

TO: Members, OCC Board of Trustees

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

SUBJECT: Items of Interest for the **January 23, 2006, Board Meeting**

DATE: January 18, 2006

Ocean County College FY 2007 Budget

The proposed **Ocean County College FY 2007 budget** will be presented to the trustees for approval at the **special budget meeting/retreat** on **Friday, January 27, 2006, at 3:00 p.m.** Following approval by the trustees, the proposed budget request will be presented to the **Ocean County College Board of School Estimate** in February. The **five members** of the Board of School Estimate include **Freeholders James Lacey, John Kelly, and Gerry Little** and Board members **Mr. Van Thulin** and **Mr. Jerry Dasti**. **Mrs. Eva Smithers** serves as **Secretary** of the Board.

Spring Semester Colloquium

On **Wednesday, January 18th**, the college community met for the **Spring Colloquium** in the Fine Arts Theatre. The morning began with a **continental breakfast** at **8:30 a.m.**, with the **program beginning** at **9:00 a.m.** My address focused on the subject of **global technology**, not only as it **affects our College** but also as it **affects our lives**, our **communities**, our **society**, and the **future of our children**. **Dr. James McGinty** and **Dr. Frank Wetta** also presented information on **plans and accomplishments** relating to **emerging technology support services** and **technological innovations in teaching and learning**.

Following the program, **three workshops** were offered for **faculty**:

- ◆ **Critical Thinking:** Moving from Theory to Classroom Implementation
- ◆ **Writing Across the Curriculum:** Fostering Writing throughout the Academic Disciplines
- ◆ **Uncivil Behavior in the Classroom:** Responding to Lack of Civility and Problematic Behavior

A **similar program** was offered at **6:00 p.m.** for the benefit of our **adjunct faculty**. For your information, I have attached a copy of my **[Colloquium remarks](#)**.

NJ STARS II

Acting Governor Codey signed the **NJ STARS II legislation** into **law** on Friday, **January 13**, with the bill becoming **effective immediately**. Current NJ STARS sophomores who **graduate with an associate degree** with **at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average** will be eligible for scholarships for their **junior and senior years** at **New Jersey public senior colleges and universities**.

Highlights of the **NJ STARS II** bill are:

- ◆ Each participant will receive a **\$2,000 scholarship** for each semester of enrollment commencing in the **2006-2007 academic year**.
- ◆ This scholarship is **in addition** to any **other grants and merit scholarships** to which the student is entitled.
- ◆ Provided the student **maintains eligibility** for participation, the NJ STARS II scholarship will be available for **up to four semesters**.

This program, **unique to New Jersey**, provides an outstanding opportunity for **serious and accomplished students** to participate in the **NJ STARS Program** for **four years, two at the community college** for an **associate degree** and **two at a senior public institution** to complete their **bachelor's degree**.

Dr. Dan Duffy and current student **Eric Scherm** will give a **brief report** on the NJ STARS II Program at **Monday's meeting**.

Visiting Scholar

At Monday's meeting, I will introduce to you **Ms. Wei Zhang**, our **Visiting Professor** from **Xi'an International Studies University** in **China**. Ms. Zhang will be with us for the **2006 spring and fall semesters**. During her time at OCC, she will be **teaching two courses in English** in the **spring semester** and **two Business courses** in the **fall semester**.

Ms. Zhang is an **Associate Professor** in the **Business School of Xi'an University**. At Xi'an, she teaches **English, Business English Listening, and English Writing**. She holds a **master of arts degree** in **linguistics** from Xi'an University.

We are extremely **pleased and excited** for Ms. Zhang to be a part of our College community. Her presence here follows **Professor Karl Kleiner's teaching** at **Xi'an University** last year.

I also want to bring to your attention that OCC is being considered to **host a Fulbright Scholar** from **Egypt** during the **2006-2007 academic year**. This is a **unique opportunity; few community colleges** have been **selected for Fulbright Scholars in Residence**. We will keep you informed

of the progress of our application and the decision of the **Fulbright Scholarship Board**.

Student Leadership Development Conference

The **College's annual Student Leadership Development Conference** was again held at the **Villa Roma Hotel in Callicoon, New York**. On **Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, January 11th, 12th, and 13th**, **Judy and I** joined **35 students** to **explore leadership, communication, and teamwork**. Also were in attendance were **8 faculty and administrators, Mr. Don Doran, Dr. Dan Duffy, Dr. Frank Wetta, Dr. William Rickert, Ms. Nancy Polonitza, Ms. Kathleen Bombery, Ms. Alison Miller, and Ms. Jen Kane**.

My attendance every year **reinforces my belief** that **Ocean County College's leadership program** is the **best student activity** I have **ever encountered**. This program has been in existence for many years, and it has been **perfected by the Student Affairs Division**, specifically **Dan Duffy, Don Doran, Nancy Polonitza**, as well as all of the other conference facilitators who assist in making this an **extraordinary experience** for the participants, especially the students as they continue in their **growth and development**.

Interpreter Training Program

The **Toms River Board of Education** has accepted **Superintendent of Schools Michael Ritocco's** recommendation to **award \$1,000** to the **OCC Interpreter Training Program**. This donation is in **appreciation** for the efforts of **ITP students** who **performed** at the **RiverFest celebrations**.

Ms. Linda Sitek, an **OCC interpreter** who teaches **Basic American Sign Language I and II** and who works for the Toms River School System will **present the check** at Monday's meeting on behalf of the Board of Education to **Ms. Kathleen Basilotto, program instructor, and Dr. Martin Novelli, Dean of Humanities, Fine Arts, and Media**. We are indeed **grateful** to the **Toms River Board of Education** for its recognition of OCC's very successful and popular Interpreter Training Program.

I BOAT NJ Program Grant

The **New Jersey Department of Transportation's Office of Maritime Resources** awarded to Ocean County College an **\$83,423 grant** under its **I BOAT NJ Program** in support of the development of the **J. Phillip Citta Community Sailing Center** at **Mill Creek County Park** in **Berkeley Township**. The proposal was submitted by the college in July, awarded by the Department of Transportation in August, and accepted by the Board in September.

The purpose of the grant is to **conduct a survey** of the **existing site conditions** relating to **property boundaries** and **topographic data**, **analyze** existing **environmental conditions**, and **prepare** detailed engineering **site drawings** in preparation for architectural design and construction of the Center.

The J. Phillip Citta Community Sailing Center will house the **OCC School of Seamanship and Sailing**, including the **OCC Sailing Team**, the **OCC Community Sailing Program**, **Sail-Habitation**, and other programs as they are developed.

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**.

As activities are planned for the month, we will add them to the Trustee Calendar for your information.

Community College National Legislative Summit

The **2006 National Legislative Summit**, which is sponsored by the **Association of Community College Trustees** and the **American Association of Community Colleges**, is taking place from **Sunday, February 5th, through Wednesday, February 8th**, at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in **Washington, D.C.**

The **keynote speaker** for the conference is **Mr. Bob Woodward, Assistant Managing Editor** of *The Washington Post*, **Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, author of nine bestseller books, and television commentator**.

This conference offers the opportunity to **influence education, job training, and economic policy** related to community colleges as well as to assist in the **development and delivery** of the **community college response** to the **Administration's FY 2007 budget proposal**. More importantly, however, attendance at the conference allows us to **schedule meetings** with **state and national legislators** to discuss issues of concern to Ocean County College.

Joining me this year at the Summit will be **Ms. Tara Kelly** and **Mr. David Wolfe**. If you have any **interest in attending** this very worthwhile conference, **please let me know**.

Ocean County College Planetarium

I have attached for your information **an article** that recently appeared in the ***Asbury Park Press*** featuring the **Robert J. Novins Planetarium** and its **unveiling** of a mural-sized **image** taken by **NASA's Hubble Space Telescope**. The wonderful **photograph** is a seamless **mosaic** of **104 individual Hubble images** of the famous **Great Orion Nebula**.

I am sure you will find the article **fascinating**. The Hubble image will be on **display through February 5th** in the Planetarium.