



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 14, 2012, Board Meeting**

DATE: December 11, 2012

The Robin Hood Foundation

As a result of the **devastation** caused by **Hurricane Sandy**, the **Robin Hood Foundation**, New York City's largest **poverty-fighting organization**, recently **reactivated** its **Relief Fund**, which was **created 11 years ago** to assist **thousands** of **survivors** following the **9/11 attacks**. **Robin Hood** has now launched a **large-scale effort** to help **individuals** in the **tri-state area** whose **lives** have been **affected** by the **storm**.

On **December 12**, **Robin Hood** presented the **12-12-12 Concert**, a special **musical event** that was watched by over **2 billion people worldwide**, to raise money for its **Relief Fund**. It gives me **great pleasure** to inform you that the **Robin Hood Foundation** is awarding the **Ocean County College Foundation** a **\$200,000 emergency grant** from the **Robin Hood Relief Fund** to provide **assistance** to **OCC students** impacted by **Hurricane Sandy**. Funds may be utilized in a variety of ways, all with the **goal** of ensuring that **students** can **continue their education** despite their **hardships**.

This award is the **direct result** of a **proposal** submitted to the **Robin Hood Foundation** by **Ms. Sandy Broughton**, **Executive Director of the Ocean County College Foundation**, only days ago. **Trustee Harvey York**, who also serves on the **College Foundation**, will provide **additional information** about this **very generous award** at **Friday's meeting**. It is the **Foundation's intent** to **develop criteria** based on **student need** and then **distribute** the awards to **students** as **expeditiously** as possible.

Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Efforts

The **students** and **staff** of the **College** continue to **recover** from the **devastation** caused by **Hurricane Sandy**. As you know, many **programs** were initiated to **help students** and **employees** of **Ocean County College** **recover** and **return to school and work**. The **status** of these **programs** is as follows:

- ◆ A **Ride Share and Temporary Housing Exchange Board** was **posted** to help displaced students finish the semester. The **first student** placed is staying with **my wife, Judy**, and **me**.



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- ◆ A **Disaster Relief Fund** was organized. Funds are being used to help both **students** and **staff in need**. **Donations** to date total **over \$18,250**. Funds are being used to provide:
 - ◆ **Supermarket gift cards**
 - ◆ **Gasoline gift cards** (many students have been forced to relocate far from campus)
 - ◆ **Cafeteria meals**
 - ◆ **Other necessities** to help students stay in school

So far, approximately **200 individuals** have been **assisted** by the **Relief Fund**.

- ◆ A **Textbook Loan Program** was established to **replace books** lost in the storm. The **Bookstore** has distributed **171 books** to **68 students** at **no charge**.
- ◆ A **Thanksgiving Feast** was held on **campus**. The event was **staffed** by **volunteers**, and it was **open** to the **entire community**.
- ◆ An **Interest-Free Employee Loan Program** has been established. **Full-time employees** may **borrow** up to **\$10,000** for **storm-related expenses**, and **part-time employees** up to **\$1,000**. To date, **\$70,000** has been distributed to **17 employees**.
- ◆ The **employee volunteer brigade** continues to assist other employees, friends, and neighbors with **clean-up projects**.
- ◆ **Student Clubs** and **organizations** continue to actively **work** in the **community** and **raise money** for the **Relief Fund**.
- ◆ The **Ocean County College Theatre Company** donated **\$1,458** in **proceeds** from its last **two performances** of "The Dream of the Burn Boy" to the **Relief Fund**.

There is concern that **students** who were **severely impacted** by the storm may not be in a position to **return** to OCC for the **spring semester**. That concern stems from our spring **enrollment statistics**, which are currently **down 13%** in **credit hours** from last spring semester's enrollment. Approximately **60%** of OCC **students do not qualify** for any form of **student aid**, other than **loans**. Many **families** have expended **thousands of dollars** to **recover** from Sandy, and **students** may **drop out** due to the **personal economic impact** of the storm. **None** of these **storm-related losses** can be reflected in **standard applications** for **financial aid** for more than a **year**. As a result, **short-term assistance** is



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needed for **families** severely impacted by the storm to assist in paying for **tuition** specifically for the **next two semesters**.

Vice President Sara Winchester attended the **New Jersey Assembly Higher Education Committee** meeting in **Trenton** on **December 6** to **advocate** for **funding** to **assist students** impacted by the storm. Her **presentation** was **warmly received**, and we are hopeful that **funding** will be made available through the **Higher Education Student Assistance Authority** for **needy students**.

Because we believe that the **employment opportunities** normally available in **Ocean County** will **not exist** this **spring** and **summer**, we want to help put our **students** to **work**. We plan to ask the **Federal government** for **additional work/study funds** for students to **clean up** and help **rebuild our communities**. We intend to **partner** with the **Barnegat Bay Program** (housed at OCC) and other **established agencies** to **restore the bay** and work on other **environmentally sound projects**. Providing **jobs** for our **students** will help them **stay in school**, which is our **primary goal**.

On the **academic side**, following the **successful reopening** of the **College** after **Sandy**, the **fall semester** is **ending** on a very **positive note**. Despite the **loss** of **two weeks** of **instructional time**, student **attendance** continues to be **good** and the **faculty** are meeting the **goals** of **student learning objectives** in various **innovative ways**.

National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX- RN)

The **graduates** of the **Ocean County College School of Nursing** achieved a **100% passing score** on the **NCLEX-RN** for the period between **April to September 2012**. During that time, **74 program graduates** successfully **passed the test**. **Successful performance** on the **NCLEX- RN** is required to obtain **state licensure** and to **practice** as a **Registered Nurse**. OCC's **passing rates** during this time period were **outstanding** when compared to **nursing school graduates** throughout the **state** and **nationally**.

Over the past **three years**, OCC **NCLEX-RN passing scores** have ranged from **92% to 99%**. Performance on the **NCLEX-RN** demonstrates the **continuous successful outcomes** of the **Nursing Program** at OCC. The **members** of the **Nursing Program** are once again **commended** for their **exceptional dedication** and **commitment** to **student success**.

Ocean County College Writing Center

As **Director** of **Ocean County College's Writing Center/Tutoring Resources**, **Dr. Christine Kephart** is a **member** of a **national Writing Center listserv** that includes **directors** and **staff** of **college** and **university writing centers** throughout the **country**. During **Hurricane Sandy**, a member of the network conceived a **Facebook initiative, Recover Writing**, that connects **students** stressed by **Hurricane Sandy**



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with **accredited writing centers** for **free remote** and/or **face-to-face help** for any **academic writing assignments**. Despite Sandy, **student papers** were **still expected** to be **completed** and, as a result of **cancelled classes**, the semester was going to require an **intensive effort** to **complete successfully**.

OCC's **Writing Center** and many **other centers** joined the effort and are continuing to **work** with students. The **Recover Writing** community includes **Long Island University, Texas A&M, Illinois College, the Universities of Arizona, Nevada, Tennessee, and Kansas, DePaul University, Stetson University, and many others**. **Dr. Kephart** distributed this **information** to **OCC professors**, who, in turn, shared it with their **students**.

Dr. Kephart personally worked mostly with **students** from **Long Island University**. In the process of reaching out through **Recover Writing**, she **connected** with members of the **Writing Center** at **Loyola University** in **New Orleans**, who, having faced **Hurricane Katrina**, **empathized** with **Ocean County College** and the **surrounding communities**. In fact, they sent a **care package** to the **College**.

Academic Affairs

Two new programs are being recommended to the trustees for **approval** at **Friday's meeting**. As **Dr. Jianping Wang, Vice President of Academic Affairs**, informed you at the November Board meeting, these programs, the **A.A.S. degree in Dental Hygiene** and the **A.A.S. degree in Occupational Therapy Assistant**, were developed in cooperation with the **School of Health Related Professions** at the **University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ and Rutgers University** are currently **merging**). With your formal approval, **students** may begin **registering** for the **spring 2013 semester**.

Dr. Wang reports that **faculty members** are **actively engaged** in additional **program development**. **Four program proposals** were presented to a standing-room only audience at her **December 5** college-wide **faculty meeting**:

- ◆ **A.A.S. degree in Performing Arts** with **three concentrations** in **Theatre, Theatre Production, and Music**
- ◆ **A multi-discipline degree** in **Global Studies**
- ◆ **A new Honors Contract** for students
- ◆ **A Faculty Center** for **innovation and teaching excellence**

All of these **initiatives** were **received well**, and numerous **faculty members** volunteered their **time** and **energy** in **supporting** and **developing** them. **Faculty** have expressed **enthusiasm** about these new program opportunities.



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An **Academic Leadership Team retreat** took place on **Thursday, December 13**, from **9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** The **Academic Leadership Team** includes **Dr. Wang**, assistant and associate vice presidents, the academic deans, and the assistants to the deans. Some of the subjects they discussed included the **role of the academic leader, interpersonal relations, and conflict resolution.**

Finally, **Dr. Wang** attended the **American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Fall Meeting** from **November 27 to 30** in **Washington, D.C.** Dr. Wang has served for **two years** as **President** of the **National Asian/Pacific Islander Council**, an **affiliate** of the **AACC**, whose **mission** is to **advocate and promote policies that increase access to quality education for Asian/Pacific Islanders in America.** In her role as President of this Council, Dr. Wang serves on the **AACC Commission on Global Education.**

Additionally, **Dr. Wang** was **personally invited** by **Dr. Walter G. Bumphus**, **AACC's President and CEO**, to serve on an **Implementation Team** to begin **developing strategies** to integrate the **recommendations** featured in AACC's recent report, *Reclaiming the American Dream*, which was developed by the **21st Century Commission on the Future of Community Colleges.** Her team will focus on **faculty engagement and leadership development.**

Ocean County College Continuing and Professional Education

Ms. Patricia Fenn, **Executive Director of e-Learning**, assumed **responsibility for Continuing and Professional Education (CPE) non-credit programming** in **July 2012.** Since then, **Ms. Fenn** has **reviewed and updated processes and procedures**, with the **primary goal** of moving **CPE components** to an **online format.** In essence, the department is being **re-invented**, from ensuring **registration** is more **user-friendly**, to offering **new programs and certificates**, to **working collaboratively** with the **Workforce Investment Board** and the **Private Industry Council.**

I have asked **Ms. Fenn** and **Mr. Richard Strada**, **Executive Vice President of Instruction**, to **report briefly** on **Friday** about their efforts to **revitalize this program** through **more relevant programming and distance learning.**

Spring 2013 Colloquium

On **Friday, January 18, 2013**, the **College community** will come together for the **Spring 2013 Colloquium** prior to the **start of the semester** on **Wednesday, January 23.** A **continental breakfast** will be available from **8:00 to 9:00 a.m.**, and I will address the **group** at **9:00 a.m.**

The **focus** of the **Spring 2013 Colloquium** is **success – student success, institutional success, and faculty professional success.** My **state-of-the-College presentation** will highlight the **success** we have **achieved** throughout the year as well as **summarize** the many **efforts underway** to successfully continue **meeting the needs** of our **students, our faculty, our staff, and our community.** Following my speech,



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several **breakout sessions** will be presented by groups of **faculty**. Those sessions will be **repeated** to allow attendance at more than one session. In the **afternoon**, the topic of success will continue with a **town hall-style discussion**.

Our **hope** is that the **Colloquium** will **set the tone** for **ongoing dialogue** and pursuit for **greater success** for our **students**, our **employees**, and our **College**. We would be pleased if **you** can **join us** for part or all of the day.

Adjunct faculty will attend the **Evening Colloquium** on **Thursday, January 17**, at **5:30 p.m.** **Success** will also be the **topic** of the **evening program**. Light refreshments will be served.

Ocean County College Fall Sports

Ms. Ilene Cohen, Executive Director of Athletics and Judicial Affairs, and **Mr. AJ Trump, Assistant Athletic Director**, will attend **Friday's meeting** to provide a **detailed report** on the **success** of Ocean County College **fall and winter sports teams**. Some of the highlights include:

- ◆ The **Women's Soccer team**, for the **fifth year**, is the **Garden State Athletic Conference champion**.
- ◆ **Men's Soccer** finished fifth at the **National Junior College Athletic Association National (NJCAA)** tournament, and **Benjamin Vergara** was named to the **NJCAA All-National Tournament Soccer Team**.
- ◆ **Men's and Women's Cross Country teams** both finished in **fourth place** at the NJCAA tournament.
- ◆ **Samantha Farina** and **Haroldas Subertas** were **individual champions** at the **Division III, Region XIX championship**, and **Samantha** won the **NJCAA individual national championship race** and earned **Individual National Championship** status.
- ◆ **Women's Tennis** ended the season in **fourth place** in the **country**, and **Annmarie Wodell** finished **second** in the **singles flight** in the **Region** and was a **national champion**.

In addition, **Mr. Kirk Periccioli** was named **Region Coach of the Year** for **Men's Soccer**, and **Mr. AJ Trump** was selected as the **Garden State Athletic Conference Coach of the Year** in **Women's Soccer**.

Commendations

- ◆ **Mr. Jason Russo, Executive Chef** at the **Ramada Inn** in **Lakewood**, **prepared and served dinner** in the **College Center** on **Thanksgiving Day** to over **100 students, residents, contractors, and**



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FEMA personnel. In addition, another **100 meals** were **packaged** and **delivered** to individuals in need who would not otherwise have enjoyed a meal.

The event was sponsored by **Hotels Unlimited, Inc.**, and **Ocean County College**. I invited **Mr. Russo** and those who **assisted him** to attend **Friday's meeting** so we can give them the **accolades** they so **richly deserve** for giving up their holiday at home to **serve others**. It was a tremendous effort on their parts. I also want to **acknowledge Dr. Christine Kephart** and **her husband**, who provided outstanding **musical entertainment**, as well as **Vice President Don Doran** and **his staff** and our **food service contractor, Mr. Bill Muller**, and **his staff**.

- ◆ **Ellucian Company**, which provides **computer management services** to the College, assists in **securing** and **managing grant funding**. Ellucian's first user conference, **Ellucian Live 2013**, is scheduled from **April 7 to 10, 2013**, in **Philadelphia**. Approximately **8,500 participants** from **2,400 higher education institutions** will come together for the conference.

Over **2,000 proposals** were **submitted** for **consideration** to be presented at the conference, and I am pleased to report that the **proposal** submitted by **Ellucian** for **OCC** was **selected** to be **showcased**. The session, **When Grants Projects Work! Best Practices from OCC's Health Information Technology (HIT) Training Program**, will highlight the **federally-funded HIT program**, which focuses on **expanding OCC's non-credit training** in **Electronic Health Records** and **Electronic Health Records Management**. **OCC exceeded its target enrollment** by almost **150 students**, and, based on this success, **additional funding** was awarded for the **third year** of the project.

Presenters will include **Ms. Sharla Trimm**, **Ellucian Senior Grants Consultant**, and **Ms. Kathy Caro**, **OCC Nursing and Allied Health Administrator**, and **Mr. John Knight**, **OCC HIT Grant Coordinator**. They will discuss the **strategies** and **activities** that made this project so **successful** as well as how the **project** will be **sustained** when grant **funding ends**.

- ◆ **Dr. Jim Brown**, **Associate Professor of Science**, recently learned that he was selected by the **New Jersey Public Health Association** to receive a **President's Award**, which he accepted on **December 11**. Dr. Brown is being recognized for **developing** an **Introduction to Public Health** course that is taught **entirely online** and is **available** to be taught at any **community college** in **New Jersey**. The ceremony will be held at the **headquarters** of the **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** in **Princeton**.

The **President's Award** was **instituted** by **Mr. John Carlano**, **former president** of the **New Jersey Public Health Association**, to honor **individuals** working on the **front lines** of **public health**. It is presented to an individual for **outstanding work** in the field of **public health** that helps **improve** or **protect** the **health** of **New Jersey residents**.



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- ◆ **Shawn Smith graduated from Ocean County College in May 2012 with an Associate in Arts degree in Digital Mass Media.** While at OCC, he was **actively involved** as a **writer** with **The Viking News**. Following graduation, he **transferred** to **Rutgers University**, where he is now **writing** for the Rutgers **student newspaper, The Daily Targum**, which is **published five days** per week.

Shawn has already **made a difference** in his **first semester** as a **reporter** for the **Targum**. In fact, his **journalistic work** played a **major role** in the **decision** by **Rutgers** to **end its license agreement** with **Addidas** because of **student concerns** about the company's **questionable treatment** of **Indonesian workers**. **Shawn** has proven to be a **solid, effective reporter**, a **success story** as a result of our **revitalized media program**.