources training. The course was introduced in a two-day onsite program, which was followed by a customized online component that placed the program directors in online modules for additional Human Resources training and support. Program directors facing similar Human Resources issues in agencies around the country formed a community

of learners to develop their Human Resources skills. PROCEED plans to participate in a second cohort.

In addition to the recognition by UCEA, the program has drawn the attention of the CDC in Atlanta. The Center's program director has called the partnership with Thomas Edison State College groundbreaking and pioneering.

"In very large measure, the success of the program is due to the leadership and tireless efforts of School of Professional and Continuing Studies Assistant Dean Barbara Eklund, who organized, developed and delivered the program," noted Dr. David Grossman, vice provost and dean of the School of Professional and Continuing Studies.

For more information on programs offered through Thomas Edison State College's School of Professional and Continuing Studies, visit: www.tesc.edu/spcs. ■



Courses in a Flash (continued)

isolated on the flash drive, which students take away with them."

Initially, 14 Thomas Edison State College FlashTrack courses will be offered. Students planning to enroll in Guided Study courses will soon see flash drive technology replace CD-ROMs currently in use. More FlashTrack courses are expected to roll out by July 2009.

Leveraging the Smartphone

In addition to flash-based courses, the College's Mobile Learning Initiative includes courses that can be accessed through smartphones, such as the Blackberry, the Palm and the iPhone.

These courses will enable students to use their smartphones to download multiple choice quizzes and submit their answers directly to the College. The College anticipates that e-Pack® courses will be the first to leverage this technology.

Initially, the College expects to offer 10 new courses that leverage smartphones by spring 2009. "From an outreach standpoint, the College will also be able to transmit term calendar reminders, surveys, alerts, course news and updates to targeted student audiences instantly," said van Zyl. ■



Knowledge is power.

Find the resources you need at the New Jersey State Library.

Many of the New Jersey State Library Information Center's services and resources are available to Thomas Edison State College students online. With a NJSL library card, you can borrow books and access premium electronic resources as well as full-text articles – right from your computer.

TO OBTAIN A NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY CARD: you can register for a NJSL library card on the Library's Web site: www.njstatelib.org/cyberdesk. The barcode number on the library card will be sent to you by e-mail and the card itself will be sent via regular mail. Once you are registered, you can begin borrowing from NJSL's online catalog which contains thousands of books and materials in the Library's collections. Search the catalog and use your library card to request a book, renew a book or place a hold on an item. Materials will be mailed to you unless you specify that you wish to pick them up at our Trenton, N.J., facility.

NJSL provides access to nearly 200 databases. Many are premium collections of journals and reports from trusted sources. Most are available for searching from a distance on your own computer

using your library card barcode number. Check out NJSL's Cyberdesk: <http://www.njstatelib.org/CyberDesk> for more information.

Not finding what you need? NJSL can still help! If the Library doesn't have the books or journals that you need, use your registered library card and our online ILLiad feature to request that we obtain the item from another library. Books must be picked up and returned at the New Jersey State Library, 185 W. State St., Trenton, N.J. If this is not convenient, consider using your local library's interlibrary loan (ILL) service to obtain NJSL's materials. A fee may apply.

Wondering where to begin with a large assignment? NJSL librarians are available to help you with a search strategy and locating information. Call (609) 278-2640, ext. 103, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., EST. Please note that the Library is closed on N.J. state holidays. You can also e-mail questions to refdesk@njstatelib.org or use the 'Ask a Librarian' feature on the NJSL homepage. We will respond within two working days. ■

Learned a Thing or Two?

THEN SHOW IT OFF BY COMPLETING THE THREE-CREDIT ONLINE LIBERAL ARTS CAPSTONE PROJECT

Students in the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences now have the option of completing a 3-credit, online Liberal Arts Capstone project (LIB-495-OL) to complete their BA requirements - regardless of their field of study. Course work represents a synthesis of the knowledge gained in students' respective areas of undergraduate study and satisfies the associated learning outcomes.

"This is an opportunity that should not be missed, as the development of such a valuable project will provide students with skills that enhance the undergraduate educational experience and can prepare students for graduate studies," noted Thomas Edison State College English Composition Mentor and Course Designer Dr. Nina Haydel.

Students will work through the capstone course with a mentor in a step-by-step process designed to help them progress from topic selection, through each phase of creating an academic paper, to the final presentation to the dean or assistant dean of the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences

and a course mentor. Any applied research or creative project is encouraged.

Completion of the capstone project is not a mandatory requirement for a BA degree, however, Dr. Haydel advises students to tackle it.

"The capstone project can be used in an employment portfolio, which will set the student apart from graduates of other institutions. The project not only validates the students' proficiency in a specific discipline, but is also useful to the College in assessing learning outcomes related to its programs. It is a unique experience that truly completes undergraduate studies," she added. ■



CCNE Accreditors Visit School of Nursing

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) conducted a site visit for the School of Nursing for accreditation of its RN to BSN/MSN degree programs on Nov. 5-7, 2008. The evaluators read a preliminary report, which stated the School of Nursing was in compliance with all of the commission's standards and key elements and no recommendations for program improvement were offered. A final accreditation decision, which will be posted on the College's Web site, will be made by the CCNE board in spring 2009.

Recognized by the U.S. secretary of education as a national accreditation agency, CCNE ensures the quality and integrity of bachelor's and graduate education programs in preparing effective nurses. CCNE serves the public interest by

assessing and identifying programs that engage in effective educational practices.

Thomas Edison State College is regionally accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. This prestigious accreditation is part of a national system of quality assurance which requires colleges and universities to reach a common understanding and agreement as to the standards of quality for American higher education. The College's RN-BSN degree program is accredited by the New Jersey Board of Nursing and has been continuously accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission since 1990.

To find out more about CCNE, visit: www.aacn.nche.edu/accreditation. ■



School of Nursing Graduate Reaps Awards

Marie C. Feiter, RN, BSN, of Oceanport, N.J., received the Regina Sanchez-Porter Award during the College's October 2008 Commencement ceremonies. The Regina Sanchez-Porter Award is conferred annually by the School of Nursing at Thomas Edison State College to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree student for high academic achievement combined with outstanding service to the nursing profession. Feiter is pictured (above left) with Dr. Susan O'Brien, dean of the School of Nursing.

She also received the Arnold Fletcher Award, which recognizes exceptional achievement in nontraditional learning.

Feiter is a manager of organizational effectiveness for Meridian Health in Neptune, N.J., which includes Jersey Shore University Medical Center, Ocean Medical Center, Riverview Medical Center, K. Hovnanian Children's Hospital, and numerous health partners.

"Our system of care spans Monmouth and Ocean counties, embracing a mission to improve the health of the communities we serve through a focus on quality, efficiency and access," noted Feiter. "Thomas Edison State College has provided me an educational climate that supported my clinical expertise and professional growth while I worked full time and raised my family. It is an honor to be the recipient of both the Regina Sanchez-Porter Award and the Arnold Fletcher Award. These awards convey my enthusiasm, compassion and commitment to my profession and the community that I serve." ■

With Honors



Pictured with Dr. Susan O'Brien (in regalia), dean of the School of Nursing, are 2008 Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society, Arnold Fletcher, Upsilon Rho Chapter - Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society, and Regina Sanchez-Porter nursing award recipients. Front row from left to right are: Pat Adragna, Pat Melcer, Gary Fassler, Catherine Vieira and Abiola Oyetunde. Back row from left to right: Donna Gottschall, Marie Feiter, Laraine Russo, Lisa Arends and Patricia Hutman.

Mentor Profile: Dr. Linda Brown Holt

Dr. Linda Brown Holt loves a convert.

"I absolutely love the moment when a student who has been hesitant about the subject matter or educational process suddenly breaks through and becomes excited about online learning!" said Linda Holt.

Holt has been working with graduate-level adult learners at Thomas Edison State College for 17 years – many of whom find themselves feeling right at home in their online courses once any apprehension fades.

Holt recalls first hearing about the College during the year of its founding in 1972 and thinking the concept was a great idea. "The College wrote the book on higher education for adults, and continues to be the leader. I continue to be impressed by the College's commitment to quality and vigor at a time when everyone is trying to get on the adult education bandwagon," noted Holt, who served as the College's associate vice president for College Relations before focusing later on graduate studies.

"I joined the staff in 1990, and was part of the team that created the graduate-level liberal studies program in the late 1990s," she said. Holt has been a mentor, primarily with the College's graduate programs, ever since.

Utilizing online learning in her own degree pursuit, Holt earned her master's degree in humanities/philosophy from California State University without setting foot in the university's Dominguez Hills classrooms. "I found the process as thorough, enlightening and demanding as any face-to-face educational experience," she reflected.

Holt earned her bachelor's degree from Rider University in Lawrenceville, N.J.; and completed her post-master's work at the Caspersen School of Graduate Studies, Drew University, in Madison, N.J., where she was awarded a Doctor in Arts and Letters in Comparative Religious Literature.

"Students are often amazed to find out that they have far more access to our faculty than they would at a campus-based institution," noted Holt. "The College is the authority on higher education and the use of technology in learning for adults. If



Dr. Linda Brown Holt

anyone can make it more feasible and flexible for adult learners to earn a degree, this College can!"

In addition to being a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) mentor, Holt is an award-winning writer, artist, photographer and communications consultant. She coordinates the Capstone I and II projects for students completing the College's MALS degree; and three online courses: Sense of Community: Faith and Reason; Sense of Community: Art and Morality; and Liberal Arts and Professional Life, wherein students apply the principles of the liberal arts – from Plato and Seneca to Arendt and Gates – to their professional lives. She also

reviews and recommends credit for graduate-level portfolios (Prior Learning Assessments).

Elsewhere in higher education, Holt has taught world religions at Westminster Choir College of Rider University; and public relations at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, N.J.

As a professional, Holt has garnered top-level awards from the New Jersey Communications, Advertising and Marketing Association (NJ-CAMA), the International Association of Business Communicators, the University Continuing Education Association, and was bestowed a JASPER Award and a National Telly Award for her work in publicity, marketing, journalism and multimedia.

Industry praise notwithstanding, Holt sees her work with adult learners as being among her proudest accomplishments. "Working with adult students has been one of the most rewarding professional and personal experiences of my life," she enthused.

"Linda exhibits a particular appreciation for the Liberal Arts as a key educational component to develop successful professionals, managers and executives," noted James McCarty, assistant dean in the Heaven School of Arts and Sciences. "Her dedication to adult learners within the context of liberal arts education exemplifies the core vision of Thomas Edison State College." ■

"I absolutely love the moment when a student who has been hesitant about the subject matter or educational process suddenly breaks through and becomes excited about online learning!"

Academic Calendar

March 2009 Term

April 2009 Term

May 2009 Term

Registration Dates	Jan. 17 - Feb. 8, 2009	Feb. 14 - March 8, 2009	March 14 - April 12, 2009
Late Registration	Feb. 9 - 13, 2009	March 9 - 13, 2009	April 13 - April 17, 2009
Course Transfer Period	Jan. 17 - Feb. 28, 2009	Feb. 14 - March 31, 2009	March 14 - April 30, 2009
Term Start Date	March 1, 2009	April 1, 2009*	May 1, 2009
Midterm Exam Week**	April 12 - 18, 2009	May 3 - 9, 2009	June 14 - 20, 2009
Final Exam Week	May 18 - 23, 2009	June 22 - 27, 2009	July 20 - 25, 2009
Term Ends	May 23, 2009	June 27, 2009*	July 25, 2009

* Dates apply to *both* graduate and undergraduate courses

** Select courses have a midterm examination. Refer to your course materials for details

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