

TO: Members, OCC Board of Trustees

FROM: Jon H. Larson, Ph.D.
President

SUBJECT: Items of Interest for the **February 28, 2005, Board Meeting**

DATE: February 23, 2005

Phi Theta Kappa

The **Eighteenth Annual Middle States Regional Convention** was held in Baltimore on **February 18th, 19th, and 20th**. **Eight Tau Iota Chapter students** and **one alumna** accompanied **Dr. William Rickert** and **Professor Robin Weitz, PTK Advisors**, to the convention.

Tau Iota received **considerable recognition** by the **PTK Middle States organization**, which consists of **77 chapters** in **New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware**:

- ◆ Tau Iota Chapter was recognized as a **five-star chapter**, the **highest level of achievement** possible for a chapter of Phi Theta Kappa.
- ◆ **Ms. Triche Sherman** was inducted into the **Chapter President Regional Hall of Honor**.
- ◆ **Ms. Amy Farina** was inducted into the **Chapter Officer Regional Hall of Honor**.
- ◆ **Ms. Elissa Neuhaus** was inducted into the **Chapter Member Regional Hall of Honor**.
- ◆ **Dr. William Rickert** received the **2005 Distinguished Advisor Award** for the **Middle States Region**.

Tau Iota continues to be a **strong, vibrant PTK chapter**, not only because of the **hard work** of the **students** but, even more so, because of the **dedication and commitment** of its **advisors** for so many years. Dr. Rickert, the students, and the advisors are indeed worthy of this wonderful recognition.

GED Test Center Application

The **Ocean County Community Education Advisory Council (OCCEA)** recently announced that the **Lakewood Community School** will no longer provide GED testing. Since **Lakewood** was the **only location** in Ocean County to provide this service, county residents would have to travel to the nearest GED center in either **Long Branch** or **Atlantic City**. **OCCEA representatives**, who represent a **cross section of educational and literacy institutions and agencies** throughout Ocean County, expressed concern that the **loss of the Ocean County GED Center** would ultimately **reduce educational opportunities and employment** for our residents.

To address this need, Ocean County College recently **submitted a preliminary application** to the New Jersey Department of Education to **become the GED Test Center** site in Ocean County. Before final approval, the Department of Education, Bureau of Adult Education and Family Literacy, has requested a **formal resolution** from the Board of Trustees **authorizing this application**. I **respectfully request** that the trustees **adopt the attached resolution in support of the application**.

As part of the review process, OCC was **invited to attend** the required **State training** to open and operate a test center. On January 25th, **Ms. Sandy Carine, Director of Institutional Development, Ms. Linda Capuano, Coordinator of Testing Services, and Ms. Wanda Marshall, Test Administrator Technician**, attended the training. Based on anticipated State approval, the current **projection for the initiation of center operations** is **June/July 2005**.

Ocean County College Board of School Estimate

Mr. Hiering, Mr. Thulin, Mrs. Smithers, Ms. Winchester, Dr. Parrish, Ms. Bello, and I traveled to the Ocean County Administration Building on February 9th for the **Ocean County College Board of School Estimate meeting**. The **freeholders** were extremely **complimentary to the trustees and to the college**, expressing their strong **support through approval** of the OCC **FY 2006 budget request**, the **FY 2006 capital facilities projects**, and the **Higher Education Equipment Leasing Fund**.

New Jersey Council of County Colleges

A **number of activities** are planned during the **spring semester** by the **New Jersey Council of County Colleges**.

A **Trustee Education Seminar** is scheduled for **Monday, February 28th**. This is the **first of a series** of seminars that are **designed with new trustees** in mind but will be very **informative for more seasoned trustees** as well. The **one-hour seminars** are scheduled for **5 p.m.** in conjunction with the regular bi-monthly Council meetings. Trustees attending the seminar

are invited to **stay for dinner** with other trustees from throughout the state who will be attending the Council meeting. I will be attending the Council meeting on Monday at the **Forsgate Country Club**. I would be happy to **drive you** if you would like to attend the seminar.

This **series of seminars** will continue on **April 18th, June 13th, September 26th, and November 21st**.

Other activities include:

- ◆ **March 7th** **Trustee Ambassador Day** at the State House in Trenton
- ◆ **April 18th** **Trustee Education Seminar** at Forsgate Country Club in Monroe Township
- ◆ **April 21st** **Phi Theta Kappa Day** at the Lafayette Yard Marriott in Trenton
- ◆ **April 29th** **Best Practices Conference** at Mercer County Community College
- ◆ **May 12th** **Spring Trustee Conference** at the Lafayette Yard Marriott in Trenton
- ◆ **June 13th** **Trustee Education Seminar** and **Spirit Award Dinner** at The Breakers Hotel in Spring Lake
- ◆ **September 26th** **Trustee Education Seminar** at the Jamesburg Holiday Inn
- ◆ **November 21st** **Trustee Education Seminar** at the Forsgate Country Club

Ocean County College Sailing Program

In my report last month, I shared with you some of the **successes achieved** by the **OCC Sailing Program** during the fall semester. I have invited **Mr. Roy Wilkins, Manager of the Sailing Program**, and **Dr. Drew Seibert, Chair of the Sailing Advisory Committee**, to attend Monday's meeting to make a **PowerPoint presentation** that will highlight these achievements. They will also tell you about **future plans** for the program for the spring and fall 2005 semesters, which will include **OCC hosting four regattas** at home on the Toms River. Additionally, as a result of the professional race management expertise of the program's leaders, OCC has been asked by the **Intercollegiate Sailing Association** to **submit a proposal** to host the **2007 National Collegiate Sailing Competition**.

We are honored that **Dr. Seibert** has **established** a **Perpetual Trophy** for the **Outstanding Sailor** at OCC each semester. Dr. Seibert will **present this award** to the **deserving student** at Monday's meeting.

OCC Athletics

I was extremely pleased to be at the **basketball game** on **February 10th** to witness OCC player **Jordan Krzeczowski** score his **OCC 1000th career point**. Jordan is one of **four OCC Men's Basketball players** to ever **reach 1000 points**; the last time a player did so was in the late 1970's. Needless to say, Jordan has been a **great asset** to OCC's team during his two seasons here.

Ms. Jessica Bradley, OCC's 2004 Woman Athlete of the Year, represented OCC at the **National Girls' and Women's Sports Day** celebration held on **February 13th** at **Seton Hall University**. Every year, New Jersey high schools and colleges **honor one female athlete** from their institution who **excels** in the **classroom** as well as in her **athletic performance**.

Jessica was named to the **All Conference** and **All Region** teams each of the two seasons she played **soccer** at OCC. Last spring, she was named to the **First Team All American Softball** team. Jessica has been a **standout athlete** for the Vikings.

Ms. Ilene Cohen, OCC Athletic Director, has asked Jordan and Jessica to be with us at Monday's meeting so we can give them the commendations they deserve. Ms. Cohen will also provide **an overall update** on the fall athletic season.

OCC Bookstore Renovation

You are cordially invited to attend a **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony** for the **OCC Bookstore** which will take place on **Monday, March 28th**, immediately following the March Board meeting, at **approximately 2 p.m.** The brief ceremony will be held in the **vestibule** of the **College Center/Bookstore Building**.

The **new layout** of the Bookstore provides a **more convenient** and **satisfying experience** for our students, and, most notably, will be **more efficient** for the students during "**rush**" periods at the beginning of each semester. Included in the new Bookstore are a **Starbucks coffee station** and an **Internet café**.

Women's History Month

The **month of March** is designated annually by New Jersey and the nation as **Women's History Month**. This year's theme is "**Women Changing America**," a theme that celebrates how women have inspired us and made our country what it is.

There are **several events** planned for Women's History Month. A preliminary **schedule is attached**. 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 planned activities.