



# 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 7, 2009, Board Meeting**

**DATE:** December 2, 2009

## Foundations of Excellence

In **summer 2008**, Ocean County College was selected as **one of 50 colleges and universities** nationwide to participate in *Foundations of Excellence in the First College Year*, a **comprehensive, guided self-study and improvement process** that enhances an institution's ability to **realize its goals** for **student learning, success, and persistence**. It is designed to **engage faculty, staff, and students** in the **assessment of strengths, challenges, and opportunities** as they relate to the **first-year experience** for Ocean County College students.

The *Foundations of Excellence Task Force*, comprised of over **80 members** of the **faculty and staff**, began the **self-study process** in **October 2008**. During the fall 2008 and spring 2009 semesters, over **1,200 faculty, students, and staff** participated in the process through **surveys, interviews, focus group discussions, and committee meetings**. **Quantitative and qualitative data** from multiple sources of evidence was **collected, reviewed, and analyzed**. The **findings** and resulting **109 recommendations** are summarized in the *Foundations of Excellence Final Report*.

**Ms. Maureen Reustle, Dean of Academic Services, and Mr. Don Doran, Vice President of Student Affairs**, served as **co-chairs** of this **project**. At **Monday's meeting**, they will distribute the **Final Report** and share with you some of the **key findings** and **priority action items** that have been **identified** as a result of this **self-study**, some of which are already being **incorporated** into **assessment, hiring, and planning and budgeting activities**.

## Recognition of Ocean County College's Women's Cross Country Team

The New Jersey General Assembly is **honoring** the **Ocean County College Women's Cross Country Team** for its **accomplishment** of earning **number one ranking** in the **nation** by **winning** the **Division III National Junior College Athletic Association's National Championship** held on **November 7<sup>th</sup>**.



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Assemblyman Dave Wolfe, Special Assistant to the President, will host Director of Athletics Ilene Cohen, Assistant Director of Athletics AJ Trump, Coach Ed Baynes, and members of the Cross Country Team at 12:30 p.m. on Monday on the floor of the Assembly as they receive recognition for their outstanding victory.

## Financial Aid

The Ocean County College website now offers Financial Aid TV, a service through College Media Solutions, which is a series of short videos on financial aid. The service communicates in a "YouTube" format that students easily relate to and understand.

The videos are available for viewing at any time, day or night, and provide students and their parents with valuable information ranging from the basics, such as financial aid language and abbreviations, eligibility, and the application process, to more complex issues concerning grants and scholarships, the GI Bill, loan programs, and repayment terms. Also included is helpful assistance for students regarding money management, saving and borrowing, credit cards, and credit scoring.

On Monday, Dr. Norma Betz, Director of Financial Aid, will provide you with additional information on this new service and demonstrate how easily students gain access to it. The availability of these videos will significantly reduce the extraordinary amount of time Financial Aid staff heretofore have spent answering students' questions.

## Datatel Colleague Advancement for Community Colleges

During the past year, College Advancement has been busy implementing Datatel Colleague Advancement for Community Colleges, an integrated fundraising support package designed exclusively for two-year colleges that enables the cultivation of personal relationships with alumni and the community to gain financial support. This program will maximize the College's fundraising efforts through donor identification, the ability to match donor gifts with employers, immediate reports to support day-to-day operations and monitor key performance indicators, and analysis of fundraising and alumni data.

I have asked Ms. Tara Kelly, Vice President of College Advancement, and Ms. Gina Suriano, Director of Resource Development, to give you a brief report on Monday on the ways in which Colleague Advancement will assist the College with fundraising activities and alumni relationships.

## College Advancement

On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, I attended the annual District 1 Conference of the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations in Atlantic City, which was most ably chaired by Ms. Jan Kirsten, Director of



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**College Relations.** At the dinner, the **winners of Medallion Awards** were **announced**, and **Ocean County College** won several in the categories of **marketing** and **public relations**:

- ◆ **Gold Award - Student Handbook**
- ◆ **Silver Award - Web Site**
- ◆ **Bronze Award - Social Marketing**
- ◆ **Bronze Award – Van Wrapping**

**Congratulations** are extended to the **College Advancement** team for these **awards** and for all of their **efforts** on behalf of the **College**.

## **Nursing Program**

The College recently received the **National Council of State Boards of Nursing Program Report** that provides **detailed information** about the **performance** of **OCC Nursing Program graduates** on the **National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN)**. The report includes **students** who were **tested** for the **first time** during the **six-month period** from **April 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>**. I am extremely **proud** to report that, of the **60 graduates** who sat for the test, all **60**, or **100 percent**, were **successful**. Even **more impressive** is the **rank** of **OCC graduates** passing the examination as compared to **other nursing programs**:

- ◆ **Rank of OCC's Nursing Program** compared to **all other nursing programs** in **New Jersey** **#1 of 37**
- ◆ **Rank of OCC's Nursing Program** compared to **all similar associate degree nursing programs** in the **United States** and its **territories** **#1 of 990**
- ◆ **Rank of OCC's Nursing Program** compared to **all RN nursing programs** (bachelor's, associate, or diploma) in the **United States** and its **territories** **#1 of 1,653**

These **results** continue to **attest** to the **academic excellence** of the **Ocean County College Nursing Program** and the **commitment** and **dedication** of all those associated with the program. **OCC's Nursing Program** is considered to be **one** of the **best**, if not **the best**, nursing program not only in the **New Jersey** but also **nationally**, as attested to by these results.



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## Middle States Commission on Higher Education

As I indicated to you last week, the **Middle States Commission on Higher Education**, at its session on **November 19<sup>th</sup>**, took the following action:

**“To accept the Periodic Review Report, to reaffirm accreditation, and to commend the institution for the quality of the report. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2013-2014.”**

There are **two items** that should be **noted** in this statement. First, it is very **high praise** to receive a **“commendation”** from the **Commission**, praise **not often included** in a **reaffirmation statement**. In addition, the **Commission** requires **no further follow-up** reports or actions from the College until our **next self-study in five years**. **Both** of these **factors** are very **gratifying** and **speak directly** to the **quality** of our **institution**.

I want to take this opportunity to **thank Ms. Janet Hubbs, Assistant to the President for Institutional Quality**, who served as **chair** of the **Middle States Self-Study Steering Committee** and who provided **leadership** for the **committee** and **co-authored** the **report**. I would also like to **thank** the **members** of the **Steering Committee** for their efforts:

**Ms. Connie Bello, Executive Assistant to the President**  
**Dr. Beth Brierley, Associate Professor of Speech and Theater**  
**Mr. Don Doran, Vice President of Student Affairs**  
**Judge Robert Fall, Trustee**  
**Ms. Maria Flynn, Instructor of Sociology**  
**Dr. Katja Hawlitschka, Associate Professor of English and Literature**  
**Dr. Carolyn Lafferty, Assistant VP for Assessment and Curriculum**  
**Dr. Alfred Longo, Assistant Professor of Psychology and Education**  
**Dr. Richard Parrish, Vice President of Planning and Administration**  
**Mr. George Perabo, Assistant Professor of English and Literature**  
**Ms. Maureen Reustle, Dean of Academic Services**  
**Ms. Christine Spencer, Assistant Professor of Science**  
**Mr. Chengbo Yin, Former Institutional Research Administrator**

The **2009 Middle States Commission on Higher Education annual conference** is being held from **December 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>** at the **Philadelphia Marriott**. **Ms. Hubbs and I** will be **attending** the **conference**.



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## Community College Survey of Student Engagement

Ocean County College participated in the **2009 Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE)**, which is a **tool for assessing quality in community college education**. The **results** of the survey help colleges **focus on good educational practice**, defined as **practice that promotes high levels of student learning and retention**, and **identify areas** in which community colleges can **improve their programs and services for students**.

Each year, CCSSE releases the **results** of its **survey**, which is **administered** directly to community college **students** at CCSSE **member colleges** during **randomly selected classes**. The survey asks **questions** about **institutional practices** and **student behaviors** that are highly **correlated** with **student learning and retention**. **Results** are **public**, and they include **national benchmarks** for **five key areas of engagement**: **active and collaborative learning**, **student effort**, **academic challenge**, **student-faculty interaction**, and **support for learners**.

**Ms. Hubbs**, who **coordinates** the **administration** of this **survey**, has prepared a **brief summary** of **survey results**, which is **attached**, for your review.

## Board of Trustees Retreats

The last **Retreat** of this year is scheduled for **Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**, at **12:00 noon** in the **Technology Building Conference Room**. The date of the **January 2010 Retreat** has been **changed** to **Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**, at **noon** at the same location.

## Commendations

- ◆ Several more **graduates** of the **OCC Interpreter Training Program** have obtained **certification** to **advance** their careers in their **chosen field**:
  - ◆ **Ms. Allison Holder** and **Ms. Saundra Piscitelli** passed the **examination** to become the program's **first two nationally certified interpreters**, an **outstanding achievement**.
  - ◆ **Ms. Elizabeth Eddy** and **Ms. Christina Oswin** passed the **Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment test**, which grants the **license** needed to become an **educational interpreter** in the **State of New Jersey**.
- ◆ **Mr. Mitch Remig**, a current **Criminal Justice major** at **OCC**, was **elected** to serve as a **Point Pleasant Councilman** as one of the **youngest public officeholders** in **New Jersey**. **Mr. Remig** is a



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**part-time police officer in Manasquan, who graduated at the top of his Monmouth County Police Academy class, as well as a volunteer firefighter and first-aider in Point Pleasant.**

- ◆ **Ms. Martha Molinini, a current Engineering student, received a scholarship from the Research and Development Council of New Jersey at its annual Thomas Alva Edison Awards Dinner in November, which was held at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City. The Research and Development Council is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the advancement of research and development throughout the state and each year awards scholarships to New Jersey community college students studying in the fields of engineering, science, and technology. Grade point average, major field of interest, extra-curricular activities, financial need, and career goals after college are all taken into consideration for these awards.**
- ◆ **In October, Ms. Mary Lancaster, Director of Financial Reporting, and Ms. Eileen Schilling, Executive Director of Academic Outreach, successfully completed the Academy for Leadership and Development Program. The Academy for Leadership and Development is a program developed by The Chair Academy, a division of Maricopa Community College District in Arizona, for the purpose of advancing organizational leadership and providing succession planning for leaders in postsecondary institutions. The program is skills-based and consists of two five-day residential training sessions and a practicum experience over a twelve-month period. A central component of the program was the development and implementation of an Individualized Professional Development Plan.**