



# THOMAS EDISON STATE UNIVERSITY

**THOMAS EDISON STATE UNIVERSITY**

**FY 2021 INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE REPORT**

**Submitted to:**

**New Jersey Higher Education**

**Prepared by:**

**Thomas Edison State University  
Trenton, New Jersey**

**September 2021**

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## THOMAS EDISON STATE UNIVERSITY FY2021 INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE REPORT

### INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE SUMMARY

Established in 1972, Thomas Edison State University provides distinctive undergraduate and graduate education for self-directed adults through flexible, high-quality collegiate learning and assessment opportunities. The University is one of New Jersey's senior public institutions of higher education and was granted university status by the New Jersey Secretary of Higher Education in December 2015. Thomas Edison State University is the only university in New Jersey dedicated exclusively for adults and offers degree programs at the associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral level as well as undergraduate and graduate certificates.

For nearly five decades, the University has pioneered the use of the latest technologies to develop high-quality educational programs for adults and has served as a national leader in the assessment of adult learning. *The New York Times* called Thomas Edison State University "the college that paved the way for flexibility."

The entire academic program at the University revolves around the unique needs of adults. Students earn credit through a variety of methods designed exclusively for adult learners, including online courses, guided independent study, examination programs and professional and/or military training. Adult learners also earn credit by demonstrating college-level knowledge acquired outside a traditional classroom and by transferring credits earned from other regionally accredited institutions. Thomas Edison State University makes it possible for adult students to pursue their education without sacrificing their personal or professional responsibilities.

Merodie A. Hancock, PhD  
President

September 2021

## **MISSION and PURPOSE**

### **Mission**

Thomas Edison State University provides distinctive undergraduate and graduate education for self-directed adults through flexible, high-quality collegiate learning and assessment opportunities.

### **Purpose**

Thomas Edison State University was established as Edison College in 1972 by the State of New Jersey and chartered by the New Jersey Board of Higher Education. The University was founded for the purpose of providing diverse and alternative methods of achieving a collegiate education of the highest quality for mature adults. To this end, the University seeks:

- I. To provide curricula and degree opportunities of appropriate level and composition consistent with the aspirations of our students, the public welfare, and the highest qualitative standards of American higher education.
- II. To create a system of college-level learning opportunities for adults by organizing collegiate and sponsored non-collegiate instruction into coherent degree strategies.
- III. To make available educationally valid learning opportunities which serve as alternatives to college classroom study and which are appropriate to the varied needs and learning styles of adults.
- IV. To develop and implement processes for the valid and reliable assessment of experiential and extra-collegiate college-level learning, and to provide appropriate academic recognition for knowledge so identified consistent with high standards of quality and rigor.
- V. To serve higher education and the public interest as a center of innovation, information, policy formulation and advocacy on behalf of adult learners.
- VI. To fulfill the public service obligation inherent to American institutions of higher education.
- VII. To conduct its affairs in a manner which acknowledges the maturity, autonomy, and dignity of its students; assures a portal of access to higher education for adult learners; and celebrates the values, diversity and high qualitative standards of American higher education.

## A. ACCREDITATION STATUS

1. **Institutional accreditation.** Thomas Edison State University is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104. (267-284-5000). Middle States is the accrediting body for colleges and universities in the middle states region. This accreditation is part of a national system of quality assurance that requires colleges and universities to reach a common understanding and agreement as to the standards of quality for American higher education. During FY 2018, the MSCHE accepted the University's Periodic Review Report (PRR) and reaffirmed the University's accreditation through 2022. The University's 2021-2022 Self Study Evaluation is currently underway.
2. **Professional accreditation.** The W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing's baccalaureate degree program in nursing, Master of Science degree program in nursing, and Doctor of Nursing Practice program are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 655 K Street, NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, 202-887-6791. The baccalaureate and master's degree accreditation with CCNE is valid through 2024. The Doctor of Nursing Practice program through CCNE is valid through 2023. The W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing's baccalaureate degree program in nursing is accredited by the New Jersey Board of Nursing, PO Box 45010, Newark, NJ 07101, (973) 504-6430, through 2022.

Thomas Edison State University's Master of Arts in Educational Leadership Program, which is designed to prepare educators for roles in school leadership, was awarded Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) accreditation by the Inquiry Brief Commission of the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) for a period of seven years, from April 2015 through April 2022. This accreditation certifies that the forenamed professional education program has provided evidence that the program adheres to TEAC's quality principles.

Thomas Edison State University's Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Master of Business Administration, Master of Science in Management, and Master of Science in Human Resources Management degree programs are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). The accreditation status is effective as of April 27, 2017.

Thomas Edison State University bachelor's degrees in Nuclear Energy Engineering Technology and Electronics System Engineering Technology are accredited by the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). The accreditation status is effective until August 2023. ABET is a specialized accrediting agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

Thomas Edison State University's associate degree program and undergraduate certificate in Polysomnography were awarded initial accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) in 2012. Continuing accreditation status is valid from March 17, 2017 until 2022.

**B. NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED**

1. Number of undergraduates by attendance status

Thomas Edison State University  
Table II.B.1:  
Undergraduate Enrollment by Attendance Status, Fall 2020 (FY 2021)

	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total
Number	75	9,501	9,576
Percent	0.8%	99.2%	100%

Source: IPEDS Fall Enrollment Survey  
Please note, Thomas Edison State University’s Fall 2020 IPEDS Enrollment Survey counts are based on only the enrollment counts as of October. Prior to 2015, the Fall Enrollment Survey counts included all students who enrolled during the fiscal year.

2. Number of graduate students by attendance status

Thomas Edison State University  
Table II.B.2:  
Graduate Enrollment by Attendance Status, Fall 2020 (FY 2021)

	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total
Number	9	910	919
Percent	1.0%	99.0%	100%

Source: IPEDS Fall Enrollment Survey  
Please note, Thomas Edison State University’s Fall 2020 IPEDS Enrollment Survey counts are based on only the enrollment counts as of October. Prior to 2015, the Fall Enrollment Survey counts included all students who enrolled during the fiscal year.

3. Number of noncredit students served. During FY 2021, there were 82 individuals who took noncredit courses at the University.
4. Unduplicated count of students enrolled during the year. During FY 2021, there were 13,846 students enrolled at the University.

**C. CHARACTERISTICS OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

1. Mean math, reading, and writing SAT scores. This section is not applicable to Thomas Edison State University.
2. Enrollment in remediation courses by subject area. This section is not applicable to Thomas Edison State University.
3. Race/ethnicity, gender, and age (separately). Profiles of the undergraduate students by race/ethnicity, gender, and age are presented in the tables below.

Thomas Edison State University  
Table II.C.3.a:  
Undergraduate Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity, Fall 2020 (FY 2021)

Race/Ethnicity	Full-time		Part-time		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
White	45	60.0%	4,639	48.8%	4,684	48.9%
Black	6	8.0%	1,292	13.6%	1,298	13.6%
Hispanic	6	8.0%	1,220	12.8%	1,226	12.8%
Asian*	8	10.7%	451	4.7%	459	4.8%
American Indian	0	0.0%	29	.3%	29	.3%
Alien	1	1.3%	103	1.1%	104	1.1%
Race Unknown*	9	12.0%	1,767	18.6%	1,776	18.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>9,501</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>9,576</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* Note: Asian includes Pacific Islanders and Unknown includes 2 or More Races.

Source: IPEDS Fall Enrollment Survey

Please note, Thomas Edison State University’s Fall 2020 IPEDS Enrollment Survey counts are based on only the enrollment counts as of October. Prior to 2015, the Fall Enrollment Survey counts included all students who enrolled during the fiscal year.

Thomas Edison State University  
Table II.C.3.b:  
Undergraduate Enrollment by Gender, Fall FY 2020 (FY 2021)

Gender	Full-time		Part-time		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	15	20.0%	5,768	60.7%	5,783	60.4%
Female	60	80.0%	3,733	39.3%	3,793	39.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>9,501</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>9,576</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: IPEDS Fall Enrollment Survey

Please note, Thomas Edison State University’s Fall 2020 IPEDS Enrollment Survey counts are based on only the enrollment counts as of October. Prior to 2015, the Fall Enrollment Survey counts included all students who enrolled during the fiscal year.



Thomas Edison State University

Thomas Edison State University  
 Table II.C.3.c:  
 Undergraduate Enrollment by Age, Fall 2020 (FY 2021)

Age	Full-time		Part-time		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
LT 18	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
18-19	0	0.0%	40	0.4%	40	0.4%
20-21	1	1.3%	231	2.4%	232	2.4%
22-24	17	22.7%	867	9.1%	884	9.2%
25-29	33	44.0%	2021	21.3%	2054	21.4%
30-34	11	14.7%	1,927	20.3%	1938	20.2%
35-39	7	9.3%	1,603	16.9%	1610	16.8%
40-49	5	6.7%	1,871	19.7%	1876	19.6%
50-64	1	1.3%	905	9.5%	906	9.5%
65+	0	0.0%	33	0.3 %	33	0.3%
Unknown	0	0.0%	3	0.0%	3	0.0%
Total	75	100.0%	9,501	100.0%	9576	100.0%

Source: IPEDS Fall Enrollment Survey. Please note, Thomas Edison State University's Fall 2020 IPEDS Enrollment Survey counts are based on only the enrollment counts as of October. Prior to 2015, the Fall Enrollment Survey counts included all students who enrolled during the fiscal year.

4. Number of students receiving financial assistance under each federal-, state-, and institution-funded aid program. The number of students receiving financial assistance is presented in the table below.

Thomas Edison State University  
 Table II.C.4:  
 Financial Aid from Federal, State & Institution-Funded Programs, AY 2019-20

	<b>Recipients</b>	<b>Dollars (\$)</b>	<b>\$/Recipient</b>
<b><u>FEDERAL PROGRAMS</u></b>			
Pell Grants	1,691	4,885,000	2,888.82
University Work Study	0	0	-
Perkins Loans	0	0	-
SEOG	0	0	-
PLUS Loans	8	45,000	5,625.00
Stafford Loans (Subsidized)	1,530	4,733,000	3,093.46
Stafford Loans (Unsubsidized)	1,828	10,722,000	5,865.43
SMART & ACG or other	0	0	-
<i>CARES ACT- HEERF Student Aid</i>	7	17,000	2,428.57
<b><u>STATE PROGRAMS</u></b>			
Tuition Aid Grants (TAG)	43	107,000	2,488.37
Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF)	0	0	-
Other State Programs (OSRP, NJ-GIVS, WTC, etc.)	0	0	-
Distinguished Scholars	0	0	-
Urban Scholars	0	0	-
NJ STARS	1	1,000	1,000.00
NJCLASS Loans	5	109,000	21,800.00
<b><u>INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAMS</u></b>			
Grants/Scholarships	44	23,000	522.73
Loans	0	0	-

Source: NJIPEDS Form #41 Student Financial Aid Report

5. Percentage of students who are New Jersey Residents. Due to the number of active military students enrolled, the University examines residence by military status. As the table below indicates, among nonmilitary students, 51 percent of the enrolled students were New Jersey residents. Among students who were veterans, 15% were New Jersey residents and among active duty military 8% were also were New Jersey residents.

Thomas Edison State University

Table II.C.5:

FY 2021 Enrollment by Military Status and Residence

Residence	Non-Military		Active Duty		Veteran		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	
New Jersey	4,421	51.3%	286	7.6%	225	15.2%	4,932	35.6%
Out of State	4,073	47.3%	3,437	91.6%	1,239	83.5%	8,749	63.2%
International	91	1.1%	8	0.2%	11	0.7%	110	0.8%
Unknown	26	0.3%	21	0.6%	8	0.5%	55	0.4%
Total	8,611	100%	3,752	100.0%	1,483	100.0%	13,846	100.0%

**D. STUDENT OUTCOMES**

1. Graduation rates:
  - a. Four-, five-, and six-year graduation rate by race/ethnicity (senior publics). This section is not applicable to Thomas Edison State University.
  - b. Two-year graduation rate (community colleges). This section is not applicable to Thomas Edison State University.
  - c. Three-year graduation and transfer rate by race/ethnicity (community colleges). This section is not applicable to Thomas Edison State University.
2. Third-semester retention rates (by attendance status). This section is not applicable to Thomas Edison State University.
3. Time-to-Degree Completion. Since Thomas Edison State University enrolls primarily adult students who often bring in credit upon enrollment, the University monitors time-to-degree completion to examine how long it takes graduates to earn a degree from the University.

As presented in Table II.D:3a below, during FY 2021, the associate degree graduates took, on average, 4.3 years to graduate, the bachelor’s degree graduates took 4.7 years to graduate, the master’s degree graduates took 3.4 years to graduate, and the doctoral degree graduates took 2.6 years to graduate.

Thomas Edison State University  
Table II.D.3.a:  
FY 2021 Graduates Time-to-Degree Completion by Degree Level

	Associate	Baccalaureate	Master’s	Doctorate
Overall	4.3	4.7	3.4	2.6

Source: Office of Institutional Research, Thomas Edison State University, FY 2020 Year End Data File: Degrees Awarded.

The University also monitors time-to-degree completion by examining differences between in-state and out-of-state students. The time-to-degree completion for in-state versus out-of-state students is presented below.

Thomas Edison State University  
Table II.D.3.b:  
FY 2021 Graduates Time-to-Degree Completion by Degree Level and Residence

Residence	Associate	Baccalaureate	Master’s	Doctorate
NJ	5.51	4.73	3.28	2.49
Out-of-State	4.08	4.73	3.70	2.68
International	4.02	2.93		
Unknown	3.33	8.19		

Data Source: FY 2021 Year End UCR Degrees.

Prepared by: Office of Institutional Research, Thomas Edison State University, September 2021.

## 4. Student Learning Outcomes

In keeping with its mission, Thomas Edison State University is committed to maintaining high standards of academic integrity and of quality service to its students. To achieve this goal, the University engages in outcomes assessment, a process through which the effectiveness of the University and its programs is evaluated against institutionally determined standards. Thomas Edison State University's institutional outcomes are closely mapped to the Essential Learning Outcomes of the Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) initiative as documented by the Association of American Colleges and Universities. The Academic Council has approved specific institutional learning outcomes for all undergraduate students and graduate students.

### a. Undergraduate Institutional Learning Outcomes

All Thomas Edison State University students who graduate from bachelor's degree programs will have the following competencies:

- **Written Communication**  
Communicate ideas effectively in writing using text, data and images for addressing globally complex challenges.
- **Oral Communication**  
Communicate ideas effectively orally using multiple modes of communication, as appropriate.
- **Information Literacy**  
Identify, locate, evaluate and effectively and responsibly use and share information for the problem at hand.
- **Quantitative Reasoning/Literacy**  
Demonstrate competency and comfort in working with numerical data, create complex and refined arguments supported by quantitative evidence, and clearly communicate those arguments in a variety of formats, as appropriate.
- **Diversity/Intercultural Literacy**  
Recognize that they are members of a world community and demonstrate intercultural knowledge, skills and attitudes that support effective and appropriate interaction in a variety of cultural contexts.
- **Ethical Leadership**  
Assess their own ethical values and the social context of a given situation, recognize ethical issues in a variety of settings, apply ethical principles to ethical dilemmas, and consider the ramifications of alternative actions.
- **Critical Thinking**  
Critically explore issues and ideas, frame events, consider evidence and analyze assumptions before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion.

## b. Institutional Graduate Learning Outcomes

All Thomas Edison State University students who graduate from advanced-level degree programs will be able to:

- Apply in-depth knowledge to the major questions, theories, debates, and methodologies in their organization, field or profession.
- Use critical analysis and research to make informed decisions and to improve an organization, field, or profession.
- Communicate effectively to positively impact an organization, field, or profession.
- Apply ethical principles and theories in research, evaluation, organizational culture, and communities.
- Interpret cultural influences in organizations and communities.
- Create sophisticated arguments supported by quantitative evidence.

## c. Programmatic Learning Outcomes

Programmatic learning outcomes, focusing on degree specific learning goals and objectives, have also been established within each school at the undergraduate and graduate degree levels.

**E. MENTOR CHARACTERISTICS**

1. Full-time faculty by race/ethnicity, gender, academic rank and tenure status (simultaneously). This section is not applicable to Thomas Edison State University.
2. Percentage of course sections taught by full-time faculty. This section is not applicable to Thomas Edison State University.
3. Ratio of full- to part-time faculty. This section is not applicable to Thomas Edison State University.
4. Mentor characteristics: race/ethnicity and gender. Thomas Edison State University signs letters-of-agreement with subject-matter experts. These mentors and consultants engage with the academic units of the University in various ways: development and/or assessment in test construction, portfolio assessment, facilitating courses (e.g., Guided Study and online), pre-graduation conferences, demonstration of currency, practicum, nursing performance examinations, and program evaluations. During FY 2021, there were 596 mentors. The gender and race/ethnicity of the mentors are presented below.

Thomas Edison State University  
 Table II.E.4.a:  
 Gender of Mentors, FY 2021

Gender	N	%
Female	261	44%
Male	332	56%
(blank)	3	1%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>100%</b>

Thomas Edison State University  
 Table II.E.4.b:  
 Race/Ethnicity of Mentors, FY 2021

Race/Ethnicity	Total	%
African American/Black American	54	9%
Asian American	43	7%
Caucasian, Not Latino	471	79%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	0%
Hispanic or Latino	8	1%
Native American	8	1%
Unknown/Blank	11	2%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: FY 2021 Mentor Data File, Center for Learning and Teaching (CLT)

**F. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Board of Trustees is the premier governing body of the University. The members are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Members of the Board bring with them diverse experiences and varied backgrounds from business, industry, and academia. The Board oversees all policy matters of the University, including the approval of degree programs and standards, budget recommendations to the governor, and appointments of all University employees. There are two student members on the Board: one a voting member and the other an alternate.

1. **Race/Ethnicity and Gender (simultaneously).** A profile of the Board of Trustees by race/ethnicity and gender is presented in the table below.

Thomas Edison State University  
Table II.F.1  
Race/Ethnicity and Gender of the Board of Trustees, FY 2022

Race/Ethnicity	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
White	4	3	7
Black	2	1	3
Hispanic	1	-	1
Asian	-	-	-
American Indian	-	-	-
Total	7	4	11

2. **Board of Trustee Members.** The current Board of Trustee members are presented in the table below.

Thomas Edison State University  
Table II.F.2  
Board of Trustees, FY 2022

Name	Title	Affiliation
Dr. Kemi Alli ( <i>Chair</i> )	CEO and Chief Medical Officer	Henry J. Austin Health Center
Gualberto Medina ( <i>Vice Chair</i> )	Executive VP in Brokerage Services	CBRE
Rev. J. Stanley Justice	Presiding Elder	Dover, Delaware Area AME Churches
Eric R. Lear	Managing Partner	Lear & Pannepacker, LLP
Brian T. Maloney	Consultant	
Lydia Stockman		
Michael Toscani	Pharm.D., Research Professor/ Fellowship Director	Rutgers Institute for Pharmacy
Johnnie Whittington		Sheet Metal Air Rail & Transportation, Local Union 27
Jerome Ingram, Jr. ( <i>Student</i> )	Program Coordinator	Atlantic Cape Community College
Jennifer M. Hutchinson ( <i>Student</i> )	Manager	ARI, a Holman Enterprise
Dr. Merodie A. Hancock ( <i>Ex-officio</i> )	President	Thomas Edison State University

3. **URL Information.** For information about the Thomas Edison State University Board of Directors, please go to: <http://www.tesu.edu/about/Board-of-Trustees.cfm>.



## **G. A PROFILE OF THE INSTITUTION**

### **1. Degree and Certificate Programs**

**Undergraduate Degree Programs and Certificates.** Thomas Edison State University offers six associate degrees and 8 bachelor's degrees. There are approximately 100 areas of study in the undergraduate degree programs.

The Associate Degree Programs are as follows: Associate in Applied Science, Associate in Arts, Associate in Arts in Human Services, Associate in Science, Associate in Science in Business Administration, and Associate in Science in Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

The Bachelor's Degree Programs include: Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity, Bachelor of Science in Human Services, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership, and Bachelor of Science in Professional Studies.

The University offers three types of Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs: RN to BSN, RN to BSN/MSN, and an Accelerated 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree BSN. The RN to BSN/MSN program provides a seamless transition for students enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree who want to earn a Master of Science in Nursing degree. The Accelerated 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree BSN program is an intensive one-year program for adults who already possess a non-nursing bachelor's degree and are interested in becoming a registered nurse.

The University also awards Certificates in the following professional areas: Accounting, Communications, Computer Information Systems, Computer Science, Criminal Justice, Cybersecurity, Diversity, Electronics, Finance, First Year Foundations, Health and Wellness, Healthcare Management, General Management, Gas Distribution, Human Resources Management, Labor Studies, Marketing, Operations Management, Organizational Leadership, Polysomnography, and Psychology.

**Graduate Degree Programs and Certificates.** The University currently offers sixteen master's degree programs and two doctoral programs (Doctor of Nursing Practice and Doctor of Business Administration). The master's degree programs are Master of Arts in Educational Leadership, Master of Arts in Educational Technology and Online Learning, Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, Master of Business Administration, Master of Public Service Leadership, Master of Science, Master of Science in Accounting, Master of Science in Cybersecurity, Master of Science in Data Science and Analytics, Master of Science in Healthcare Management, Master of Science in Homeland Security, Master of Science in Human Resources Management, Master of Science in Information Technology, Master of Science in Management, Master of Science in Management – Public Service Careers, and Master of Science in Nursing (MSN). Graduates of the MSN degree program earn a Nursing Administration, Nurse Educator, or Nursing Informatics certificate, in addition to the MSN degree, depending on the area of study they select.

The Master of Business Administration is a 39-credit accelerated, online, and career-focused MBA degree that prepares individuals for leadership roles in a wide range of industries. The

entire program can be completed in 15 months. The Master of Public Service Leadership is a 36-credit program offered entirely online and meets the accelerating demand for education and careers in public service. The Master of Public Service Leadership has been developed in alignment with the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) standards for accreditation.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree, launched in FY 2017, prepares nurse leaders with competencies in advanced nursing practice, organizational leadership, economics and finance, healthcare policy and technology. It is a 36-credit program that can be completed online in 18 months.

The Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) degree, launched in FY 2020, is an online doctoral degree program with Areas of Study in Organizational Leadership, Human Resource Management and Management. It is designed to enable business students and professionals to advance their careers as executive leaders, educators, and consultants. This 48-credit program offers two-degree completion options, course work in preparation from higher educational instruction and general consultancy and a final Scholar-Practitioner Field Project.

There are also 24 graduate Certificate programs offered: Clinical Trials Management, Counterterrorism, Cybersecurity, Cybersecurity – Critical Infrastructure, Data Analytics, Digital Humanities, Educational Leadership, Emergency Management, Fundraising and Development, Geropsychology, Healthcare Management, Homeland Security, Hospitality Management, Human Resources Management, Industrial-Organizational Psychology, International Business Finance, Nurse Educator, Nursing Administration, Nursing Informatics, Online Learning and Teaching, Organizational Leadership, Professional Communications, Project Management, and Strategic Planning and Board Leadership for Nonprofits.

There are also several Bachelor's to Master's degree programs available that enable undergraduate students to earn up to 12 graduate credits that apply to both their bachelor's degree and master's degree at the University.

More information about the degree programs offered by the University and the majors/ areas of study offered is available on the University website, <http://www.tesu.edu/academics/index.cfm>.

## 2. Other

**Affiliation with New Jersey State Library.** Legislation codifying in statute the affiliation of the New Jersey State Library with Thomas Edison State University was signed by the governor in FY 2001. This affiliation and other collaborative projects have made a significant positive difference to the New Jersey State Library and the other libraries with which it is connected.

## **H. MAJOR RESEARCH AND PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

Thomas Edison State University engages in public service activities through the Division of Community and Government Affairs, as well as individual staff participation on various external boards, committees, and organizations. In addition, the New Jersey State Library, an affiliate of Thomas Edison State University, contributes to the public service activities of the University (see “Other” section below). Highlights of some of the University’s activities are provided below.

**Involvement with the Chamber of Commerce of Southern New Jersey.** During FY 2021, the Office of Community and Government Affairs played a critical role in creating the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council for the Chamber of Commerce of Southern New Jersey and facilitated the inaugural event for this Council. Additionally, the University co-sponsored the Chamber of Commerce of Southern New Jersey’s inaugural Women’s Council event.

**Community Engagement.** During FY 2021, TESU hosted a several virtual Lunch and Learn sessions, which were made available to TESU and NJSL staff. Over 15 nonprofit organizations within the city of Trenton had the opportunity to share their missions and local priorities, and volunteer opportunities. In addition, a Community Engagement Coordinator was hired to further strengthen the University’s relationships with the local community.

**Virtual MLK Day Event.** The University hosted its first virtual MLK Day Event. The theme was “Tribute to MLK: Dr. King’s Legacy and Call to Social Justice through Civic Engagement”. The Rev. Charles Boyer, Pastor at Bethel A.M.E. Church and Founder of Salvation and Social Justice, was the speaker. This inaugural event drew out more than 60 participants from the University community and was supported by the Office of Assemblywoman Reynolds Jackson and the University’s DEI Council.

**Partnership.** We continue to partner with the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters Union’s annual scholarship fund to assess the application pool for their annual scholarship program.

**Virtual Legislative Tours.** This fiscal year, due to the pandemic, the University hosted 4 virtual legislative tours. These Virtual Legislative days focused on the University’s academic priorities, curriculum development, and student success plans. There was also a panel that focused on student needs.

## **I. MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS UNDERWAY IN FY 2021**

During FY 2021, the University completed several deferred facilities maintenance projects. We repaired and replaced rotting exterior wood, failing masonry that was causing water infiltration, an HVAC compressor, all emergency lighting, sidewalks, sprinkler systems and the electric heat vestibule in the Kuser Mansion.

Further, a dehumidifier was installed in the Carriage House, the HVAC compressor was replaced in George A. Pruitt Hall and our parking lot was resurfaced, repaired, and restriped.

COVID relief funds were used to install plexiglass throughout the University's facilities and bipolar ionization systems to enhance safety.

## **OTHER INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION**

### **University Selected Highlights**

Nursing students volunteer in vaccination efforts. During FY 2021, students and staff in the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing and Health Professions' Accelerated BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) Program administered more than 10,000 COVID-19 vaccinations to area residents to provide support to the Trenton Department of Health. TESU nursing students were on the frontline of Trenton's ongoing vaccine effort and were featured in the *New Jersey Nurse & Institute for Nursing Newsletter*.

Two new cabinet members. During FY 2021, two new cabinet members were hired, Dr. Jasmeial Jackson, the University's first Chief Student Success, Equity and Inclusion Officer and Jennifer Nelson, the New Jersey State Librarian.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council (DEIC). The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council (DEIC) was formed in September 2020, consisting of employees from the University and the New Jersey State Library (NJSL). The mission of the DEIC is to strengthen the University by generating dialogue, engagement and growth regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion across and among the members of the University and the NJSL.

New Student Success Center. During FY 2021, a newly envisioned Center for Student Success was launched. With a renewed strategic focus, the Center delivers comprehensive support that promotes student retention, persistence, degree completion and career attainment for each and every TESU student.

Covid-19 Grant Provides Financial Support for Students. The University was awarded more than \$1.6 million in Student Financial Support grants from the U.S. Department of Education's Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) for students who were impacted by COVID-19. Financial relief was provided to 360 students through emergency grants for food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare, and childcare. In addition, the University continues to award emergency scholarships to students in need through the University Foundation's Student Relief Fund.

### **New Jersey State Library Selected Highlights**

CARES Act Mini-Grants. The State Library's CARES Act mini grants for public libraries fulfills the intent of the federal CARES Act. It supports public libraries in responding to the coronavirus pandemic by improving access to technology for library patrons. Through this competitive grant program, NJSL funded 56 projects that foster digital inclusion for library users and the community. In doing so, New Jersey's public libraries are strengthened as they close the digital divide and ensure equity of access to technology for all.

Library Construction. The first round of the Library Construction Bond Act (LCBA) allocated \$87.5 million in grants to thirty-eight projects in spring 2021. Funded projects run the gamut from HVAC repairs to brand new facilities and renovation of historic buildings. The second round of

grant solicitations for the LCBA allocates \$37.5 million in grants. This round began in February 2021, a list of recommended projects is anticipated in fall 2021.

**Braille eReader Pilot Project.** The State Library's Talking Book & Braille Center (TBBC) is one of five Regional Libraries selected by the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS), a division of the Library of Congress, to participate in their Braille eReader Pilot Project. The NLS Braille eReader Pilot is testing the functionality of the eReader devices, collecting feedback from pilot patrons, and validating distribution processes at network libraries. The pilot libraries were selected based on criteria including region, circulation system, and size, and on their ability to meet reporting requirements and provide technical support during the pilot.

**Cross Cultural Communicators in Libraries (CCCiL).** The Cross-Cultural Communicators in Libraries: Developing Culturally and Linguistically Competent Library Professionals project funded by a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grant from IMLS, provided professional development training for 250 bilingual English/Spanish speaking library staff in New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, and California. Participants were trained in cultural competence, translation and interpretation skills. Through a series of online modules and in-person workshops, bilingual front-line library staff were trained to communicate more effectively with patrons from multicultural backgrounds. The program now serves as a model for libraries across the nation. All CCCiL training materials and project resources are now freely available on the project website: [www.njstatelib.org/cccil](http://www.njstatelib.org/cccil).