

March 22, 2022

Dear Prospective TCNJ Parent/Family Member,

Congratulations! As parents of TCNJ students and alumni/ae, we remember how thrilled we were when our children opened that blue and gold admissions folder. We're delighted that you got to experience that excitement, and we hope you'll join the TCNJ family.

Of course, all colleges will tell you that they're exemplary institutions of higher learning, with talented and engaged students, highly-credentialed, dedicated faculty members, a vibrant campus life and remarkable post-graduation outcomes. Sound familiar? Hearing that same pitch over and over can make choosing a college difficult. We'd like to share with you, based on our experiences, what makes TCNJ so special.

First and foremost, the TCNJ community truly cares about its students as individuals – your child would not be just another anonymous face in the crowd. TCNJ is small enough that the professors get to know their students, and the faculty is very accessible. The administration is always improving on TCNJ's constellation of tutoring, accessibility and health services. And, perhaps most importantly, TCNJ students are genuinely kind (just like your child!). While academically rigorous, TCNJ doesn't foster a hypercompetitive environment. Students help and support each other, and delight in the successes of their contemporaries. Everyone at TCNJ works together to help its students have fun and thrive. If you're not convinced, just look at TCNJ's exemplary 94% first-year retention and 76% four-year graduation rates. You can send your student to TCNJ knowing that they will be supported every step of the way.

Second, student safety and well-being are top priorities for any parent. We've been very comfortable with the level of safety and security at TCNJ's beautiful suburban campus. There's a reliably visible (and friendly) campus police presence; the grounds are well-lit; and there are people walking about at all hours. There's certainly an exciting social scene, but students enjoy themselves responsibly.

Third, there are plenty of clubs, organizations and activities to help keep your student engaged and socially involved, and most of them are student-run. There's much more to TCNJ than just classes, and our students have formed enduring friendships through their extracurricular engagements.

Fourth – and it's a big fourth – your student can receive a four-year degree for a small fraction of the cost of similarly highly-regarded schools. Tuition is a meaningful consideration for most families, and everyone has witnessed the crushing impact of significant student debt. There is no better bargain than TCNJ, and, importantly, that bargain price doesn't come with a bargain experience. Your child will have every bit of the wonderful, challenging, fulfilling college life that their friends at other schools will enjoy, but without the mortgage-sized bills.

All of us are thankful that our children chose TCNJ. The school has met – and exceeded – our expectations, and its best days are ahead. We hope this letter has been helpful, and that we'll see you and your student around campus this fall. In addition, look out for our Parent to Parent Panel during Accepted Students Day on Saturday, April 2!

Sincerely,

The TCNJ Parent & Family Association Executive Board