

R. Barbara Gitenstein
Advisory Commission on Social Justice Report
September 5, 2017

To the Campus Community:

Last spring, The College of New Jersey Advisory Commission on Social Justice: Race and Educational Attainment met with campus and community stakeholders to consider ways in which TCNJ could seek to remediate instances of inequality and prejudice. Particular attention was paid to the College's current and former relationships with Trenton and Ewing, including the legacy of Dr. Paul D. Loser as Superintendent of the Trenton Public Schools.

As requested in my charge, the Commission produced a report, which it delivered to me in late June. It is comprehensive, compelling and actionable. The full report, which contains suggested projects for implementation, can be found at <http://thecommission.pages.tcnj.edu>. The five recommendations are summarized below:

1. Increase the number of students from Trenton and Ewing public schools who are deemed college ready to apply to and graduate from The College of New Jersey.
2. Increase the awareness of, and engagement with, the cities of Trenton and Ewing among TCNJ undergraduates for a deeper sense of community, history, and institutional identity.
3. Promote a community, curriculum, and culture that is more inclusive among faculty, administrators, and staff.
4. Identify an office or individual to oversee the implementation of all accepted recommendations.
5. Rename Paul D. Loser Hall (action taken on May 24, 2017)

I have accepted the Commission's recommendations. To ensure that they are realized, I will in the coming weeks appoint an implementation task force comprised of stakeholders campus-wide. Its work will be overseen by a steering committee which will include me, my deputy chief of staff, Christina Riso, and the two co-chairs of the commission (John Donohue, vice president for college advancement and Dr. Christopher Fisher, associate professor of history). The steering committee will identify projects, monitor implementation and report to our various constituencies on our progress.

I thank all members of the Commission for their dedication and diligence in preparing this report. I thank all members of the campus community and Trenton/Ewing communities for their thoughtful insight, honesty and passionate engagement on these issues. TCNJ values inclusivity and diversity, but these words cannot stand alone and must be accompanied by profound action to have meaning. I look forward to the progress of the Task Force.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
R. Barbara Gitenstein