



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*Jon H. Larson, Ph.D.*

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

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

**SUBJECT:** Items of Interest for the **April 25, 2011, Board Meeting**

**DATE:** April 20, 2011

## Ocean County College Commencement Week

Another academic year will be ending soon. Please make note of the following exciting events to recognize the achievements of our students:

The 44<sup>th</sup> Ocean County College Commencement will be held on Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. on the college mall. In the event of rain, the ceremony will be moved to the Poland Spring Arena on Old Freehold Road in Toms River. Our guest speaker will be Admiral Paul G. Gaffney, President of Monmouth University.

The Nursing Pinning Ceremony will precede Commencement on Tuesday evening, May 24<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m., and the annual Awards Ceremony will take place on Wednesday evening, May 25<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. Both events will return to our Theatre in the Arts and Community Center.

Members of the college community will be invited to a reception prior to commencement from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Arts and Community Center Atrium. At 5:30 p.m., the trustees and platform party will robe for the ceremony in the Boardroom.

## Displaced Homemakers Program

The Displaced Homemakers Program of Ocean County, funded by a grant from the New Jersey Division on Women, has been in existence at Ocean County College since 2007. The

purpose of the program is to provide **comprehensive services** to women who have lost their primary source of income due to **divorce, separation, death, or disability of a spouse** to assist them in becoming **economically self-sufficient** through **career counseling, training, educational opportunities, and information/referrals** to community resources and social services.

The program has provided services to over **235 women** since its inception. There are **50 active clients** for the current program year. Completion of education is a **significant activity** in their move to **economic self-sufficiency**. Several clients have completed their **GED or ESL preparation classes**; **two clients** enrolled in **OCC classes** after attaining the GED. In the **fall 2010 semester**, **10 clients** were enrolled for **104 credits**. In this **spring 2011 semester**, there are **14 clients** enrolled for **153 credits**. **One client** graduated, is enrolled in **Kean-Ocean courses**, and is a **member of Phi Theta Kappa**. **Another client** has been consistently on the **President's Honors List**. **Three clients** are enrolled in **other colleges**, and **one** is enrolled in **graduate school**.

The success of these women is due to the efforts of **Ms. Kate Pandolpho, Director of Career, Employment, and Personal Counseling**, and **program staff**. **Ms. Pandolpho** will make a **brief presentation** about the program at Monday's meeting, and a **resolution** will be offered to **proclaim the month of May 2011 as Displaced Homemakers Awareness Month** at **Ocean County College**.

### Robert J. Novins Planetarium

Since its **official reopening in October 2010**, the **Robert J. Novins Planetarium** has attracted **small but enthusiastic crowds**. **Early response** to the planetarium and its **new and innovative programming** has been **favorable**. In late 2010, an **extensive marketing effort** was launched to **increase awareness** of the **beautiful, new facility** and its **state-of-the-art technology**.

On Monday, **Mr. Lee Kobus, Executive Director of Media and Community Programs**, will give a **brief update** on the **progress** of the **Planetarium** since its reopening, and **Ms. Jan Kirsten, Director of College Relations**, will inform you of the ways in which the **Planetarium** is being publicized, including the recent **partnership/sponsorship** with the **Lakewood Blue Claws Kid's Club**.

### Holocaust Remembrance Week

The **United States Congress** established the **Days of Remembrance** as our nation's **annual commemoration** of the **Holocaust** and created the **United States Holocaust Memorial Museum** as a **permanent living memorial** to the victims. This year **Holocaust Remembrance Week** is **Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, through Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>**. The Museum designated *Justice and Accountability in the Face of Genocide: What Have We Learned?* as the theme for 2011.

**Observances and remembrance activities** occur during the week by **state and local governments, military bases, workplaces, schools, churches, synagogues, and civic**

centers. The Ocean County College Center for Peace, Genocide, and Holocaust Studies will sponsor a number of activities throughout the week, beginning with an opening ceremony on Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, with Assemblyman David Wolfe welcoming the attendees. In addition, there will be readings, lectures, guest speakers, films, and a play.

At Monday's meeting, Ms. Ali Botein-Furrevig, Professor of English and Literature, will share with you the events scheduled for Holocaust Remembrance Week and extend an invitation to attend.

### Ocean County College Nursing Program

Notification was just received from the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission that formal action was taken at its meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> on the Ocean County College Nursing Program. The Board of Commissioners reviewed and accepted the Follow-Up Report of the program and affirmed the next accreditation visit for spring 2016. The Nursing Program was noted for achievement of quality and excellence in Nursing education.

Congratulations are extended to Ms. Colleen Manzetti, Assistant Dean of Nursing, and all of the faculty and staff who make the program as successful as it is.

### Continuing and Professional Education

Included in the 2010 Ocean County College Restructuring Plan, which was approved in December, was Organizational Renewal, wherein the Vice Presidents made reorganizational recommendations for each of their divisions. Several factors were taken into consideration to support the recommendations, among which were position redundancies and overlaps, reporting lines, and realignment of job responsibilities.

The restructuring of the Continuing and Professional Education operation, under the leadership of Ms. Tara Kelly, Vice President of College Advancement, is successfully underway. To eliminate the redundancy of accounting functions, two CPE Technicians have relocated to the College Accounting Department. The move provides additional human resources to Accounting, with no budgetary impact, while still serving our CPE students. Similar moves will be made by the CPE registration staff.

Additionally, moving into the future, Continuing and Professional Education will focus on generating increased revenue through the development of relevant online job training and career oriented programs. These courses and programs will ultimately be offered in collaboration with the College's global e-learning initiative.

Ms. Kelly will report briefly on the progress that has been made in a few short months.

## Grants

On April 2, Ocean County College began its second year of a two-year Health Information Technology Project as a member of a consortium led by Tidewater Community College. This project is funded through a grant from the Office of the National Coordinator of Information Technology in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Ocean County College received \$232,927 in year one of the grant and \$187,666 for year two.

The purpose of the grant is to provide certificate training programs in health information technology to meet the growing demand for professionals needed to assist hospitals and medical practices in the process of transitioning from paper files to electronic health records.

On April 18, the College submitted a \$6,375,236 grant proposal for a Consortium Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Project grant. Consortium members include Ocean County College, as the lead applicant, Camden County College, and Raritan Valley Community College.

The purpose of this three-year grant is to expand and improve the ability to deliver education and career training programs that can be completed in two years or less and prepare program participants for employment in high-wage, high-skill occupations. The grants will be administered by the U.S. Department of Labor in partnership with the U.S. Department of Education.

I have asked Ms. Kelly to share more information with you about these grants at Monday's meeting.

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ The Ocean County College Civility Team and the Full-Time Faculty Constituency are co-sponsoring an Employee Picnic on Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, on the College Center patio from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. If it rains, the picnic will be moved inside the College Center. The cost is \$5 per person.
- ◆ You are cordially invited to attend the annual Student Spring Dinner/Dance, which is being held on Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. at The Crystal Point Restaurant in Point Pleasant.
- ◆ The next Board of Trustees Retreat is scheduled for Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. in the Technology Building Conference Room.
- ◆ The New Jersey Council of County Colleges has the following events scheduled:
  - ◆ Phi Theta Kappa Day on Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, at the Lafayette Yard Marriott Hotel in Trenton.

- ◆ **The Trustee Conference Spirit Award Dinner on Monday, June 20<sup>st</sup>, at the Lafayette Yard Marriott Hotel in Trenton, which will also include:**
  - ◆ **A year-end conference, “Strong Trustee Leadership and Governance = Student Success,” for trustees and presidents.**
  - ◆ **A presentation, “Trustee Orientation: For New and Experienced Trustees,” which will focus on three dimensions of trustee responsibility – fiduciary, strategic, and generative.**
  - ◆ **A special presentation by Dr. Elizabeth Sibolski, President of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, on “Trustee Governance and the Accreditation Process,” to discuss guidelines for exceptional college governance and the role of trustees in the accreditation process.**



**Board of Trustees**

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Displaced Homemakers Act was signed into law by Governor Brendan Byrne in 1979; and

**WHEREAS**, the Displaced Homemakers Program of Ocean County, funded by a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division on Women, has been at Ocean County College since 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, the Program currently provides services to many women who have lost their primary source of income, due to divorce, separation, death, or disability of a spouse, assisting them to become economically self-sufficient through career counseling, training, educational opportunities, and information/referrals to community resources and social services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Displaced Homemakers Program of Ocean County significantly impacted the lives of nearly 235 Ocean County women by helping them reach their full potential, gain self-confidence, and enhance their employability;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the month of May 2011 be proclaimed as Displaced Homemakers Awareness Month at Ocean County College; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the college community recognize the importance of the Displaced Homemakers Program as it provides women with the skills necessary to meet the challenges of the labor market so they can provide for themselves and their children.

*Adopted: April 25, 2011*

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Carl V. Thulin, Jr.  
Chair