

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 **March 24, 2008, Board Meeting**

**DATE:** March 19, 2008

**Mathematics Awareness Month**

**Mathematics Awareness Month**, recognized each year in **April**, was created to increase an **understanding of** and **appreciation for mathematics**. It began in **1986** as **Mathematics Awareness Week** with a **proclamation** by **President Ronald Reagan**, and, in **1999**, it was changed to national **Mathematics Awareness Month**.

Mathematics Awareness Month is **sponsored by** the **Joint Policy Board for Mathematics**, which is a **collaborative effort** of the **American Mathematical Society**, **American Statistical Association**, **Mathematical Association of America**, and **Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics**.

This year's **theme** is, appropriately, **"Mathematics and Voting."** In this presidential **election year**, candidates are vying for attention in **debates** and **primaries**, **polls** are taking the pulse of the electorate, and, ultimately, a **general election** will lead to the

selection of the next President. Most people wonder at some point about the **importance** of their **votes** and the ways in which they are **cast** and **counted**. **Mathematics** and **statistics** are **critical** in **understanding** the **outcome** of an **election**.

It is **respectfully requested** that the Board **adopt** a **resolution** proclaiming **April** as **Mathematics Awareness Month** at **Ocean County College** to remind the college community of the **importance** of **mathematics** in our **daily lives**. I have asked **Ms. Carolyn Showalter, Dean of Mathematics**, to give a **brief report** on the college's **activities** to place **emphasis** on the need for **mathematics skills**.

### **2008 Best Practices Conference**

This year, **Ocean County College** is **hosting** the **New Jersey Council of County Colleges 2008 Best Practices Conference, "Collaborations that Work,"** on **Thursday and Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>**. We are delighted that this event will bring many of our **community college colleagues** from throughout the **state** to our **campus**.

The **Best Practices Conference** is **sponsored** by **The CollegeBoard, ETS, Investors Savings Bank, The New York Times Knowledge Network, Smarthinking, and USA Architects Planners and Interior Designers**.

The conference **begins** on **Thursday evening** with a **networking reception** and **keynote presentation** by **Ms. Jane Oates, Executive Director of the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education**. **Friday** features a **special session** on the **statewide general education program and transfer agreement**, a **presidential session** on the **dynamics of regional accreditation**, **presentations** from **colleagues** and **peers** on their **best practices, networking**, and more.

If you are **interested** in being **involved** in any aspect of this **conference**, please let me know. Your **presence** would be **most welcome**.

### **Phi Theta Kappa**

Ocean County College's **Tau Iota Chapter** of **Phi Theta Kappa**, the **national honor society** of **two-year colleges**, has been an **integral part** of **campus life** for **many years**. Its members have had **outstanding achievements**, both as a **chapter** and for **individual performance**.

**Dr. Rickert** will be accompanying **several students** to **Phi Theta Kappa's 90<sup>th</sup> International Convention** in **Philadelphia** from **Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, to Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**. This is the **largest gathering** of **community college honor students**, with almost **4,000 members** expected to attend.

On **Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>**, approximately **150 students** will be **inducted** into **Phi Theta Kappa**, a **significant increase** over past years. It appears this increase can be **attributed** to the **NJ STARS Program**; at least **75** of the **new inductees** are **NJ STARS students**.

The success of **Phi Theta Kappa** is a result of the **exceptional leadership, service, and time** provided by its **advisors**, faculty members **Dr. William Rickert, Mr. Joaquin Rolon, and Ms. Robin Weitz, and Dean Showalter.**

At **Monday's meeting**, I will have the pleasure of presenting **Ms. Carolyn Showalter** with a **gift** from the **Executive Director** and **Chair** of the **Board of Directors** of **Phi Theta Kappa's Center for Excellence** in recognition of her **20 years** of service as an **advisor** of the **Tau Iota Chapter**. **Sincere congratulations** are extended to **Ms. Showalter.**

### **OCEAN, Inc., Child Development Center**

You are cordially **invited** to attend the official **Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony** for the recently constructed **OCEAN, Inc., Child Development Center** on **Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>**, from **5 to 7 p.m.** The center opened for **OCEAN, Inc., participants** in **December 2007** and for **Ocean County College employees and students** in **January 2008.**

This **state-of-the-art 10,340 square foot building** houses **eight pre-school classrooms**, each with an **art/music area, computer area, science corner, classroom library, family welcoming area, and free play area.** The Center also includes a **lobby and reception area, administrative offices, parent and staff rooms, and an information technology room.** In addition, it provides a **child observation and assessment room** where **OCC students and professional educators** may **observe activities.**

The Center offers **150 day care slots.** This **first year** of operation, approximately **15 employees and students** are taking advantage of the **day care services**, but we expect **many more** in the **future**, up to a **maximum** of **50 slots** dedicated for use by **employees and students.**

Please plan to be with us on **May 1<sup>st</sup>** to **celebrate** this **long-awaited child care facility** at Ocean County College.

### **Ocean County College Nursing Program**

The **New Jersey Board of Nursing** recently reported the **results** of **OCC nursing graduates** on the **National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN).** Of the **130 graduates** who sat for the exam in **2007**, **121** were **successful**, representing a **pass rate of 93%.** This figure includes only those who took the examination for the **first time.** Since **2000**, **OCC's average pass rate** is **90.48%.**

These results continue to attest to the **academic excellence** of the **Nursing Program** and the **commitment** and **dedication** of all those associated with the program. **OCC's Nursing Program** is considered to be one of the best, if not **the best**, nursing program in the **state.**

**Middle States Commission on Higher Education Activities**

As I informed you several months ago, I will **chair a Middle States Commission on Higher Education evaluation team** at **Lehigh Carbon Community College, Schnecksville, Pennsylvania**, from **Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**, to **Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>**. Final **preparations** for the visit are currently **being made**, and I am looking forward to **participating** with the **Middle States team** on this **very important evaluation process**.

**OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE  
Board of Trustees**

**RESOLUTION**



**WHEREAS,** since 1986, as a result of a proclamation by President Ronald Reagan, April has been designated nationally as Mathematics Awareness Month; and

**WHEREAS,** Mathematics Awareness Month is sponsored by the Joint Policy Board for Mathematics for the purpose of increasing public understanding of and appreciation for mathematics; and

**WHEREAS,** despite the importance of mathematics to the progress of our economy and society, enrollment in mathematics programs has been declining in the American educational system; and

**WHEREAS,** mathematics is indispensable in such diverse fields as medicine, computer sciences, space exploration, the skilled trades, business, defense, and government; and

**WHEREAS,** the Joint Policy Board for Mathematics has selected "Mathematics and Voting" as this year's theme in recognition of the presidential election, in which mathematics plays an integral role in determining our next President through primaries, polls, and the general election itself;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the month of April 2008 be proclaimed as Mathematics Awareness Month at Ocean County College; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the college community be reminded of the importance of mathematics to our daily lives as well as encourage the study and utilization of mathematics by our students.

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Linda L. Novak  
Secretary

*Adopted: March 24, 2008*