

# Foundation Scholarship Reception Ceremony

April 17, 2002

Ladies and gentlemen, scholarship recipients, scholarship donors, members of the faculty, staff, students of Ocean County College, family and friends, it is an honor and a pleasure to welcome you tonight to the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Foundation Scholarship Reception Ceremony.

- Congratulate the OCC Foundation Scholarship Recipients Honorees:  
(96 recipients, all seated in middle rows of Theatre)

Distinguishing recognition of achievement. Honor well deserved.  
Earned.

- Acknowledge the work of the Foundation Officers and Executive Director – this is a wonderful event . Scholarship Committee and Past Chair Rosanne Citta (NOT HERE), this year's Humanitarian of the Year Award recipient who will be acknowledged at the Foundation Summer Gala on August 24th.

- Karl Reinheimer, Chair

- Harvey York, Vice Chair (NOT HERE)
- Joe Coronato, Secretary
- Dave Wintrode, Treasurer (NOT HERE)
- Penny Vaccaro, Executive Director
- Keith Buscio, Current Scholarship Committee Chair
  
- Also acknowledge distinguished guests present:
  - My wife: Judy Larson
  - Ocean County Freeholders: John Bartlett
  - Trustees of OCC: Sen. William T. Hiering
  - OCC Foundation: Barbara Hiering (how great it is to see her in such great health and spirits) and all other members of the Foundation who are here with us tonight
  - Political Notables:
    - Carmine Inteso, Deputy Mayor of Dover
    - John Furey, Dover Township Commitman
    - Dr. Carol D’Zio, Superintendent of Central Regional Schools
  - Friends: Jack and Virginia Lamping (w/Judy Larson)
  - The many OCC representatives who are here tonight

- Take note of the many community organizations, individuals, foundations and business organizations who honor our college as sponsors of scholarships for OCC students and who make this program a delight for all of us associated with OCC.

I am very proud to be associated with Ocean County College and the talented and enthusiastic academic and student development team we have, the outstanding Board of Trustees, and one of the most successful community college Foundations among all 1,200 community colleges in the nation. I admire the energy, creativity and the experience derived from the vast diversity of the human experience each of these crucial contributors to the success of our institution brings to Ocean County College.

What we are all about as servants of this College can be summed up in these words from former Princeton University and United States President Woodrow Wilson:

“We are not here to merely make a living. We are here to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and

achievement. We are here to enrich the world, and we impoverish ourselves if we forget the errand.”

And each of the people on this stage and the groups and organizations represented here at this event, and many, many more who are not here this evening, is committed, as I am, to make this the finest college in NJ and one of the finest in the nation.

They know that our world is one of accelerating change...and we cannot assume that change will always be for the better. This evening’s recognition of scholarship recipients and appreciation for those who provide the means to help deserving students succeed in life ... is a statement. This event has a message to bring to you, a message to our entire community.

And that message is that the key element of success, happiness, and prosperity, whether for individuals or for organizations or for communities or for states or nations is, as it always has been, dependent on the leadership qualities, character, and ability we bring to the task at hand ... and to a large measure successful, principled leadership feeds upon, is driven by, what we do here at OCC. It is the stock in trade of colleges and universities: it

requires **intellectual capital – brain power**...the most valuable natural resource of them all!

Our purpose tonight is to recognize those who have demonstrated that they have pretty solid bank accounts ... pretty impressive balance sheets that reveal some outstanding intellectual capital assets!

And, we are able to deliver this message of fundamental importance only because supportive individual donors, businesses, corporations, associations, and the OCC Foundation have generously made a commitment to these values ... the values that this institution stands for.

In addition to educational values, these donors have also made a strong commitment to ensuring that the shortfalls in funding to the college do not affect the educational opportunities provided to the students. During 2001-02, the Foundation awarded over one-half million dollars in scholarships. And that amount will continue to grow through fund-raising activities sponsored by the Foundation, such as the Inaugural Golf Outing in May, the Summer Gala in August, and the ongoing efforts to identify new scholarship sponsors.

To each of you who are donors and to each who are scholarship presenters who have taken your time to come here tonight and acknowledge one or more of our students for their academic merit, we thank you. Your commitment to academic excellence and to Ocean County College is commendable and one that we literally treasure.

To all of the scholarship recipients who have taken the time to be with us tonight, I extend my congratulations. We are proud of you, and on behalf of the faculty, staff and Trustees of Ocean County College, I congratulate you on your signal achievements.

In concluding, let me not fail to remind you that, as President, I remain fully committed to and very serious about achieving for your college a status and academic reputation for excellence that will always enable you to cite with pride your affiliation with Ocean County College. We have the motivation, the opportunity and, with the help of our generous supporters, the means to make this a college absolutely without peer in New Jersey or in the nation.

Thank you all for joining us tonight! Please relax and enjoy tonight's reception.