



# 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 **June 22, 2009, Board Meeting**

**DATE:** June 17, 2009

## Ocean County College Bookstore

The **Ocean County College Bookstore Buy Back Program** was extremely **successful** this year. The Buy Back Program pays **cash** to **students** for **used textbooks** that the Bookstore **resells** to **students** the **following semester** at a **discount**.

For the **spring 2009 semester** alone, the Bookstore **paid out \$424,580** to our **students** for **10,818 used books**, which represents an **increase of 77 percent** over **last year**. Of that total, **8,300** of those **books** will be **resold** to **students** for the **fall 2009 semester** at a **reduced cost** and the **balance** of the **books** will be **sold** to a **wholesaler**.

The **Buy Back Program** is very **popular** with our **students** because it puts **money** back in **their pockets** at the end of the semester and allows the **Bookstore** to **sell more discounted used books** the following semester. The **Buy Back Program** also provides **students** with an **incentive** to **buy** from the **OCC Bookstore** rather than from **on line competitors**.

**Ms. Carol Kaunitz, Director of Auxiliary Services**, and her **staff** are **commended** for their **efforts** in making this **valuable program** available to our **students**.

### New Degree Program

I am pleased to report that the **New Jersey Presidents' Council**, at its meeting on **June 1<sup>st</sup>**, favorably reviewed OCC's new degree program, the **A.S. Degree in Public Service**.

This program will address the **state-wide demand** for individuals in a wide variety of **public service career areas**, such as **addictions counseling, child care, developmental disability assisting, fire science, human services, municipal administration, and public administration/government**. The program is designed so **graduates** may either **transfer to a four-year college** or directly **enter the workforce**.

### State Health Benefit Plan

**Information** continues to **emerge** regarding the pending **double digit increase** announced by **Governor Corzine** in late **May** for the **State Health Benefit plan** managed by the State for **public entities**. According to the **State Pension Director Fred Beaver**, the actual **increase** may be in **excess of 20 percent** beginning as early as **January 2010**. **Ms. Sara Winchester, Vice President of Finance**, has been **invited** by the **New Jersey Council of County Colleges** to attend the **SHBP Board meeting** on **July 14<sup>th</sup>**. As more **information** becomes **available**, it will be **shared** with the Board. Meanwhile, we are in the process of **analyzing the impact** of these **additional costs** on **future budgets** as well as **exploring alternatives** available to the College.

### Pending Legislation

**Assembly Bill 4048, New Jersey Economic Stimulus Act of 2009**, was **approved** by the **New Jersey Assembly Budget Committee** on **Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>**, and was **forwarded** to the **New Jersey Senate**. **Approval** is **anticipated** by the full **Legislature** by **June 30<sup>th</sup>**.

**Five different legislative issues** are encompassed by this **bill**, one of which is the **provision** for a **public/private partnership** for **development** for **State colleges**, including **long-range facilities plans, establishment of branch campuses, public-private partnerships, expanded authority of the Educational Facilities Authority to issue bonds, and joint bonding with municipalities**.

**Mr. Dave Wolfe, Senior Assistant to the President and Assemblyman for the 10<sup>th</sup> District**, will provide you with **additional information** on this legislation at **Monday's meeting**.

### Commendations

- ◆ For the **second year** in a row, **Ms. Martha Molinini** was named a **Beacon Scholar** and was invited to attend the **2009 Beacon Conference** on **Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>**. **Ms. Molinini's paper, "Dark Matter and the Criteria of Adequacy,"** was

determined to be **one of three outstanding submissions** in the **Mathematics and Science** category. She and her mentor, **Professor of Engineering Neil Schiller**, traveled to **Montgomery College** in **Maryland** where she **presented her paper** at this highly **competitive conference**.

**Congratulations** are extended to **Ms. Molinini** for this **significant achievement** and to **Professor Schiller** for his **support** of and **guidance** to Ms. Molinini.

- ◆ During the month of **May**, **Dr. Jim Brown**, **Associate Professor of Science**, made **four presentations** in **Denver, Colorado**, on the **One-Day-Per-Week Nursing Program** and **online science courses**, which led to **two interviews**:
  - ◆ **“Ocean County College’s Experience with Putting Science Totally Online,”** May 19<sup>th</sup> at the **Colorado Community College Consortium Online (CCCOline)**.
  - ◆ **“Using Totally Online Science Pre-Requisites to Feed a One-Day-Per-Week Nursing Program,”** May 20<sup>th</sup> at the **University of Colorado, Denver School of Nursing**.
  - ◆ **“The Trials And Tribulations Of Putting Science Totally Online: A Case Study,”** May 21st at the **University of Colorado, Department of Science**.
  - ◆ **“Brave New World, Putting Science Totally Online,”** May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the **University of Colorado, CU Online Spring Symposium: Building a Better Tomorrow Today**.
  - ◆ An interview with the **Denver Post**, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, **“Online Classes Create Demand for Do-It-At-Home Lab Kits.”**
  - ◆ An interview with **Inside Higher ED**, June 5<sup>th</sup>, **“Home Dissection Kits and More.”**