



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 29, 2012, Board Meeting**

DATE: May 23, 2012

Gateway Building Tour

If the **weather is good**, we will have the opportunity to take a **tour** of the **Gateway Building** and the **Combined Heat and Power Plant** following **Tuesday's Board meeting**. I am anxious for you to see the **progress** being made on the **Gateway Building**, the first facility on our **"upper campus."**

Phi Theta Kappa

Ocean County College's **Tau Iota Chapter** of **Phi Theta Kappa** inducted **199 new members** on **April 20th**. To be eligible, these students must have earned at least **fifteen graduation credits** at OCC and have a **minimum grade point average of 3.60**.

Phi Theta Kappa is the **national honor society** for **two-year colleges**. Its purpose is to **recognize and encourage scholarship** among two-year college students. PTK provides the opportunity for the **development of leadership, service, scholarship, and fellowship** among its members.

The **2012 Phi Theta Kappa International Convention** was held from **April 11th to 15th** in **Nashville, Tennessee**, and **four PTK students** were in attendance: **Edward Day, President of Tau Iota Chapter; Jaclyn Caffrey, Vice President of Publications; Nicole Depasquale, Vice President of Service; and Christian Alexander, PTK member**. There were **573 chapters** at the **convention**, representing **4,030 members**. It was the **largest International Convention** in the **history of Phi Theta Kappa**.

Ocean County College's **Tau Iota Chapter** received the **following recognition** on the **international level**:

- ◆ **Tau Iota** received the **Honors in Action-Distinguished Issue Award** for **outstanding scholarly work** in the area of **Government and Public Policy**. This award recognizes the **three chapters internationally** that **scored the highest** on their **entries**. This is an **impressive achievement** considering there are over **1,250 chapters** throughout the **world**.



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- ◆ In the **Five-Star Chapter Development Plan**, **Tau Iota** was awarded the **Five-Star Level**, the **highest possible level** a chapter can receive. This award recognizes **outstanding achievement** in the **four hallmarks** of **Phi Theta Kappa**: **Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Fellowship**.

The **New Jersey Council of County Colleges** hosted **New Jersey Phi Theta Kappa Day** for the **18th consecutive year** on **May 3rd** in **Trenton** to recognize the **All-State Academic Team**. The **State Academic Team** provides **scholarships** and **scholastic recognition** to **Phi Theta Kappa** members. This year, **Ocean County College** students **Lauren Morone** and **Azhar Shah** were recognized as **members** of the **All-State Academic Team** for their **academic achievement, leadership, and service**.

Dr. William Rickert, Phi Theta Kappa Advisor and Professor of Mathematics, will attend **Tuesday's meeting** to share with you the **success** of the **Tau Iota Chapter**. Also serving as **Phi Theta Kappa advisors** are **Assistant Professor of Mathematics Carolyn Showalter**, **Assistant Professor of Computer Science Robin Weitz**, **Assistant Professor of Science Dr. Nidhal Marashi**, and **Associate Professor of English and Literature Dr. Jennifer Dellner**. We are deeply **grateful** for the **time and effort** they expend on behalf of our **Phi Theta Kappa students**.

Ocean County College Facilities Planning and Construction

I have asked **Dr. James McGinty, Executive Vice President, Operations**, and **Mr. Ken Olsen, Assistant Vice President for Facilities Planning and Construction**, to provide a **report** to the trustees on **Tuesday** on the **status** of **capital projects** that are **currently underway**. They include:

- ◆ The **J. Phillip Citta Center for Sailing and Maritime Arts and Sciences** at **Mill Creek Park**
- ◆ The **College Center**
- ◆ The **Combined Heat and Power Plant**
- ◆ The **Gateway Building**
- ◆ Renovation of the **Administration Building**
- ◆ Renovation of the **Instructional Building**

Ocean County College Nursing Program

We recently received the **results** of the **National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX- RN)** for the period **October 2011 to March 2012**. Of the **46 OCC Nursing Program graduates** who sat for the exam during that timeframe, **44, or 96%**, were **successful**. Those **results** rank **Ocean County College second** of the **22 programs** in our **jurisdiction**.



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Our **congratulations** are extended to **Nursing Dean Colleen Manzetti** as well as the **faculty** and **staff** of the **Nursing Program** who provide **exceptional teaching** and **guidance** to our **students** to ensure their **success** on the **licensure examination**.

Ocean County College Sailing Program

The **Ocean County College Sailing Team** participated in the **Drexel Open Regatta** on the **Delaware River** the weekend of **May 5th and 6th**. **Mr. Roy Wilkins, Sailing Program Manager**, reported that **OCC's Sailing Team** won both the **A and B divisions**, with **Zac Shippe and Andrew Deponte** winning the **A Division** and **Jenny Kempton and Kyle Donnelly** winning the **B Division**. **OCC** finished ahead of **Rochester Institute of Technology (2nd)**, **Drexel University (3rd)**, **Webb Institute (4th)**, and the **U.S. Military Academy (5th)**.

We **congratulate Mr. Wilkins** and the **Ocean County College Sailing Team** for their **first place finish** at the **Regatta**.

Ocean County College Recognition

- ◆ Since **1995**, the **South Jersey Cultural Alliance** has presented **Aiken Encore Awards** to honor **organizations** that have made **significant contributions** in support of the **arts** in the **eight counties** in **southern New Jersey**. The awards are presented in honor of **Mr. Paul Aiken**, a **leader** in the **arts community**, who was committed to **developing** and **advancing** the **arts** in **southern New Jersey**.

Each year, member organizations of the **Cultural Alliance** nominate recipients for the **Aiken Encore Awards**. This year, the **Garden State Philharmonic** nominated **Ocean County College** for being a "**beacon of innovation** to other institutions of higher education" and "a **valued partner** to the many **cultural institutions** throughout **central** and **southern New Jersey**."

The **award** was **presented** on **May 17th** at the **Landis Theater** in **Vineland** by the **Philharmonic's Artistic Director and Conductor Anthony LaGruth** to **Ms. Carol Kaunitz, Director of Auxiliary Services**, who **represented** the **College** at the event.

- ◆ The **College of Western Idaho** is in the process of **developing** a **Civility Statement**. After reviewing **many statements online** at a **wide variety of institutions** throughout the **country**, they were **most impressed** with the **quality of care** and **thoroughness** of **OCC's Civility Statement** and requested **permission** to use it as a **foundation** for their work.

This request is a testament to the **concern** and **effort** taken by the **members** of **Ocean County College's Civility Team** to reflect our **institutional mission** and **goals** in a way that **embraces** all **aspects** of a **community college**.



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Ocean County Senior Citizens Art Exhibit

Once again, the **36th Annual Ocean County Senior Citizens Art Exhibit**, will be held in the **Arts and Community Center Gallery** from **June 8th to 27th**.

Original artwork, created by both **professional** and **non-professional artists**, spans many categories including **acrylic, craft, computer imagery, drawing, mixed media, oil, pastel, photography, print, sculpture, and watercolor**. All artwork is **original** and has been **executed** by the submitting artist within the **past three years**.

The **Ocean County Senior Citizens Art Exhibit** is sponsored by **Ocean County College's Department of Resource Development, Office of College Relations, Senior Art Advisory Committee**, and the **Arts and Community Center**, along with the **Ocean County Office of Senior Services, Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders**, and the **Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission**.

Board of Trustees Retreat

The last **Board of Trustees Retreat** of this **academic year** is scheduled for **Friday, June 8th**, from **12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.** in the **Boardroom of the Administration Building**. If you have **suggestions for discussion**, please let me know.