

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 **December 10, 2007, Board Meeting**

**DATE:** December 3, 2007

**American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment**

The **American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment** is a **high-visibility effort** to make **campuses** more **sustainable** and address **global warming** by garnering **institutional commitments** to **reduce** and ultimately **neutralize greenhouse gas emissions** on campuses. As of today, **446 presidents** of colleges and universities across the **country** have **signed the commitment**.

The **Presidents Climate Commitment** provides a **framework** and **support** for **America's colleges and universities** to go **climate neutral**. It recognizes the **unique role** of **presidents** in **leading** their **institutions** to develop a **comprehensive plan** of actions, within **two years**, that will ultimately lead to **campus climate neutrality** and provide the **critical education** necessary to help society **re-stabilize the world's climate**.

The **New Jersey Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability (NJHEPS)**, of which **Ocean County College** is an active **member**, is a partnership of **47 New Jersey colleges and universities** dedicated to incorporating **sustainability issues** into their **decision-making processes, campus operations, curricula, and communities**. During the past year, NJHEPS has **encouraged** New Jersey college and university **presidents** to

**sign** the American College and University **Presidents Climate Commitment**. The **New Jersey Presidents Council** and the **New Jersey Commission on Higher Education** have each **adopted resolutions** in **support** of this **effort**.

**NJHEPS** and its **member institutions** will **assist** all colleges and university presidents who sign the commitment in **identifying key issues** that may affect their **climate-neutrality** campus **plans** as they are developed. Ongoing **workshops** will be offered by **NJHEPS** on a number of issues, such as how to perform **greenhouse gas emissions inventories**, how to become more **energy efficient**, and how to incorporate **green design, sustainable purchasing, and energy planning concepts** on their campuses.

**Mr. John L. Cusack, Executive Director of the New Jersey Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability**, will join us at Monday's meeting as will **Ms. Molly Rose, President of our Tau Iota Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa**, as I become the **447<sup>th</sup> college president** to formally **sign the President's Climate Commitment**. **Ocean County College** is already an **environmentally-friendly institution**, and the signing of this document will **formalize our commitment to sustainability**.

### **Middle States Commission on Higher Education**

I am pleased to inform you that the **Middle States Commission on Higher Education**, at its **November 15<sup>th</sup> session**, acted to **accept** Ocean County College's **progress letter**, which **documented** to the Commission the **college's progress** in the **implementation** of a **comprehensive plan** for **student learning outcomes assessment** as well as **evidence** that **results** are being **used to improve teaching and learning**. The letter was requested by the Commission as a **follow-up** to the **monitoring report** as part of our **ongoing self-study process**. If you would like to **read the progress letter**, it is available for **viewing** at **[www.ocean.edu/effectiveness.htm](http://www.ocean.edu/effectiveness.htm)**.

In **April 2009**, OCC's **Periodic Review Report** is due to be **submitted** to the **Middle States Commission on Higher Education**. A **steering committee** has been **selected**, and **Ms. Janet Hubbs, Assistant to the President for Institutional Effectiveness**, will serve as **chair** and **coordinate** the **authoring** of the **report**.

The **2007 Annual Middle States Commission on Higher Education Conference** is scheduled from **Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**, to **Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**, in **Philadelphia**. Although I will be **unable to attend** the **conference**, I will be **traveling to Philadelphia** after the meeting on Monday for a **dinner meeting** with **New Jersey community college presidents**.

### **NJ STARS Program**

I have been asked to **represent** New Jersey **community colleges** at a **meeting** in the very near future that is to be scheduled with **Governor Jon Corzine** to discuss the **NJ STARS Program**. **Dr. Herman Saatkamp, President of Richard Stockton College**, will **represent** New Jersey's **public four-year colleges and universities**.

The meeting will provide the **opportunity** to have an **in-depth briefing** on both the **NJ STARS I and NJ STARS II programs**. **Possible changes** to the program will be discussed that will **address concerns** from both the four-year institutions and the community colleges in an effort to **strengthen** this very **successful program**.

### Articulation Agreements

Ocean County College and Ocean County Vocational Technical Schools are signing **two articulation agreements** in **Nursing and Allied Health** on **Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**. One agreement **facilitates the transfer of graduates** of the **OCVTS Licensed Practical Nursing program (LPN)** into the **OCC Nursing program**. **Graduates** of the LPN program who possess a **valid license** and **complete** the **Nursing admissions criteria** will be **admitted** as **second semester nursing students**. The other agreement **awards three credits of advanced standing** in the **OCC Allied Health program** for graduates of the **OCVTS Certified Nurse's Aide Evening Program**. Credit will be awarded based on **satisfactory completion** of the **OCVTS program** and **successful completion** of the **testing** required to achieve **permanent certification** issued by the **New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services**.

We are **delighted** to have worked with the vocational school to provide **opportunities** for their **graduates** to **pursue careers** in these **high demand occupations** in our county.

### Information Technology

I have asked **Mr. Chip Stoll, Chief Information Officer** at Ocean County College, to **update** you on the **wide range of online services** that are now **available** at the college for both **students and staff**, some of which include the **portal, catalog, registration, student grades, distance learning, wireless availability, employee pay statements, staff directory, Library resources, and book purchases**. With **Mr. Stoll's leadership**, the college continues to make **advancements in technology** for the **benefit** of our **students and staff**.

### Campus Facilities Utilization

As noted in my **report** to you **last month**, I requested that **Ms. Hubbs** review the **utilization of campus facilities** by collecting **current data on classroom use**. This data will **assist us in two ways**.

First, we will be able to **ascertain** how well the college will be able to **respond** to current **enrollment surges** in both **OCC courses** and in **Kean@Ocean offerings**. The data shows that **classroom space** will be **very tight** for the **spring 2008 semester** and for the **2008-2009 academic year**; however, with **judicious scheduling** and with an **expansion of course offerings** at certain **off-peak hours**, **sufficient course offerings** can be scheduled to **serve our growing student population**.

Secondly, the collection of current classroom utilization data provides the opportunity for an **initial assessment** of the **new class schedule**, which was **initiated** in **September**. **Attached** is a **preliminary assessment** report on the **scheduling change**, which I will ask **Ms. Hubbs** to **briefly highlight** at **Monday's meeting**.

### Phi Theta Kappa

On **Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup>**, **Phi Theta Kappa** held its **2007 Fall Induction Ceremony** for **91 new members**, among whom was our very own **Ms. Dottie LaPosa**. The ceremony is very **meaningful** as OCC's **best and brightest students** are **recognized**.

**Phi Theta Kappa** is the **national honor society** of **two-year colleges**, the **purpose** of which is to **encourage scholarship** among two-year college **students**. A student who has earned at least **15 credits** at OCC with at least a **3.6 grade point average** is **eligible** for **membership** and **invited** to **join** the organization. OCC's PTK chapter, **Tau Iota**, plays an **active** and **significant role** in the **success** of the college. Chair **Van Thulin** and Board Member **Linda Novak** attended the ceremony.

### Spring 2008 Colloquium

The **Spring 2008 Colloquium** is scheduled for **Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at **8 a.m.** with a **meet and greet/continental breakfast** for the college community. The **theme** for this spring's program will be **"The Link between Teaching and Scholarship,"** and **Dr. Malcolm Brodwick**, Associate Professor in the Department of **Neuroscience and Cell Biology** at the **University of Texas at Galveston**, has been invited to be the **featured speaker**. **Informational sessions** for **faculty** will **follow**.

**My address to faculty and staff** will begin at **9 a.m.** The Colloquium will take place in the **Gymnasium** since the **Fine Arts Theatre** will be in the process of **renovation**. I **encourage** you to **join us** for the Colloquium at which I will outline a comprehensive **new strategic planning effort** designed to achieve across-the-board **Institutional Quality (IQ)**.

### Commendations

**Sincere congratulations** are **extended** to:

- ◆ **Dr. James Brown**, Dean of **Science, Engineering, Health Science, and Human Performance**, who was **recognized** on **November 14<sup>th</sup>** at **William Paterson University** for his **pioneering work** with **HIV, AIDS, and online education** by the **New Jersey Public Health Association**, which presented him with the **Dennis J. Sullivan Award**, New Jersey's **highest award** in **public health**. This award is presented to an **individual** for **dedicated and outstanding public service** and **contributing** to the **cause** of **public health** in **New Jersey**.

- ◆ **Ms. Tara Kelly, Vice President of College Advancement, and her staff, who were recognized by the National Council of Marketing and Public Relations at its annual District 1 Conference held in Annapolis from November 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. Ocean County College received Gold Medallion of Excellence Awards for two OCC projects, the “Reach for the Stars” fundraising booklet and the OCC Foundation Planned Giving electronic media presentation. I was pleased to be able to join Ms. Kelly and Ms. Jan Kirsten, Director of College Relations, to receive the award.**

The **District I Regional** competition includes colleges in **Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Scotland, and United Arab Emirates.**

- ◆ **Ms. Christine Spencer, Assistant Professor of Science, who recently attended the 13<sup>th</sup> Sloan Consortium (Sloan-C) International Conference on Online Learning, “The Power of Online Learning: Making a Difference,” which was held in Florida from November 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>. Sloan-C is a consortium of institutions and organizations committed to quality online education.**

Also, **Mr. Marc LaBella, Associate Professor of Science, was selected to make a presentation entitled, “Brave New World: Teaching Anatomy and Physiology Totally Online,” at the Western Cooperative Educational Telecommunications (WCET) Conference in Atlanta, which took place from November 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>. WCET is a membership-supported organization to that promotes and advances the effective use of technology in higher education.**

**Both of these presentations were extremely well received, and participants were impressed with their delivery, content, and thoroughness of the material presented.**

- ◆ **Ms. Gina Suriano, Grants Coordinator, for writing the college’s “Reach for the Stars” grant proposal, which won a Silver Medal in the 2008 District II Accolades Awards Program from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).**

**CASE is an organization for advancement professionals at all levels who work in alumni relations, communications, fundraising, marketing, and philanthropy. More than 3,300 colleges, universities, independent elementary and secondary schools, and educational associates in 59 countries around the world are members of CASE. District II, the largest of the eight CASE districts in the nation, includes Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ontario, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands.**