

**TO:** Members, OCC Board of Trustees

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

**SUBJECT:** Items of Interest for the **August 23, 2004, Board Meeting**

**DATE:** August 17, 2004

### **Middle States Commission**

I have received a letter from the **Chair of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education** informing us that the Commission, at its sessions on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, acted to **reaffirm the accreditation of Ocean County College**.

The Commission requested a **monitoring report**, due by April 1, 2006, documenting further development and implementation of a **comprehensive plan for student learning outcomes assessment** and evidence that **results are being used to improve teaching and learning**. Our **Periodic Review Report** is due **June 1, 2009**. Our next full **Self-Study Evaluation** will take place in **2013-2014**.

Our **self-evaluation process** and the **evaluation team visit** were **extremely successful** and will be of **great benefit** to the institution as we move forward. I am very **proud of the work done** on our self-study document, which received **special recognition** by the Commission by its request to **highlight our report** at the Commission's **self-study training sessions** this fall.

### **Teach-Out Agreement**

**Brick Computer Science Institute** has informed its students that it is **closing its campus**, with all instruction ceasing in **August**. The college has entered into a **Teach-**

**Out Agreement** with the Institute, whereby its **92 students** will **receive from OCC** the **education promised** to them.

The **Teach-Out Agreement** will allow Institute students to **complete their current certificate curriculum** through instruction at OCC **at no additional cost to them**. This **program** is designed to be **substantially similar** to the education taught by the Institute and will include **career development assistance**. Under this agreement and **upon completion** of program requirements, the student will **receive a certificate** from **Brick Computer Science Institute**.

The students may also consider the option to complete a **“transfer” to OCC**, which would allow them to **receive transfer credit** and enter into the **college’s degree program**. Under the transfer option, the students would **pay OCC tuition and fees**. Students have been invited to **familiarize themselves with OCC**, its campus, classrooms, equipment, and staff by attending **Open Houses** scheduled here on campus and at the Southern Education Center. In addition, OCC staff are meeting with each student on an individual basis to **address personal and curriculum concerns**.

This **innovative partnership** is **beneficial** to the **Brick Computer Science Institute**, the **college**, and, most importantly, to the **students**, who will be able to **complete their educational requirements without interruption**.

### **Transfer Resources**

**NJ Transfer** ([www.njtransfer.org](http://www.njtransfer.org)) is a valuable resource to assist students to **select courses for transfer to four-year colleges**. Students can plan an entire academic program for **seamless transfer** and can compare their community college programs to a variety of similar four-year programs. **NJ Transfer** also contains extensive information about **admissions, transfer recruitment events, and transferring courses or programs** in New Jersey.

Ocean County College has been **commended** for its **commitment to utilize this resource**. In the past **18 months, 181,738 users** have looked into transfer from OCC to participating four-year New Jersey institutions. A **chart is attached** which displays the number of times students have used NJ Transfer at each of the community colleges as well as the four-year institutions in which they have shown interest. OCC is one of the **top two community colleges** making use of **NJ Transfer**.

### **New Pathways to Teaching in New Jersey**

**New Pathways to Teaching in New Jersey (NPTNJ)** is a **partnership** between **New Jersey City University** and the state’s **19 community colleges**. The program prepares individuals who have baccalaureate degrees to be teachers through the **alternate route to teacher certification**.

The NPTNJ program is designed to meet the **200 hours of professional development** needed by alternate route teachers for certification. It offers its participants the opportunity to **earn 15 graduate credits** toward a **Master of Arts degree in Teaching (MAT)** with **New Jersey City University** while they are obtaining teacher certification. One of the **advantages** of this program is that successful students are afforded the opportunity to **complete their master's degree without traveling to Jersey City**. Ocean County College, a **leader in enrollment** in this innovative program, has been **selected as one of three sites** in the state to provide the remainder of the MAT graduate degree from New Jersey City University.

The Master of Arts degree in Teaching through New Jersey City University will be added to OCC's weekend college. **Our weekend college** also offers a **master's degree in Educational Administration through Kean University**. These two programs allow teachers to obtain a master's degree or achieve certification as a teacher or school administrator here on campus, which is an important new step in teacher preparation for community colleges.

### **NJ STARS Program**

The **NJ STARS (Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship)** Program, available for the **first time** this year, will provide **tuition and fees** for up to **five semesters** at a **community college** to students who **graduate in the top 20 percent** of their class.

To date, **98 students** have **registered at OCC** for the program. The **students' files** are being **reviewed** to ensure that they meet the criteria for the program, and **award letters** are being mailed to the students with the **amount of their scholarships**. A **reception** will be scheduled during the **early part of this fall** semester to **welcome these students and their parents**. Additional information about the reception will be forthcoming.

### **Technology Update**

OCC continues to be a **leader in technology** as we establish a **new gigabit broadband technology infrastructure** that will **enhance students' academic experiences** and **improve administrative processes**. The college is **one of the first institutions** of higher education to implement a **money-saving Internet-based telephone system** that will serve as a **voice, video, and data network**. Partnering with **Cisco**, the **industry leader** in this type of technology, the installation of this system will provide **new learning tools** with **video enhanced components** that will serve OCC and its students well as we move into the future.

**Dr. Jim McGinty**, Vice President of Technology and Campus Services, and **Mr. Dan Holt**, Executive Director of the Office of Information Technology, accompanied by **Mr. George Laskaris**, Executive Director of **NJEdge.Net**, a statewide high-speed telecommunications network **linking all NJ colleges and universities**, will give a **brief presentation** to the trustees about this exciting new technology at the meeting on Monday.

### **The Robert J. Novins Planetarium**

The **Robert J. Novins Planetarium** is celebrating its **30<sup>th</sup> anniversary** this year. Opening its doors in **1974**, the Planetarium was made possible through the interest and generosity of the **late chairman of the OCC Foundation**. Over the years, the Planetarium has provided many educational shows to tens of thousands of students and community members.

In recognition of this milestone, the Planetarium is “**Celebrating 30 years as the Universe in Your Backyard.**” During the weekend of **August 27<sup>th</sup> through 29<sup>th</sup>**, admission will be charged at **1974 prices—75 cents for adults and 50 cents for children**. There will be a **free observation session** on Friday evening, **August 27<sup>th</sup>**, at 9 p.m., and a **public lecture** on Saturday, **August 28<sup>th</sup>**, at 7 p.m., “**Bringing Space Down to Earth: NASA Spinoffs and Cassini Mission Update,**” presented by **Ms. Laura Venner, NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador**.

In addition to the many shows presented by the Planetarium, there will be a **September 11<sup>th</sup> commemorative presentation** at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Music, images, and live narration will combine for a **powerful and unique reflection** on the events of September 2001 and **humanity’s place in the universe**.

### **Barnegat Bay Sailing Hall of Fame**

The **Barnegat Bay Sailing Hall of Fame Induction Gala** is scheduled to take place on Saturday, **September 25<sup>th</sup>**, on the college mall. A **cocktail reception** at 7 p.m. will be followed by a **ceremony** in the Fine Arts Theatre at which the Hall of Fame **honorees will be inducted**. Invitations to the Gala are being mailed this week. Please **consider joining us** at the Gala.