Interview with Dean Theodorou, President of TAAS Construction, Hackensack, NJ

Trenton Central High School was hailed by the local media as a very significant project. What makes it so special?

Trenton Central High School is a beautiful example of what a school built for the 21st century should be like. It is an absolutely stunning campus, complete with features such as a gymnasium, swimming pool, audio studio, culinary rooms, photography studios, hair salon, science labs, just to name a few.

Curriculum-wise, the school is a hybrid, teaching young people not only academic subjects, but vocational skills as well. Encouraging young people to gain skills beyond those found in traditional classrooms is extremely important, especially when we are facing the challenge of marketing the skilled trades to young people.

What was the role of TAAS Construction in ensuring its successful completion?

Our involvement with the construction of Trenton Central High School lasted over two and a half years, and we had an average of 20-30 people helping out at any one time.

What challenges did you face when working on a project of this magnitude?

The Trenton Central High School campus was built on a grand scale, covering an area of 350,000 square feet. The perimeter of the work site was roughly a mile around. Coordination amongst all the trades was crucial.

The challenge that we faced taking on was suspending sound paneling in the auditorium. The room has 60 foot ceilings, and the panels are all different shapes and sizes. Positioning them perfectly is crucial, as any deviation from the specs would affect the acoustic properties of the room.

Anything else?

We are delighted to see Trenton Central High School allow generations of students to develop their talents, and to become successful in whatever field they choose. TAAS is proud to have contributed to creating this amazing space!