



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 **February 22, 2010, Board Meeting**

DATE: February 17, 2010

Gateway Building

In July 2009, the Board of Trustees awarded a contract to Blackney Hayes Architects, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for professional architectural and engineering services for the new Gateway Building, a facility that will be shared by Ocean County College and Kean University.

For the past six months, Blackney Hayes has been conducting a needs assessment study by meeting with both Ocean County College and Kean University students, faculty, staff, and trustees to determine the scope of services and projected number of students who will utilize the building. As a result of that assessment, Blackney Hayes is currently in the design stage of the project, which will be followed by the development of plans and specifications for the building.

Mr. Kevin Blackney, Principal of Blackney Hayes, and Mr. Darin Jellison, Blackney Hayes Associate, have been invited to attend Monday's Board meeting to present to the trustees their findings and subsequent proposed building design.

New Jersey College Goal Sunday

On Sunday, January 31st, Ocean County College again hosted College Goal Sunday, an annual event designed to assist low income and first generation students in completing the national application for college financial aid, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Information on available financial aid resources was also provided.

Co-sponsored by the New Jersey Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NJASFAA) and the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA), with a grant from the Lumina Foundation, this program provides a much needed service. The event is publicized in the high schools and encourages low income students to attend college. This year, 159 students were assisted in their efforts to pursue higher education.

I am sincerely grateful to Ms. Sara Winchester, Vice President of Finance, Dr. Norma Betz, Director of Financial Aid, and especially the many Ocean County College employees who volunteer their time and expertise to make this program a success. This experience is often very emotional for the students and their families, and it will truly have a lasting, positive impact on their lives.

Homeland Security

The Homeland Security profession is a growing field within the United States and around the world. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is increasing its workforce by adding over 15,000 new jobs to its already 210,000 member workforce. The State of New Jersey, at all governmental levels, and the private sector are intensifying their efforts in emergency management and counterintelligence as well as in vulnerability analysis and asset protection.

To meet the demands of this flourishing profession, Ocean County College has entered into discussions with Georgian Court University (GCU) to offer a course of study leading to associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees in Homeland Security. Discussions have also been undertaken with various agencies, including the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, New Jersey State Police, New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Protection, and U.S. Department of Homeland Security to create a Homeland Security Education Center, which would provide the opportunity for OCC and GCU to draw from a greater pool of potential students as well as to identify jobs in the Homeland Security field, both in New Jersey and throughout the country. As such, this new program will be the first of its kind in the nation that not only partners with actual practitioners and first responders but also offers Homeland Security degrees that can be utilized within the workforce on the county, state, and national levels.

The College is exploring numerous avenues for available funding to support this new, exciting program and has already identified several potential sources for grants. It is anticipated that there will be a significant student response to this Homeland Security program.

Ocean County College Board of School Estimate Meeting

The annual Ocean County College Board of School Estimate meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 31st, at which time the financial support from the County of Ocean towards the College's FY 2011 budget will be considered. A resolution will also be presented for adoption pertaining to the construction and funding of an addition to our College Center.

The 2010 Board of School Estimate members are Freeholders John C. Bartlett, Jr., James F. Lacey, and Gerry P. Little and Board Chair Van Thulin and Board Treasurer Jerry Dasti.

Given the current statewide and national economic challenges, support for the College's aspirations by the Board of School Estimate is extremely important to the College's financial health. We are so fortunate to have the continuing strong support of the County Freeholders, who recognize the importance of the College to the residents of Ocean County. We continue to be one of the very few community colleges in the State, and perhaps in the nation, that enjoys such a high level of County support.

Women's History Month

The month of March is designated annually as national Women's History Month. 2010 marks the 30th anniversary of the original National Women's History Project, which, in 1980, began an effort that ultimately resulted in Congress proclaiming a month of celebration for women's history.

The overarching theme for 2010 and the 30th anniversary celebration is *Writing Women Back into History*. In the past, women's achievements were frequently omitted from the history books, which deprived students of viable female role models. In the past 30 years, through the efforts of individuals, organizations, and institutions, women's success in fields such as math, science, the arts, sports, and politics are now being highlighted in history books for students of all ages.

I respectfully request that the trustees adopt a resolution to proclaim March as Women's History Month at Ocean County College and, further, to encourage participation by the college community in activities on campus that will acknowledge women's accomplishments throughout history.

Ocean County College Athletics

Ocean County College Women's Basketball player Heather Neumann scored her 1,000th career point on February 4th with less than a minute to go in her last regular season home game as a Viking. Heather becomes the second player in OCC Women's Basketball history to accomplish this extraordinary milestone. The first player, Gina Long, achieved 1,000 points in the early 70's. Congratulations are extended to Heather for her outstanding performance on February 4th, with 27 points in the game and 1,000 points in her basketball career.

Board of Trustees Retreat

Please note that the next Board of Trustees Retreat is scheduled for Friday, March 5th, from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. in the Technology Building Conference Room. If there are any specific issues other than the budget that you would like to discuss, please let me know.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, March is designated as Women's History Month and the national theme for the 2010 celebration is *Writing Women Back into History*; and

WHEREAS, 2010 marks the 30th anniversary of the original National Women's History Project, which began the effort that ultimately resulted in Congress declaring a month of celebration for women in history; and

WHEREAS, the Ocean County College community has joined together to develop and present many original activities honoring the contributions of women to our college, county, and country;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the month of March 2010 be proclaimed as Women's History Month at Ocean County College; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the college community and the public are encouraged to participate in the presentations that will be offered at Ocean County College for Women's History Month.

Adopted: February 22, 2010

Bruce Greenfield, Ed.D.
Secretary