



# 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 25, 2013, Board Meeting**

**DATE:** February 20, 2013

## Student Award

The **League for Innovation in the Community College** is an **international organization** dedicated to the **community college movement**. It hosts **conferences**, develops **Web resources**, conducts **research**, produces **publications**, and leads **projects** and **initiatives** to make a **positive difference** for **students** and **communities**.

At its **annual conference**, the **League** presents **various awards** to both **community college leaders** and **students**. This year, **Ms. Mary Burke, Professor of Computer Science**, **nominated** OCC student **Nicholas Tyler** for the **2013 Terry O'Banion Student Technology Champion Award**, and we were recently informed that he was **selected** to receive the award. The **League Selection Committee** was impressed by Nick's **demonstrated dedication** to and **passion** for the **technology field**.

Nick will receive a **\$1,000 award** and will be **announced** as the **award winner** at the **League's Innovations Conference** in **Dallas, Texas**, in **March**. **Nick** and **Professor Burke** were **invited** to attend the **conference** to receive his award; instead, however, we will make the necessary arrangements for **Nick** to **participate** through **teleconferencing**. A **reception** will be held in his **honor** on the evening of **award presentation**.

We are **extremely proud** of **Nick** and **congratulate** him on this **wonderful international recognition**. I have invited him to attend **Monday's meeting** so we can all **recognize** this **extraordinary achievement**. **Ms. Lorett Cramer, Learning Disabilities Specialist** in the **Center for Academic Excellence**, will accompany him.

## Employee Recognition

During each **Spring Colloquium**, we **recognize employees** who have reached **significant milestones** in their **service** to **Ocean County College**. Unfortunately, an **anomaly** in the **computer system** used to **identify** these **employees** resulted in their **omission** from the **recognition lists**.



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All of the **affected employees** have been invited to **Monday's meeting** for the **presentation** of their appropriate **Loyal Service Certificates**, although not all are able to attend. Our **apology** and sincerest **belated congratulations** are extended to:

## 20 Years of Service

**Dr. Alfred Atanda**, Assistant Professor of Social Science, Retired  
**Michael B. Berman**, Adjunct Professor of Business Studies  
**Eileen Burdge**, Community Services Specialist  
**Rudolph Chesko**, Adjunct Professor of Social Science  
**Kathleen Collis**, Part-Time Evening Nurse, Retired  
**Albert DeAngelo**, Adjunct Professor of Science, Retired  
**Paul DeMarco**, Part-Time Security Officer  
**Milton Estelle**, Adjunct Professor of Science  
**Bridget Feneis**, Assistant Professor of Mathematics  
**Dr. Thomas Fikslin**, Adjunct Professor of Science  
**Linda Henderson**, Professor of Mathematics  
**Sandra P. Kearns**, Assistant Professor of Nursing  
**Thomas Lesniak**, Adjunct Professor of Science  
**Leonard Luzky**, Adjunct Professor of Social Science  
**Deborah Maher**, Adjunct Professor of Mathematics  
**Vicki McMillian**, Professor of Mathematics  
**Steven Ninivaggi**, Adjunct Professor of English and Literature  
**Kenneth Olsen**, Assistant Vice President of Facilities Planning and Construction  
**Julius Raichle**, Manager of Safety and Environmental Compliance  
**Barbara Roshak**, Adjunct Professor of English and Literature  
**Bridget Root**, Office Manager of Registration  
**Neil Schiller**, Associate Professor of Engineering  
**Laurino Vacca**, Adjunct Professor of Social Science  
**Xiao-Ming Yang**, Professor of English and Literature  
**Yuan Zhong Xu**, Professor of Mathematics  
**Judith Zinis**, Professor of English and Literature, Retired

## 30 Years of Service

**Wanda Marshall**, Test Administrator Technician  
**Florisa Torres**, Building Maintenance Worker



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## 40 Years of Service

Mary Burke, Associate Professor of Computer Studies  
Dr. James Mack, Adjunct Professor of Science

## Academic Affairs Initiatives

Academic Affairs continues working on the following **ongoing** and **new initiatives**:

- ◆ Currently, **Ocean County College** offers its students **global education** opportunities through **Theatre in London, World of the Maya, Native American Southwest Travel Seminar**, and the **Annual Seminar in Washington, D.C.**, at the **United States Institute of Peace**. **Marketing efforts** are underway to **attract more students** to these **travel programs**. When the **Global Studies degree** is finalized and **approved**, **all students** working towards that degree will be required to **participate** in a **travel program** to **complete the requirements** of the **degree**. With much appreciated **financial scholarships** from the **Ocean County College Foundation**, many of our **participating students** are able to **offset the cost**.
- ◆ The **Addictions Counseling certificate program** is in the process of **applying** for **accreditation**. Two **work-study students** are **assisting the College** in this initiative as **interns**.
- ◆ Discussions continue with **Fairleigh Dickinson University** regarding a **Tourism and Hospitality program** and **joint efforts** to **attract students**, especially those students who are **admitted** into **Fairleigh Dickinson** but **cannot afford to enroll**. It is hoped that OCC can offer those students a **real alternative** by providing the **first two years** of the **program**.
- ◆ The **Developmental Education Committee**, **math and science faculty**, and several members of the **President's Leadership Team** will attend a **presentation** by **McGraw-Hill Higher Education** regarding **ALEKS PPL**, a **program** designed to **increase student performance** and **retention** with **individualized assessment** and **learning**. The **program** is being **considered** by Academic Affairs for **three groups** of **students**—**new students** before they take math placement tests, **students who require developmental math classes** as a result of testing, and **students** who are **currently enrolled** in college level math courses. The **goal** is to **increase student completion rates** and **reduce failure and withdrawals**.
- ◆ **Academic Affairs** has begun the process of using **program review** and other **institutional data** to **analyze student success** or **lack of it** and to develop **improvement strategies**, including the **encouragement** of **full-time faculty members** to **explore various ways** to **improve student success**.



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- ◆ All **four school deans** are working together to **improve the fall 2013 semester scheduling processes** to **reduce internal scheduling conflicts**. For **long-term scheduling improvement**, a task force has been formed with **representatives** from the **student body, advising, faculty, administrators, and staff** to develop **recommendations** for more **student-oriented scheduling**.
- ◆ An **Instructional Technology Task Force** has been established that is charged with the **development of recommendations** to meet both **immediate and long-term needs** for **instructional technology**. The ultimate **goal** is to provide **basic technology in all classrooms**, to provide **adequate technology** for **specialized classrooms**, and to maintain a **reasonable schedule** for **upgrades and replacements**.
- ◆ A **meeting** is being scheduled for **next week** to provide an **update** on the College's **Foundations of Excellence project**, to **make plans** for the **next step of implementing recommendations** previously developed by **subcommittees**, and to **discuss exciting new initiatives**. This **project** is the **College community's effort** to **increase first-year student engagement**.

## Ocean County College Senior Living Expo

The **Third Annual Senior Living Expo** is being hosted by **Ocean County College** in the **College Gymnasium** on **Wednesday, March 27**, from **10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** **Admission to the Expo is free.**

This event has been **extremely popular** for **Ocean County's senior population** and the **County's businesses and organizations** that participate. Expo **highlights will** include:

- ◆ **Health and wellness screenings** presented by **Community Medical Center**.
- ◆ **AAA's National Senior Driver demonstrations**, including **CarFit, Roadwise Rx, and AAA Roadwise Review**.
- ◆ The **Blue to You Van** to assist in arranging **medical appointments and transportation services**, as well as providing support for **medical claims issues**.
- ◆ **Free food samples** from **area eateries and restaurants**.
- ◆ **Musical entertainment**.
- ◆ **Door prizes and free giveaways**.



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AAA and Barnabas Health/Community Medical Center are major sponsors of the Ocean County College Senior Living Expo 2013. Also providing sponsorship is Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, Blue to You, and New Jersey Natural Gas.

Ms. Joanne Padrone, Director of Resource Development, and the Office of College Relations are coordinating this event.

## Ocean County College Athletics

At the December Board meeting, Ms. Ilene Cohen, Executive Director of Athletics, was hopeful that Ocean County College would be ranked by the National Alliance of Two-Year College Athletic Administrators (NATYCAA) as one of the top ten programs in the country. I am proud to inform you that, after fall semester competition, Ocean County College is ranked third in the country.

NATYCAA is the professional organization of two-year athletic administrators, which recognizes excellence in athletics. Its rankings are based on success in championship competition. Rankings are made twice during the academic year, in January and June.

At the end of each athletic season, the Athletic Department sponsors a Sports Awards Dinner to recognize the performance of players and coaches. This year's event will take place on Monday, March 11, at Hemingway's in Seaside Heights. During the evening, every player is acknowledged, and special awards are presented to the most valuable players of each team.

The Sports Award Dinner is always a wonderful affair. An invitation is extended to all trustees to join us for the evening.

The Winter 2013 edition of the Ocean County College Viking Update, a newsletter from the Department of Athletics, will be shared with you on Monday.

## Career, Employment, and Counseling Services

Career, Employment, and Counseling Services at Ocean County College provides free assistance to students for setting and achieving goals. Students may address a wide array of personal and interpersonal issues that can interfere with daily living, achieving success, and experiencing a strong, positive sense of well-being.

The Center also offers many workshops and seminars on a continuous basis throughout the year, some of which are:



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- ◆ On Friday, February 15, Ms. Allison Blake, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, chose to visit Ocean County College to meet with participants in the State-funded Displaced Homemakers Program. This program helps women who have lost their primary source of income to become financially self-sufficient by providing training and assisting them in finding employment. The OCC program now has approximately 60 clients, and there are 1,200 clients in 15 programs throughout New Jersey.

Several of the women at the workshop shared their compelling stories with Ms. Blake. Compounding their struggles to support themselves and their families, two of the women were victims of Super Storm Sandy, losing their homes and their possessions. With the support of the Displaced Homemakers Program and the College, both women are continuing their OCC courses despite facing additional difficult challenges.

- ◆ A workshop entitled, “Dress for Success: Your Competitive Edge,” is being offered by the Center on Tuesday, March 19, in the College Center. Participants will learn why first impressions matter as well as gain insight on what it takes to develop an improved, polished, and professional style, one that best fits their professional and personal lives. This event is also being sponsored by the OCC Office of Student Life and the Kean University Career Development and Advancement Office.
- ◆ “Embracing Change in Life and Career” will be offered on Saturday, March 23, in the College Center. The Displaced Homemakers Program and the Center are co-sponsoring this event, the purpose of which is to help participants view change as a part of life that cannot be avoided and understand that it does not have to be a crisis. Two presentations will be made during the day, the first, “Embracing Change in Non-Traditional Employment,” and the second, “Embracing Change in Life and Career.”

Career, Employment, and Counseling Services continues to provide excellent programs and essential services to our students under the leadership of Dr. Kate Pandolpho, Director. Dr. Pandolpho and her staff are commended for their outstanding efforts.

## Women's History Month

Every year, March is designated as Women's History Month throughout the country. Women's History Month is widely recognized, with celebrations, community events, plays, essays, and other projects being undertaken. These events provide important opportunities for sharing research and stories about women's roles, struggles, and successes today and throughout history. The 2013 theme for Women's History Month is “Women Inspiring Innovation through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.”



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Attached is a **listing** of the many **activities** that are **scheduled** for the month of **March** at **Ocean County College**. All **programs** are **free** and open to the **public**. **Ms. Lynn Kenneally, Professor of Social Science**, is **coordinating** these **events**.

## Board of Trustees Meetings

The **next meeting** of the **Board of Trustees** will be the **Board Retreat** scheduled for **Friday, March 8, 2013**, from **12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.** in the **Boardroom**. If there are any **specific issues** you would like to discuss, please **let me know**.

The **regular monthly public meeting** of the **Board in March** is being **rescheduled** from **Monday, March 25**, to **Friday, March 22**, at **12:30 p.m.** in the **Boardroom**. Appropriate **notices** will be **distributed**.