

Standing the Test

MORE STUDENTS ARE DISCOVERING THE CONVENIENCE OF WEB-PROCTORED EXAMS

In 2010, the College adopted the Online Proctor Service (OPS), which allows students to take their exams from the comfort of their home using a computer, webcam and high-speed Internet access.

"The Online Proctor Service means that students no longer have to travel to a test site," said director of the Office of Test Administration, Maureen Woodruff. "As we roll out Moodle, our new learning management system, most courses will contain the online proctoring option."

to your exam, create an account and schedule your exam(s) online. On the day of your exam, be sure to secure yourself a quiet spot where no one will interrupt you, have your College ID ready and you'll be good to go."

As an online test taker, you will have two-way communication with the OPS proctor throughout the session which will require a working speaker system. The online proctor will initially ask you to authenticate your identity and may ask you to briefly pan your webcam around your work area to confirm that the

“Our goal is to give students the maximum amount of convenience and flexibility when it comes to their course examinations.”

Bachelor of Arts degree in humanities student, Jennilee Rumaker, has utilized both formats: paper tests taken at an approved test site and online tests taken in her home. She said she prefers the latter.

"While I have taken my exams using both pen-and-paper and Web-proctoring methods, being able to take an online exam from the comfort of my own home is great!" noted Rumaker. "For students new to online proctoring, prior

space is free of open textbooks and notes.

Rumaker said that she prefers the ease and efficiency of online proctoring.

"Typing the answers to essay questions for my online tests goes much faster than handwriting the responses and makes it far easier for me to make revisions. Beyond that, the proctor is completely quiet during the exam and has a chat window available the entire time in



Maureen Woodruff, director of the Office of Test Administration at Thomas Edison State College

case you need anything," she said. "It's a great service, and I encourage students who may not have attempted an online exam already, to give it a try."

According to Woodruff, the College will eventually offer the OPS option in every course that requires a proctored assessment.

"In addition to the online proctoring option in courses on the new Moodle platform, the College is upgrading its testing software to provide a more secure testing experience," said Woodruff. "Our goal is to give students the maximum amount of convenience and flexibility when it comes to their course examinations."

Still have questions regarding online testing? Visit www.proctoru.com/tesc to view a video tutorial or e-mail the College's Office of Test Administration at testing@tesc.edu. ■

SAVE THE DATE

Join College Staff in Running for a Cause

JUNE 16

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY'S 'RUN FOR DAD'

Join Thomas Edison State College staff on Father's Day, Sunday, June 16, 2013, for the annual 'Run for Dad' at Mercer County Park in West Windsor, N.J.

The Run for Dad event is sponsored by the American Cancer Society and is focused on raising funds and building awareness about prostate cancer. It is a healthy and rewarding way to spend Father's Day and meet the College's staff. The event includes activities for all ages: a 5K run, two-mile walk, a 'Kids Run for Dad' and prize drawings. Registration begins at 7:15 a.m. Participating students are encouraged to meet at the College's table by 8:30 a.m. The event's run and walk will officially start at 8:45 a.m.

Be sure to join "Team TESC" the day of the event and follow the 'Run for Dad' Facebook page: www.facebook.com/RunForDad for updates or e-mail runfordad@cancer.org for more information. ■



College staff supporting the fight against prostate cancer during last year's Run for Dad were (from left to right) Donna Watson, associate registrar, Office of Learner Services; Dr. Garry Keel, director, Office of Academic Advisement; Shirley James, professional services specialist, Center for Directed Independent Adult Learning; Linda Meehan, chief of staff, Office of the President; Debbie Lutz, secretarial assistant, Office of the Vice President; John Thurber, vice president, Division of Public Affairs and Nia Abuwi, associate director, Office of Academic Advisement.

Power, Politics and Partnerships

EVEN THOUGH HE HAS LAUNCHED A SUCCESSFUL WELLNESS CAMPAIGN AND SERVES AS A MAYOR AND BUSINESS LEADER, ED FORTE DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS A WORK-IN-PROGRESS

Forte, who serves as mayor of Haddon Heights, N.J., is a longtime supervisor at Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) and is pursuing his bachelor's degree at Thomas Edison State College.

Recently adopting a rigorous physical fitness routine, Forte walks an average of 28 miles per week, encouraging his constituents to join him in his locally acclaimed "Walk! Heights" wellness campaign. In the process, he has increased face time with the locals while whittling away more than 50 pounds of his own weight.

So, why would someone like Forte, who has already arrived politically, vocationally and personally, crave a college degree?

translated to a number of credits toward his degree program once he enrolled at the College.

Forte, now a distribution supervisor for the utility's Southern Electric Division, estimates that he will only have to take a handful of courses to complete his degree requirements.

"PSEG is serious about encouraging their employees' professional development; so, as employees, the door was always open for us to continue our education and enrich our careers," he said.

By earning his BSBA, Forte said that he will set an example that it's never too late to build on your education. "I'm accomplishing a longtime goal



Edward Forte

“PSEG is serious about encouraging their employees' professional development; so, as employees, the door was always open for us to continue our education and enrich our careers.”

"Receiving my bachelor's degree will be a big step for me both professionally and politically – even at this stage of my life," said Forte, who is enrolled in the BSBA degree in Operations Management program through PSEG's Corporate Choice® partnership with Thomas Edison State College.

"Why bother?" is a question that never enters my mind. There is always something worth striving for, and, in my case, I'm inspired to work toward completing my degree, regardless of my political rank or the security in my career," he said.

Forte began at PSEG, 32 years ago, in the utility company's garages washing and refueling service vehicles. He progressed to the electric distribution area, eventually overseeing electrical substations and facilities. In his journey, he enrolled in a number of training courses and began accumulating PSEG certifications. In turn, those certifications

by returning to college and feel that everything along the way is a learning experience – whether it's by taking a college course or through community work. It's impossible to overestimate the value of lifelong learning."

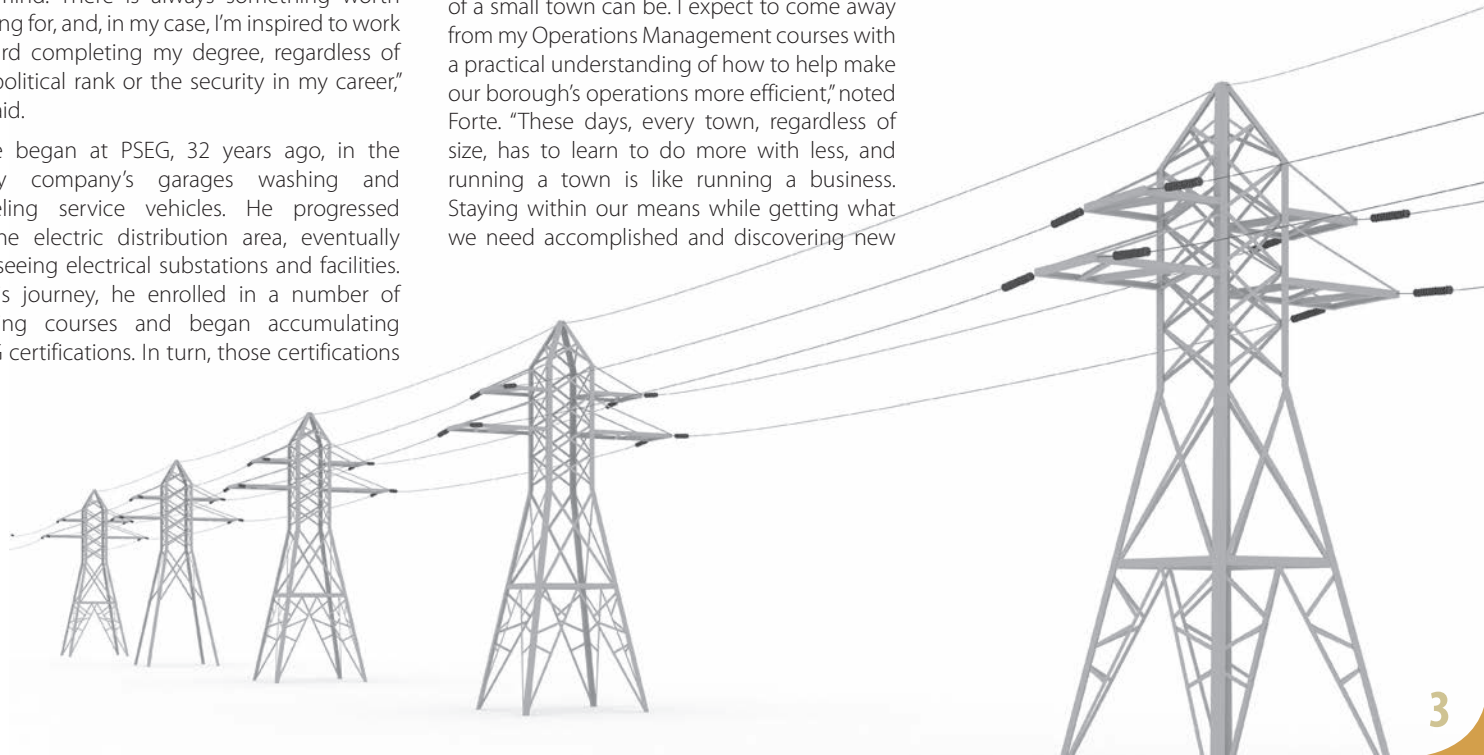
There are numerous ways his courses will also help in his role as mayor.

"It is amazing how complicated the operation of a small town can be. I expect to come away from my Operations Management courses with a practical understanding of how to help make our borough's operations more efficient," noted Forte. "These days, every town, regardless of size, has to learn to do more with less, and running a town is like running a business. Staying within our means while getting what we need accomplished and discovering new

efficiencies that will help in our day-to-day operations parallel many of the outcomes in my academic program."

Previously, Forte served Haddon Heights City Council as council president, director of Public Safety and as a member of the borough's Zoning Board. A 50-year resident of the town and a volunteer firefighter for more than 32 of them, he currently serves as the Haddon Heights' assistant fire chief. He is also the president of his local NJ Sons of Italy chapter. Forte and his wife, Kathy, have two grown daughters, Danielle and Andrea.

To find out more about the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree program, visit the College's homepage: www.tesc.edu. ■



Webinar for Newly Enrolled Students

NEW TO THE COLLEGE AND HAVE QUESTIONS? WE HAVE ANSWERS.

College staff facilitated the second Enrolled Student Orientation Webinar on Jan. 23. During the online session, newly enrolled students learned how to navigate the College's website, access online student services, interpret their academic evaluations, develop a degree

plan, register for courses, take online proctored examinations and apply for graduation. Webinar panelists from the Office of Academic Advising and departments throughout the College fielded student questions and addressed specific topics.

Student Rachelle Pieklo, who participated in the webinar, said, "As a new student to the College and to online learning, I found the webinar was informative and answered many of my questions. I am returning to school to complete a Bachelor of Science degree after a long absence from academia and really valued the session. I definitely feel that Thomas Edison State College was the right choice for me."

The session is part of a series of webinars aimed at helping new students become acclimated to Thomas Edison State College and its programs. Recently enrolled students are urged to check their e-mail for announcements on upcoming webinars. ■



College staff served as Enrolled Student Orientation Webinar panelists in January. Front row, from left to right are Jennifer Stark, Patricia Certo, Nia Abuwi, Chip Stoll, webinar coordinator Rhonda Beckett, Jeronica Lawrence. Second row from left to right are Donald S. Cucuzzella, Todd Siben, Alisha Pendleton, Jacquelyn Rossetter, Maureen Woodruff and Vanessa Meredith.

Gen Ed's Next Generation

» (continued from front cover)

3. Personal and social responsibility (9 credits)

Requirements will include diversity/global literacy, responsible global leadership and lifelong learning course work. This category includes Cultural Diversity (SOC-322), Intercultural Communication (COM-335) and Ethics and the Business Professional (PHI-384). Credit requirements are as follows:

- > 3 credits in diversity/global literacy
- > 3 credits in responsible and ethical leadership
- > 3 credits in personal and social responsibility elective

4. Integrative and applied learning, including synthesis across general and specialized disciplines. Courses in this category will be integrated throughout general education and Capstone courses (18 credits).

Course work in this category will encompass critical analysis and reasoning. These competencies will be demonstrated across interdisciplinary general education courses

as well as in the students' area of study and Capstone courses.

The revised general education requirements described above **will not apply** to students who enrolled at the College prior to July 1, 2013, though students will have the option to complete their course work under the new curriculum standards if they wish. Davenport urges students who are considering this option to contact their academic advisor or visit the College's Academic Advising Web page to set up an appointment.

"Students who were enrolled in the College before July 1, 2013, will not have to consider the revised general education in their curriculum, though adult learners who have partially fulfilled their degree requirements may find it worthwhile to adopt it," said Davenport. "Any student who is interested in finding out more about the courses under the new general education curriculum is urged to speak to their advisor as these courses may easily fit into their remaining degree requirements."

The College's revised general education requirements are aligned with a national model and mapped to the Association of



Dr. Susan Davenport, dean of the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences at Thomas Edison State College

American Colleges and Universities' (AACU) "Essential Learning Outcomes." All Thomas Edison State College students satisfying bachelor's degree programs at the College will complete 60 credits of general education requirements by demonstrating competency in general education electives as outlined by the AACU. Students can visit www.aacu.org/leap to find out more. ■

Meet a Mentor: Dr. Mark Kassop

SOCIOLOGIST, THERAPIST, MENTOR
AND 'GUIDE ON THE SIDE'

Meet A Mentor

Marriage and family sociologist, therapist, Bergen Community College professor and Thomas Edison State College mentor Dr. Mark Kassop ranks online course spaces among the most intriguing of social units. We recently asked him to share his perspective on adult learners in this environment and the myriad of ways they make his job gratifying.

Q: *What does your role as a College mentor entail?*

A: I love the adage that an online mentor is the “guide on the side,” rather than the “sage on the stage.” At Thomas Edison State College, the role of a mentor is to assist students in the process of learning a body of knowledge. It is not the mentor’s responsibility to spoon feed adult learners that knowledge; having mature, self-motivated students helps a mentor to successfully be that “guide on the side.” I am still responsible for the subject matter, but I can now use it in a different way than I did when I was expected to be the “sage.” I can guide students to useful information, and I can challenge them to move beyond simple answers and partial solutions.

Q: *What do you like most about being a mentor?*

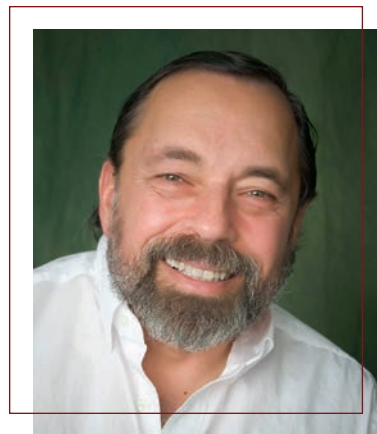
A: I like the College’s self-directed population composed of older, returning students, who have come back to college to achieve specific personal goals. They often take their assignments more seriously and produce higher quality work than their face-to-face (f2f) student counterparts.

Q: *We see that you have been with Thomas Edison State College for more than 25 years. To what do you attribute your longevity?*

A: First and foremost, I enjoy the adult, self-motivated students who populate the College’s courses. They are a pleasure to work with and their diverse backgrounds lead to fascinating assignment content and discussion postings. Mentoring sociology of the family courses, as I do, my Thomas Edison State College students have been in all stages of dating, marriage, divorce, remarriage, etc., and their life experiences enrich our courses. I have learned much from our students. Also, there are many students in my courses who have succeeded because of the flexible schedule that Thomas Edison State College offers.

Q: *What is your own academic and vocational background?*

A: I attended Ohio Wesleyan University, Syracuse University and earned my PhD from New York University in urban sociology and my graduate degree in family therapy from Seton Hall University. I have been teaching at the college level for 42 years. I have taught at Bergen Community College for 41 years and taught at the Borough of Manhattan Community College prior to that. I taught graduate courses in urban sociology at New York University for four years and graduate courses in social psychology at Seton Hall University for two years. I have been a mentor at Thomas Edison State College for 25 years and a member of the



Dr. Mark Kassop

Academic Council at the College for 10 years. I have chaired the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences’ undergraduate and graduate curriculum committees for six years and I have served as the co-chair of the College’s General Education Committee for the last two years.

Professionally, I conducted marriage and family therapy for more than a decade, which has enriched the courses that I mentor. The Introduction to Sociology (SOC-101) and Sociology of the Family (SOC-210) courses I mentor at Thomas Edison State College are very popular. Although I enjoyed being a therapist, I was always frustrated that I could only help a few people at a time. This led me to develop my classroom and online courses with a focus on helping students develop a body of knowledge that would, hopefully, help them to also lead successful lives and personal relationships. ■

Graduating Soon? Be Sure You’re Prepared.

Last year more than 3,100 undergraduate and graduate students were awarded degrees from Thomas Edison State College. The Office of the Registrar reminds students who have completed their degree requirements to submit a *Request for Graduation* form to be eligible for graduation in September, December, March or June.

While degrees are conferred to students upon approval from the College’s Board of Trustees during these months, the annual Thomas Edison State College Commencement Ceremony for graduates and their guests occurs in the fall.

Students will receive notification of their

graduation status once the *Request for Graduation* form has been submitted and their graduation audit process has been completed. To learn more about the graduation process, visit the College’s website at www.tesc.edu and click on the “Graduation Information” link on the “Current Students” page. ■

W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing Student Receives Scholarship

SCHOLARSHIP FUELS BSN STUDENT'S FORWARD MOMENTUM

Lisa Modirian's genuine desire to help others and advance her education is already reaping her dividends.

The Health Research and Educational Trust of New Jersey (HRET), an educational affiliate of the New Jersey Hospital Association, recently awarded Modirian a \$2,000 healthcare career scholarship. To date, the organization has awarded \$160,000 to applicants who are enrolled in accredited undergraduate or graduate health career programs, maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0 and demonstrate financial need.

Modirian – who learned of the scholarship opportunity through nurse educator and W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing Master of Science in Nursing student Rita Truex – said she will use the scholarship money toward tuition and textbooks for her online nursing courses.

"One of my managers urged me to continue my education so that I would be positioned to pursue opportunities ahead for nurses with advanced degrees," she said. "It seems like yesterday that a colleague recommended that I consider Thomas Edison State College, and here I am already starting my seventh class!"

Modirian, who has been enrolled in the School's Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program since 2010, said her anticipated degree has already landed her a new position as a registered nurse supervisor at Fellowship Village Homecare in Liberty Corner, N.J., and will ensure that she continually qualifies as a nurses' aid trainer.

"I am very excited to begin my new job with the courses I've already taken under my belt," said Modirian.

The scholarship funding comes at an important time for Modirian who is financing the education of her 18- and 21-year-old sons as a single parent.

"My husband fell ill with cancer 15 years ago and I decided to return to school at age 40 to become an RN as he could no longer work," noted Modirian. "Obtaining my BSN degree means so much to me, as did obtaining this scholarship through NJHA. I've been doing rewarding work



W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing Student Lisa Modirian, RN

in hospice care for the previous six years helping patients and families the same way we received needed support for my husband. More importantly, we are teaching our children, relatives and colleagues that we can always reinvent ourselves when life throws us a curve ball!"

To find out more about the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing and its RN-BSN program, visit: www.tesc.edu/nursing. ■

W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing Announces New TECEP®

EXAM FOR NURSE LEADERS AVAILABLE IN JULY TERM.

This 3-credit exam, available in the July 2013 term, focuses on the leadership and management skills required for professional nursing. The exam assesses the knowledge of the theories and concepts essential to the role of a nurse as leader and manager in a variety of community and healthcare settings. The exam will be structured with multiple-choice questions and will be graded on a pass/fail basis.

To find out more about the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing, visit www.tesc.edu/nursing. ■

TECEP®

One and Done

TECEP® THE CREDIT-BY-EXAM ALTERNATIVE

Do you want to make the most of the college-level knowledge you have acquired through work, personal interests or independent study? Are you the type of student who tests well? Then TECEP® exams may be for you. This method of earning credit by taking a single exam is ideal for students who have the ability to prepare independently and possess good test-taking skills. Considering the \$33 cost per credit (\$99 for a 3-credit course) and the flexible testing schedule, it's also an efficient and inexpensive way to earn credit for something you may already know.

To find out more about TECEP® testing or to view a list of available exams, visit www.tesc.edu/tecep. ■

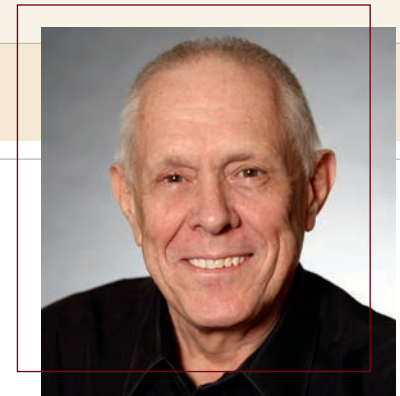
Smarthinking to Turnitin

ONLINE TUTORING AND PLAGIARISM-CHECKING SERVICES HELP STUDENTS TAKE CONTROL

When student Marjorie Fessman needed tutoring assistance with her written assignments, she did not have far to search. She turned to the Smarthinking link in her online course space. Smarthinking, the 24/7, online tutoring and writing lab service, is free for all enrolled students at Thomas Edison State College.

A useful companion service to Smarthinking is Turnitin, an online service that—among other uses, checks student work for originality – will become more significant to students as the College rolls out Moodle, the College’s new learning management system. A Turnitin link will likely be embedded in many online courses.

Students already using Turnitin for their written



Dr. Henry van Zyl, vice provost for Academic Administration

“It is important for our adult learners who may be struggling with their written assignments to know that they should never feel stranded... We are enthusiastic partners in their degree completion and want them to succeed on all levels.”

“Smarthinking has been a huge help for me,” said Fessman, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing student in the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing and operating room nurse at Meridian Health in New Jersey. “I am able to upload my papers to the online writing lab any time of the day or night to obtain a professional critique of my work. The excellent feedback I received has helped me with my writing skills. I received an ‘A’ in my introductory English composition class and credit their service with helping me maintain my grades.”

Enrolled students can find username and password instructions to Smarthinking’s online services via the “Online Tutoring Services” link under the “General Information” tab in all online courses. Students can either take advantage of Smarthinking’s proofreading service to make sure their written content and citation

assignments know what a boon the service can be in avoiding plagiarism pitfalls.

To use the service, students will set up their own account and upload their written assignments for checking. Turnitin’s software instantly compares the student’s written content against a mammoth database of online resources, journal articles, other students’ papers and classic texts for originality. A report is generated for the student indicating what percentage of their content is considered original with suspect passages highlighted. Turnitin also points out citation inconsistencies. Turnitin will be free to enrolled students

According to Dr. Henry van Zyl, vice provost for Academic Administration at the College, the Turnitin component gives responsible students a chance to revise material that may

smarthinking

turnitin

formatting is mentor-ready; or, they can opt for more personalized interaction by connecting with a live tutor.

“The Smarthinking tutors are experts in their field,” said Fessman. “They usually returned my assignment drafts within 24 hours. They would begin by pointing out the strengths in my paper, which was constructive reinforcement for me and made useful suggestions throughout.”

Fessman recently registered for English Composition II (ENC-102) and plans on taking advantage of the service again.

otherwise be considered plagiarized before their assignment is officially uploaded for their mentor to grade.

“Once students receive their report from Turnitin, they can revise any passages that have been designated as containing unoriginal content. They may also resubmit the corrected assignment to Turnitin for rechecking, free of charge,” said van Zyl. “The student whose first or second draft contains flagged content is never penalized. It is only after their finalized work is submitted to their mentor that their work comes under official scrutiny.”

The Turnitin component on students’ online course spaces is based on an honor system of sorts, but students who avoid its use and assume that by doing so, possible plagiarism will go undetected, would do well to think otherwise.

“Students who use Turnitin are doing so confidentially and outside of their mentor’s purview,” noted van Zyl. “However, mentors who suspect that a student has plagiarized any portion of their assignments may request that the student produce a copy of the Turnitin report for review.”

Used in tandem with Smarthinking’s services, Turnitin can ensure that a student’s written work is above reproach noted van Zyl. If Turnitin’s report indicates that revisions are needed, students have the opportunity to make them. If additional help is needed, Smarthinking’s tutors can provide more in-depth assistance so that students can fine tune their work and improve their writing skills.

“It is important for our adult learners who may be struggling with their written assignments to know that they should never feel stranded,” said van Zyl. “We are enthusiastic partners in their degree completion and want them to succeed on all levels. Our staff urges students to take advantage of these free services that will help them boost their grades, maintain academic integrity and pave their way to degree completion.”



Academic Calendar

April 2013

May 2013

June 2013

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|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Registration Dates | Feb. 19 - March 16, 2013 | March 22 - April 16, 2013 | April 22 - May 16, 2013 |
| Late Registration | March 17 - 21, 2013 | April 17 - 21, 2013 | May 17 - 21, 2013 |
| Course Transfer Period | Feb. 19 - April 15, 2013 | March 22 - May 10, 2013 | April 21 - June 7, 2013 |
| Term Start Date | April 1, 2013* | May 1, 2013 | June 1, 2013 |
| Midterm Exam Week ** | May 13 - 18, 2013 | June 17 - 22, 2013 | July 15 - 20, 2013 |
| Final Exam Week** | June 17 - 22, 2013 | July 22 - 27, 2013 | Aug. 19 - 24, 2013 |
| Term Ends | June 22, 2013 | July 27, 2013 | Aug. 24, 2013 |

*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.

Online Student Services Portal

Information at Your Fingertips

As a Thomas Edison State College student, did you know you can:

- > search and register for courses;
- > view your Academic Evaluation
- > view your transcript and status of transcripts requested or received;
- > access financial aid information;
- > view your course schedule and grades;
- > update address information; and
- > track communications from the College

...all through the **ONLINE STUDENT SERVICES PORTAL**.

For students using Online Student Services for the first time, or for those needing a refresher, the College has an online Student User Guide available through the College's website: www.tesc.edu. To access the guide, click on "Current Students" and choose "Online Student Services" from the resulting dropdown.

Need live assistance? Learner Support Center (LSC) team members are also eager to serve you Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., (Eastern Standard Time) at (888) 442-8372 or via e-mail: lsc@tesc.edu.

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