

'Most Competitive'

In recent years I have spoken and written often about an overarching goal for our College: that it be a national exemplar of its type for other institutions, a model worth imitating by all who hope to provide a high-quality undergraduate experience at a reasonable cost.

Evidence keeps mounting that we are well on our way to attaining that goal. In September we learned that Barron's, publisher of the highly respected *Profiles of American Colleges*, now ranks TCNJ among the 75 "most competitive" colleges and universities in the country. What this means, Barron's explains, is that "even superior students will encounter a great deal of competition for admission to colleges of this category"

We know the academic strength of TCNJ students has been rising steadily for many years. We also know our

graduates' ability to succeed in a wide variety of careers alongside graduates of America's most elite schools reflects the quality of the instruction we provide. And we take pride in admissions data and graduation percentages that demonstrate the rising reputation of the College and loyalty of both students and parents. However, holding these views ourselves is one thing; having an objective and respected source, such as Barron's, rank us alongside Duke, Stanford, Harvard, William and Mary, and Princeton is quite another.

Building a "most competitive" college was possible only through a combination of vision and perseverance. It could not be achieved simply by tightening admission standards. Superior students have many choices and will go where they will be challenged by great teachers and have access to the best facilities.

R. Barbara Gitenstein
FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

When I first learned of our new Barron's ranking, I was reminded of Erna Hoover, a visionary member of our board of trustees in the 1970s who insisted New Jersey should have at least one affordable public college to serve its brightest students. Thanks to Mrs. Hoover and to many others who shared her concern over the years, I am proud to say The College of New Jersey has fulfilled her desire and achieved national recognition for its efforts.

Sincerely,

R. Barbara Gitenstein

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