



NEW JERSEY

Association of State Colleges and Universities

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QuickTakes!

Thomas Edison State University Foundation to Offer Tuition Assistance for Coast Guard Members Affected by Government Shutdown

January 15, 2019

Dr. Merodie A. Hancock, president of Thomas Edison State University (TESU), announced today that, despite the suspension of federal tuition assistance caused by the partial government shutdown, Coast Guard students will be able to remain enrolled in TESU courses. The University's Foundation is stepping in to help enrolled Coast Guard students by deferring their tuition until their tuition assistance is once again available.

"TESU has always stood by our military students and we stand with our Coast Guard students today in their time of need," Dr. Hancock said. "I'm delighted but not surprised by the generosity of the TESU Foundation Board in its support of our students. These Coast Guard members are facing serious hardships through no fault of their own. We would like to give them peace of mind when it comes to their education."

The Coast Guard sent notice last week that it would suspend all tuition assistance during the partial shutdown. This notice suggested that the tuition assistance program would be resumed once the Coast Guard has a fiscal year 2019 appropriation. Students, however, were informed that they could potentially have full financial responsibility for funding their courses if they start classes without an approved tuition assistance voucher.

Thomas Edison State University has 135 active-duty Coast Guard students, 27 of whom are currently registered for the February term. Because of the partial government shutdown, more than 41,000 active-duty Coast Guard members are working without pay. Their next paycheck would have been expected on January 15.

"Coast Guard operations that protect life, property and national security must continue despite the lack of resources," said Dr. Michael Toscani, chair of the TESU Foundation Board. "We are proud to do our part to support educational opportunities for our Coast Guard members."

Of the five branches of the armed services, only members of the Coast Guard are affected by the partial shutdown, since their education is funded through the Department of Homeland

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Security. Other military students are funded by the Department of Defense, which is not affected by the shutdown.

About Thomas Edison State University

Thomas Edison State University provides distinctive undergraduate and graduate education for self-directed adults through flexible, high-quality collegiate learning and assessment opportunities. One of New Jersey's senior public institutions of higher education, the University offers associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs. Students earn degrees through a wide variety of rigorous and high-quality academic methods that can be customized to meet their individual needs. Identified by The New York Times as "the college that paved the way for flexibility." The University is a national leader in the assessment of adult learning and a pioneer in the use of educational technologies. The University is home to The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy and the New Jersey State Library is an affiliate. To learn more, visit <http://www.tesu.edu> or email admissions@tesu.edu.

About the Thomas Edison State University Foundation

The Thomas Edison State University Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. While independent of Thomas Edison State University, the Foundation operates exclusively for the benefit, support and promotion of the University and its educational activities and may receive and invest bequests, gifts or transfers of property or money, and expend any such funds or property for the institution's educational purposes. To learn more about the Foundation, visit www.tesufoundation.org.