



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 5, 2012, Board Meeting**

DATE: February 29, 2012

Governor Chris Christie's Proposed FY 2013 Budget

On **Tuesday, February 21st**, **Governor Chris Christie** proposed a **\$32.15 billion FY 2013 State budget** that calls for an **increase** in funds for **higher education**. This increase follows **two years of flat or decreased funding**. The **FY 2013 budget**:

- ◆ **Expands Opportunities for Students with \$393.2 Million in Financial Assistance** - Governor Christie's budget **increases financial support** for **New Jersey students** attending **in-state institutions** to an **all-time high**. More than **\$393.2 million** is recommended for the **various programs** that make up the **State's student financial assistance package**.
- ◆ **Increases Funding by \$37.5 Million for the Neediest Students through Tuition Aid Grants (TAG)** - **\$341.4 million** in **State funding** is provided in total for **TAG programs**. This level of support will allow the **average award** in each sector to **increase**. Additionally, the **Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA)** will **align its regulations** with those of the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** regarding **family size**.
- ◆ **Increases Funding for the New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) for the First Time in Four Years** - More than **\$38.8 million** is provided for **annual EOF grants** ranging from **\$200 to \$2,500** to the **economically and educationally disadvantaged students** who need it most. **EOF grants** assist **low income residents** who are **capable and motivated** but **lack adequate preparation** for **college study**.
- ◆ **Continues NJ STARS Funding** – The budget **continues funding** for this **State-sponsored, merit-based NJ STARS scholarship program** designed to reward **academic excellence** to **outstanding high school graduates**. **Mr. Dave Wolfe, Special Assistant to the President and 10th District Assemblyman**, and I **devised a revision** to the **program**, which has the **full support** of the



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Governor, the Legislature, and all segments of New Jersey higher education. Effective in **fall 2012**, the **revisions** to the program for **new NJ STARS recipients** are:

- ◆ **NJ STARS scholarships** will cover **only tuition** costs.
- ◆ **NJ STARS II students** may use the scholarship to attend **New Jersey independent four-year institutions** of higher education as well as public institutions.
- ◆ The **NJ STARS II scholarship** will **no longer** be **calculated** on the student's **grade point average**.
- ◆ The **cost** of the **NJ STARS II scholarships** will be paid by the **State**.
- ◆ **Community colleges** are encouraged to provide **four-year institutions** with the opportunity to **recruit NJ STARS I students**.

Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA)

Governor Christie, on **Monday, February 27th**, filed **nominations** with the **State Senate** for various **State Board appointments**. He has **nominated me** as the **County College Representative** on the **Board** of the **Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA)**. The **nomination** is **subject** to the **advice** and **consent** of the **State Senate**.

HESAA delivers **millions of dollars** in **financial aid annually**; since its **inception** in **1959**, it has delivered over **\$18 billion** in **financial aid**. **HESAA** administers the **Tuition Aid Grant (TAG)**, the **Part-Time TAG for County College Students**, **NJ STARS I and II**, the **Garden State Scholars programs**, the **Federal Family Education Loan program**, **NJ CLASS**, and **NJ BEST**. **HESAA** also offers **financial literacy programs** for **young adults**, **training programs** for **guidance counselors**, and **outreach programs** across the State to ensure that **students** and **families** gain **valuable information** about the **availability** and **affordability** of **higher education**. **HESAA** is a **co-sponsor** of **College Goal Sunday**, which was held on our **campus** on **Sunday, February 26th**.

Ocean County College Board of School Estimate

The **Ocean County College FY 2013 budget** will be presented for approval at the **Ocean County College Board of School Estimate** meeting, which is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 7th**, at the **Ocean County Administration Building**. The **Board** 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**.



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Ocean County College Website

The Ocean County College website, www.ocean.edu, is updated and improved continuously by Ms. Maureen Conlon, Manager of Web Services, and individual departments of the College. Ms. Tara Kelly, Vice President of College Advancement, will make a brief presentation on the Ocean County College website at Monday's meeting.

Some of the new and revised content includes:

- ◆ **Online Admissions Application** (www.apply.ocean.edu) – The new **online admissions application** allows a **prospective student** to **create an individual account** with a **user name** and **password** and then to **complete and submit the application** directly to the **Registration Office**. The student is assured that the **personal information** submitted is **encrypted and secure**. **Links** are included for **College resources** that may be of interest to a prospective student.
- ◆ **Ocean County College E-Learning** (www.online.ocean.edu) – This new **micro-site** provides a **separate and distinct web presence** for individuals who are interested in pursuing their **education** through **distance learning**. The site **welcomes** the students, provides **guidance** on the **application process**, highlights **distance learning courses and degrees programs**, delineates **tuition and fees**, and provides **links** to the **course schedule, e-advising, the Library, and the 24/7 Help Desk** for **assistance** in the event problems are encountered. From a **marketing perspective**, this **micro-site** displays **various messages** to **engage potential students** from throughout the **country** and includes **interactive features**, such as **video, image gallery, and rotating degree spotlights**. The **site** also **collects information** from **individuals** who want to **learn more** about **distance learning** at **Ocean County College** before applying; a return **telephone call** is made to the prospective student within **24 hours** after a request is made.
- ◆ **Ocean County College Purchasing** (www.purchasing.ocean.edu) – After **several years**, the **Purchasing Department** recently **completed the development** of a **specialized portal** for both **College employees and prospective vendors**. It includes the **names of Purchasing Department employees, current bid opportunities, vendor forms, previous contract awards, and policies and procedures** for purchases.
- ◆ **Ocean County College Human Resources** (www.career.ocean.edu) – Also prominently **displayed** on the College's **home page** is a **link** for **individuals** who are interested in **applying for employment**. This **unique sub-domain** allows interested people to **search for position openings**, provides an **application** to be **completed online and submitted** to the **Human Resources Department**, and lets individuals **manage their application** for **six months** for possible **resubmission**. Additionally, **current employees** have **HR information** available to them through **OceanCruiser**.



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- ◆ **Ocean County College Theatre** (www.tickets.ocean.edu) – All tickets for Theatre performances may now be **purchased** on the College website. Patrons **no longer** need to **travel** to the College for their **tickets**. They can **view details** of events, which are **categorized** by **genre**, create **personal accounts** for future use, and **purchase** their **tickets** using a **credit card**.
- ◆ **Ocean County College Planetarium** (www.ocean.edu/planet.htm) – The **Robert J. Novins Planetarium** site provides **extensive information** on a **variety of programs** for students and the **community-at-large**:
 - ◆ The **schedule** of ongoing **public shows** with **descriptions** and **ticket prices**
 - ◆ A **listing** of **special events**, such as **Pajama Nights** and the popular **Laser Shows**
 - ◆ **Public school programs** for students from **pre-kindergarten** to **high school**
 - ◆ **Academic Astronomy courses**
 - ◆ Information on **ASTRA**, the **Astronomical Society of the Toms River Area**
 - ◆ A **link** to “**Universe Today**,” which contains **space** and **astronomy news**

All of these **revisions** and **additions** to the **College website** have resulted in not only **ease of use** by **students** and **visitors** but also in **more efficient operations** and **effective fiscal management** through **significant savings**. Many **more improvements** and **enhancements** are **scheduled** and **ongoing**.

Ocean County College Athletics

I am very **excited** to share with you that **two Ocean County College athletes** have been **honored** by the **National Junior College Athletic Association**. **JaMario Clayton** and **Elizabeth Lawler** have been named to the **Region XIX All-Region First Team**, and **JaMario** and **Elizabeth** were recognized as the **basketball Players of the Year**.

The **achievements** of **JaMario** and **Elizabeth** have been **outstanding** in both **academics** and **athletics**. Both are **excellent students** and both have **excelled in sports**. On **February 9th**, **JaMario** became **one of six athletes** in the **history** of the College to score **1,000 points**. And, after today's **semi-final Region XIX game**, which **OCC** won, **Elizabeth** is only **2 points** from also reaching **1,000 points**. The **next game** of the **semi-finals** is **Saturday**, and we will surely have reason to **celebrate Elizabeth's performance**.

We could not be more **proud** of **JaMario** and **Elizabeth**. They have been **exceptional representatives** for their **teams** and the **College**.



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Ocean County College Senior Living Expo

Ocean County College will host the **Second Annual Senior Living Expo** from **10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** on **Thursday, March 15th**, in the **College Gymnasium**. **Admission to the Expo is free.**

Expo **highlights** include:

- ◆ **Health and wellness screenings** presented by **Community Medical Center**.
- ◆ **Free food samples** from **area eateries and restaurants**, including **Anthony's Café, Quality Inn, Johnny G's Italian Restaurant**, and **The Creative Basket/Devil Brownies**. Additional food vendors will be announced.
- ◆ **Musical entertainment** provided by **Pizazz** featuring hits of the past.
- ◆ **Dozens** of business and professional **exhibitors**.
- ◆ **Door prizes** and **free giveaways**

The **Ocean County College Senior Living Expo 2012** is sponsored by **Community Medical Center/Barnabas Health, Harrogate**, and **New Jersey Natural Gas**.

Last year's **inaugural event** was extremely **successful**, with over **400 people** attending. It is **anticipated** that **600 to 700** will visit the **campus** for the **Expo** this year.

Ocean County College Open House/Planning Conference

Ocean County College will offer an **Open House/Planning Conference** on **Thursday, March 29th**, from **6:00 to 9:00 p.m.** The event is **open to all**, from **high school students to adults** who desire to **continue their education**. **Campus tours** will be **offered** and **light refreshments** will be served.

Participants will have the **opportunity** to speak with **College representatives** about **general college planning** or specific **OCC programs**, including **American sign language, computer technology, criminal justice, engineering, English, graphic arts, homeland security, mathematics, music, nursing, science, theatre**, and the **Kean-Ocean partnership**. The **schedule** for the **evening conference** includes:

5:00 p.m. - Campus Tours Begin

6:00 p.m. - Welcome by the President



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6:30 p.m. - How to Plan a Cost-Efficient College Education

7:30 p.m. - Workshops

8:00 p.m. - Funding your College Education

The **workshops** to be offered are:

- ◆ **Planning Your Degree Program - A Guide for Transfer Students**
- ◆ **Connecting the Dots: From Degree to Career**
- ◆ **Financial Aid Workshop - Funding Your College Education**
- ◆ **There Are No I.E.P.'S in College - Using Disability Services in College**

Board of Trustees Retreat

Please note that the **next Board of Trustees Retreat** is scheduled for **Friday, March 9th**, from **12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.** in the **Administration Building Boardroom**. If there are any **specific issues** you would like to discuss, please **let me know**.