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OCC dean recognized for his efforts to promote health

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BY DON BENNETT
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TOMS RIVER — For his pioneering work with HIV, AIDS and online education, Dr. James W. Brown, a dean at Ocean County College, has received the Dennis J. Sullivan Award from the New Jersey Public Health Association.

It is the association's highest award, presented "to an individual for dedicated and outstanding public service and contributing to the cause of public health in New Jersey."

"I found AIDS to be a horrible disease and wanted to reach beyond the microscope and test tubes to help people who were living with HIV or AIDS," Brown said.

His career took him to China and India to set up AIDS testing in remote areas.

"I saw starvation, disease, hunger and poverty unlike anything that I have experienced in the United States. I saw firsthand how basic public health could dramatically improve lives," Brown said.

He has advanced degrees in microbiology from Waksman Institute at Rutgers, a master's in health sciences from Jersey City State College, and a bachelor's degree from Rutgers.

He taught biosafety at Johns Hopkins Medical School and microbiology at New York College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Brown had been an assistant dean for college and professional studies at New Jersey City University, an assistant state health commissioner, and an AIDS researcher and virologist with the state Department of Health.

In private industry he was director of microbiology, health, safety and environmental affairs for Roche Biomedical Laboratories.

At Ocean County College Brown is dean of science, engineering, health sciences and human performance.

His pioneering work in online education for public health included designing or co-designing 40 graduate and undergraduate courses.

He was the principal investigator on a \$458,000 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grant to put the entire didactic part of the OCC nursing program online. He created the award-winning, one-day-per-week nursing program at OCC.

For a decade he covered the International AIDS Conference for "Medical Laboratory Observer" and "Medical Economics."

The author of more than 200 articles and papers, he wrote an award-winning 10-part series on new and emerging pathogens. He is working now with his brother, noted outdoor author Tom Brown, on a book called "Diseases from the Wilderness," identifying them and telling adventurers how to prevent them.

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