



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 **November 19, 2012, Board Meeting**

DATE: November 14, 2012

Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Efforts

The **disastrous effects** of **Hurricane Sandy** on **October 29** are **far reaching** and impact all of us in some way. Many of our **students and employees** find themselves **facing issues** never before imagined.

Although the **College** was **without power** and, therefore, **closed** for **two weeks**, the **campus** itself **fared surprisingly well**. When the **power** was finally **restored**, and despite the **Nor'easter** that occurred simultaneously, our **Physical Plant personnel** were **remarkable** in their **response**, enabling the **return of administrators and staff** to the campus within **48 hours**.

I have always been **proud** of the **Ocean County College community**, but **never more so** than following Hurricane Sandy. Immediately after recognizing the **seriousness** of the **situation**, **members** of the **College family**, **without delay**, began **reaching out electronically** from their **homes** to **check on colleagues**, **offer assistance**, and **organize relief efforts**. I could not be more pleased with the response that ensued.

I have asked **Vice Presidents Winchester, Jianping Wang, and Don Doran** to report at Monday's meeting on the **relief programs** and the status of **loans, grants, and special arrangements** made for **students and staff**.

I also hope to have in attendance all or most of the individuals whose **hard work, long hours, and deep commitment** made a difference as we struggled after the storm. They deserve **recognition** and our **thanks** for their **initiative, strength of character, and volunteerism** in **difficult circumstances**. I particularly want to recognize:

- ◆ **Vice President Sara Winchester and her staff**, who worked from her home to **conceive, organize, and implement** our **initial outreach efforts** to employees and students:



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- ◆ **Mr. Leslie Cohen, Assistant Vice President of Human Resources**
- ◆ **Ms. Ann Feneis, Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Business and Finance**
- ◆ **Ms. Carol Kaunitz, Director of Auxiliary Services**
- ◆ **Ms. Karen Papakonstantinou, Director of Accounting**
- ◆ **Ms. Jan Kirsten, Executive Director of College Relations**

- ◆ **Mr. Matthew Kennedy, Facilities Consultant**, who directed the **Facilities operation** throughout the crisis by **preparing the campus** for the storm, **monitoring conditions** during the power outage, **communicating with management**, and **supervising clean-up** after the storm, including the snow from the Nor'easter. It should be noted that Mr. Kennedy **lost his apartment** on the barrier island, but that did not interrupt his work at the College. He spent several nights on campus and then relocated to a hotel. His **commitment** to the College during this time was **extraordinary**.

- ◆ **Vice President Jianping Wang** and the **academic administrators** for developing plans to ensure the **academic integrity** of the semester.

Although **not inclusive**, below is a **list of employees** whose **outstanding efforts, above and beyond**, in spite of their own adversity, should be noted:

- ◆ For coming to the College to **process the payroll** that was issued **on time** on November 2:
 - ◆ **Ms. Mary Lancaster, Director of Financial Reporting**
 - ◆ **Ms. Sabreena Joynes, Assistant Director of Payroll**
 - ◆ **Ms. Kathy Bukowinski, Senior Confidential Payroll Technician**
 - ◆ **Ms. Ruby Nancoo, Confidential Payroll Technician**
 - ◆ **Ms. Siu Lee Gong, Confidential Payroll Technician**

- ◆ For ensuring the **continued operation** of **Information Technology** systems:
 - ◆ **Mr. Hatem Akl, Executive Director of Information Technology** – overall **coordination** for the **protection** of the IT systems and **operation** of the servers
 - ◆ **Mr. Peter Eliseev, Programmer Analyst** – for processing **financial aid student refunds**
 - ◆ **Ms. Kerry McEachen, Systems Administrator** – for processing **financial aid student refunds**
 - ◆ **Mr. Kirk Humphreys, Network Systems Administrator** – for assisting with **communication needs**
 - ◆ **Mr. Rick Goshey, Technical Director** – for **correcting a problem** with the **main UPS**



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- ◆ For processing **student refunds** during the power outage:
 - ◆ **Ms. Lisa Hussain, Accounts Receivable Technician**
 - ◆ **Ms. Karen Papakonstantinou, Director of Accounting**
- ◆ For **contacting vendors**, arranging for **emergency procurements**, and **assisting Facilities personnel**:
 - ◆ **Mr. Mark Bowcock, Buyer/Compliance Agent**
- ◆ For taking **leadership roles** in the **facilities operation** and ensuring the **safety** of their **coworkers**:
 - ◆ **Mr. Lenny Mannino, Preventive Maintenance Mechanic**
 - ◆ **Mr. Joe Heumiller, General Maintenance Mechanic**
- ◆ For providing **financial aid information** to students and **volunteering** at the **Southern Education Center**:
 - ◆ **Dr. Norma Betz, Director of Admissions and Financial Aid**
- ◆ For mobilizing **student workers** to assist with **student relief efforts** and ensuring that every enrolled **veteran student** received a **phone call** of **welcome and concern**:
 - ◆ **Ms. Deanne Gatta-Salter, Senior Financial Aid Specialist**
- ◆ For **daily contact** with **faculty members** while the College was closed and for **visiting all classrooms** to meet with faculty members and students when the College reopened:
 - ◆ **Dr. Yehia Elmogahzy, Dean of the School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology**
 - ◆ **Dr. Maysa Hayward, Dean of e-Learning and Adjunct Faculty**
 - ◆ **Mr. Bradford Young, Interim Dean of the School of Social Science and Human Services**
 - ◆ **Ms. Tracie Walsh, Dean of the School of Nursing**
 - ◆ **Dr. Angel Camilo, Interim Dean of Adjunct Faculty**
 - ◆ **Dr. Henry Jackson, Interim Dean for the School of Language and the Arts**
- ◆ For coordinating and posting **electronic messages** during the College closing to keep students and staff informed of **College operations and relief efforts**:



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- ◆ **Ms. Jan Kirsten, Executive Director of College Relations**
- ◆ **Ms. Maureen Conlon, Manager of Web Services**

◆ For remaining as **one of five EMT's** at the **Barnegat Light Firehouse on Long Beach Island**, performing **rescues** during the height of the storm, **providing meals, first aid, and assistance** to emergency personnel, and working with **police and military personnel** to open the roadway off the Island:

- ◆ **Mr. Marc Labella, Associate Professor of Science**

I have also invited **two students, Zack Silk and Daniel DiMaria**, to attend the Board meeting. **Ms. Diane Barnicle, a resident of Point Pleasant** whose **house was flooded** by the storm, sent me an **email** describing how Zack and Daniel **removed the heavy, water-soaked items** from her home and then **punched holes** in the **sheetrock** to aid in **drying** out the house. Although **storm victims themselves**, Zack and Daniel nevertheless **assisted** their **neighbor**. Zach and Daniel represented Ocean County College well and **deserve recognition** for their work.

Following our **return to campus**, other activities were undertaken in **outreach** to our students and staff:

- ◆ A Hurricane Sandy **community resources referral network** was developed to facilitate **ride-sharing and room-sharing message boards**, **student information sessions** were offered, and arrangements have been made with the **Ramada Inn Executive Chef** for a **Thanksgiving Day dinner** at OCC for **community members** affected by Hurricane Sandy. **Ms. Jennifer Fazio, Director of Student Life, Ms. Alison Noone, Coordinator of Student Volunteerism, and Ms. Ilene Cohen, Executive Director of Athletics and Judicial Affairs**, assisted.
- ◆ **Dr. Carolyn Lafferty, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Christine Kephart, Writing Center/Tutoring Resources, and Ms. Wendy Giarratana, Administrative Assistant, Business Studies**, visited all classrooms to **welcome students and faculty** back on campus and to **distribute critical recovery information** to them.

As a result of the storm, a **county-wide Long-Term Recovery Committee** is being established by the **Ocean County Department of Human Services**. The committee is intended to be the **centralized point** at which all **funders, nonprofit agencies, faith-based communities, and volunteer groups** discuss **needs and plans** for a **formalized and unified effort**. The **first meeting** is scheduled for **November 19**, and **Executive Vice President Jim McGinty** will serve as **Ocean County College's representative** on this committee.



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Ocean County College Security

The **Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Police and Campus Crime Statistics Act**, known as the **Clery Act**, is the **federal law** that requires **colleges and universities** to **disclose information** about **crime** on and around their **campuses**. The law applies to **all institutions** of **higher education**, both **public and private**, and is **enforced** by the **U.S. Department of Higher Education**.

Published annually, the **security report** is made available to **students and employees** to provide information about the College's **security policies and procedures** as well as to disclose **specific statistics** for certain **crimes, arrests, and disciplinary referrals**.

The **2012 Campus Safety and Security Report** was **completed** in **October**. **Mr. Robert Kumpf, Director of Security**, will **summarize the report** at **Monday's meeting**.

Mr. Kumpf will also share with you the **efforts** of his **security personnel** during the **two-week period** the **College was closed** following the **Hurricane**.

Academic Program Development

The **School of Nursing at OCC** is developing two new **Allied Health programs** in cooperation with the **School of Health Related Professions** at the **University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ)**. These **joint OCC/UMDNJ programs** are the **A.A.S. degree in Dental Hygiene** and the **A.A.S. degree in Occupational Therapy Assistant**. Students will be able to **enroll** in these programs beginning in **spring 2013**.

In the coming months, OCC will be developing other **Allied Health programs** in **partnership** with **UMDNJ**. These will include **degree programs** in **Psychosocial Rehabilitation, Respiratory Care, and Respiratory Therapy**, as well as a **certificate program** in **Dietary Management**. In addition to these health-related programs, **Academic Affairs** is also working with **faculty** to develop **new programs** in **Global Studies** and **Theater Arts** and is exploring **new possibilities** for our **Honors Program**.

Ocean County College 2012 Fall Transfer Fair

The **2012 Fall Transfer Fair** proved to be a highly **popular event** for our **students** and **participating colleges**. On **Thursday, October 4**, from **1 to 3 p.m.** in the **Gymnasium**, Ocean County College hosted **74 colleges** from **14 states**, including **Rhode Island, Vermont, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, North Carolina, and Florida**. The Transfer Fair **showcased** the College's **strong commitment** to students who plan to **transfer** to **four-year colleges and universities**.



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As we have heard in past years, many of the **college recruiters** commented on the **high caliber** of our **students** and how **well prepared** they were to discuss **transfer opportunities**. That was most likely due, in part, to the **workshops** the **Advising Center** offers to students on **navigating the transfer process**.

Approximately **500 students** attended the fair, with **300 student surveys** being distributed in the first hour. Students were pleased with the **number of colleges** represented and reported **positive conversations** with **admissions representatives**. This year, a **new database** with **degree program information** was established so students could more easily **identify colleges** that offered **programs of interest** to them.

Appreciation is expressed to **Ms. Laura Wills, Coordinator of Transfer Services**, the **Academic Advising Center**, the **NJ STARS Club**, and the **Office of Student Life** for ensuring the success of the **Transfer Fair**.

The Center for Peace, Genocide, and Holocaust Studies

Ocean County College's **Center for Peace, Genocide, and Holocaust Studies** was recently **invited** by the **New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education** to be **recognized** as an **official Holocaust/Genocide Resource Center**. As such, **OCC's Center** becomes part of the **network** of **state-wide programs** under the **auspices** of the **Commission**.

The **Center for Peace, Genocide, and Holocaust Studies** supports the **mission** of the **New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education** by **fostering an understanding** of the **history, literature, and social context** of the **consequences of genocide** and the **Holocaust** as well as by sponsoring **lectures and programs** to **nurture relationships** between **people of different backgrounds** that promote **peaceful co-existence and conflict resolution**.

Ocean County College's **liaison** to the **New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education** will be **Dr. Ali Botein-Furriveg, Assistant Professor of English**, who has provided **leadership** for the **Center's mission** of offering **educational programs** for our **students**, the **campus community**, and the **community-at-large** on **awareness, compassion, and remembrance**.

GED Testing Center

The **GED (General Educational Development) test** provides **adults** who **did not complete** a formal **high school program** with the opportunity to **certify** their **attainment** of **high school level academic knowledge and skills**. A State-issued **high school diploma** is **awarded** when the **test** is **passed**.

The **Ocean County College GED Testing Center** is an activity of the **Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders**. Since **2006**, the Center was **funded** through **Ocean County PIC** in cooperation with the



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Ocean County Workforce Investment Board, Ocean County College, and the New Jersey Department of Education, Bureau of Adult Education and Family Literacy/GED. However, most of the state-funded grant for this program will, unfortunately, **no longer be available** after this **calendar year**.

Through the **efforts of Vice President Sara Winchester**, the program will **remain in operation at Ocean County College through December 2013** with **financial support** from the **College** and **continuing support** from the **County of Ocean**; as a result, **hundreds of Ocean County residents** will continue to **benefit from the Center**. **GED tests** are currently offered only in a **paper-pencil format** at Testing Centers. Effective **January 1, 2014**, it is expected that the **GED tests** will be offered in a **computer-based format**, with new **testing accommodations** being **established**.

A **letter** received from the **Ocean County Workforce Investment Board** expressed **gratitude** to the **College** for its **support** of this program. I commend **Ms. Winchester** and **others** for their efforts in **continuing the program at Ocean County College**: **Ms. Carol Cappetta, GED Chief Examiner**; **Ms. Lori Trachtenberg, Director of Testing and Adaptive Services**; **Ms. Mary Lancaster, Director of Financial Reporting**; and **Ms. Patricia Fenn, Executive Director of e-Learning and Ocean County College's representative on the Ocean County Workforce Investment Board**.

Ocean County College Fall Sports

Ms. Ilene Cohen, Executive Director of Athletics and Judicial Affairs, will attend the **December 14 Board meeting** to provide a **detailed report** on the **success of Ocean County College fall sports teams**. However, I am pleased to share briefly the following with you:

- ◆ The **Women's Soccer team**, for the **fifth year**, is the **Garden State Athletic Conference champion**.
- ◆ **Men's Soccer** anticipates completing its season among the **top six teams** in the **country**.
- ◆ **Men's and Women's Cross Country teams** both finished in **fourth place** in the **country**.
- ◆ **Women's Tennis** ended the season in **fourth place** in the **country**.

In addition, **Mr. Kirk Periccioli** was named **Region Coach of the Year** for **Men's Soccer**, and **Mr. AJ Trump** was selected as the **Garden State Athletic Conference Coach of the Year** in **Women's Soccer**.