



# 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 May 23, 2011, Board Meeting

**DATE:** May 18, 2011

## Ocean County College Commencement Week

We are looking forward to the following very important events during Commencement week:

- ◆ The 44<sup>th</sup> Ocean County College Commencement - Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. The trustees and platform party will robe at 5:30 p.m. in the Boardroom. We are delighted that the President of Monmouth University, Admiral Paul G. Gaffney, will deliver the commencement address.
- ◆ The Nursing Pinning Ceremony - Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. in the Arts and Community Center Theatre.
- ◆ The Awards Ceremony - Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the Arts and Community Center Theatre.

## College Reading and Language Association Certification and Peer Tutoring

The College Reading and Language Association (CRLA) has awarded International Tutor Training Program Certification (ITTPC) to Ocean County College's Center for Academic Excellence, Writing Center, and Math Center as a Multiple-Center Tutor Training Program. OCC is now authorized to grant certification to peer and professional tutors who meet the CRLA requirements for Level I Certification. Ms. Lorett Cramer, Center for Academic Excellence Learning Specialist, led this

initiative with the assistance of Ms. Diane DeFilippo, Academic Support Specialist, and Dr. Christine Kephart, Writing Skills Coordinator.

The mission of the College Reading and Language Association is to provide college reading and learning professionals with an open forum to discover and exchange the learning tools and techniques to enhance student academic success. The purpose of International Tutor Training Program Certification is twofold: first, it provides recognition and positive reinforcement for tutors' successful work from an international organization, CRLA; and, second, CRLA's tutor certification process sets an internationally accepted standard of skills and training for tutors.

The first training session has been completed, and three students have been awarded the certification: Ms. Anna Milewski, Ms. Nicole Lloyd, and Mr. Trevor Woolley. Trevor will be attending Monday's meeting with Ms. Maureen Reustle, Dean of Academic Services, to comment briefly on this new program and his experience.

During the 2010-11 academic year, approximately 40 students were trained as peer tutors to work with other students in a wide array of subjects, including accounting, anatomy and physiology, computer science, math, chemistry, nursing, and writing. The vast majority of students volunteered their tutoring time.

Students are recommended by faculty to become peer tutors, and, in many cases, the faculty members mentor the students throughout the semester. Peer tutoring cultivates a learner-centered environment on campus and promotes the growth and development of both the tutors and those students being assisted.

### Senior Citizens Art Exhibit

This year is the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Annual Senior Citizens Art Exhibit. It will be held in the Arts and Community Center Gallery from Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, to Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>. The exhibit is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

The original artwork, created by both professional and nonprofessional senior artists, may be in one of eleven categories—acrylic, computer imagery, drawing, mixed media, oil, pastel, photography, print, sculpture, watercolor, and crafts. The artwork must have been executed by the submitting artist within the past three years. Last year, 135 talented participants submitted very impressive works of art.

The Art Exhibit is hosted by the Ocean County College Resource Development and College Relations Departments in collaboration with the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Ocean County Office of Senior Services, and the Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission.

A reception will be held at the close of the exhibit in the Gallery on Thursday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. At 11:00 a.m., I will be presenting awards to artists, as judged by

the Senior Art Advisory Committee. First place award recipients will then be eligible to enter the New Jersey Senior Art Show competition.

If your schedule permits, please join me. I am sure you will be quite impressed with the level of talent of our senior population.

### Homeland Security Program

On Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, Ocean County College and Monmouth University signed an articulation agreement to establish a partnership that will offer students a four-year degree in homeland security. OCC is currently the only New Jersey community college to offer an associate degree in homeland security, and this new partnership will allow our graduates to make a seamless transition to the university to continue studying toward a baccalaureate degree in homeland security.

### Board of Trustees Retreat

Please remember that the last Board of Trustees Retreat of this academic year is scheduled for Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. in the Technology Building Conference Room. If you have suggestions for discussion, please let me know.