



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 30, 2012, Board Meeting**

DATE: January 25, 2012

Ocean County College FY 2013 Budget Request

The **Ocean County College FY 2013 Budget** will be presented to the **Board of Trustees** for **approval** at **Monday's meeting**. The **proposed budget** includes a **\$4 increase in tuition**, from **\$94 per credit** to **\$98**, as well as **small increases in college, course, and technology fees**, effective with the **fall 2012 semester**. **Tuition and fees** have remained **stable** for **several years**; the **last increase** was in **2008**.

The **increased tuition** is necessary to present a **balanced budget** given the following **expectations** for **revenue**:

- ◆ **State funding** is anticipated to remain at the **2011-2012 level**.
- ◆ **County funding** is anticipated to remain at the **2011-2012 level**.
- ◆ **On-campus student enrollment** is anticipated to **decline slightly**, although the number of **distance learning students** will most likely **increase**.

Following approval by the Board of Trustees, the **budget** will be **presented** to the **Ocean County College Board of School Estimate** at a **meeting** to be scheduled in **March**. In keeping with **New Jersey Statute**, the **Board of School Estimate** is comprised of **three freeholders** and **two trustees**. This year's Board of School Estimate **members** are **Freeholders John C. Bartlett, Jr., James F. Lacey, and Gerry P. Little** and **Board Chair Van Thulin** and **Board Treasurer Jerry Dasti**. **Board Secretary Stephan Leone** serves as the **Secretary** of the **Board of School Estimate**.

Middle States Commission on Higher Education

On **Monday, January 23**, **Dr. Ellie Fogarty**, **Middle States Commission on Higher Education's liaison to Ocean County College**, visited the campus in **preparation** for the College's **self-study process**, which will result in our **2014 report** to the **Commission**. The **purpose** of her **visit** was to



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reinforce the **partnership** between OCC and the **Commission** by **learning** more about the **College**, providing **expertise** on the **Commission's expectations**, and discussing the College's **self-study process**.

Dr. Fogarty had a **full day** of meetings with me, the **Self-Study Steering Committee**, **team leaders** and **members**, several **trustees**, **faculty**, **staff**, and our **Self-Study Co-Chairs**, **Ms. Janet Hubbs** and **Dr. Carolyn Lafferty**. **Dr. Fogarty** provided some **valuable insight** into the **accreditation process**, and I believe she was **impressed** with the College's **commitment** to the **self-study** as well as the **progress** already made on it.

Legislative Visits

Every **February** for a **number of years**, I have traveled to **Washington, D.C.**, to **visit** with **state and national legislators**. **Mr. David Wolfe**, **Special Assistant to the President** and **10th District Assemblyman**, has scheduled times on **Monday, February 6**, and **Tuesday, February 7**, for us to meet with **Congressmen Chris Smith** and **Jon Runyan** to discuss several **important issues** that affect the **College** and our **students**.

One of the issues **Mr. Wolfe** and I will be **discussing** with the **legislators** is the **effect** the **mandated cuts** to **Federal financial aid programs** will have on our **students** and all other **community college students**. **Legislation** signed in **December** **negatively** impacts **student aid programs** authorized under **Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965** as follows:

- ◆ **Elimination** of the **Ability to Benefit** options
- ◆ **Reduction** of the **Auto-Zero income threshold** from **\$30,000** to **\$23,000**
- ◆ **Reduction** of **student income protection allowances**
- ◆ **Elimination** of **year-round Pell grants**
- ◆ **Reduced lifetime Pell eligibility** from **18 semesters** to **12 semesters**

After our visit, I will **inform you** of the **outcome** of our discussions.

Ocean County College Athletic Program

It gives me **great pleasure** to inform you that, after the **fall semester competition**, **Ocean County College's athletics program** is **ranked #1** in the **country** by the **National Alliance of Two-Year College Athletic Administrators (NATYCAA)** for our **success** in **championship competition**.



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COLLEGE	Men's Points	Women's Points	Total Points
OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE	15.0	53.0	68.0
SUNY DELHI	19.0	32.0	51.0
HERKIMER CCC	23.0	20.5	43.5
HOWARD CC	29.5	12.0	41.5
FASHION INST. OF TECH.	0	41.0	41.0
ROCK VALLEY COLLEGE	0	38.0	38.0
MOHAWK VALLEY CC	18.0	17.0	35.0
SUFFOLK CCC-SELDAN	12.0	20.0	32.0
BROOME CC	17.0	13.0	30.0
FINGER LAKES CC	13.0	16.0	29.0
ONONDAGA CC	0	29.0	29.0

The Viking Women's Program has the most points of any school (53) from the fall semester, based on team rankings at the National Junior College Athletic Association Championships. This past fall, four OCC teams competed in their respective national championships. The teams finished as follows:

- Women's Soccer – 3rd place
- Women's Cross Country – 3rd place
- Women's Tennis – 4th place
- Men's Cross Country – 6th place

NATYCAA is the professional organization of two-year college athletic administrators, and membership is open to all two-year institutions from throughout the country. NATYCAA includes 11 professional associations and is administered by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics.

The NATYCAA Cup program began in 2004 to recognize excellence in two-year college athletics. Standings are ranked twice during the academic year; mid-year rankings occur in January and final standings are in June.

For your information, below are the top 10 non-scholarship rankings:

Ocean County College Student Athlete Award

Ms. Elizabeth Lawler was honored as the Ocean County College "Woman Athlete of the Year" and was recognized by the Garden State Athletic Conference at the "New Jersey National Girls and Women in Sports Day" celebration at Seton Hall University on January 22.

Liz, a leader on the court for the women's basketball team, earned "National Player of the Week" honors each year she has played for the Vikings. As a freshman in the 2010-2011 basketball season, Liz was selected to the National Junior College Athletic Association All-Region and All-Conference teams. Not only is she a standout on the basketball court, this past fall 2011 semester she assisted the Women's Soccer team in reaching the National Championship where it finished third in the country. Liz was also selected to the Soccer Coaches Association All-American team.



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In addition to her **athletic accomplishments**, Liz has **excelled** in the **classroom**, earning **academic honors** each semester as a **NJ STARS student**. Following graduation, Liz is looking forward to furthering her **academic** and **athletic career** at a **four-year institution**.

Congratulations are extended to **Elizabeth** for all of her **outstanding success**.

College Goal Sunday

Ocean County College has, for the **fourth year**, been selected as one of **ten sites** in **New Jersey** to host **College Goal Sunday** on **Sunday, February 26**, at **1:00 pm**. This event has proven to be very **successful** in assisting **low income** and **first generation students** in **completing the national application** for college **financial aid**, the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**, and in providing information on available **financial aid resources**.

College Goal Sunday is **co-sponsored** by the **New Jersey Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators** and the **New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority**, with a **grant** from the **Lumina Foundation for Education**.

Black History Month

Black History Month is an **annual celebration** of **achievements** and a **time for recognizing** the **central role** of **African Americans** in **United States history**. Since **1976**, every **U.S. president** has **officially designated** the **month of February** as **Black History Month**. This year's **theme** is "**African American Women and Culture**."

The **African American flag** will be **raised** on **Thursday, February 2**, at the **campus mall flagpole**. Immediately following, I will provide the **opening address** for the month's activities in the **College Center Solar Lounge**. At **12:30 p.m.**, **students, faculty, and staff** will read **African American poems and essays**, and a **soul food buffet** will be available at **1:00 p.m.**

The **Office of Multicultural Services**, the **Organization of Black Unity**, the **English/Literature Department**, and **Student Life** are **sponsoring** this event. The **trustees** are **welcome** to attend.

Board of Trustees Meetings/Retreats

Please remember that the "**February**" **meeting** of the Board of Trustees will be held on **Monday, March 5**.



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Also, the following **dates** have been scheduled during **2012** for **Board of Trustees Retreats**, which will be held in the **Boardroom**. All meetings will **begin** at **12 noon**.

- ◆ **Friday, March 9, 2012**
- ◆ **Friday, June 8, 2012**
- ◆ **Friday, September 14, 2012**
- ◆ **Friday, December 14, 2012**