



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jon H. Larson, Ph.D.

OCEAN
COUNTY COLLEGE

TO: Members, OCC Board of Trustees

FROM: Jon H. Larson, Ph.D.
President

SUBJECT: Items of Interest for the **September 22, 2008, Board Meeting**

DATE: September 17, 2008

Enrollment Highlights

◆ Fall 2008

OCC has set a **record** with the **highest number** of **students** enrolled and **total credit hours** for **fall 2008**. The total fall **headcount** is **9,811**, representing an **increase** of **4.9 percent** over last fall semester. The **total credits** are **100,842**, a **7.6 percent increase** over last fall semester.

Ethnicity – A total of **1,380 minority** students enrolled this fall, representing **14.1 percent** of the students and an **11.0 percent increase** over last fall. The total number of **Hispanic** students, **723**, also sets a **record** with an **8.9 percent increase** over last fall, while **Asian** students **increased 11.4 percent** and **African-American** students **increased 9.0 percent** over last fall semester.

Gender – About **41.6 percent** of the students are **male** and **58.4 percent** are **female**. This proportion has remained relatively **the same** over the **last decade**.

Age – With the increasing number of full-time students, the **overall average age** has been **declining** over the last decade from **26.2 to 23.2**. For the fall 2008 semester, the **average age** for **female** students is **24.3** and for **male** students is **21.8**. The **youngest** student is **15 years**, and the **oldest** is **81**.

◆ Summer 2008

Compared with summer 2007, the **total headcount** is **up 6.6 percent (4,588)** for **2008 summer terms**, and the **total number of credits** is **up 5.3 percent**.

Mr. Chengbo Yin, Director of Research and Assessment, will provide a **brief report** at **Monday's meeting** on the **highlights** of our **increasing enrollment**.



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Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Exactly **one year ago** this week, a **groundbreaking ceremony** was held for the **Fine Arts Center construction project**. Immediately **following Monday's Board meeting**, a **ribbon cutting ceremony** is scheduled to **celebrate the opening** of the **newly named Arts and Community Center**, which was **available for students the first day of classes this fall**. A **dessert reception will follow**.

Please **join us** for this **exciting event** and for a **tour** of the new **facility**.

Sambol/Citta Garden

The **Sambol/Citta Garden Dedication Ceremony** will take place on **Wednesday morning, September 24th**, at **9:30 a.m.** immediately **following the meeting** of the **OCC Foundation**.

In **cooperation** with the **OCC Foundation**, this **project** was **funded** by **Mr. Richard Sambol** and **Mr. Joseph Citta**, former **OCC Board and Foundation members**, as an **extension** of the **arboretum** on **College Drive**, which they **established and funded** for **many years**. We are expecting **members** of the **Sambol and Citta families** to be with us at the **dedication**, at which time we can **formally express** our **sincere gratitude** for their **long-standing support** of the **College**. **Members** of the **College's Tau Iota Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa**, who played a **major role** in the **conception and planning** of the **Garden**, will also **attend the ceremony**.

The **Garden** is a **very attractive addition** to our already **beautiful campus**. Please **join us** for the **dedication**.

Barnegat Bay Sailing Hall of Fame

The **2008 Barnegat Bay Sailing Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony** is being held on **Saturday, October 4th**, at **6 p.m.** in the **College Gymnasium**. A **cocktail reception** will take place immediately **following the ceremony**.

This year's **inductees** are **impressive**. All are **highly experienced, world renowned** sailors, who have made **significant contributions** to **Barnegat Bay sailing**. They are:

- ◆ **Mr. Henry Bossett**
- ◆ **Mr. Willie DeCamp**
- ◆ **Mr. Garry Hoyt**
- ◆ **Mr. Mike Spark**
- ◆ **Mr. Dick Wight**



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◆ Mr. Dick Bertram, posthumously

You are **cordially invited** to participate in this always **enjoyable evening**.

Governor's Panel on NJ STARS

The final meeting of the **Panel** appointed by **Governor Corzine** to address **improvements** needed in the **NJ STARS** law with the goals of **saving taxpayer funds**, **strengthening** the **academic requirements** for STARS eligibility, and **correcting** several **oversights** in how the law affects certain students will be held at the **State House** in **Trenton** on **Monday, September 22nd**, at **3:00 p.m.**

Assemblyman David Wolfe and **I** are **members** of this **Panel**, which also includes **representatives** from the **senior public universities**, the **Executive branch**, and members of the **New Jersey Senate** and **General Assembly**. After **numerous meetings** among the higher education sector representatives and **two public hearings**, the Panel will seek to find **agreement** on a **final proposal** to present to Governor Corzine. I am **hopeful** and **optimistic** that the proposal will **offer solutions** to the issues the Panel was charged to address that will result in **continuation** of both the **NJ STARS I and II programs**, which have been of **great benefit** to **New Jersey's community colleges** and their **STARS students**.

Ocean County College Foundation Gala

Due to the impending **threat** of **Hurricane Hanna** hitting the **Jersey Shore**, the **OCC Foundation Beach Party Gala** was moved to the **Poland Spring Arena** at the **Ritacco Center** on **Saturday, September 6th**. Despite the need to make this **change in venue**, the Gala was again **very successful**. Approximately **300 people** ventured out in the **rain** and **wind** to enjoy **good food** and **good company** for a **good cause** as the Foundation **honored** the **OceanFirst Foundation** as the **2008 Humanitarian of the Year**. Over **\$200,000** was raised to **support** the **mission** of the **Foundation**.

I extend my **congratulations** to all who were involved in **planning** the **Gala**. Special **acknowledgment** is due to **Tara Kelly**, **Jan Kirsten**, **Sandy Broughton**, and the **Physical Plant staff** who worked **extraordinary hours** to make this **short-notice transition** the great **success** that it was. I also want to **acknowledge** the **Toms River School District** for the **outstanding support** we received in **setting up** the **Poland Spring Arena**.

Advancing the Status of Women Award

Ocean County College has been chosen by **Soroptimist International of Toms River** to receive the **2008 Advancing the Status of Women Award** at the **5th Annual Ocean County Women's Hall of Fame**, to be held at the **Quality Inn** in **Toms River** on **Thursday, October 16th**. Also being honored are



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Marlene Lynch Ford, Ocean County Prosecutor, with the Woman of Distinction Award and Rita O'Connor, S.A.N.E. Coordinator, with the Making a Difference for Women Award.

The **Advancing the Status of Women Award** honors **businesses, organizations, and other enterprises** that have served to **advance the status of women** and have **promoted recognition of women's issues**. **Ocean County College** is being honored for efforts to **create programs** that enable women to **further their education** while **raising families, promote women to administrative levels, and employ a staff that is 57% female.**

Soroptimist International of Toms River is a **service club for executive, business, and professional women.**

Ocean County Silent Witness Program

Ocean County College has been **invited to host the Ocean County Silent Witness Project**, an event to **commemorate county residents** who have been **murdered** through acts of **domestic violence**. This program is being presented in **honor of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month** in cooperation with **Providence House Domestic Violence Services of Catholic Charities, the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, Berkeley Police Department, and Soroptimist International of Toms River.**

The **Silent Witness Project** uses **life size figures** to represent domestic violence **murder victims**. This program **began in 1990**, and these **memorials** have **spread** throughout **counties and states** across the **country**. This is the **first time** such a program will be held in **Ocean County**.

The event is scheduled for **Friday, October 17th**, at **10:00 a.m.** on the **campus mall**. A **reception** will follow in the **Solar Lounge**.

Board of Trustees Retreats

The **final 2008 Board of Trustees Retreat** is scheduled for **Friday, December 12th**, at **12:00 noon** in the **Technology Building Conference Room**. For your information and planning, the following **retreat dates** have been selected for **2009**:

- ◆ **Friday, March 6, 2009**
- ◆ **Friday, June 5, 2009**
- ◆ **Friday, September 11, 2009**
- ◆ **Friday, December 11, 2009**