



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 **December 7, 2009, Board Meeting**

DATE: December 2, 2009

Foundations of Excellence

In summer 2008, Ocean County College was selected as one of 50 colleges and universities nationwide to participate in *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. It is designed to engage faculty, staff, and students in the assessment of strengths, challenges, and opportunities as they relate to the first-year experience for Ocean County College students.

The *Foundations of Excellence* Task Force, comprised of over 80 members of the faculty and staff, began the self-study process in October 2008. During the fall 2008 and spring 2009 semesters, over 1,200 faculty, students, and staff participated in the process through surveys, interviews, focus group discussions, and committee meetings. Quantitative and qualitative data from multiple sources of evidence was collected, reviewed, and analyzed. The findings and resulting 109 recommendations are summarized in the *Foundations of Excellence Final Report*.

Ms. Maureen Reustle, Dean of Academic Services, and Mr. Don Doran, Vice President of Student Affairs, served as co-chairs of this project. At Monday's meeting, they will distribute the **Final Report** and share with you some of the key findings and

priority action items that have been **identified** as a result of this **self-study**, some of which are already being **incorporated** into **assessment, hiring, and planning and budgeting activities**.

Recognition of Ocean County College's Women's Cross Country Team

The New Jersey General Assembly is honoring the Ocean County College Women's Cross Country Team for its accomplishment of earning number one ranking in the nation by winning the Division III National Junior College Athletic Association's National Championship held on November 7th.

Assemblyman Dave Wolfe, Special Assistant to the President, will host Director of Athletics Ilene Cohen, Assistant Director of Athletics AJ Trump, Coach Ed Baynes, and members of the Cross Country Team at 12:30 p.m. on Monday on the floor of the Assembly as they receive recognition for their outstanding victory.

Financial Aid

The Ocean County College website now offers Financial Aid TV, a service through College Media Solutions, which is a series of short videos on financial aid. The service communicates in a "YouTube" format that students easily relate to and understand.

The videos are available for viewing at any time, day or night, and provide students and their parents with valuable information ranging from the basics, such as financial aid language and abbreviations, eligibility, and the application process, to more complex issues concerning grants and scholarships, the GI Bill, loan programs, and repayment terms. Also included is helpful assistance for students regarding money management, saving and borrowing, credit cards, and credit scoring.

On Monday, Dr. Norma Betz, Director of Financial Aid, will provide you with additional information on this new service and demonstrate how easily students gain access to it. The availability of these videos will significantly reduce the extraordinary amount of time Financial Aid staff heretofore have spent answering students' questions.

Datatel Colleague Advancement for Community Colleges

During the past year, College Relations has been busy implementing Datatel Colleague Advancement for Community Colleges, an integrated fundraising support package designed exclusively for two-year colleges that enables the cultivation of personal relationships with alumni and the community to gain financial support. This program will maximize the College's fundraising efforts through donor identification, the ability to match donor gifts with employers, immediate reports to support day-to-day operations and monitor key performance indicators, and analysis of fundraising and alumni data.

I have asked Ms. Tara Kelly, Vice President of College Advancement, and Ms. Gina Suriano, Director of Resource Development, to give you a brief report on Monday on the ways in which College Advancement will assist the College with fundraising activities and alumni relationships.

College Advancement

On November 2nd, I attended the annual District 1 Conference of the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations in Atlantic City, which was most ably chaired by Ms. Jan Kirsten, Director of College Relations. At the dinner, the winners of Medallion Awards were announced, and Ocean County College won several in the categories of marketing and public relations:

- ◆ Gold Award - Student Handbook
- ◆ Silver Award - Web Site
- ◆ Bronze Award - Social Marketing
- ◆ Bronze Award - Van Wrapping

Congratulations are extended to the College Advancement team for these awards and for all of their efforts on behalf of the College.

Nursing Program

The College recently received the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Program Report that provides detailed information about the performance of OCC Nursing Program graduates on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). The report includes students who were tested for the first time during the six-month period from April 1st to September 30th. I am extremely proud to report that, of the 60 graduates who sat for the test, all 60, or 100 percent, were successful. Even more impressive is the rank of OCC graduates passing the examination as compared to other nursing programs:

- ◆ Rank of OCC's Nursing Program compared to all other nursing programs in New Jersey #1 of 37
- ◆ Rank of OCC's Nursing Program compared to all similar associate degree nursing programs in the United States and its territories #1 of 990
- ◆ Rank of OCC's Nursing Program compared to all RN nursing programs (bachelor's, associate, or diploma) in the United States and its territories #1 of 1,653

These results continue to attest to the academic excellence of the Ocean County College Nursing Program and the commitment and dedication of all those associated with the program. OCC's Nursing Program is considered to be one of the best, if not the best,

nursing program not only in the New Jersey but also **nationally**, as attested to by these results.

Middle States Commission on Higher Education

As I indicated to you last week, the **Middle States Commission on Higher Education**, at its session on November 19th, took the following action:

“To accept the Periodic Review Report, to reaffirm accreditation, and to commend the institution for the quality of the report. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2013-2014.”

There are **two items** that should be noted in this statement. First, it is very **high praise** to receive a **“commendation”** from the **Commission**, praise **not often included** in a **reaffirmation statement**. In addition, the **Commission** requires **no further follow-up** reports or actions from the College until our **next self-study in five years**. Both of these factors are very **gratifying** and **speak directly** to the **quality** of our **institution**.

I want to take this opportunity to **thank Ms. Janet Hubbs, Assistant to the President for Institutional Quality**, who served as **chair** of the **Middle States Self-Study Steering Committee** and who provided **leadership** for the **committee** and **co-authored the report**. I would also like to **thank the members** of the **Steering Committee** for their efforts:

Ms. Connie Bello, Executive Assistant to the President
Dr. Beth Brierley, Associate Professor of Speech and Theater
Mr. Don Doran, Vice President of Student Affairs
Judge Robert Fall, Trustee
Ms. Maria Flynn, Instructor of Sociology
Dr. Katja Hawlitschka, Associate Professor of English and Literature
Dr. Carolyn Lafferty, Assistant VP for Assessment and Curriculum
Dr. Alfred Longo, Assistant Professor of Psychology and Education
Dr. Richard Parrish, Vice President of Planning and Administration
Mr. George Perabo, Assistant Professor of English and Literature
Ms. Maureen Reustle, Dean of Academic Services
Ms. Christine Spencer, Assistant Professor of Science
Mr. Chengbo Yin, Former Institutional Research Administrator

The **2009 Middle States Commission on Higher Education** annual conference is being held from **December 7th to 9th** at the **Philadelphia Marriott**. **Ms. Hubbs** and I will be attending the conference.

Community College Survey of Student Engagement

Ocean County College participated in the **2009 Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE)**, which is a tool for **assessing quality** in **community college education**. The results of the survey help colleges focus on **good educational practice**,

defined as **practice that promotes high levels of student learning and retention, and identify areas in which community colleges can improve their programs and services for students.**

Each year, CCSSE releases the **results of its survey, which is administered directly to community college students at CCSSE member colleges during randomly selected classes.** The survey asks **questions about institutional practices and student behaviors that are highly correlated with student learning and retention.** Results are **public,** and they include **national benchmarks for five key areas of engagement: active and collaborative learning, student effort, academic challenge, student-faculty interaction, and support for learners.**

Ms. Hubbs, who coordinates the administration of this survey, has prepared a brief summary of survey results, which is attached, for your review.

Board of Trustees Retreats

The last Retreat of this year is scheduled for **Friday, December 11th, at 12:00 noon** in the **Technology Building Conference Room.** The date of the **January 2010 Retreat** has been **changed to Monday, January 11th, at noon** at the same location.

Commendations

- ♦ **Several more graduates of the OCC Interpreter Training Program have obtained certification to advance their careers in their chosen field:**
 - ♦ **Ms. Allison Holder and Ms. Saundra Piscitelli passed the examination to become the program's first two nationally certified interpreters, an outstanding achievement.**
 - ♦ **Ms. Elizabeth Eddy and Ms. Christina Oswin passed the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment test, which grants the license needed to become an educational interpreter in the State of New Jersey.**
- ♦ **Mr. Mitch Remig, a current Criminal Justice major at OCC, was elected to serve as a Point Pleasant Councilman as one of the youngest public officeholders in New Jersey. Mr. Remig is a part-time police officer in Manasquan, who graduated at the top of his Monmouth County Police Academy class, as well as a volunteer firefighter and first-aider in Point Pleasant.**
- ♦ **Ms. Martha Molinini, a current Engineering student, received a scholarship from the Research and Development Council of New Jersey at its annual Thomas Alva Edison Awards Dinner in November, which was held at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City. The Research and Development Council is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the advancement of research and development throughout the state and each year awards scholarships to New Jersey community**

college students studying in the fields of **engineering, science, and technology**. **Grade point average, major field of interest, extra-curricular activities, financial need, and career goals** after college are all taken into consideration for these awards.

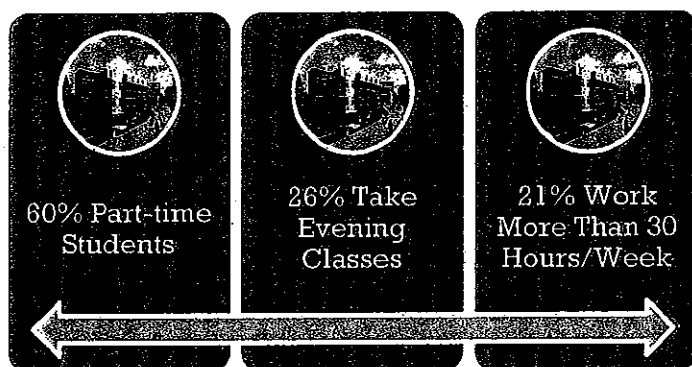
- ♦ In October, Ms. Mary Lancaster, Director of Financial Reporting, and Ms. Eileen Schilling, Executive Director of Academic Outreach, successfully completed the Academy for Leadership and Development Program. The Academy for Leadership and Development is a program developed by The Chair Academy, a division of Maricopa Community College District in Arizona, for the purpose of advancing organizational leadership and providing succession planning for leaders in postsecondary institutions. The program is skills-based and consists of two five-day residential training sessions and a practicum experience over a twelve-month period. A central component of the program was the development and implementation of an Individualized Professional Development Plan.

Community College Survey of Student Engagement – 2009 Findings

“Build Connections, Build Success”

It is important to distinguish between communicating information and “connecting.” Communicating information is a one-way, self-contained event. The individual for whom the information is intended may or may not receive it, understand it, care about it, or act on it. Connecting is an interactive, iterative series of events that is personal and creates a sense of presence. No one ever asks “So what?” in the wake of a genuine connection.

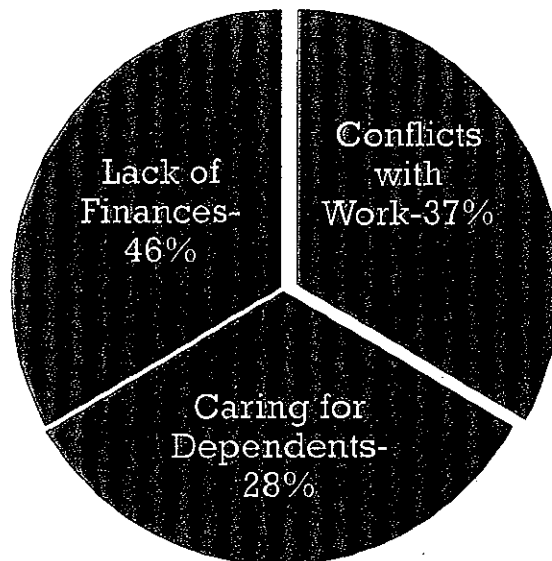
National Characteristics of Community College Students



Students' Primary Goals, National Average

GOALS	Primary Goal	Secondary Goal	Not a Goal
Complete a Certificate Program	36%	18%	51%
Obtain an Associate Degree	60%	20%	20%
Transfer	51%	20%	29%
Acquire Job-Related Skills	42%	27%	31%
Self-improvement/Enjoyment	40%	23%	26%
Prepare for a Career Change	29%	16%	55%

Barriers to Retention



Academically Unprepared: 19%

Student Use of Support for Learners

Services	Ranked by Students as of High Importance	Used Often	Rarely/Never Used
Academic Advising/Planning	62%	1%	35%
Career Counseling	50%	5%	51%
Tutoring	39%	7%	56%
Skills Labs (Writing, Math and Other)	44%	15%	37%
Financial Aid Advising	61%	17%	32%
Student Organizations	24%	5%	45%