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**Understanding TCNJ's Master of Education Program in
Educational Leadership: Instruction**

**An Overview of Frequently Asked Questions
for New Jersey School District Administrators**

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As many New Jersey school administrators already know, The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) offers a master's degree in Educational Leadership: Instruction. The degree is designed to meet the needs of New Jersey's best K-12 classroom teachers who want to enhance their instructional effectiveness. The program began in 2005 with five students. Thirteen years later, we have expanded to an active current student body of 240 students and more than 800 students who have already graduated. However, there is still more about this unique program that is not known by school administrators and business officers. This information sheet is designed to address some of those Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ).

- **What is the difference between courses in the master's degree and the courses offered for professional development?**

One important difference is in how these courses are labeled on the official transcripts that students receive. Students who have been admitted to the master's degree program will have course transcripts that show their status as M.Ed. students. Students who prefer to take courses without matriculating into the program (typically noted as "non-matric") will have a transcript with courses labeled as "Professional Development." The courses for all students, regardless of matriculation status, are graduate-level courses with course codes at the 500, 600 or 700 level, indicating advanced work and high expectations.

- **What is the focus of the M.Ed. program in Educational Leadership: Instruction?**

The courses in the M.Ed. program are designed to enhance the instructional effectiveness of working K-12 classroom teachers who already hold one or more state certifications. Our students develop the skills, strategies, and dispositions required of good teachers who

continually seek to add to their understanding of what it means to be a better teacher. The program does not offer additional certification or licensure and is not designed to prepare classroom teachers to transition to roles that remove them from the classroom, such as educational supervisor or school administrator positions.

- **What is the relationship between The College of New Jersey and the Regional Training Center in this program?**

The College of New Jersey partners with the Regional Training Center to offer the M.Ed. program and related professional development courses. Credits for all courses are granted by The College of New Jersey which is accredited nationally by the Council for the Assessment of Education Programs (CAEP) and regionally by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). All courses meet the national and regional standards for advanced graduate level work.

- **Where may I get more information about this program?**

There are several ways to obtain additional information about the M.Ed. program and courses:

- View the 25-minute Informational Video Webinar for School Administrators at youtu.be/mhSzORYMD9o
- Visit the TCNJ Graduate and Advancing Education website at <https://ease.tcnj.edu/programs/graduate/educational-leadership-instruction/>
- Visit the RTC website at <https://www.thertc.net/main.php>
- **Contact Program Director Dr. Alan Amtzis at amtzis@tcnj.edu or (609) 771-2586.**