



# 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 **August 26, 2013, Board Meeting**

**DATE:** August 21, 2013

## Higher Education Student Assistance Authority

Last year I was **appointed** to the **New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA)** as the **community college representative**. Having filled a **vacated seat** on HESAA, my **term expires May 24, 2015**. I am delighted to share with you that I was **elected** in **July** by **members of HESAA** to serve on its **Executive Committee** during **FY 2014**.

HESAA oversees **New Jersey's \$1 billion student financial aid program**. It provides students and families with the **financial and informational resources** for students to **pursue** their **education** beyond high school. **HESAA's singular focus** has always been to **benefit** the **students it serves**.

## Academic Outreach and School Relations

**Ms. Eileen Schilling, Executive Director of Academic Outreach and School Relations**, and her staff have been **busy** this **summer**. On **August 2**, **45 area superintendents, supervisors, and teachers** were hosted by OCC at a **workshop** presented by **Dr. Laura Goe, a research scientist at Educational Testing Service (ETS) in Princeton, on Measuring Teachers' Contributions to Student Learning Growth**. **Dr. Goe** has **written and researched extensively** on the topic of utilizing **Student Growth Objectives**. She was delighted to **share** her **expertise** with **Ocean County educators**, who will now routinely **set and assess Student Growth Objectives** as part of the **new teacher evaluation system** beginning this school year throughout Ocean County.

Additionally, **over 160 teachers** from **New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania** attended **11 subject workshops** during the annual **Advanced Placement Summer Institute** held from **August 12-15** at OCC.

**Appreciation** is expressed to all who assisted in ensuring the **success** of this **continuing event**. **Special thanks** are extended to **OCC's grounds crew and shipping and receiving staff**, all of whom doubled



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their efforts to **deliver the related materials** where they needed to be in time to make the **workshops a success**, even in the midst of **renovations in shipping and receiving**.

**Dual enrollment courses** continue to be **expanded** at area **high schools** with many **new course offerings**. Next year, **Pre-Calculus I and II** will be offered to students at **Central Regional High School** for the **first time**, **Elementary Italian I and II** and **Anatomy and Physiology I and II** will be available at **Point Pleasant Beach High School**, and students in **Manchester High School** will be able to take **Calculus I and General Physics I**.

In the realm of **online articulation**, Ms. Schilling and her staff are working toward **future agreements** with **Penn State World Campus, American Public University, and Norwich University**, as well as continuing to **explore additional partnerships**.

## e-Learning Update

On **Monday**, Ms. Susan O'Connor, Assistant to the Director for e-Learning Advising, will give a short **presentation** on OCC's current **e-Learning recruitment and advising processes**. Under the **leadership** of Ms. Pat Fenn, Executive Director of e-Learning and Continuing and Professional Education, Ocean County College Online has **implemented procedures** to move students through the **admissions process quickly** while still **adhering** to all **College standards**. These **effective, new procedures**, combined with the **growing positive reputation** of OCC's **online classes**, have enabled the **e-Learning Program** to be **competitive** with other **online institutions** in the **state and the nation**.

As she does every semester, **Dr. Maysa Hayward, Dean of e-Learning**, is reaching out to all **professors** assigned to **teach online** this **Fall 2013 semester**. In her welcome back message, **Dr. Hayward** has embedded both **important due dates** and a **list of suggestions** to **assist** the professors in **achieving a successful semester**. This **personal assistance** and **continuous communication** are an **integral part** of **e-Learning's active program** to maintain a **community of teachers** who are located throughout the **United States**.

## Accounting Department

On **August 9**, OCC received **notice** from the **United States Department of Health and Human Services** that its proposal requesting a **Facilities and Administrative Cost Indirect Rate** was **approved**. The approved rates are **61.40%** for **on-campus programs** and **23.5%** for **off-campus programs**. The agreement applies to all **Federal Government awarding agencies** and will be incorporated into **future grant funding applications**. The **approved rate** serves as a **new source** of **unrestricted monies** to help **offset** the **administrative costs** associated with **managing Federal grant awards**. Initially, the rates are **provisional** and will be **in effect** until our **next proposal** is submitted, which is due in **December 2014**.



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## Bookstore

As a result of **successful negotiations** with **Microsoft**, beginning **August 23** the **OCC Bookstore** will carry the **Microsoft Surface RT**, a **versatile tablet** that works exclusively within an **app environment**.

The tablet includes **Office Home and Student 2013 RT (Word, Power Point, Excel, OneNote); Windows Mail and Messaging; SkyDrive; Internet Explorer 10; and Xbox Music, Video, and Games**. It is **ultra-lightweight** and **portable** with a **long-lasting battery**. The Bookstore sale price is **\$225**, and the **faculty and staff 10% discount** will apply.

The **tablet** will also be available to **students**, many of whom will be able to use **financial aid** to fund the **purchase**. The ability to **use aid to fund a computer** has been **requested** by **students** for **many years**, and we are very **pleased** to be able to **offer this service** to **OCC students** for the **first time**. The **tablet** will allow **students** to **save money** on **textbooks** by selecting **e-books**. Students can **purchase e-textbooks** from the **Bookstore website**.

## Food Service

Arrangements have been made for **Seattle's Best** to be served at the **coffee bar** in the **Gateway Building** when it opens in **September**. Regular **brewed coffees**, two types of **lattes**, and **hot chocolate** will be available, as will **grab-and-go sandwiches, mini salads, assorted pastries, bagels, yogurt, chips, pretzels, candy, soda, and juices**.

## OCC Theatre

The **productions** at the **OCC Theatre** this **summer** were very **successful**. Combined unit **ticket sales** for the two musicals, *Spelling Bee* by **OCC's Repertory Theatre**, and *Frankenstein* by **Exit 82 Theatre Company**, reached **3,335**. **Accolades** were received for **both shows**.

## Website Redesign

**College Relations** and **Information Technology** have worked together to **redesign** the **Ocean County College website**. A major goal of the **redesign project** was to develop a more **intuitive site navigation** that will **guide website visitors** to the **correct information** based on what they are trying to do. This redesign also provided the opportunity to **separate information** for the **public** and **potential students** from information for **employees**. As part of this effort, **each College department** was asked to **review and edit its website content**, which will be **continually updated** as we move forward to keep the **website fresh and current**.



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The **newly developed website** will be presented to the **trustees on Monday**. **Congratulations** are extended to the following **core team members** for their **hard work, long hours, and dedication** to the success of this project:

- ◆ **Mr. Hatem Akl, Chief Information Officer**
- ◆ **Ms. Maureen Conlon, Manager of Web Services**
- ◆ **Ms. Pat Fenn, Executive Director of e-Learning and Continuing and Professional Education**
- ◆ **Ms. Jan Kirsten, Executive Director of College Relations**
- ◆ **Mr. Ed Tafaro, Executive Director, Information Technology**

## Academic Affairs

- ◆ The **Division of Academic Affairs** raised over **\$1,100** to place an **ad** in the **journal** for the **OCC Foundation Scholarship Celebration** being held on **Saturday, August 24**. The ad sends a **clear message** to all **past, present, and future scholarship recipients** that their success is our **first priority**. **Congratulations and appreciation** are expressed to the **faculty and staff** across the **Academic Affairs Division** who supported student scholarships.
- ◆ **Progress continues** toward **completing the BSN Program** in cooperation with **Kean University**. **Dr. Virginia Fitzsimons, Executive Director of the School of Nursing at Kean**, will provide you with an **update** at **Monday's meeting**.
- ◆ As noted earlier, the **inaugural production** of the **Ocean County College Repertory Theatre, *Spelling Bee***, was **well received** with **many tickets** being **purchased**. It is hoped that this will be the **beginning** of the **revitalization** of the **Performing Arts program** at **OCC**.
- ◆ **Development** of the new **Scheduling Guidelines** has been **completed**. The Guidelines are intended to **improve** our **scheduling process**, making it **more student-centered, more consistent, and more efficient**. They will be **implemented** for the **Spring 2014 semester**.
- ◆ The **Committee on Global Education** has been very **busy** in the **past academic year**. **Ms. Christine Kitchin, Associate Professor of Anthropology**, a long-standing **committee member**, has been invited to **Monday's meeting** to share some **highlights** of the **committee's work**.

## Fall 2013 Colloquium

I invite you to **join us** for the **Fall 2013 Colloquium** at **9:00 a.m.** on **Thursday, August 29**, in the **Arts and Community Center Theatre**, at which time I will present my **State-of-the-College** address.



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**Faculty Roundtable Discussions** will occur from **10:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** An **Evening Colloquium Program for Adjuncts** is scheduled for **Thursday evening at 5:30 p.m.**

We are looking forward to the **exciting start** of a new **Fall semester** on **Wednesday, September 4.**

## **Gateway Building Dedication Ceremony**

The **Dedication Ceremony** for the **Gateway Building** has been **rescheduled** for **Wednesday, October 2, 2013, at 6:00 p.m.** The **ceremony** will celebrate the **very successful partnership** between **Kean University** and **Ocean County College.** **Tours** of this **new, beautiful facility** will be **offered.**