

## Philanthropy opens the doors

I would like to thank you for your support of The College of New Jersey in fiscal year 2005. The generosity of TCNJ alumni, parents, faculty, and staff, as well as the corporations, foundations, and our many good friends who donate to the College, is greatly appreciated and vital as we face increasing financial challenges.

This is a remarkable time for The College of New Jersey. We recently concluded a Sesquicentennial celebration that marked 150 years of educational excellence. That campaign highlighted our rich history, glorious present, and promising future while providing opportunities to reconnect as a family whose members share a common bond of love for this institution. Simultaneously, the College's astounding evolution into a leader in undergraduate education has brought national attention and acclaim. Last year, *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges* rated TCNJ alongside Harvard, Princeton, Stanford, and others among the 75 "most competitive" schools in the country. *U.S. News & World Report* named The College of New Jersey the top public "master's" college in the northern region of the United States, a distinction we have earned every year since 1993. And *The New York Times*, in a glowing feature on TCNJ's expanding reputation, called us "The Hot College."

These are just a few examples of many noteworthy affirmations we have received. The reason for those accolades, it should be noted, is that we are offering innovative programs and dynamic opportunities that allow us to attract a special breed of students who share a record of achievement as well as

diverse experiences that enrich our institution. We could not be successful in recruiting such impressive students without the EOF Promise Award, the Outstanding Scholar Recruitment Program, the Bonner Community Scholars Program, and numerous other student-aid initiatives that are opening doors for deserving students.

Philanthropy provides the support for many of those programs and is often the catalyst for the lasting success enjoyed by the schools to which we are now being compared. I am grateful, therefore, that the 3,806 gifts from alumni in fiscal 2005 represent a 7-percent increase over the previous year. The 5,257 gifts overall were nearly a 40-percent increase from total gifts just five years ago.

The donors who have partnered with us in strengthening The College of New Jersey have enabled this institution to achieve great things. I thank them all and hope we can build upon this growing tradition of generosity.

Sincerely,



R. Barbara Gitenstein

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