

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 **January 22, 2007, Board Meeting**

DATE: January 17, 2007

Ocean County College FY 2008 Budget

At Monday's meeting, the proposed **Ocean County College FY 2008 budget** will be presented to the trustees. **Following approval** by the trustees, the budget request will be presented to the **Ocean County College Board of School Estimate**, which is tentatively scheduled to take place on **Wednesday, February 14th**.

The **five members** of the Board of School Estimate include **three Freeholders, Mr. John Kelly, Mr. James Lacey, and Mr. Gerry Little**, and **two OCC Board members, Mr. Van Thulin and Mr. Jerry Dasti**. **Mrs. Linda Novak** serves as **Secretary** of the Board of School Estimate.

Spring 2007 Enrollment

As of today, there are **7,741 students** registered for the **spring semester**, for a total of **76,556 credits**, which represents an **increase** in total **enrollment** of **8.7%** and an **increase** in total **credit hours** of **9.8%** over last spring at this point in time. **Full-time** enrollment is **up 10.2% (4,035 students)**, while **part-time** student enrollment is **up 7.1% (3,706 students)**.

I have asked **Mr. Chengbo Yin, Research and Assessment Administrator**, to provide an **updated enrollment report** at **Monday's meeting**, which is the **first day** of **spring semester classes**.

Spring Semester Colloquium

The **Spring Semester Colloquium** was held on **Thursday, January 18th**, in the Fine Arts Theatre. A **continental breakfast** was offered at **8 a.m.**, with the **program** beginning at **9 a.m.** My **State of the College Address** was entitled **"The Millennial Professor: Global and Local Connections in the Classroom."** This subject is a **continuation** of my Fall Colloquium presentation on the **millennial student** and the **millennial president**. It focused on the **deep cultural changes** that are needed by colleges and universities to **respond** to the **demands** of the **current student generation**, the **challenges** that are faced by **professors** in these **early years** of the **new millennium**, and the need to **reconnect** with the **scholarly engagement** to **renew intellectual commitment** to teaching and learning. I have **attached** a copy of **my remarks**.

Activities continued for the **faculty** for the remainder of the day:

- ◆ **10:00 a.m. – Student Panel** facilitated by **Professor Ed Kissling**
- ◆ **11:30 a.m. – The OCC Drama Club** offered interpretations of **classroom scenarios**, followed by a **Faculty Panel** discussion led again by **Professor Ed Kissling**. **Faculty panelists** included **Professors Judy Angona, Marcia Bradley, Barry Kolb, Marc LaBella, Christine Spencer, and Robert White**.
- ◆ **12:30 p.m. – Lunch and discussion**
- ◆ **1:30 p.m. – Dr. Michael Searson, Kean University**, conducted a workshop on the **"21st Century Learning Approaches to Global Studies."**
- ◆ **3:10 p.m. – Department meetings**

Student Leadership Development Conference

On **Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, January 10th, 11th, and 12th**, the **College's annual Student Leadership Development Conference** took place at the **Fallsview Resort** in **Ellenville, New York**. Every year, I **look forward** to **participating** in this **very successful** student activity. The conference is **invigorating**, it provides a wonderful opportunity for **student growth**, and it allows **students, faculty, and staff** to develop **strong personal relationships**. There is no doubt that OCC's student leadership conference is one of the **best in the country**.

I **commend** the **faculty and staff** who are responsible for the **exceptional quality** of this conference. This year, **twelve employees** attended: **Mr. Don Doran, Dr. Dan Duffy, and Ms. Nancy Polonitza**, who provide the **leadership** for the conference, and **Ms. Kathleen Bombery, Ms. Jen Kane, Mr. Al Longo, Ms. Alison Miller, Dr. William Rickert, Mr. Jim Rodgers, Mr. Joaquin Rolon, and Dr. Frank Wetta**. Also joining **Judy and me** this year for the **first time** was a **trustee, Mrs. Linda Novak**.

Phi Theta Kappa

Ocean County College's **Tau Iota chapter** of **Phi Theta Kappa** inducted **eighty new members** on **December 1, 2006**. To be eligible, these students must have

earned at least **fifteen graduation credits** at OCC and have a **minimum grade point average** of **3.60**. This year's Tau Iota **president** is **Ms. Nicole Foy**.

Phi Theta Kappa is the **national honor society** for **two-year colleges**. Its purpose is to **recognize** and **encourage scholarship** among two-year college students. PTK provides the opportunity for the **development** of **leadership, service, scholarship, and fellowship** among its members.

Black History Month

February is designated **nationally** as **Black History Month**. I respectfully request that the Board of Trustees adopt the attached resolution **proclaiming February as Black History Month at Ocean County College**.

The **Office of Multicultural Services** is sponsoring a **month-long celebration** filled with **food, entertainment, and history**. This year's theme is **"From Slavery to Freedom: Africans in the Americas."**

- ◆ **Opening Ceremony, Black Flag Raising and Soul Food Reception – Thursday, February 1st, 12:00 noon**, Flag Pole, Campus Mall, with **soul food tasting** in the Solar Lounge, College Center.
- ◆ **Seven Quilts for Seven Sisters: A Stitch in Time – Sunday, February 4th, 2:00 p.m.**, OCC Fine Arts Center Theatre. The **William sisters** (Clayton, NJ) present heart warming **tales** and brilliant **quilts** with a rich blend of **history, authentic costumes, and spiritual songs**.
- ◆ **Read-In Day, "From Slavery to Freedom: Africans in the Americas" – Monday February 5th, 8:00 a.m.**, Solar Lounge, College Center.
- ◆ **Speed Dating – Friday, February 9th, 6:00 p.m.**, Cafeteria, College Center.
- ◆ **Harold Melvin's Blue Notes – Saturday, February 10th, 8:00 p.m.**, OCC Fine Arts Center Theatre.
- ◆ **From Slavery to Freedom: A Dramatization and Panel Discussion – Wednesday, February 21st, 12:00 noon**, Solar Lounge, College Center. **Guest panelists: Dr. William Lavundi, Professor of English and Literature; Dr. Alfred Atanda, Associate Professor of Social Sciences; and Dr. Obiri Addo, Assistant Professor of African-American Studies, Drew University.**
- ◆ **Closing Ceremony, Black Flag Lowering, and Reception – Wednesday, February 28th, 12:00 noon**, Flag Pole, Campus Mall, with refreshments and entertainment.

Community College National Legislative Summit

The **2007 Community College National Legislative Summit**, which is sponsored by the **Association of Community College Trustees** and the **American Association of Community Colleges**, is taking place from **Monday, February 12th**, through **Wednesday, February 14th**, in **Washington, D.C.**

During this Summit, I will take the opportunity to **schedule meetings** with our **state and national legislators** to discuss **community colleges in general** and, more importantly, **Ocean County College specifically**. The **timing** of the Summit **coincides** with the Administration's **FY 2008 budget submission to Congress**, and our visits with the legislators, hopefully, will serve to **influence** the **national political agenda** on important **community college issues**.

Joining me this year at the Summit will be **Mr. Van Thulin, Ms. Tara Kelly, and Mr. David Wolfe**.

New Jersey Council of County Colleges

Please note the **following events** that are **planned** during the **spring semester** by the **New Jersey Council of County Colleges**:

- ◆ **Trustee Seminar – February 26th** at the Forsgate Country Club
- ◆ **Trustee Ambassador Day – March 22nd** in Trenton
- ◆ **Best Practices Conference – April 26th and 27th** at Cumberland County College
- ◆ **Phi Theta Kappa Day – May 17th** in Trenton
- ◆ **Spirit Award Dinner – June 18th** at The Breakers in Spring Lake
- ◆ **Annual Trustee Conference – June 21st** at the Marriott in Trenton

Board of Trustees Retreats

The following **dates** have been scheduled during **2007** for **Board of Trustees Retreats**, which will be held in the **Conference Room** of the **Technology Building**:

- ◆ **Friday, March 30, 2007, 9 a.m.**
- ◆ **Friday, June 29, 2007, 12:00 noon**
- ◆ **Friday, September 28, 2007, 9 a.m.**
- ◆ **Friday, December 14, 2007, 12:00 noon**

If you have **recommendations** for discussion at these **educational retreats**, please share them with me.

Employee Presentations

- ◆ **2007 Best Practices Conference** - The **New Jersey Council of County Colleges** will sponsor its **seventh annual New Jersey Community Colleges Best Practices Conference**, which will be **hosted by Cumberland County College** on **Thursday, April 26th**, and **Friday, April 27th**. The conference will begin on **Thursday evening** with a **keynote presentation** by **Dr. Elizabeth H. Sibolski, Senior Vice President, Middle States Commission on Higher Education**. **Friday** will feature over **25 innovative educational sessions** presented by administrators and faculty members to their peers. This conference has evolved into an important **networking** and **professional development opportunity** for community college personnel. It is expected that over **250 people** will attend the conference.

A proposal submitted by **Mr. Chengbo Yin** was **selected** for presentation at the Conference. His presentation, entitled **"Approaching Millennium Students – Two Examples of How Ocean County College Utilizes Technology to Approach Students,"** will focus on two examples of how Ocean County College **utilizes** the latest **technology** to approach millennium students: **web survey software** to collect students' opinions and **Demo Builder 5** to create **flash tutorials** for web resources such as **Ocean Cruiser** and **Web Adviser**.

- ◆ **League for Innovations in the Community College** – **Ms. Joanne Padrone, Director of OCC's Academy for Lifelong Learning**, will lead a **discussion** on **"Developing a Certificate Program for Effective Adult Community Homeowner Governing Bodies"** at the **League for Innovations in the Community College Conference** on **March 4th** in Louisiana.

Ms. Padrone's presentation will **benefit institutions** with **growing senior communities**, where there is a need for **education and preparedness of governing boards** to take leadership roles in their communities. She will discuss the process utilized by the Academy to **assess community needs, develop programs, and meet the needs** of the adult communities.

The League is the **only major international organization** specifically committed to **improving community colleges** through **innovation, experimentation, and institutional transformation**. For **thirty-seven years**, the League has been a **catalyst** for achieving success within the **community college movement**.

- ◆ **Teaching and Learning in Nursing** – An article written by **Dr. James Brown, Dean of Health, Science, and Human Performance**, and **Ms. Sandra Kearns, Associate Professor of Nursing**, was selected for **publication** in the **January 2007 issue** of the peer review journal ***Teaching and Learning in Nursing***.

Their article presents an introduction to the **history** of **Web-based** and **Web-assisted teaching, learning, and assessment** and reviews the literature on the **utilization** of **online materials** for **nursing education programs**.