

## The Multiplier Effect

### Vice Provost and University Registrar Cathy Punchello, MSM '13

During TESU Foundation's Day of Giving, the University proudly celebrated its longest-serving employee donor: Vice Provost and University Registrar Cathy Punchello, MSM '13.

Dedicated employees are the cornerstone of any thriving university, but those who give back as donors create a multiplier effect, further sustaining our University's present and future. Cathy Punchello joined Thomas Edison in 1994 as a registration coordinator before advancing to her current role as vice provost and university registrar. From the beginning, she has redoubled her commitment by contributing to the TESU Foundation through payroll deduction.

"Employee donors play a pivotal role in advancing the University's mission by creating a legacy of lasting change," said Mary Heagley, vice president for Advancement and executive vice president of the TESU Foundation, during the December event. "There is no better endorsement for an institution than to have a respected employee, with such a deep understanding of the institution, consistently supporting it in this way. We are deeply grateful to Cathy for her 31 years of steadfast generosity and dedication."

Punchello has internalized the University's mission and student-first focus throughout her tenure and views her role at TESU as far more than just an occupation.

"Our mission is ingrained in who I am, and my colleagues have become like family," she noted. "Together, we work diligently to serve our students and help them achieve their educational goals. I feel privileged to work alongside such a talented and committed team. Thomas Edison is more than a workplace; it is a community of individuals who truly embrace building careers, advancing professions and empowering lives."

Under Punchello's leadership, the Office of the Registrar maintains and safeguards student records in compliance with state and federal regulations. This entails overseeing academic evaluations, registration



Vice Provost and University Registrar Cathy Punchello, right, was honored as the longest-serving TESU employee donor by Mary Heagley, vice president for Advancement and executive vice president of the TESU Foundation, left, at the University's Day of Giving event in December 2024.

processing, grading, reporting enrollment data, data analyses and managing graduation audits and certifications. On an institutional level, she has been integral to student lifecycle, process management, strategic planning, University re-accreditation and academic system implementation endeavors and enhancements.

"It has always been important to me to show my support for this mission and our students by contributing to the TESU Foundation. It is a meaningful tradition that I plan to continue every year," added Punchello.

A proud TESU alumna, she earned her Master of Science in Management degree and a graduate certificate in Organizational Management and Leadership from the University. She also holds a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Sociology from Rider University, Lawrenceville, N.J.

