



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 **February 28, 2011, Board Meeting**

DATE: February 23, 2011

Ocean County College Athletics

Ms. Ilene Cohen, Director of Athletics, and Mr. AJ Trump, Assistant Director of Athletics, will join us at Monday's meeting to share information on the following good news:

- ◆ Ms. Robynn Frank was selected as the **OCC Woman Athlete of the Year** and was recognized through the **Garden State Athletic Conference** at the **National Girls and Women in Sports Day** at **Seton Hall University** on **Sunday, February 6th**. Robynn was a **standout** in **women's basketball**, having over **600 rebounds** and just less than **600 points**, and in **softball**, earning the distinction of **Most Valuable Player** as a **freshman**. She is a **NJ STARS student** who has **excelled** in the **classroom** and in **athletics**. She is now attending **Kean University** on **our campus** in pursuit of a **teaching degree**.
- ◆ Ms. Cohen was also recognized at the **National Girls and Women in Sports Day** at **Seton Hall**. She was presented with the **2011 Honor Award** for her **outstanding achievements** in **athletics** and her **contributions** to **girls and women in sports**. Ms. Cohen accepted her award with over **800 people** from around the **state** in attendance at the **event**.

On Monday, Ms. Cohen will also **update** you on the **status** of **winter season tournaments**.

Ocean County College Veterans Affairs and Veterans Club

Since the **arrival** of Mr. Mike Sparrow as OCC's **Coordinator of Veterans Affairs** in **September 2010**, there has been a **renewed effort** to **support Ocean County veterans**. Mr. Sparrow, who served **eight years** in the **U.S. Navy** with **sea time** aboard the **U.S.S. Constellation**, has developed an **integrated, proactive outreach approach** to **veterans services** based on **national best practices** for **college campuses**.



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OCC's veterans now have an active **Veterans Advisory Committee**, a **group advising/orientation program** that is specific to veterans, a **one-stop veteran's service center** in the **Academic Advising/Planning Department**, and **close community support** through the local **American Legion** and specialized **business and social services for veterans**. Ongoing **professional development** has been developed for **faculty and staff** regarding the **needs of veterans** as they **return home to re-integrate** their **lives, work, and learning** into the **fabric of the community**. Additionally, a **Veterans Club** that is **closely linked** to all **Student Life social events** and **community service projects** is available for our veterans.

The **Ocean County College Veterans Club** is a **national fraternity** that brings together students who served in the **United States Armed Forces**. The members seek to **examine matters of common educational, financial, and social significance** as well as **assist new veteran students** in the **transition to academic life**.

Mr. Alan Smith, OCC Adjunct Instructor of History and Training Director for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, serves as **OCC's Veterans Club Advisor**. He will **join us on Monday** to provide some **information** to you on the **club's activities** and the **upcoming fundraising dinner** scheduled for **April 26th** at the **Toms River American Legion**. He will also share with you the **ways in which the OCC veteran's experience is changing**.

Grant Award

At Monday's meeting, a **recommendation** is being made to accept a **\$7,500 grant award** from the **New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority** through the **New Jersey Commission on Higher Education** to support the **Opening Pathways to Education Now (OPEN)** program. This is the **third year** the College has received this **Federal College Access Challenge Grant**, the **primary purpose** of which is to **assist families** with completing the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA)**.

Dr. Norma Betz, Director of Financial Aid, will make a **brief presentation** on **Monday** regarding the **number of families** who have been **assisted** as a result of this **grant** in the last **two years** as well as to **explain the importance** of the assistance to **at-risk students**.

New Jersey Council of County Colleges

On **Monday evening**, following the Board meeting, the **New Jersey Council of County Colleges** is presenting a **seminar** for **New Jersey county college trustees** entitled, **"Foundations of Excellence: Innovative Strategies so New Students Succeed,"** from **4:45 to 6:15 p.m.** at **Forsgate Country Club** in **Monroe Township**. **Trustees** are invited to stay for **dinner** following the seminar.



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Dr. John Gardner, Policy Center on the First Year of College, will be the **guest speaker** at the seminar. **Dr. Gardner** will share **strategies to support and foster the success of new students**.

As you recall, in **2008, Ocean County College** was selected to **participate** in Dr. Gardner's *Foundations of Excellence in the First College Year*, a comprehensive, guided **self-study and improvement process** that enhances an institution's ability to realize its goals for **student learning, success, and persistence**. At the seminar on Monday, **Mrs. Linda Novak** and **I** will highlight the **value** of working with *Foundations of Excellence* and its **impact on first-year students**. Accompanying us will be **Ms. Maureen Reustle, Dean of Academic Services, Vice President Don Doran, and Executive Vice President Richard Strada**, who will continue **discussions** with their **colleagues** from throughout the state after the seminar.

If you are interested, please let me know if you would like to **join us** at the seminar.

Community College National Legislative Summit

Mr. Dave Wolfe, Mr. Bray Barnes, and I met with **Congressmen Chris Smith, Jon Runyan, and Rodney Frelinghuysen** when we were in **Washington, D.C.**, during the **2011 Community College National Legislative Summit** from **February 13th to 16th**. We discussed with them **four Ocean County College initiatives**:

- ◆ The establishment of a **Homeland Security Education and Training Center** at **Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst**
- ◆ The establishment of an **Ocean County College-Barnegat Bay Partnership EnviroCenter**
- ◆ A partnership with the **U.S. Naval Air Force, Specialty Systems, Inc., and Ocean County College** for the development of an **Aviation Data Management and Control System (ADMACS)**, a **shipboard management program** that will support the **planning, execution, and readiness/assessment** for tactical **ship operations**
- ◆ The **Ocean County College School of E-Learning**

We had **interesting and productive visits** with all of the **Congressmen**, who expressed their **support** for our **programs**.

Arts and Community Center

Two events are being planned for the **grand opening** of the **Ocean County College Arts and Community Center**. A **traditional ribbon-cutting ceremony** will take place on **Friday afternoon, April 8**, at the **front of the building**. On **Saturday, April 9**, there will be a **very special grand opening**



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performance by “**The Three Phantoms in Concert**,” with music by the **Garden State Philharmonic**, a **55 piece orchestra**, conducted by its **Artistic Director Anthony LaGruth**.

“**The Three Phantoms in Concert**” highlights the **individual talents** of **three artists** who have all played the **Phantom**, featuring **solo numbers** from the shows that made them the stars that they have become. The concert features **solos, duets, and trios** from *Les Misérables*, *Miss Saigon*, and *The Phantom of the Opera* as well as numbers from *Guys and Dolls*, *Company*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Most Happy Fella*, *The Secret Garden*, *Nine*, *Damn Yankees*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Sweeney Todd*, and many more **musical productions**.

Theatre-goers will have the opportunity to attend a **high-end cocktail party** prior to the concert at the **ticket price of \$150**, and **proceeds** from this **fundraising event** will benefit the **Arts and Community Center**. **Invitations** will be **mailed in March**.

We are **extremely excited** to be presenting this **exceptional level of performance** on our **campus**. **Special appreciation** is expressed to **Ms. Carol Kaunitz, Director of Auxiliary Services**, for her **coordination** of this **very fine event**.

Ocean County College Senior Living Expo

Ocean County College will host its **first annual Senior Living Expo** on **Wednesday, March 16th**, from **10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** in the **College Gymnasium**. Through a **creative funding model**, with **sponsorship** by the **Saint Barnabas Health Care System** and **Harrogate** and **revenue** being **generated** from over **30 vendors**, **admission** to the **Expo** is **free**.

Businesses, community organizations, and civic nonprofit agencies will have **informative displays** as well as **interactive exhibits**. Additionally, **OCC** will be well **represented** by the **Planetarium**, the **Bookstore**, **TV 20**, and other **College departments**. **Community Medical Center** will host **health and wellness screenings** for such things as **cholesterol, blood pressure, and memory**. Through **advertisements and marketing** in all of the **Ocean County senior communities**, in **publications**, and on the **radio**, it is anticipated that **hundreds** of **seniors** will attend the **Expo**.

Ms. Gina Suriano, Director of Resource Development, and **Ms. Joanne Padrone, Manager of Resource Development**, are **coordinating** this **first-ever event**.

Ocean County College Surplus Sale

Ocean County College has moved its **surplus sale** to a **government auction website, GovDeals**, which is a more **efficient** way of **advertising surplus items**. The **items** were **listed** on the site this past **Wednesday**, and the **auction concludes** on **March 9th**.



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A **surplus sale advertisement** will be placed in the **Asbury Park Press** on **Friday** in accordance with **State statute**. The ad will reference the **GovDeals website**, and a **link to GovDeals** will be included on the **OCC Purchasing Department website**.

Board of Trustees Retreat

Please note that the **next Board of Trustees Retreat** is scheduled for **Friday, March 11th**, from **12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.** in the **Technology Building Conference Room**. If there are any **specific issues** you would like to discuss, please **let me know**.