



# 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 5, 2011, Board Meeting**

**DATE:** November 30, 2011

## Spring 2012 Colloquium

The **Spring 2012 Colloquium** is scheduled for **Thursday, January 19, 2012**, in the **Theatre of the Arts and Community Center**. The **Evening Colloquium** for **adjunct faculty** will take place the **same day** in the **evening**.

The **morning** will begin with a **continental breakfast** from **8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.** in the **Center Lobby**. I will address the **faculty and staff** at **9:00 a.m.** This year's Colloquium theme is, **"The Self-Study Design Report: A Review and Discussion of our Upcoming Middle States Accreditation Process."**

Following my address, **four workshops** will be offered, one relating to **each chapter** of the **Middle States Report**:

- ◆ **Restructuring the Institution for Effectiveness** – A series of **institutional, divisional, and departmental reorganizations** in line with **strategic goals and objectives**;
- ◆ **A Portrait of Institutional Leadership** – A revision of **college governance and administrative initiatives** to enhance **institutional effectiveness**;
- ◆ **The Entering Student** – A revised **emphasis** on the needs of the **entering student** and the elements of **student engagement** particular to our **institution** and **administrative initiatives** to enhance **institutional effectiveness**; and
- ◆ **Building on Educational Success** – A look at **academic innovations** for the **21<sup>st</sup> century** that continue to mark the **curriculum** and **teaching/learning** at Ocean County College with the **hallmarks of creativity, innovation, and academic excellence**.



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The **goals** of the **workshops** are to:

- ◆ **Acquaint** the **college community** with the **self-study design**;
- ◆ **Discuss** the **topics** within each **chapter**, **solicit feedback**, and **exchange ideas**; and
- ◆ **Identify resource people** to assist in **broadening** and **strengthening** each **chapter**.

## Memorandum of Understanding – Online Learning Project in China

A **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** by and among **TimeCruiser Computing Corporation**, **Tianjin Radio and TV University**, and **Ocean County College** is being recommended for **approval** and **signature** at **Monday's meeting**. This **MOU** establishes a **pilot Project** during the **spring 2012 semester** to assess the **viability** of establishing an **online learning program** in **China**.

The **purpose** of the **agreement** is to build a **cooperative framework** to establish an **accredited two-year online distance learning project** in **China** for students to pursue **higher education goals** as well as to prepare the students for the possibility of future **transfer** to **baccalaureate programs** at **four-year colleges** and **universities** in the **United States**. The **spring 2012 pilot Project** will be offered to **two cohorts** of **25 students** in the **degree options** of **Business Administration** and **Computer Science**. The students will register for **four courses** in the **spring semester**.

Following the **Board's approval** on Monday, I will be **traveling** to **Tianjin, China**, from **Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**, to **Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**, with **Dr. James McGinty**, **Executive Vice President for Operations**, and **Professor of English Xiao-Ming Yang**, who will serve as our **interpreter**. We will be **joined** on the trip by **Mr. Allen Wang**, **President and CEO of CampusCruiser**, and **Mr. John Laing**, **CampusCruiser, Shanghai**. While in **Tianjin**, we will secure the **signature** on the **MOU** of **Dr. Feng Xuifei**, the **President of Tianjin Radio and TV University**.

This **agreement** of **mutual cooperation** between **Ocean County College** and **Tianjin Radio and TV University**, in partnership with **TimeCruiser** for **delivery** of **distance online education**, is a very **exciting venture** that will **benefit both institutions** as well as make **opportunities** available to **many students** who might not otherwise pursue **higher education**.

## Learning Outcomes Assessment

In light of recent **news stories** concerning **accreditation actions** taken against **New Jersey colleges** and **universities** that have **failed** to **demonstrate** adequate **learning outcomes assessment measures**, I want to **assure** you that **Ocean County College** has a **robust** and **comprehensive process** for **assessing**



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**student learning.** Our **process** has received the **formal scrutiny** of the **Middle States Commission on Higher Education** several times over the last **five years** and has received **both approval and commendation.** **OCC's program** is considered an **exemplar** one, and our College has been called upon to **provide consultation on learning assessment** to **other colleges and universities.**

I have asked **Ms. Janet Hubbs, Assistant to the President for Institutional Quality,** to discuss **assessment** briefly at **Monday's meeting.** Ms. Hubbs is **intimately familiar** with the **learning outcomes assessment process** utilized at **OCC.**

## *Lend Me a Tenor Update*

After two years of **planning,** the **theatrical production** of *Lend Me a Tenor,* a **collaboration** between **Ocean County College** and the **Ocean County Vocational-Technical School Performing Arts Academy,** received **rave reviews.** On **November 17<sup>th</sup>,** there was a **full house** for a **matinee performance** for **middle and high school students** and, later that **evening,** **OceanFirst Foundation** sponsored a **VIP reception** in the **Black Box Theater** for **award recipients.** The **Ocean County Vocational-Technical School Culinary Institute** provided **scrumptious desserts** at the **reception** and during **intermission.**

The **success** of this **production** resulted from the **sharing** of **talent, students, facilities, faculty, staff, and resources,** which is a **winning partnership** for both **Ocean County College** and the **Ocean County Vocational-Technical School.** Many **Performing Arts Academy students** already **enroll** in **OCC Theatre courses** through our **Jump Start program,** and this partnership provides the opportunity to **showcase their talent.** This program has the potential to **increase** the number of **Performing Arts Academy students** at **OCC** as well as to **enhance OCC's Performing Arts program.** Because of the **success** of this **initiative,** **future similar productions** are being **planned.**

**Deep appreciation** is expressed to everyone from **both institutions** who **worked very hard** to make this **program a success.**

## *Holiday Party*

**Ocean County College's Holiday Party** is scheduled for **Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>,** at **6 p.m.** in the **Gymnasium.** The cost is **\$16 per person** for a **buffet dinner, dancing,** and an evening of **fun and collegiality.**

We would be **pleased** to have you **join us** at the party.



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## Employee Recognition

- ◆ The **District 1 Conference Awards Ceremony** of the **National Council for Marketing and Public Relations** was held from **November 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>** in **Baltimore**. I am very pleased to inform you that **Ocean County College** received a **Silver Medallion Award** for the **2011 State of the Bay Report**, which was **produced** in **collaboration** with the **Barnegat Bay Partnership**. Working together, the **Barnegat Bay Partnership** and the **College Relations Department** created a **beautiful booklet**, and **Mr. Scott Bruinooge, Coordinator of Publications**, and **Mr. Jim Vasslides, the Partnership's Scientist**, are **commended** for their **outstanding work** on this **project**.
- ◆ **Dr. Jim Brown, Associate Professor of Science**, spoke at the **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference** of the **Pennsylvania Distance Learning Association** held on **November 18<sup>th</sup>** at **Temple University**. He discussed **Ten Tips to Teaching Science Totally Online** and featured the **effective** and **creative strategies** for **engaging online science students** at Ocean County College. These strategies include such practices as **immediately building a learning community** within the online course, providing a **"hands-on" lab experience**, creating highly **interactive content**, sharing **images** and **videos** produced by **students** within the online class, and implementing **cooperative** and **collaborative learning**. Dr. Brown also spoke about the **approaches** being utilized for **U.S. military personnel** deployed in **remote locations**.

## Board of Trustees Retreat

Please be reminded that the next **Board of Trustees Retreat** is scheduled for **Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**, at **12 noon** in the **Conference Room** of the **Technology Building**. If there are items you would like to discuss, please let me know.