



OCEAN
COUNTY COLLEGE

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 **February 22, 2010, Board Meeting**

DATE: February 17, 2010

Gateway Building

In **July 2009**, the **Board of Trustees** awarded a **contract** to **Blackney Hayes Architects, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**, for professional **architectural and engineering services** for the new **Gateway Building**, a facility that will be **shared** by **Ocean County College** and **Kean University**.

For the past **six months**, **Blackney Hayes** has been conducting a **needs assessment study** by **meeting** with both **Ocean County College** and **Kean University** students, faculty, staff, and trustees to determine the **scope of services** and projected **number of students** who will **utilize** the **building**. As a result of that assessment, **Blackney Hayes** is currently in the **design stage** of the project, which will be followed by the **development** of **plans and specifications** for the building.

Mr. Kevin Blackney, principle of **Blackney Hayes**, and **Mr. Darin Jellison**, **Blackney Hayes Associate**, have been invited to attend **Monday's Board meeting** to present to the trustees their **findings** and subsequent **proposed building design**.

New Jersey College Goal Sunday

On **Sunday, January 31st**, **Ocean County College** again **hosted College Goal Sunday**, an **annual event** designed to **assist low income** and **first generation students** in **completing** the **national application** for college **financial aid**, the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**. Information on available **financial aid resources** was also provided.

Co-sponsored by the **New Jersey Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NJASFAA)** and the **Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA)**, with a **grant** from the **Lumina Foundation**, this program provides a **much needed service**. The event is **publicized** in the **high schools** and encourages **low income students** to **attend college**. This year, **159 students** were **assisted** in their efforts to **pursue higher education**.



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I am sincerely grateful to Ms. Sara Winchester, Vice President of Finance, Dr. Norma Betz, Director of Financial Aid, and especially the many Ocean County College employees who volunteer their time and expertise to make this program a success. This experience is often very emotional for the students and their families, and it will truly have a lasting, positive impact on their lives.

Homeland Security

The Homeland Security profession is a growing field within the United States and around the world. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is increasing its workforce by adding over 15,000 new jobs to its already 210,000 member workforce. The State of New Jersey, at all governmental levels, and the private sector are intensifying their efforts in emergency management and counterintelligence as well as in vulnerability analysis and asset protection.

To meet the demands of this flourishing profession, Ocean County College has entered into discussions with Georgian Court University (GCU) to offer a course of study leading to associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees in Homeland Security. Discussions have also been undertaken with various agencies, including the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, New Jersey State Police, New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Protection, and U.S. Department of Homeland Security to create a Homeland Security Education Center, which would provide the opportunity for OCC and GCU to draw from a greater pool of potential students as well as to identify jobs in the Homeland Security field, both in New Jersey and throughout the country. As such, this new program will be the first of its kind in the nation that not only partners with actual practitioners and first responders but also offers Homeland Security degrees that can be utilized within the workforce on the county, state, and national levels.

The College is exploring numerous avenues for available funding to support this new, exciting program and has already identified several potential sources for grants. It is anticipated that there will be a significant student response to this Homeland Security program.

Ocean County College Board of School Estimate Meeting

The annual Ocean County College Board of School Estimate meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 31st, at which time the financial support from the County of Ocean towards the College's FY 2011 budget will be approved. A resolution will also be presented for adoption pertaining to the construction and funding of an addition to our College Center.

The 2010 Board of School Estimate members are Freeholders John C. Bartlett, Jr., James F. Lacey, and Gerry P. Little and Board Chair Van Thulin and Board Treasurer Jerry Dasti.



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Given the current **statewide** and **national economic challenges**, the **Board of School Estimate** is **extremely important** to the College's **financial health**. We are **extremely fortunate** to have the **continuing strong support** of the **County Freeholders**, who **recognize the importance** of the **College to the residents of Ocean County**. We continue to be **one** of the very **few community colleges** in the **State**, and perhaps in the **nation**, that **enjoys such a high level of County support**.

Women's History Month

The **month of March** is designated **annually** as national **Women's History Month**. **2010** marks the **30th anniversary** of the original **National Women's History Project**, which, in **1980**, began an effort that ultimately **resulted** in **Congress** proclaiming a **month of celebration** for **women's history**.

The **overarching theme** for **2010** and the **30th anniversary** celebration is **Writing Women Back into History**. In the past, **women's achievements** were frequently **omitted** from the **history books**, which **deprived students** of viable **female role models**. In the **past 30 years**, through the efforts of **individuals, organizations, and institutions**, **women's success** in fields such as **math, science, the arts, sports, and politics** are now being **highlighted** in **history books** for **students of all ages**.

I **respectfully request** that the trustees **adopt a resolution** to **proclaim March** as **Women's History Month** at **Ocean County College** and, further, to **encourage participation** by the **college community** in **activities** on campus that will **acknowledge women's accomplishments** throughout history.

Ocean County College Athletics

Ocean County College **Women's Basketball** player **Heather Neumann** scored her **1,000th career point** on **February 4th** with less than a **minute to go** in her **last regular season home game** as a **Viking**. **Heather** becomes the **second player** in **OCC Women's Basketball** history to **accomplish** this extraordinary **milestone**. The first player, **Gina Long**, achieved **1,000 points** in the **early 70's**. **Congratulations** are extended to **Heather** for her **outstanding performance** on **February 4th**, with **27 points** in the **game** and **1,000 points** in her **basketball career**.

Board of Trustees Retreat

Please note that the **next Board of Trustees Retreat** is scheduled for **Friday, March 5th**, from **12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.** in the **Technology Building Conference Room**. If there are any **specific issues** you would like to discuss, please **let me know**.