



# 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.