

# TCNJ SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

## Alumni Newsletter

Summer/Fall 2025



### Class of 2025

On May 22, 2025, TCNJ School of Business held its annual Commencement Ceremony. 366 undergraduate business students walked across the stage in the Rec Center and celebrated with their family and friends.

Interim Dean Tammy Dieterich gave her final commencement address as a member of the School of Business. She highlighted some of the many accomplishments of the Class of 2025, such as studying abroad, participating in the Mayo Business Plan Competition, being entrepreneurs, serving as TCNJ Ambassadors and Orientation Leaders, and volunteering in the community. Tammy moved to Green Hall on July 1, 2025, and took on the role of Vice Provost of Academic Engagement.



The graduating class was then addressed by two student speakers, a first for the School of Business. Daniel Mendoza Rangel, a finance major, addressed the class first. He shared how he moved to this country from Mexico “to an unknown city, with unknown people, and a completely different culture.” He shared their stories, highlighting their resilience and triumphs. To close, he thanked his family for their love and support, “Muchas gracias mamá, muchas gracias papá, muchas gracias Erick, sin ustedes no hubiera sido posible, este logro también es de ustedes. Gracias por nunca soltarme la mano. Gracias a mi familia que vino hoy. Los amo a todos.”



Cassidy DiSabato, marketing major, came to the podium next. She recounted coming to TCNJ and the first time she entered Packer Hall, “I remember walking into Packer Hall as a freshman, heading to my locker room for the very first time, and seeing the quote on the hallway wall: The strength of the pride is in the lion, the strength of the lion is in the pride.” That quote stuck with her over the years. She shared her appreciation for the faculty from the School of Business and celebrated all they had done to get them

where they are today. As she closed her speech, congratulating her fellow graduates, Cassidy reminded them, “Always remember, our strength is in our pride, and our pride is forever in us.”

# New Interim Dean

Sunita Ahlawat



Dr. Sunita Ahlawat has been appointed as Interim Dean for the School of Business. She began her one-year term on July 1, 2025. “It is an honor to step into the role of interim dean at a school I’ve been proud to call home for the past 23 years,” said Dr. Ahlawat. “Having served as a faculty member and department chair, I’ve seen firsthand the dedication of our students, faculty, and staff. I look forward to working with our community to advance academic excellence and real-world impact in business education.”

Dr. Ahlawat joined TCNJ’s School of Business in 2002. She received tenure in 2006 and was promoted to full professor in 2015. Her most recent role has been serving as the Accounting Department Chair, a role she previously held from 2010 – 2016.

Dr. Ahlawat holds an MBA from the University of Massachusetts and a Ph.D. in Accounting from Penn State. Before joining TCNJ, she was a faculty member at Rutgers University. Her work has been published in journals including *Banking and Finance Review*, the *Journal of Business and Accounting*, and the *American Journal of Business Research*. She was awarded a Fulbright teaching and research fellowship to University College Dublin.

*Please join us in welcoming Sunita as the new Interim Dean for the School of Business!*

## MBA Commencement



On May 23, 2025, TCNJ held the Graduate Program Commencement Ceremony. We were thrilled to recognize the achievements of 27 MBA students at the ceremony.

*Congratulations to our program graduates!*

# Alumni Corporate Site Visits



TIAA  
Iselin, New Jersey  
John Buckley '95

Mercadien  
Hamilton, New Jersey  
Myron Gellman



JP Morgan  
New York City, NY  
Jesse Rosenstein '02

Renaissance Technologies  
New York City, NY  
Jennifer Graf '96  
Brandon Klein '16  
Peter Simons '98



## 2024 - 2025 Events

This past fall, we hosted our inaugural Alumni Pickleball Tournament & Social. Ten teams participated in a 4-round tournament bracket. The final round culminated in a showdown between students and alumni representing undergraduate and graduate Business programs! “Team Grad” was composed of Nick Garison ’20 (and current MBA student) and PJ Ringle ’17 & MBA ’21, Interim Head Coach for TCNJ’s Men’s Soccer. They went head-to-head with “Team Undergrad” composed of Nick Nelson, Sophomore IDB major, and Michael Carnivale, Sophomore Finance major. Attendees were fixated by this intense final match-up, and Nick Nelson’s mother, Colleen Nelson ’93 was there to cheer him on! Ultimately, “Team Undergrad” was victorious, winning by a score of 11-4! ***Watch your email for this fall’s event!***



The morning of the Career & Internship Fair, the School of Business hosted 40 employers, faculty, undergraduate and graduate students for our Annual Employers Breakfast. The discussions yielded valuable insights into the curriculum and student readiness.

If you are interested in participating in the Employers Breakfast in the future, email [horners@tcnj.edu](mailto:horners@tcnj.edu).



On March 27, 2025, TCNJ’s School of Business hosted “The Business of Cannabis: Past, Present, and Future”. This free event was open to both the TCNJ and the local communities. Approximately 40 students and community members attended the event. The event was moderated by David Puskar, Interim Dean of the School of Business. The panel shared insights on the current and future state of the cannabis industry. The attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and gain more insight into this complex industry. Read more [here](#).

# New Partnerships & Initiatives

## Alumni Mentoring Program

In Fall 2024, we piloted an Alumni Mentoring program pairing alumni with students who were sophomores and above. The full program launched in Spring 2025, with 60 mentor/ mentee pairs participating! At the end of the spring semester, we held an in-person Mentor/ Mentee Networking event! If you are interested in becoming a mentor, click the button below. Deadline for submissions is August 1, 2025.

[25-26 Mentor Interest Form](#)

## Career, Industry, and Mentorship Committee (CIM)

In the fall we started a new School Committee, the [Career, Industry, and Mentorship Committee \(CIM\)](#). The Committee explores career and corporate connections, industry engagement, and mentorship opportunities for all Business faculty and students. CIM will explore gaps and opportunities to collaborate with the Career Center, alumni, and professional associations. During the 24-25 academic year, the CIM was responsible for the launch of the Alumni Mentoring Program. For the upcoming academic year they will focus on corporate connections to expand internships and other opportunities for students.

Interested in learning more? Email the Co-Chairs, Marc Monseau ([monseaum@tcnj.edu](mailto:monseaum@tcnj.edu)) and Niki Lasky ([yapn1@tcnj.edu](mailto:yapn1@tcnj.edu)).

## MBA Partnership

The MBA established a partnership with Woods Services for cohorts of their employees to complete the MBA program.

## Young Entrepreneurs Academy

The School of Business established a partnership with the Princeton Mercer Chamber of Commerce to co-sponsor the [Young Entrepreneurs Academy](#). Launching in Fall 2025, the program will provide an opportunity for 30 Mercer County high school students to become real-life, confident entrepreneurs. Students selected through an application process will spend 30 weeks at TCNJ's School of Business generating business ideas, conducting market research, writing a business plan, pitching to a panel of investors, and launching their own business.

## On-Campus Internships

The School of Business began sponsoring on-campus internships in conjunction with various offices on campus. In the fall, the Office of Communications, Marketing, and Brand Management (CMBM) hired two of our students, and Human Resources hired one student. Both CMBM and the School of Global, Graduate, and Online Education are hiring one student. The sponsorship for these internships came from funds donated by our generous alumni.



# Real Estate Club Case Competition

The Real Estate Club held its 2nd Annual Case Competition, organized by President Salvatore Zotti (Class of 2025, finance major). Seven competing teams were tasked with analyzing a value-added investment opportunity of 1 Electronics Drive in Hamilton, New Jersey, to discern effective leasing strategies on the existing asset while also targeting a development plan to optimize value creation on the adjacent parcel of land within zoning regulations. Three teams progressed to the finals, which were held on April 16th at JLL's Morristown office.

The judges (Professor Eric Szabo '97, Senior Lecturer at TCNJ's School of Business, and James Keenoy '07, President and Founder of Farrell Flynn) reviewed the final presentations and selected the winning team (Patrick Gallagher, Class of 2025, finance major; Michael Giancaspro, junior, finance major; and Collin Albanese, Class of 2025, finance major).

This competition would not have been possible without the hard work of Salvatore Zotti, and the sponsors who, some not only donated the prize money, but their time in judging and working with the students: Jeremy Neuer '96, Stephen Feinberg '10, Peter Crovo, James Keenoy '07, and (especially) Eric Szabo '97.



# Upcoming Events



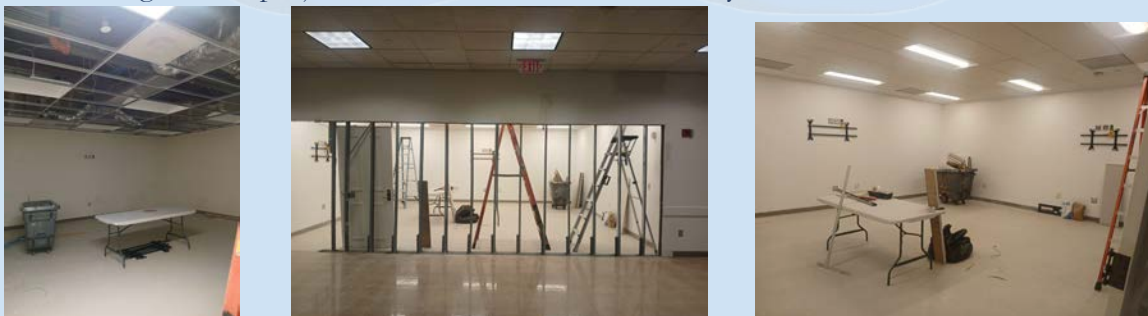
Don't miss out on the 15th Annual TCNJ School of Business Women's Leadership Summit! We have an amazing lineup of speakers this year, and more speakers will be announced soon! Visit our website at <https://wls.tcnj.edu> for more information and to purchase tickets.

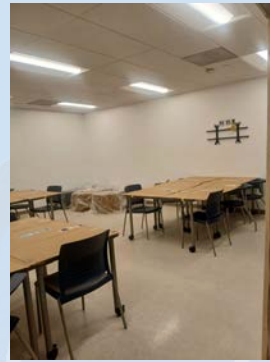
Interested in being a sponsor? Would you like to sponsor a student to attend this year's summit? We can help! Review our [Conference Sponsorship Prospectus](#) for more information.

## Under Construction

At the end of the semester, we began construction on an Innovation/Flex space in the basement of the business building. The space will be used by the School of Business faculty and students for innovation projects, collaboration, and innovative teaching strategies.

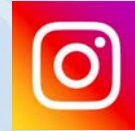
The funding for this project is thanks to donations made by the School of Business Alumni.





*Thank you to all of our amazing alumni for making this another great year!*

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**THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY**  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS