



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 **May 27, 2008, Board Meeting**

DATE: May 21, 2008

Financial Aid/Student Loans

I have asked **Dr. Norma Betz, Director of Financial Aid**, to provide you with a **report** at **Tuesday's meeting** on the status of the **turbulence** in the **student loan industry**. Recent **legislation** enacted by **Congress** has impacted **loan limits**, student access to loans, **lenders of last resort**, and **bank and loan market liquidity**.

These **changes** in the **student loan market** are **affecting** all **community colleges**, creating worry and fear that **students' access** and **ability to receive loans** are **in jeopardy**. Dr. Betz will share with you some **history** on how this **instability** occurred, how **Ocean County College** fares within this turmoil, and what is being done to **assist our students**.

NJ Stars Program

As I reported in **my remarks** at **Commencement**, OCC graduated **160 NJ STARS** students this year, the **highest number** of any **community college** in the **State**. The **number of students** taking advantage of this **very successful program** continues to **increase** as **parents recognize** the opportunity for **significant tuition savings** and **high school students** are provided with **incentives** and **encouragement** to **do well academically**.

The **Governor**, in his **FY 2009 State budget**, proposed an **income limitation** of **\$100,000** on the **families** of students who are **eligible** for the **NJ STARS Program**, a limitation that would **alter** the **original intent** of this **merit-based program**.

The **New Jersey Assembly Higher Education Committee** recently held a **special hearing** on the **proposed changes** to the **NJ STARS Program**, at which a **contingent** of **community college presidents**



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jon H. Larson, Ph.D.

and **students** delivered **powerful testimony** about the **merits** of the **program**. As a result of their efforts, the **Chair** of the **Assembly Higher Education Committee** will recommend to the Governor a **two-part strategy** as a **compromise** to the proposed income limitation:

- ◆ Keep the NJ STARS program the **same** for **FY 2009**, committing the **necessary funds** to do so; and
- ◆ Appoint a **special task force** to develop **recommendations** to **amend the program** beginning in **FY 2010**.

I am pleased to report that **Assemblyman and Special Assistant to the President Dave Wolfe** has been **invited** to serve as a **member** of the **task force**. He is **aware** of the **concerns** relating to the program from the perspective of both the **students** and the **State**. I will **keep you informed** on the **progress** of this effort to **find a compromise** to **retain** the **NJ STARS Program** for its **original purpose**.

Ocean County College Athletics

I am very pleased to share with you the **wonderful success** of **OCC's athletics teams** this year:

- ◆ **Men's Golf** - After an **exciting playoff**, the **OCC Men's Golf Team** won the **Region XIX Tournament** that was held at **Cape May Nationals** on **Tuesday, May 13th**. The team finished the tournament in a **tie for first place** with the **County College of Morris**. The teams then had a **playoff**, and **OCC won the first hole** with a **score of 16** against **18** for **Morris**.

Individual tournament scores for the team members were: **Juan Ruiz, 78; Steve Kennely, 79; Scott Defibaugh, 81; Mike Dickenson, 81; Jeff Carswell, 88, and Anthony Melchione, 88**. The team's **winning score** was **319**.

Head Coach Kevin Beirne was named the **2008 Region XIX Coach of the Year**. He will lead the team to the **National Tournament** at **Chautauqua Golf Club** in **Jamestown, New York**, which will be held from **June 2nd to 6th**.

- ◆ **Women's Tennis** – The **OCC Women's Tennis Team** finished **second** in the **nation** in **Division III** at the **National Junior College Athletic Association Tennis Tournament**, which was held from **May 3rd to 7th** in **Tucson, Arizona**. This was the **best finish** of the **Women's Tennis Team**.

In his **second season** at **OCC**, **Head Coach Stan Friedman** led the team to an **undefeated season** in the **fall** with a **first place finish** at the **Garden State Athletic Conference**. As a result, he was recognized as the **Conference's Coach of the Year**.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jon H. Larson, Ph.D.

OCC's first-ever Women's Tennis All-Americans include **Caitlyn Lawrence, third in singles; Melissa Wernoch, fifth in singles; Ashley Shumard and Mallory Garbarvage, third in doubles; Rachael Bonafide; Olga Brylevskaya; Maggie DeBenedictis; and Shannon Witte.**

I have asked **Ms. Ilene Cohen, Director of Athletics, and team coaches and players** to attend **Tuesday's meeting** so we can **extend our sincere commendations** to them for their **exceptional achievements** on behalf of OCC.

Ocean County College Sailing

The **OCC Sailing Team** finished in **first place** in the **Webb Regatta**, which was hosted by the **Webb Institute in Glen Cover, New York**, during the weekend of **May 10th and 11th**. OCC defeated second place **Christopher Newport University** by **just one point**.

The Webb Regatta was the **team's last event** for the year. In the **fall**, the OCC sailors **finished second** in the **championships**. This first place finish for the spring concluded an **outstanding year** for the team.

Congratulations are extended to **Mr. Roy Wilkins, OCC Manager of Recreation Activities**, and the **members of the team**.

Educational Opportunity Fund Program

The **New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Program** held its **Professional Association's Student Day Conference** on **March 17th** in **Atlantic City** to **recognize EOF students** for their **outstanding academic and personal achievement and leadership** throughout their college careers. More than **600 graduating EOF seniors** received achievement awards. **OCC students** who were recognized were:

- ◆ **Outstanding Academic Achievement** – Presented to students who maintained **cumulative grade point averages from 3.5 to 3.99**.
- ◆ **Armagan Cumur** completed his **associate degree** in **August 2007** and will be **graduating Thursday**. He earned a **grade point average of 3.8** in the **Criminal Justice Program**. He is a **2007 graduate** of the **64th New Jersey State Police Trooper Youth Training Class**. While at OCC, he was a member of the **EOF Alliance, Lambda Alpha Epsilon (the Criminal Justice Association), and the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society**. Armagan is presently attending the **John Jay College of Criminal Justice** in **New York**.
- ◆ **Matthew B. Gates** completed his **associate in science degree** in **general education** with a **concentration in social sciences** in **December 2007**, earning a **grade point average of 3.5**. He



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jon H. Larson, Ph.D.

served as the **president** of the **EOF Alliance** during the **fall of 2007**, helping to **revitalize** the **club**. Matthew was also a member of the **Beta Chi Chapter** of the **Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society** and was active in the **student government** on campus. He is now **completing prerequisite courses** to be accepted into the **Ocean County College Nursing Program**.

- ◆ **Jennifer D. Kaznowski** is graduating with an **associate in applied science degree** in **business management**. Her **grade point average** is **3.6**. Jennifer has been consistently on the **President's Honors List** and is a member of the **Phi Theta Kappa, Chi Alpha Epsilon**, and was recently inducted into **Alpha Beta Gamma**, the **business honor society** on campus. She also serves on the **Student Advisory Committee** of the **Higher Education Student Assistance Authority**. Jennifer is **married** and has a **three year old son**. She plans to **transfer** to **Rowan University** in the fall to pursue a **degree in human resource management**.
- ◆ **Academic Achievement** – Awarded to students who maintained a **cumulative grade point average** between **3.2 and 3.4**.
- ◆ **Kristine L. Gyimoty** completed the requirements for an **associate in science degree** in **general education** with a concentration in **social sciences** in **December 2007** with a **grade point average of 3.3**. She was a member of the **Beta Chi Chapter** of the **Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society**. Kristine is currently attending **Rowan University**, where she is pursuing a **degree in English** and planning to become an **elementary school teacher**.
- ◆ **Benjamin W. Wardell, Jr.**, who completed his degree requirements in **December 2007** with **two associate in science degrees**, one in **engineering** and one in **general education** with a concentration in **computer science**. His final **grade point average** was **3.3**. He is currently **employed** in the **engineering field** and, with an avid **interest** in **physics**, is considering **transferring** to **NJIT** in the future.
- ◆ **Outstanding Achievement** – Awarded to **one student** from **each participating EOF institution** who **best exemplifies** the **spirit** of the **EOF Program**. The recipient of this **special award** was **Matthew B. Gates**, who also received an **Outstanding Academic Achievement Award**.

New Jersey Council of County Colleges

The **New Jersey Council of County Colleges** will host "**Best Practices and Best Principles**," a conference for New Jersey community college **trustees, presidents, and foundation board members** on **Monday, June 16th**, from **3 to 8 p.m.** at the **Trenton Marriott at Lafayette Yard Hotel**.

This **annual event** will feature a **new community college trustee orientation** session, a presentation of



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jon H. Larson, Ph.D.

OCEAN
COUNTY COLLEGE

three best boards of trustees' practices, dinner, and the June Council business meeting. The recipients of the 2008 New Jersey Council of County Colleges Legislative Excellence Award and the 2008 New Jersey Community College Spirit Awards will also be recognized.

OCC's submission for a best practice was selected to be one of the three highlighted at this conference. Judge Robert Fall, Mr. Stephan Leone, and Mr. Dave Wintrode or another representative from the OCC Foundation, will present OCC's best practice, "The Reach for the Stars Campaign: A Success Story."

Please give consideration to joining me for this special evening.

Announcements/Reminders

- ◆ Mr. Donald Burke, our student/alumni representative on the Board of Trustees last year, is graduating from Rutgers University and has been awarded an Ocean County Bar Association's Memorial Scholarship to attend Seton Hall Law School next year.
- ◆ The Ocean County Community Education Advisory Council awarded a scholarship in Dr. Judith Icklan's name to Ms. Cara Skerrit, a graduate of the Southern Regional Adult School, to attend Ocean County College.
- ◆ Board of Trustees Retreat/Meeting – Friday, June 6th, at 12 noon in the Conference Room of the Technology Building.
- ◆ June Board of Trustees Meeting – Changed from Monday, June 23rd, to Monday, June 16th, 12:30 p.m. in the Boardroom.
- ◆ The OCC Foundation Gala will take place on Saturday, September 6th, at 6 p.m. on the campus mall. This year's honoree is OceanFirst Foundation in recognition of its outstanding commitment to the OCC Foundation and the Ocean County community.