

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 **September 24, 2007, Board Meeting**

DATE: September 19, 2007

Groundbreaking Ceremony – Fine Arts Center

A **Groundbreaking Ceremony** for the **Fine Arts Center renovation** has been scheduled after the Board meeting on **Monday**. Please plan to be with us at **2 p.m.** when we will **formally acknowledge** the beginning of this exciting **construction project**. A **dessert reception** will follow the groundbreaking.

Security Task Force

Following the tragic events at **Virginia Technical Institute** last April, I asked **Dr. Jim McGinty** to chair a new **Security Task Force** to review the college's **emergency management systems and procedures** related to campus security. Although we currently have emergency plans in place, the task force was established to **research ways to improve security**, from new **emergency communications systems and technologies** to **training staff** to be ever alert for potential problems.

The **membership** of the task force is **quite impressive**, with **distinguished representatives** from the surrounding **community** and widespread **college** participation:

- ◆ **Dr. Jim McGinty, Chair**, Vice President of Instructional Technologies and Auxiliary Programs
- ◆ **Lt. Matt Armstrong**, Commander, OCSD Tactical Team., Ocean County Sheriff's Department
- ◆ **Sgt. John Bordonaro**, Tactical Team Leader, Ocean County Sheriff's Department
- ◆ **Ms. Carol Crawford**, Director of College Health Services
- ◆ **Mr. Don Doran**, Vice President of Student Affairs
- ◆ **Ms. Marlene Lynch Ford**, Ocean County Prosecutor
- ◆ **Dr. Bruce Greenfield**, Ocean County Superintendent of Schools and Board of Trustees Member
- ◆ **Ms. Katie Grofik**, Physical Plant Evening Administrator
- ◆ **Ms. Jennifer Kane**, Coordinator of Student Activities
- ◆ **Ms. Tara Kelly**, Vice President of College Advancement
- ◆ **Mr. Joseph Kirchofer**, Professor of Social Sciences and Coordinator of Criminal Justice Program
- ◆ **Mr. Scott Kisch**, Homeland Security, Chief of Staff
- ◆ **Mr. Neil Lavender**, Professor of Psychology
- ◆ **Ms. Tracy Maksel**, Ocean County Department of Human Services
- ◆ **Mr. William Malast**, Ocean County Prosecutor's Office
- ◆ **Mr. Michael Mastronardy**, Toms River Township Chief of Police
- ◆ **Ms. Linda Novak**, Board of Trustees Member
- ◆ **Mr. Ken Olsen**, Director of Facilities Engineering and Operations
- ◆ **Lt. Michael Osborn**, Deputy Director, Ocean County Sheriff's Department
- ◆ **Dr. Richard Parrish**, Vice President of Planning and Administration
- ◆ **Mr. Robert Paschon**, Attorney and Brigadier General Retired, New Jersey National Guard
- ◆ **Ms. Nancy Polonitza**, Career Employment and Counseling Services
- ◆ **Mr. Jule Raichle**, Associate Director, Facilities Engineering and Operations
- ◆ **Ms. Maureen Reustle**, Dean of Academic Services
- ◆ **Mr. Frank Rodgers**, Police Director, State Parks and former Deputy Superintendent of Investigations, New Jersey State Police
- ◆ **Mr. Jim Romer**, Psychiatric Emergency Screening Services
- ◆ **Ms. Barbara Schradin**, Executive Assistant, Instructional Technologies
- ◆ **Mr. Chip Stoll**, Director of Information Technology
- ◆ **Mr. Carey Trevisan**, Dean of Special Services
- ◆ **Mr. David Wolfe**, Senior Assistant to the President and 10th District Assemblyman

The **four working subcommittees – Security Plan, Intervention, Technology, and Grants and Funding** – have been **meeting** throughout the **summer** and are developing **valuable recommendations** for improvement.

At Monday's meeting, Dr. McGinty will **update** the trustees on the **progress** of the Task Force. Additionally, **Toms River Chief of Police Michael Mastronardy**, will discuss with you the Police Department's "**Active Shooter Response/Action Plan**" and the **hostage-taking simulation** staged by the Toms River Police **on our campus** on **August 16th**.

Ocean County College Bookstore

I am delighted to report to you that the **Ocean County College Bookstore** is now **ONLINE** and available to all students, employees, and the public. **Testing** of the system began during the **summer**. The **first order** was placed on **June 18th**, and the online Bookstore became **fully functional** on **August 15th**.

The online store has been very **favorably received** by our students. **Over 20%** of the total Bookstore **sales volume** since the beginning of the fall semester was **purchased** through the **online system**. As a result, the traditionally **long lines** of students waiting to **purchase their books** at the Bookstore at the beginning of the semester were **reduced significantly**.

I have asked **Ms. Carol Kaunitz**, our **Bookstore Manager**, to **introduce** the **online Bookstore** to you on Monday and **demonstrate its use**. She will also provide you with information on the **number of students** the online Bookstore served as well as the **percentage of purchases** by **credit card** and through **financial aid**.

Enrollment Highlights

◆ Fall 2007

OCC has set a **record** with the **highest number** of **students** enrolled and **total credit hours** for fall 2007. The total fall **headcount** is **9,351**, representing an **increase** of **5.2%** over last fall semester. The **total credits** are **93,727**, a **6.9% increase** over last fall semester.

Ethnicity – A total of **1,243 minority students** enrolled this fall, representing **13.3%** of the students and a **9.3% increase** over last fall. The total number of **Hispanic** students, **664**, also sets a **record** with a **16.2% increase** over last fall, while **Asian** students **increased 12.9%** and **African-American** students **remained the same** as last fall semester.

Gender – About **41.7%** of the students are **male** and **58.4%** 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 23.5**. For the fall 2007 semester, the **average age** for **female** students is **24.7** and for **male** students is **21.9**. The **youngest** student is **15 years**, and the **oldest** is **81**.

◆ **FY 2007**

It is **expected** that the **growth** in **enrollment** and **credits hours** for FY 2007-2008 **will continue** as a result of these increases in the fall semester. Other **contributing factors** include:

- ◆ The **NJ STARS Program**
- ◆ The **Kean-Ocean partnership**
- ◆ The College's **proactive enrollment management**, especially by the **recruitment team**

◆ **Summer 2007**

Compared with summer 2006, the **total headcount** is **up 3.0% (4,302)** for 2007 summer terms, and the total number of **credits** is **up 5.8%**.

Center for Academic Services/Disability Awareness Month

Ocean County College's Center for Academic Services provides a **wide array** of **services** for **students with disabilities**. The Center's **mission** is to:

- ◆ **Promote equity and excellence** in the educational opportunities for qualified students with disabilities
- ◆ **Enhance faculty/staff expertise** regarding disability issues
- ◆ **Encourage awareness of disability issues** affecting career planning and transition into the workplace
- ◆ **Support**, within the limits of available resources, **agencies and institutions** servicing students with disabilities
- ◆ **Create an environment that tolerates differences and builds self-advocacy and independence** for students with disabilities.

OCC's program for students with disabilities is **recognized** throughout the **state** and **surrounding area** for its **excellent quality**. In fact, in acknowledgment of the Center's success, **Ms. Maureen Reustle, Dean of Academic Services**, was asked to present the **keynote address** for the **University of Connecticut's 19th annual Postsecondary Disability Training Institute**, which was held in **Saratoga Springs, New York**, in **June**. The presentation title was **"Effectively Representing Disability Services: How to Garner Recognition, Respect, and Resources for Your Campus."** It was attended by approximately **300 college/university professionals** from the U.S. and was **evaluated very highly**. In addition, Ms. Reustle was also a **panel presenter** at the post-session seminar entitled **"Kicking it Up a Notch: A Recipe for Fine-Tuning your Program Evaluation."**

The month of **October** is designated **nationally** as **Disability Awareness Month** in recognition of individuals with disabilities. I **respectfully request** that the trustees **adopt** the attached **resolution** at Monday's meeting to proclaim **October 2007** as **Disability Awareness Month at OCC**.

Ocean County College Foundation

The September 8th **Ocean County College Foundation Gala, “An Evening Under the Stars,”** was a **wonderful and successful event**. Over **400 people** attended and in excess of **\$200,000** was raised for the **“Reach for the Stars”** fundraising campaign for the **Robert J. Novins Planetarium**.

I am **sincerely appreciative** to the **Foundation** for its very **positive support** that **benefits** our **students**, the **college**, and the **community-at-large**.

Deaf Awareness Day 2007

Ocean County College’s **Interpreter Training Program** will sponsor **Deaf Awareness Day 2007** on **Saturday, October 6th**. From **9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**, various **vendors** will be in the **Gymnasium** to entertain both children and adults, and a **special concert**, the **American Sign Language Rock ‘n Roll Show**, will begin at **7:00 p.m.** in the **Fine Arts Center**.

This **special event** is always well attended by **deaf community members**, their **families**, and their **friends**, all of whom have a very **enjoyable evening**. The **Interpreter Training Program**, under the **leadership** of **Professor Kathleen Basilotto**, continues to **attract a large number** of students.

Special Events

I am pleased to share with you that **Ocean County College** will be **hosting** several **significant events** this fall:

- ◆ The **New Jersey Commission on Higher Education** will hold its meeting here on **Friday, October 26th**.
- ◆ The **New Jersey Global Educators** will meet on campus on the same day, **October 26th**.
- ◆ The **New Jersey Council of County Colleges’ Presidents’ Retreat** will be hosted this year by Ocean County College at the **Sea Oaks Country Club** in **Little Egg Harbor** on **October 18th and 19th**.