

TO: Members, OCC Board of Trustees

FROM: Jon H. Larson, Ph.D.
President

SUBJECT: Items of Interest for the **December 13, 2004, Board Meeting**

DATE: December 8, 2004

Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program

When the **Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program** relocated from Ocean County government to Ocean County College on October 1, 2003, the balance of **four existing federal grants** supporting various activities of the program **remained at the County** until a legal arrangement could effectuate a transfer to OCC. Last week, a confirmation was received that the **United States Environmental Protection Agency** has **approved the transfer** of the grants, which total **\$230,443** and that an agreement has been **executed by Ocean County** for the **transfer to OCC**. A recommendation will be included on the Board agenda to accept these funds.

I have asked **Dr. Robert Scro, Director of the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program**, to attend Monday's meeting to provide a brief update on program activities.

Articulation Agreements

In October, **Dr. Judith Icklan and I** traveled to **Richard Stockton College of New Jersey** to sign an **articulation agreement** for programs in **Marine Science** and **Environmental Science**. The agreement permits Ocean County College students with an A.A. degree in General Education with a concentration in Science to **achieve seamless transfer** into these Richard Stockton College B.A. and B.S. degree programs.

Richard Stockton President Dr. Herman Saatkamp, Jr., and I signed the agreement at the October 20th Board of Trustees meeting on the Stockton campus, during which the trustees expressed their support of the agreement.

I am pleased that **Dr. Saatkamp, with Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. David Carr, and Dean of Natural Science and Mathematics Dr. Dennis Weiss, will attend our Board meeting on Monday to express to our trustees their appreciation for the partnership that has been established between OCC and Richard Stockton College. It is clear that Richard Stockton's leadership shares OCC's vision of establishing partnerships and sharing resources to extend opportunities to all of our students.**

We also recently signed an **articulation agreement with St. John's University. OCC students with an A.A. or A.S. degree can transfer up to 66 credits, exclusive of any developmental or remedial work, to St. John's University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, College of Professional Studies or School of Education. Dr. Icklan, Dr. Frank Wetta, and I visited the Staten Island Campus where the agreement was signed by Provost Dr. Julia Upton and me.**

Board of Trustees Forum

An **invitation** has been extended to the college community to **meet with trustees** at a **Board Forum on Friday, December 17th, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.** in the **Solar Lounge** of the College Center. The purpose of the Board Forums, which will be **scheduled periodically** throughout each semester, is to provide the opportunity for **employees and students** to become better **acquainted with the trustees** and to **discuss informally** any **issues or questions** they may have.

My office has made arrangements for you to **select your lunch** in the **cafeteria** of the College Center. Please indicate to the cashier that you are a member of the Board Forum.

Board of Trustees Retreat

A **retreat** is being scheduled for **Monday, January 10th**, for the purpose of discussing the college's **FY2006 budget** prior to formal Board action in January and subsequent submission of the budget request to the **OCC Board of School Estimate** in February 2005. **Ms. Sara Winchester** will review the **projections** on which the budget is developed—**enrollment, state funding, and county support.**

The retreat will begin at **3:00 p.m.**, with presentations on **the budget and capital projects** until 5:00 p.m. **Dinner** will then be served at **5:30 p.m.** I anticipate the evening will **conclude by 7:00 p.m.** It will be held in our **Boardroom.** My office will be in touch with you to determine your availability for this retreat.

Colloquium

The **Spring 2005 Semester Colloquium** is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 19th**, in the **Fine Arts Theatre**. It will **begin at 8:00 a.m.**, with a **reception and continental breakfast**. At **9:15 a.m.**, I will begin my **State of the College Address** to share new **initiatives** and **review plans** for the spring semester, after which **employee recognition awards** will be presented. As in the past, **workshops** will be offered for **administrators, support staff, and faculty** following my presentation.

A similar program will take place at **5:30 p.m.** in the Theatre for **adjunct faculty**.

You are **cordially invited** to be with us for the Colloquium to bring the college community together as we move into a new semester.

Report of Audit

A recommendation will be made at Monday's meeting to **accept the Ocean County College Audit Report** for the **fiscal year ended June 30, 2004**. The **audit manager, Mr. Robert Nehila, Jr.**, from **Bowman & Company**, will be available both at the **Finance Committee meeting** at 9:30 a.m. and at the **public meeting** to give a **brief report** on the audit. You are welcome to attend the Finance Committee meeting.

Middle States Commission on Higher Education

The **Middle States Commission on Higher Education** held its annual conference, "**Policy and Practice, Translating Ideas into Action**," in Philadelphia on **December 5th to 7th**. OCC submitted a **workshop proposal, "Planning and Budgeting: The Buck Stops Here,"** and it was selected from among many for presentation at the conference.

Dr. Richard Parrish, Ms. Sara Winchester, Mr. Don Doran, and Ms. Janet Hubbs developed and facilitated this workshop, which highlighted **OCC's successful approach** to the **planning and budgeting process** through the development of **strategic initiatives and operational departmental plans** in support of our **Academic, Facilities, and Technology Master Plans**.

The presentation attracted **over 200 conference participants**, and it was **very well received**. In fact, **several institutions** have expressed strong interest in **visiting OCC** to more closely **examine our planning and budgeting model**.

Italian Studies

The **New Jersey Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission** adopted a **resolution** on August 18th **in support** of the college's efforts to offer **Italian language courses**. **Italian I** is being taught this **fall semester**, and **Italian II** will be offered in the **spring semester**. **Adjunct Instructor Frank A. Campione, Esq.**, is teaching the courses. If interest continues, additional Italian courses will be developed.

Employee Recognition

Mr. John Swierz, Security Information Resource Technician, recently **wrote an article** that was published in *March Networks News*, a publication for security and information technology professionals. The article, **“College Converts to Digital Video,”** highlights the college’s **changeover** from a VHS-based video security system **to a new digital surveillance and monitoring system**. Through the publication of this article, Mr. Swierz has **promoted OCC** and its **information technology efforts**.