

TO: Members, OCC Board of Trustees

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

SUBJECT: Items of Interest for the **January 24, 2005, Board Meeting**

DATE: January 19, 2005

Ocean County College Library

OCC recently acquired Sirsi's integrated **Library software, Unicorn**, which provides the OCC community with a greatly **expanded menu of library services**. For the students, faculty, and staff of the college, Unicorn provides not only a **state-of-the-art online catalog** of our materials, but also **Electronic Reserves**, integrated **electronic books** and a wide array of **personal services**. For the Library staff, Unicorn incorporates nearly all of our public and behind-the-scenes services, such as **electronic book ordering** and an extensive and versatile **reporting system**.

I have asked **Ms. Yvonne Huacuja, Director of Library Services**, and **Ms. Tracey Hershey, Reference Services Librarian**, to provide you with a **brief report** at Monday's meeting on the software being utilized in the Library.

Colloquium

The **Spring 2005 Semester Colloquium** took place on **Wednesday, January 19th**, in the **Fine Arts Theatre**. It began at **8:00 a.m.**, with a **reception and continental breakfast**. At **9:00 a.m.**, I presented my **State of the College Address** to begin the spring semester. After my presentation, the faculty remained in the Theatre to meet with Dr. Frank Wetta. As in the past, **workshops** were offered for **administrators, support staff, and faculty** during the day. A similar program occurred at **5:30 p.m.** in the Theatre for **adjunct faculty**.

Ocean County College Board of School Estimate

Following the action of the trustees to approve the Ocean County College **FY 2006 budget request** on Monday, the **Ocean County College Board of School Estimate** will meet on **Wednesday, February 9th**, at 3:00 p.m. in the Ocean County Administration Building. At that time, the college's **funding request** from the County will be

considered, as will a request to approve both a resolution for **FY 2006 capital facilities projects**, with the **State and County** both **funding fifty percent** of the cost, and a resolution for the **Higher Education Equipment Leasing Fund Act**, the **last installment** of the County's **five-year commitment**. The **five members** of the Board of School Estimate include **Freeholders James Lacey, John Kelly, and Gerry Little** and Board members **Mr. William Hering** and **Mr. Van Thulin**. As always, **Mrs. Eva Smithers** will attend as Secretary of the Board of Trustees.

Community College National Legislative Summit

The **National Legislative Summit**, which is sponsored by the **Association of Community College Trustees** and the **American Association of Community Colleges**, is being held from **Sunday, February 13th, through Wednesday, February 16th**, at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in **Washington, D.C.** Judy and I plan to attend with **Assemblyman Dave Wolfe** and **Ms. Tara Kelly**.

I always look forward to this summit because it provides a wonderful opportunity to **meet with state and national legislators**. We are extremely fortunate that **Assemblyman Wolfe** is scheduling **personal appointments** with our district officials. In addition, the **Council of County Colleges** is hosting a **special reception** for New Jersey's community college **trustees and presidents** on **Monday, February 14th**, as well as a **breakfast on Capitol Hill** on **Wednesday, February 16th**, with **Congressman Jon Corzine** making a commitment to be the **guest speaker**.

If you are available and would like to join us at the Summit, I would be delighted. If you would like additional information, please let me know.

Retirement of Mr. Joseph A. Citta

In **recognition** of and **appreciation** for **Mr. Citta's service** on the Board of Trustees for **31 years**, it is respectfully requested that the attached **resolution be adopted** by the trustees to publicly record **their profound regret** upon his **retirement**. The resolution will be formally presented to Mr. Citta at an appropriate occasion upon his return from Florida.

Interpreter Training Program

A **ceremony** was held for the **first 40 graduates** of the **Interpreter Training Program** on **Friday, January 7th**, in the Fine Arts Theatre. In recognition of the great **demand for qualified interpreters**, both at the state level and nationally, the college **began the certificate program** in **fall 2002**. **Ms. Kathleen Basilotto**, now an instructor in the program, was instrumental in the **establishment of the program** and the **development of its courses**.

Even before the students graduated, many were **offered and accepted employment** as interpreters in **various school districts**, some of which include the Toms River Regional

School District, the Pinelands Regional School District, the Lacey Township School District, and the Freehold Vocational Technical School.

As a result of the success of and need for these graduates, **consideration** is being given to **developing an associate degree program** in sign language interpretation, which would include **specialized training programs** such as **medicine and law**.

Ocean County College Sailing Program

The **OCC Sailing Program** had an extremely **successful fall semester**. I am pleased to share with you a list of our **sailing “firsts”**:

- ◆ First time OCC **qualified for and competed in** the **War Memorial regatta**, the NCAA tournament of sailing comprised of the top 16 teams in the **Middle Atlantic Intercollegiate Sailing Association (MAISA)**.
- ◆ First time OCC **hosted the MAISA Clinic**.
- ◆ First time OCC **hosted a fall regatta, with 18 boats competing**.
- ◆ First time OCC **competed in the Atlantic Coast Championships**.
- ◆ First time OCC **won the Colgate Open**.
- ◆ First time OCC **won the Washington College Open**.
- ◆ First time OCC **finished in the top three in a women’s regatta**.
- ◆ First time an OCC A and B sailor **finished a race in single digits in the War Memorial regatta**.
- ◆ First time OCC had **15 sailors on the intercollegiate team**.
- ◆ First time OCC athletes **competed for the Seibert Trophy**.

Under the leadership of **Mr. Don Doran, Dean of Student Affairs**, and **Mr. Roy Wilkins, Manager of the Sailing Program**, and with a **blue ribbon advisory committee** headed by **Dr. Drew Seibert**, the Sailing Program was established and is operating entirely on **private donations**. In fact, the advisory committee recently embarked on **raising an endowment** that will keep this program **operating without public funding** in perpetuity.

Black History Month

The month of **February** is proclaimed **nationally as Black History Month**. The **Office of Multicultural Services** has developed a number of **college activities** to celebrate Black History Month, which are listed on the attached flyer. Of special note is the **Gospel Show**, which will be held on **Friday, February 18th**, at 7 p.m. in the Fine Arts Theatre. This is an **excellent, energetic, and moving performance** that I am sure you would enjoy.

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

Student Leadership Development Conference

Judy and I had the pleasure of again participating in the **college's annual Student Leadership Development Conference**, which was held at the **Villa Roma Hotel in Callicoon, New York**, for the second year. **Forty students**, representing the majority of the college's **student clubs and organizations**, gathered on **Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, January 12th, 13th, and 14th**, to explore leadership, communication, and teamwork. Specifically, the conference focused on **managerial problem solving and decision making, motivational leadership, interpersonal communication and conflict resolution, and values clarification and commitment**.

As I have shared with you in the past, this student activity is **excellent**, and I am always **rejuvenated** when I return to campus after having had the opportunity to **interact so closely** with our students and with the administrators and faculty who participated: **Dr. Dan Duffy, Mr. Don Doran, Dr. Frank Wetta, Ms. Maureen Reustle, Ms. Jen Kane, Ms. Alison Miller, Dr. Beth Brierley, Mr. Ted Gordon, Dr. Bill Rickert, and Ms. Nancy Polonitza**. I commend them for their **outstanding commitment** to our students and to this program.

Trustee Seminars

The **New Jersey Council of County Colleges** is offering a **series of seminars** for New Jersey's community college trustees. The seminars will cover the **roles and responsibilities of trustees**, including **advocacy, governance versus administration, and allegiance to the college board**. Campus **attorneys** will be available to provide important advice about the **legal issues** surrounding trustee governance.

The first seminar is being held at the **Forsgate Country Club** on **Monday, February 28th**, from 5 to 6 p.m., with dinner following. Additional seminars are scheduled for:

- Monday, **April 18th**, at the Forsgate Country Club
- Monday, **June 13th**, at The Breakers
- Monday, **September 26th**, at the Jamesburg Holiday Inn
- Monday, **November 21st**, at the Forsgate Country Club

I **encourage your attendance** at these educational seminars, which will allow you to **network with trustees** from other community colleges and provide you with **valuable information**.

Employee Recognition

Dr. Jim Brown, Dean of Health Sciences and Human Performance, has been recognized in the **October 2004** publication from **Pfizer, Inc., *The Faces of Public Health***. This book celebrates **25 individuals** from across the nation who have **improved lives** in their communities. It demonstrates how the **everyday work** of public health professionals **makes a difference in protecting our health and environment**. Attached is additional information on the book and Dr. Brown's individual story.