



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 28, 2010, Board Meeting**

DATE: June 23, 2010

New Jersey Council of County Colleges

Dr. Lawrence Nespoli, President of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges, travels throughout the State during the year to each of the **nineteen New Jersey community colleges** to meet with **trustees** at their **Board meetings**. I am pleased that he will be **joining us on Monday**, at which time he will **report** on the **activities** of the **Council** as well as provide an **update** on the **Governor's FY 2011 budget** as it relates to **higher education**. Dr. Nespoli has always been an **outstanding spokesperson** for the **community college sector** and was **extremely influential** during the past couple of months as the **Governor's budget** was being **developed**.

Mr. Dave Wolfe, Special Assistant to the President and Assemblyman for the 10th District, was a **recipient** of this year's **New Jersey Council of County Colleges Legislative Excellence Award** for his **support** and **friendship** over the years, but especially for being a **Community College Ambassador** in the **Legislature** and for his **strong support** of the **New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Rewards Scholarship (NJ STARS) program**.

Commendations

- ◆ **Ms. Martha Molinini** graduated from OCC in May with **two degrees**, an **Associate in Science Degree in Engineering** and an **Associate in Science Degree in Mathematics**, maintaining a perfect **4.0 grade point average**. While at OCC, Martha was **President** of the **Mathematics Club**; a **charter member** and **President** of **Mu Alpha Theta**, the national **mathematics honor society**; a member of **Phi Theta Kappa**; and, as you might remember, a **Beacon Scholar** in both **2008** and **2009**.



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Martha has been accepted to The Albert Nerken School of Engineering of The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York, a top-ranked institution for undergraduate engineering. It is the only private, full-scholarship college in the United States dedicated to preparing students for the professions of architecture, art, and engineering. Only 1 percent of students who apply to The Cooper Union are accepted, and less than 1 percent are accepted as transfer students. Martha will be receiving a \$35,000 annual full-tuition scholarship for the duration of her studies at The Cooper Union. Martha's ultimate career goal is research in biomedical applications of nanotechnologies to combat neurological diseases. She also hopes to one day return to OCC to teach.

Martha has been invited to attend Monday's meeting so we can offer our congratulations on her exceptional achievement.

- ◆ Dr. Jim Brown, Associate Professor of Science, presented at the 32nd Annual Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence sponsored by the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) and the College of Education of the University of Texas at Austin on June 1, 2010. Dr. Brown's presentation was entitled "Change is Here: Teaching Lab Science Courses Online." The presentation featured Ocean County College's many online science courses, including specific examples from Dr. Brown's Microbiology and Biology courses.

Ocean County College is a leader in online laboratory science education, and other colleges and universities were eager to hear about OCC's success. Dr. Brown was given a plaque from the University Of Texas designating him as a Master Presenter.

Dr. Brown will also be at Monday's meeting to provide a short report on his presentation.

Office of Financial Aid

- ◆ College Goal Sunday - At the final College Goal Sunday Committee meeting for 2010, Ocean County College was presented with two Certificates of Recognition for being a Host School for the years 2009 and 2010. These awards recognize that Ocean County College's participation in this program has helped to assist students and families in reaching their goals of obtaining financial aid to attend college.

It was noted at this meeting that, of the nine Host Schools, Ocean County College had the highest number of internal volunteers and was the only school that had volunteer support from its Vice President of Finance. Congratulations were extended to Ms. Sara Winchester, Dr. Norma Betz, Director of Financial Aid, and all participants who volunteered their time and expertise to make the event so successful. Ocean County College will be a Host School again next year.



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- ◆ **Direct Loans** - Included in the **Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010**, which was signed into law on **March 30, 2010**, is the **Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA)**. SAFRA will end a program that subsidizes private lenders that provide federally guaranteed student loans. This student loan legislation will require all colleges to use direct government lending as of **July 1, 2010**, for federal loans, effectively eliminating banks and other lenders as middlemen.

I am pleased to report that our **Financial Aid Office** has **successfully completed** its first round of **Direct Loan processing** for the **summer sessions**. Everything is **in place** to ensure **uninterrupted loan processing** for our students for the **fall 2010 semester**. This is an **impressive accomplishment** in that, as a result of SAFRA, the **Financial Aid Office** has had to absorb **additional responsibilities** in **reconciliation, reporting, and student notification**.

Again, I **commend Ms. Winchester, Dr. Betz, and the Financial Aid staff** for their **exceptional work** in effecting this change.