

CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT

# Thomas Edison State University



*“CURATE by Ed Map™ was what our instructional designers were looking for to connect learning outcomes to resources. It made the difference.”*

— Matthew Cooper,  
Associate Provost, The Center for Learning and Technology, TESU

Thomas Edison State University [TESU] constantly pushes itself to be flexible with almost all of its 760 unique courses offered online to meet the demands of its approximately 17,500 students.

## TESU serves what is rapidly becoming the “new traditional” student.

Matt Cooper, Associate Provost at TESU, and his centralized course development unit have been meeting the needs of TESU’s undergraduate and graduate students in more than 100 areas of study. But the university’s push for even more learning-aligned, affordable content and the surge in Open Educational Resources (OER) recently upped the ante.

Matt knew there was an abundance of emerging content options available and wanted to offer TESU’s students and faculty a wider, more advanced selection. The goal was to quickly find a way to tap that wellspring while keeping up with the university’s blistering pace of 70 new courses per year. Enter CURATE by Ed Map™.

“Our instructional designers create courses, but also wear a project manager’s hat,” Matt said. “The amount of time we have to research other course materials that might be out there --

### CURATE by Ed Map™ powers Thomas Edison State University:

- Multiple types of course content including OER
- Vetted by content area experts available on demand
- Annotated bibliographies
- Mapped to defined learning outcomes
- Accessible for students
- Cost and time savings for institutions

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OER or otherwise -- is somewhat limited. We wanted to take advantage of every possible opportunity for our students, and include high-quality, low-cost materials in our courses.” TESU’s budget didn’t allow for another staff hire focused exclusively on emerging content, nor could Matt borrow time from subject matter experts in other departments. A challenging situation.

## The solution for TESU was CURATE by Ed Map™ personalized content strategy service.

Partnering with Ed Map’s academic librarians to search a range of resources and find new, appropriate content to support learning outcomes fit TESU’s unique requirements perfectly. “CURATE by Ed Map™ was the solution we chose, largely because it had a human element to it. The Ed Map team got directly involved with our project team and provided a customized bibliography that took the level of learning into account. They looked at the learning outcomes that we stated for the course – referencing the course and modular objectives-- and worked with our instructional designers to find the types of quality resources we were seeking,” said Matt.

## CURATE by Ed Map™ handled the heavy lifting for TESU.

Matt’s course designers liked the fact that they could speak with the CURATE by Ed Map™ team to discuss the findings versus directly receiving a list of overwhelming course content to sort through on their own. For Matt, “The aggregation aspect of looking at all that’s out there and making targeted recommendations in a quick, concise manner is a massive undertaking. It’s very hard to keep up. Partnering with Ed Map and using the CURATE by Ed Map™ solution helped us drill down, narrowed our focus, gave us options, and allowed us to select only the best resources.”

Cost consciousness is another plus. CURATE by Ed Map™ helps TESU provided a top-notch education that supports their mission while offering an affordable price. Matt sums it up, “Cost is always on our minds as a driver for new methods, but in the end, it was the quality of the academic and learning experience that dictated our choice to go with Ed Map,”

## A shared vision to increase the value of educational content.

For the long term, Matt believes Ed Map will continue to support his team by finding new, appropriate content and make a positive impact on driving student learning. With TESU and the CURATE by Ed Map™ experts connected, everything is in place for Matt to take on another 30 projects and more in the upcoming TESU academic year.

