

Yesterday and Tomorrow

R. Barbara Gitenstein
FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

In just a few months our college community will begin a formal celebration of our 150th year. In the tradition of such anniversaries, we will learn afresh of our institutional roots and of the leaders whose vision and work made this event possible.

It is a test of the imagination to transport our current campus in Ewing back more than four generations to our origins as the New Jersey State Normal School in downtown Trenton. Even with all the challenges facing TCNJ today—rising costs of operations, insufficient student housing, limited state support—we are very fortunate indeed. By every important measure, the quality of our students, faculty, and facilities is first class, and in fact state support improved this year over last. Our success in meeting these challenges will be assured if we stay on the principled and imaginative path of our antecedents.

For all of its struggles to gain

acceptance in its first years, the Normal School and its teaching laboratory, the Model School, were in the vanguard of American public education. Under the leadership of principals like William Phelps and James Green, and a steadfast board of trustees, that embryonic band of master teachers led New Jersey and American education into the 20th Century.

Today we remain in very much the same position, among the very best public undergraduate colleges in the nation. Thanks to the enlightened and imaginative work of educators in every generation over these 150 years, we have weathered the Great Depression, world wars, and racial divisions. At the beginning of this new century, I could not be more proud to help lead The College of New Jersey in its sesquicentennial year.

In this coming year we expect to recall and celebrate our past and to do so as a

platform for the extraordinary promise of our future. We expect to come together as a mature, vibrant, and visionary college community to prepare for a new period of challenge and response.

In 1855, our school was a bold, experimental idea. Since then, our college leaders, our alumni, New Jersey officials, and taxpayers have helped make that dream into reality. In our 150th year and beyond, I know we will prove worthy of our heritage and continue to merit the dedication of our supporters.

Sincerely,

R. Barbara Gitenstein

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