High Impact Conference
TCNJ faculty and Bonner Center staff participates in High Impact Conference at Siena College.

Bonner Summer Fellows
The TCNJ Pre-College Program enters its third year.

Trenton 8th Grade Transition Program
TCNJ Bonner assists with the Trenton 8th-grade transition program.

HIGH IMPACT CONFERENCE
The TCNJ Bonner Center organized a team and traveled to Siena College to participate in the High Impact Conference. The Bonner Foundation High Impact Initiative brings together teams from participating campuses committed to working over multiple years to integrate high-impact educational practices with high-impact community-campus partnerships. The initiative seeks to meet three major goals: scale proven best practices in community engagement to reach more students by spreading them across the curriculum; create more faculty engagement in community engagement that is connected to evidence-based practices; and, help campuses to create and demonstrate community impact. The TCNJ cohort took stock of the high-impact practices that are already taking place at the College, including a strong community engaged learning program, the first year curricular and co-curricular experiences, and an established community engagement center. They strategized about where the College should and can go next, including expanding the Community Engaged Learning II program to even higher level courses, including graduate work. Dean Rifkin of the School of Humanities & Social Sciences, Dr. Morton Winston, Dr. Antonino Scarpati, and Donna Drewes of the Sustainability Institute joined Bonner Center staff for the conference.

Bonner Summer Fellows
The TCNJ Pre-College Bonner Summer Fellows program welcomed its third year of students to campus for two weeks in July. The pre-college program brings rising high school juniors and seniors to TCNJ to live the life of a Bonner. This year, students took college-level courses in sociology and history, looking at some of the theory behind issues around poverty, race, and gender. The Summer Fellows also worked alongside Bonner Scholars at several sites in Trenton, including the Academic Sports Academy, Habitat for Humanity Learning Lab, and the Trenton Eighth-Grade Transition Program. Students also had fun with enrichment activities, a talent show, and a service trip to the Jersey shore. At the end of the two-
Trenton Eighth-Grade Transition Program

The TCNJ Bonner Center helped design and coordinate Trenton’s Eighth Grade Transition program - Tornado Alley Summer Transition Experience

Bonner's involvement with the program grew out a recommendation by the Trenton Prevention Policy Board to expand the eighth-grade transition program to more students in Trenton and provide programming based on best practices. Evidence shows that students who have more support during this difficult transition are more likely to perform well in school and graduate.

This year, the Trenton School District opened the program to 200 students - up from only 70 in previous years - which included students who signed up as well as 100 eighth-graders that were identified as “at-risk” by middle school principals. The four-week program provided classroom instruction at Trenton Central High School, brought students to TCNJ's campus, and included a week of bonding and enrichment activities at Princeton-Blairstown Center.

The evidence-based programming was designed to help prepare students for high school in the 2013-2014 academic school year. The partnership between TCNJ, Trenton School District, and Princeton-Blairstown will continue throughout the year as evaluations of the program are conducted.

Patrick Donohue, Assistant Provost for Community Engaged Learning & Partnerships
Paula Figueroa-Vega, Director

The Bonner Center for Civic and Community Engagement
The College of New Jersey
2000 Pennington Road
Ewing, NJ 08628