



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 24, 2013, Board Meeting**

DATE: June 19, 2013

Enhanced Communication

The **OCC Advising Office**, recognizing the need to find **innovative methods** of **communicating** with **students**, is always seeking **new ways** to accommodate **student needs** and to foster a **personal connection** with them, especially with **nontraditional students**, **distance learning students**, and **students** at the **Southern Education Center**. With that in mind, research was undertaken recently to identify **products** which would allow **students** to **meet** with **advisors remotely**.

Initially, **Skype** was considered an **efficient tool** to **advise students**, but it **lacks** some **essential advising aspects** and **does not provide** the **opportunity** for **other offices**, such as **Financial Aid** and **Registration and Records**, to **utilize** the **software**. Eventually, after contacting other community colleges, a **Cisco product** named **Jabber** was discovered, which offers **face-to-face** and **voice capabilities**, **instant messaging**, **desktop sharing**, and **conferencing**.

The **short-term goal** in utilizing the **Jabber software** is to establish a **better partnership** between the **Toms River campus** and the **Southern Education Center**. The **long-term goal** is for **students** to be able to **speak** to a **college representative remotely** with the advantage of the **desktop sharing** and **conferencing ability**.

A **pilot program** will begin in **September** wherein **NJ STARS students** will have the capability of **scheduling appointments remotely** with the **Coordinator** via **Jabber**. Following a **successful completion** of the **pilot program**, steps will be taken in **January 2014** to make **Jabber available** to the **entire student body**. Students will be able to connect via **Jabber** with staff members in various College offices. While the service will be **available** to **all students**, it will be **most useful** to **nontraditional students** who cannot readily travel to campus.



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At Monday's meeting, **Ms. Anna Regan, Director of Academic Advising**, will provide additional information about **Jabber** as well as **demonstrate its usability**. She will be joined by **Ms. Elaine Schardien, Coordinator of the NJ STARS Program**, and **Mr. Ed Tafaro, Programmer Analyst, Ellucian**.

Instruction Division Update

- ◆ Under the leadership of **Executive Director Pat Fenn**, the **Department of Continuing and Professional Education** has been very involved in several projects under the auspices of the **New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development**:
 - ◆ The **implementation** of the **Recovery New Jersey Talent Grant** that was awarded to OCC to assist **businesses and jobseekers displaced by Super Storm Sandy** during their recovery.
 - ◆ The **New Jersey Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development**, which brings together the vast resources of the **19 New Jersey community colleges** for **New Jersey companies and organizations** to **access, develop, and receive workforce education and training** for their current and emerging workforce statewide.

Mr. Michael Forcella, our recently hired **Manager of Business Engagement**, is busy with both the **Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development** and the **Recovery New Jersey Talent Grant**. OCC will soon be **hosting FEMA** on campus to meet with **contractors** who will help with **Ocean County's recovery**.

- ◆ The development of an **application** for the **2013 Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) Grant Program**, which provides community colleges with **funds to expand and improve** their ability to **deliver career training programs** to assist adults in acquiring the **skills, degrees, and credentials** needed for **employment**. The College's **grant application** focuses on **Health Information Technology**.

Ms. Kathryn Caro, Nursing and Allied Health Administrator, **Ms. Tracey Walsh, Dean of Nursing**, and **Ms. Joanne Padrone, Director of Resource Development**, are completing this **eleven-college grant application** with assistance from **Ms. Sharla Trimm, Senior Grants Consultant, Ellucian**. The application is **due in July**.

- ◆ **Associate Professor of Computer Studies Mary Burke**, who also serves as **OCC's Perkins Grant Coordinator**, has spent the last several months developing the **FY 2014 Perkins Grant Budget**. On **Monday, June 17**, she presented the budget to the **Ocean County Workforce Investment Board** and received its **support** for a **request of \$514,000**. The **Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical**



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Education Grant is intended to be used to **develop** more fully the **academic, career, and technical skills** of students, with **emphasis** on those **Career Clusters** that support **workforce development, economic development, and stakeholder partnerships**. A **recommendation** is included in **Monday's Business and Finance Committee agenda** to **authorize** the **submission** of an **application** for this **funding**.

Professor Burke received **invaluable support** in this effort from:

- ◆ **Mr. Angel Camilo, Interim Dean of Adjunct Faculty**
- ◆ **Dr. Yehia Elmogahzy, Dean of Mathematics, Science, and Technology**
- ◆ **Ms. Tracey Walsh, Dean of Nursing**
- ◆ **Mr. Brad Young, Interim Dean of Social Sciences**

- ◆ In the e-Learning area, **Associate Director Jeff Harmon** and his **staff** have assembled a **pilot program** as an **alternative** to **OCC's Accuplacer Placement Test** for **distance learning students**. The program will be **operational** for the **Fall 2013 semester** and run for **four semesters**, during which time the program will be **analyzed** and **evaluated** to determine its **effectiveness** as an alternative to Accuplacer.

- ◆ **Pearson, OCC's e-Learning partner**, is very **impressed** with the **Master Courses** that we have developed utilizing its **software**, so much so that **Pearson** would like to **showcase** our **e-Learning courses** when **demonstrating** its **products** to **other colleges**.

- ◆ **Mr. Harmon** has **completed** an **online student survey** to confirm that there are **no problems** with **OCC's online science laboratory courses transferring** to **four-year institutions**, both in **New Jersey** and **nationally**.

- ◆ **Ms. Fenn, Mr. Harmon, and Ms. Eileen Schilling, Executive Director of Academic Outreach Programs**, are identifying a **market** for the **delivery** of our **online college courses** to **high school students, regionally and nationally**. In the same way, **Ms. Maysa Hayward, Dean of e-Learning**, is working on the **delivery** of **English as a Second Language courses** to and the **cultural emersion** of students in the **Eastern Mediterranean** seeking to come to the United States to **study** at **four-year colleges**.

Academic Affairs Update

- ◆ The **Academic Affairs Leadership Team** attended a **retreat** at **Long Beach Island Foundation of the Arts and Sciences** in **Loveladies** on **Wednesday, May 29**. The Retreat focused on **conflict management** and **relationship building** and was quite **successful**.



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The team took advantage of the location and had a **wonderful tour** of the **facilities**. As a result, Academic Affairs is working to develop a **partnership** with the **Foundation** by **expanding OCC's course offerings** there. The College currently offers only **Ceramics** and **Drawing classes** at the site. Some other **course possibilities** include **Art History, United States Military History, History and Culture of Jewish People, History and Culture of China, History of Russia, History of the Arab World since World War I, Modern Israel, Introduction to Film, Introduction to Music Appreciation, Basic Photography, Marine Biology, General Biology, Ecology, and Environmental Science.**

◆ **Progress continues** on several projects:

- ◆ The **Developmental Education Committee** is working on the **implementation** of a **pilot program** in **remedial math and English** in **partnership** with **Pearson and McGraw-Hill**. Beginning on **July 8** and running through the **Fall 2013 semester**, **160 students** are expected to **participate**. The goal is to **improve the course delivery** of **remedial math and English courses**.
- ◆ The **Scheduling Task Force** has been collecting data on OCC's **past scheduling practices** in preparation for its **recommendations** for **improving the class schedules** to make them **student-friendly**. Almost **2,000 students** participated in a recent **survey**, and the **data** received will be used as **decisions** are made in the **future**.
- ◆ The **Task Force on Instructional Technology** is **collecting data** and **developing policies and procedures** to ensure that the College's **classroom technology** is **current**. A **survey** was distributed to **faculty**, and **133 faculty members** responded.

Ocean County College Foundation Scholarship Celebration

The **Ocean County College Foundation 2013 Scholarship Celebration** will take place on **Saturday, August 24, 2013, at 6:00 p.m.** The **proceeds** of this year's event, "**East Meets West...the Gateway to Giving,**" will again assist the **Foundation** in its **mission** to make **higher education accessible** to **Ocean County residents** through **scholarships and awards**. The celebration will feature **gourmet food, live entertainment, and a silent auction.**