



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**.