

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 **September 25, 2006, Board Meeting**

DATE: September 20, 2006

Monday Meeting at the Marine Academy for Technology and Environmental Sciences (MATES) Facility

Dr. William Hoey, Superintendent of the Ocean County Vocational-Technical School, will join us on Monday when we meet at the **Marine Academy for Technology and Environmental Sciences (MATES) facility** at the **Southern Education Center**. Mr. Hoey will **say a few words** about the new center and the **collaboration** between **OCC** and the **Vo-Tech School**. A **tour** of the building will be offered for the trustees after the meeting.

Senior Assistant to the President/Ombudsman

For several months, **negotiations** have been ongoing regarding the **acquisition of land** surrounding the college. **Mr. Dave Wolfe, Senior Assistant to the President/Ombudsman**, has been working closely with the **property owners** and the **County Freeholders** on this project. On Monday, Mr. Wolfe will provide you with an **update** on this and other **expansion plans** and will also discuss his efforts to **strengthen college/corporate relationships**.

Enrollment Highlights

◆ Fall 2006

OCC has set a **record** with the **highest number** of students enrolled and **total credit hours** for fall 2006. The total fall **headcount** is **8,889**, representing an **increase** of **4.1%** over the last fall semester. The **total credits** are **87,701**, a **7.1% increase** over last fall semester.

Ethnicity – A total of **1,137 minority students** enrolled this fall, representing **12.9%** of the students and a **2.5% increase** over last fall. The total number of **Hispanic** students, **554**, also sets a **record** with a **7.2% increase** over last fall, while **Asian** students **increased 1.5%** and **African-American** students **decreased 5.0%** from the last fall semester.

Gender – About **40%** of the students are **male** and **60%** 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 23.8**. For the fall 2006 semester, the **average age** for **female** students is **24.9** and for **male** students is **22.0**. 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 2006-2007 **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

◆ Summer 2006

Compared with summer 2005, the **total headcount** is **up 3.0% (4,176)** for 2006 summer terms, and the total number of **credits** is **up 1.0%**.

Financial Aid

As a result of assistance from an outside consulting firm, **Financial Aid Services**, and the subsequent **restructuring** of our **Financial Aid Office**, there has been a **dramatic increase** in the number of student **financial aid awards** and a **significant improvement** in the **overall quality of service** to financial aid students.

At Monday's meeting, **Ms. Sara Winchester, Vice President of Finance**, will introduce **Ms. Norma Betz**, formerly with Financial Aid Services, who is now joining the OCC staff as **Director of Financial Aid**. She will share with the trustees the **advances** that have been made **in the office** over the past two years and briefly describe **future plans** for the operation of the office.

New Jersey Council of County Colleges

The **following activities** have been scheduled for the trustees by the **New Jersey Council of County Colleges**:

- ◆ **Trustee Education Seminars**, all at Forsgate Country Club, Monroe Township, New Jersey:
 - Monday, November 20, 2006**
 - Monday, February 26, 2007**
 - Monday, April 16, 2007**
- ◆ **ACCT Legislative Seminar**, Washington, D.C., **February 12-14, 2007**.
- ◆ **NJCCC Spirit Award**, The Breakers Hotel, Spring Lake, New Jersey, **Monday, June 8, 2007**.

The Ocean County College Foundation

The **Ocean County College Foundation Gala**, which was held on **Saturday, September 9th**, was very **successful**. Almost **400 attendees** enjoyed a wonderful evening with a '50's theme. The Gala raised over **\$275,000** for the Foundation's **general scholarship fund**.

The OCC Foundation continues to be committed to meeting the **educational needs** of **Ocean County residents** through **scholarships, endowments, and capital and special projects**.

Disability Awareness Month

The month of **October** is designated **nationally** as **Disability Awareness Month** in recognition of individuals with disabilities. OCC's very successful **Disability Services Program**, which is **one of seven regional centers** in the **state**, provides outstanding **professional resources** and **learning accommodations** to **students with disabilities**. **Ms. Maureen Reustle, Dean of the Center for Academic Services**, will give you a **report** on Monday regarding the **programs and special events** developed for Disability Awareness Month.

I **respectfully request** that the trustees **adopt** the attached **resolution** at Monday's meeting to proclaim **October 2006** as **Disability Awareness Month at OCC** and to **encourage participation** by members of the college in all related **activities** to **raise consciousness** regarding the **accomplishments** of individuals with disabilities.

Information Technology

A **Webcast Executive Briefing** is being offered on **Monday, October 30th**, by **Timecruiser**, the company that provides our **CampusCruiser** portal, the **communications infrastructure** within the college community. **Ocean County College** is being featured in this Briefing, with **Mr. Chip Stoll, Chief Information Officer**, and **Dr. Kathy Tietge, Assistant Professor of Philosophy and History** and current **Chair** of the **College Senate**, presenting a seminar on **“Effective Portal Collaboration Starts with Leadership Commitment.”** This presentation focuses on OCC’s **executive commitment** to the **improvement of communication processes** that paved the way for **successful collaboration**. Highlighted in this presentation will be the success of OCC’s **“Governance” content area**, which can be utilized by the entire college community.

Reminders...

Saturday, September 30th - The **2006 Barnegat Bay Sailing Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony**, 7 p.m. in the **Fine Arts Theatre**.

Wednesday, October 18th - The **OCC Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Dinner**, 6:30 p.m. at the **Eagle Ridge Golf Club**.

Friday, November 10th – The **Board of Trustees Retreat, Technology Building Lecture Hall**, 12:00 noon.

Commendation

I am pleased to inform you that the **Office of College Relations** won a **District 1 Medallion Award** from the **National Council for Marketing and Public Relations** for our **2006 Commencement brochure**. This Council recognizes **excellence** in community, technical, and junior college **marketing** and **public relations** activities.

Newspaper Articles

I have attached for your reading **two articles** that recently appeared in the ***Ocean County Observer***:

- ◆ “What it’s like coaching under a living legend,” which **extols** the **accomplishments** of **Mr. Warren Wolf** in his role as the **Brick Township High School football coach**.
- ◆ “Retired newspaper owner, stockholder opines on local issues,” which highlights the **founding of Ocean County College** as one of the **most important stories** covered by the Observer.