



THOMAS EDISON STATE UNIVERSITY  
FOUNDATION

*The 27th Annual*  
**GRANDE BALL**

OCTOBER 13, 2018  
6:00 PM - 11:00 PM  
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*Thomas Edison State University*  
*was established in 1972 to meet the unique*  
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Today, more than 15,000 students, in all 50 states and 65 countries, are enrolled in undergraduate and graduate degree programs and over 50,000 alumni proudly claim Thomas Edison State University as their alma mater.

Proceeds from the annual Grande Ball allow the University to expand its reach by offering innovative and flexible strategies for degree completion, providing scholarship support to those who need assistance and by expanding its comprehensive course offerings and programs.

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THE THOMAS EDISON STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

presents

*The 27th Annual*  
**GRANDE BALL**

**EVENING PROGRAM**

**WELCOME**

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**Maria Imbalzano, Esq.**  
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**REMARKS**

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**2018 GRANDE BALL HONOREE**

**Dr. Merodie A. Hancock**  
*President, Thomas Edison State University*

**VIDEO PRESENTATION**

**CLOSING REMARKS**

**DINNER, DANCING and DESSERT RECEPTION**

7 p.m. – 11 p.m.

THOMAS EDISON  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
FOUNDATION

October 13, 2018

Dear Friends:

On behalf of my colleagues and fellow Foundation Board directors, welcome to the 27th Annual Grande Ball. Our signature event provides the perfect backdrop to come together to celebrate and support the important work of Thomas Edison State University.

This year is especially meaningful to all of us. Thomas Edison State University welcomed Dr. Merodie A. Hancock as the fourth President of the University in March of this year and we celebrated her Inauguration just a few weeks ago during the 46th annual Commencement ceremony.

At Thomas Edison, students have the ability to significantly impact their lives, their professions and the communities in which we all live. This evening you will have a chance to meet Dr. Hancock and hear about her vision for the future of the University that is changing lives every day.

Enjoy this night of celebration and purpose as we honor and welcome Dr. Hancock and thank you for your friendship, support and future commitment to Thomas Edison State University.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Toscani, PharmD  
Chairman  
Thomas Edison State University Foundation

# HONORING DR. MERODIE A. HANCOCK

Dr. Merodie A. Hancock currently serves as the fourth president of Thomas Edison State University. She assumed office on March 5, 2018, following an extensive national search.

Hancock has dedicated her career to expanding access to higher education for nontraditional students and has extensive experience serving the education needs of minority student populations and veterans and active-duty members of the military.



She is a nationally recognized leader in the administration and delivery of innovative education programs for adult students. Known for her ability to quickly assess opportunities and set a course for positive change, Hancock has led the successful reinvigoration of several institutions as vice president and president.

Access, success and completion are three words that surmise Hancock's educational philosophy. Through decades of meaningful interaction with adult students, she knows empirically that education is the nexus through which one's capability is harnessed for positive personal and professional growth and societal impact.

Hancock holds a PhD in urban services and education administration from Old Dominion University, an MBA from Claremont Graduate University and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Scripps College.

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# The 2018 Grande Ball

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on her inauguration as the fourth president  
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TO THE  
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and this year's special honoree:

**DR. MERODIE A. HANCOCK**

We congratulate Dr. Hancock on her  
inauguration as the fourth president of  
Thomas Edison State University  
and are so proud to be part of  
the Thomas Edison family!

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**DR. MERODIE A. HANCOCK**

*as the fourth president of  
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*Congratulations*  
to

*Dr. Merodie A. Hancock*

on her inauguration  
as the fourth President of  
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Congratulations and  
Best Wishes to

**DR. MERODIE HANCOCK**

on her inauguration as  
fourth President of  
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**DR. MERODIE A. HANCOCK**  
President, Thomas Edison State University



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*-and congratulates-*  
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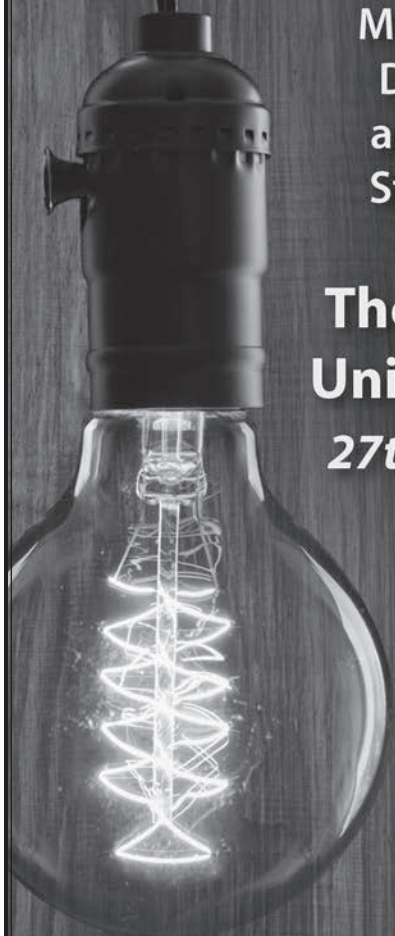


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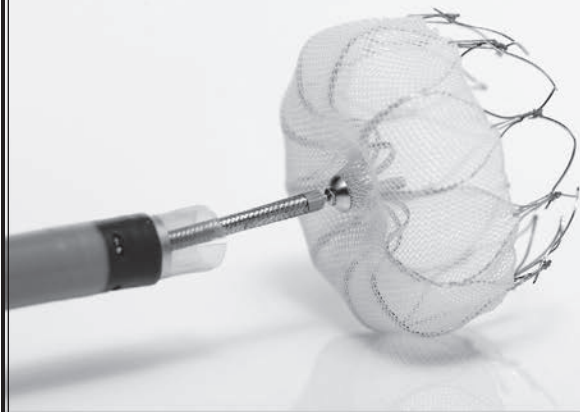
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# *Our Best Wishes to Dr. Hancock*



*Welcome and Congratulations  
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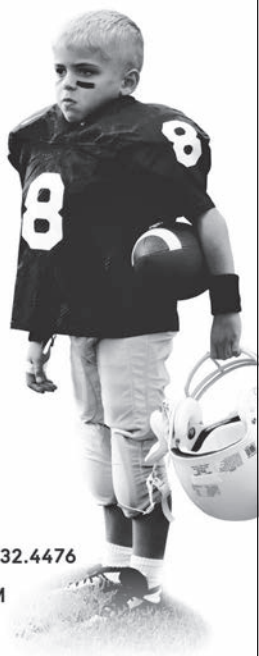


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*Welcome Dr. Merodie A. Hancock  
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to

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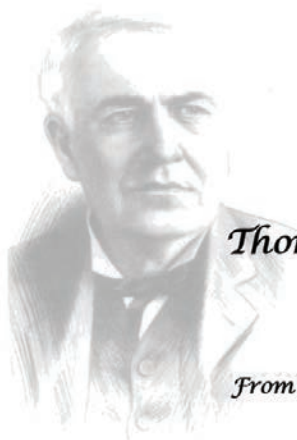
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~ To the members of the Thomas Edison State University  
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volunteers working tonight's event

~ And many heartfelt thanks to the members of the Gala  
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to making this evening a great success!

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**THOMAS EDISON  
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**FOUNDATION**





We hope you are having a wonderful time celebrating tonight's honoree, Dr. Merodie Hancock, and the work of Thomas Edison State University. This year, in lieu of our traditional silent auction, we wanted to provide you with an opportunity to invest directly in the University's mission and the students we serve.

In 2018, 450 students applied for scholarships and the need continues to grow. Providing scholarship support to non-traditional learners does more than alleviate financial burdens that would otherwise affect a student's ability to continue or complete their education. Scholarships at TESU can reduce a student's time-to-degree completion and are a source of inspiration for student success.

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