

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 26, 2007, Board Meeting**

DATE: February 21, 2007

Ocean County College Board of School Estimate

The **annual meeting** of the **Ocean County College Board of School Estimate** took place on **Wednesday, February 14th**, at which time the **College's FY 2008 budget request** was approved. **Members** of the Board of School Estimate this year are **Freeholders John Kelly, James Lacey, and Gerry Little** and **Board members Van Thulin and Jerry Dasti**. Also in attendance at the meeting were **Ms. Sara Winchester, Ms. Connie Bello, and me**.

Ocean County College is **extremely fortunate** to have the **unwavering support** of the **Board of Chosen Freeholders**; there are **few New Jersey community colleges** that enjoy such a **positive relationship** with their counties. **Year after year**, the **County of Ocean** has **increased** its **funding** to the College, this year by **5%** over last year, contributing **\$14,128,483** of the **FY 2008 total operating budget** of **\$48,979,465**.

Official Spring 2007 Enrollment

The **official census data** for the **spring 2007 semester** shows that both **student headcount** and **number of credits** are the **highest** for a **spring semester** in the **history** of the **College**. A total of **8,166 students** registered for **79,389 credits**, representing an **increase** in total **enrollment** of **5.9%** and an **increase** in total **credit hours** of **7.7%** over

the last year. **Full-time enrollment is up 9.7% (4,184 students), while part-time student enrollment is up 2.2% (3,982 students).** This is the **first spring semester with total headcount exceeding 8,000 students.**

Several factors are believed to have had an **impact on enrollment**, two of which are the **NJ STARS Program** and the **Kean@Ocean** partnership. Most importantly, however, **staff members** who are involved with **recruitment** and **registration** are **commended** for their many **contributions** in support of this **record enrollment**.

New Jersey Council of County Colleges

As a reminder, the **New Jersey Council of County Colleges** is sponsoring an **educational trustee seminar** entitled *Health Insurance Options for New Jersey's Community Colleges* on **Monday, February 26th**, at the **Forsgate Country Club** in Monroe Township. The seminar begins at **5:00 p.m.**, with **dinner** being offered at **6:00 p.m.**

Health care costs are **increasing rapidly** at all New Jersey colleges. **Over 10%** of total New Jersey **community college expenditures** each year now go to cover **health benefits**, which equates to **\$80 million per year**. This trustee seminar will bring together a **panel of experts** who can explain **community college options** regarding **health insurance** as well as explore the **potential savings** if these options were to be pursued.

Ocean County College Textbook Guidelines

At the **January Board** meeting, there was discussion by the trustees regarding the **high expense** to our students for the **purchase of textbooks**. I indicated to you that we were already **considering options** to **reduce** that student **expense**.

During the fall semester, a **Process Improvement Team** was formed to **research** the textbook issue, **identify goals** for the **process** at OCC, and **formulate textbook guidelines** that will address this growing concern.

A **report** will be provided to you at **Monday's Board meeting** on the **significant changes** being made to **effect student textbook savings**.

Ocean County College Foundation

The **6th Annual Ocean County College Foundation Golf Outing** is scheduled for **Monday, May 7th**, at **Sea Oaks Golf Club** in Little Egg Harbor. The **rain date** is **June 5th**. The entry fee is **\$250 per player**, which includes the use of the **driving range** for one hour before the **shotgun start**, **greens fees**, **golf cart**, **a golf gift**, and **an awards dinner**.

Proceeds are **dedicated** to the continued growth of the **OCC Foundation Scholarship Fund**. Last year, close to **\$75,000** was netted to **support scholarship programs**.

Kean @ Ocean Campus Site Plan and Comprehensive Feasibility Study

Planning activities have begun on the college's new **facilities and site master plan** that will cover a **ten-year time frame (2007-2016)**. **T & M Associates**, Middletown, and **Fletcher Thomas**, East Brunswick, were **hired** by **Ocean County** to provide **professional engineering** and **architectural services** for the project. The project team includes representatives from Ocean County, OCC, and Kean University.

A **comprehensive needs assessment** will be completed early in the planning process, which will include **population projections, facility and environmental mapping, interviews with stake holders, facilities, and traffic assessments**. An **environmental constraints analysis** will also be completed that addresses **wetlands delineation and flood plain mapping**. A complete **analysis** of the **permits** required for future development will be prepared.

Analysis diagrams will be prepared that document existing **conditions of the buildings, land use, open space, pedestrian and vehicular circulation, access, and connecting roads**. A **concept plan** will be developed that shows **potential building locations, formation of open space, utility needs, and the relationship of components** of the master plan.

The **impact** on the **surrounding communities** will be **taken into consideration** throughout the process.

Ocean County College Athletics

I am pleased to inform you that an **OCC student, Courtney Nycz**, has been named as one of the **Garden State Athletic Conference Women of the Year**. On **February 11th**, Courtney attended a **National Girls and Women in Sports Day luncheon and awards ceremony** at **Seton Hall University**, where **one female athlete** from **each high school and college** in New Jersey was honored. Over **1,000 people** were in attendance.

Courtney has participated in **two sports each year** at OCC and has excelled as one of the **top female athletes** for the Vikings. As a **swimmer**, Courtney earned **All-American honors** in her **first season** of competition. Now in her **second season** of swimming, she has already **qualified** to participate at the **Nationals** being held the first week in March. In **softball**, Courtney earned **All-Conference honors** as an **outfielder** and will be leading the team this spring season as one of the **top returning players**. In fact, Courtney, a **NJ STARS student**, has earned **All-American honors** each of the **three semesters** she has competed at OCC.

I have asked Courtney and **Ms. Ilene Cohen, Director of Athletics**, to attend **Monday's meeting** so we can **recognize** Courtney's **outstanding achievements**.

Ms. Cohen will also share with you a **new fundraising program** being offered through the **National Junior College Athletic Association**, the **NJCAA Online Mall**, which

features over **1,400 major retail websites** in one convenient location. The NJCAA online shopping site will allow **staff, coaches, players, boosters, and fans** of NJCAA member colleges to **donate funds** to their own **athletic department** by simply **shopping** at their favorite online stores. When a **purchase** is made through the mall, the **retailer** will make a **donation**, from **2% to 15%** of the **profit**, to the **program of their choice**.

Phi Theta Kappa

The College's **Tau Iota Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa** was recently informed that it **achieved the Pinnacle Silver level** in its **2006 Pinnacle Scholarship Award Program**. This program **encourages** chapters to **enhance their methods of communicating the benefits of membership** to eligible students. To **earn** the Silver Chapter designation, Tau Iota **increased its membership acceptance rate by 10%** over last year.

Teen Arts Festival

Ocean County College is hosting the **30th Annual Ocean County Teen Arts Festival** again this year. From **March 5th to April 4th**, the **Visual Arts Exhibit**, presented by **Ocean County** public and private **high school art classes**, will be on display in the **Fine Arts Center Gallery**. On **Wednesday, March 14th**, a **Visual Arts and Creative Writing Reception** will be held to honor those students whose work has been "**Critiqued for Excellence**." From **April 5th to April 27th**, the Fine Arts Gallery will exhibit the **State of New Jersey Teen Arts Festival Final Participants from Ocean County**.

A **two-day festival** will be held on **Tuesday, April 3rd**, and **Wednesday, April 4th**. The Festival provides a **showcase** for young artists' **visual, performing, and literary achievements** and **identifies, promotes, and nurtures** the **artistic talents** of teenagers.

Ms. Bobbi Krantz, Director of the Fine Arts Center and Ocean County Teen Arts Coordinator, invites you to visit the Gallery during the exhibit.

Women's History Month

The **month of March** is designated annually as national **Women's History Month**. This year's theme is *Generations of Women Moving History Forward*. Many **activities** are being **developed** and **presented** by **faculty and administrators** to **honor** women's **contributions** to **America's development** as **leaders, writers, educators, politicians, artists, administrators, and informed citizens**.

It is **respectfully requested** 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.

Employee Commendations

A proposal submitted by **Dr. Marcia Bradley, Professor of Science, Mr. Marc Labella, Temporary Full-Time Assistant Professor of Science, and Ms. Chris Spencer, Temporary Full-Time Instructor of Science**, has been selected for the **Eighth Annual Faculty Best Practices Showcase** at the **University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey** on March 23rd. Their presentation is entitled *Brave New World: Teaching Anatomy and Physiology Totally Online*. Consideration for acceptance was focused on **academic discipline, technology, and educational methodologies**.