



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 May 28, 2012, Board Meeting

DATE: May 23, 2013

Ocean County College Response to Super Storm Sandy

The Ocean County College Disaster Relief Fund was established in the aftermath of Super Storm Sandy in early November 2012. The purpose of the fund was to collect monetary donations to assist students and employees who suffered extreme losses due to the storm.

As of today, approximately \$28,000 has been donated to the fund by trustees, employees, student groups, and concerned sister colleges. This outpouring of generosity demonstrates the caring spirit of the OCC family and our commitment to help one another during difficult times.

The funds were distributed as follows:

♦ Wawa gas cards provided to students	\$10,450
♦ Cafeteria gift cards provided to students	2,500
♦ Art supplies for students	711
♦ Shop-Rite gift cards to students and employees	7,350
♦ Checks to displaced employees	<u>7,025</u>
	<u>\$28,036</u>

The Disaster Relief Fund was one of many initiatives rapidly implemented at the College to assist our community. As you know, the OCC Foundation received a \$200,000 grant from the Robin Hood Foundation. Students who were registered for the Spring 2013 semester

and who were affected by Super Storm Sandy were eligible to receive assistance from the Robin Hood Relief Fund. To be considered for funding, students were required to provide copies of their FEMA applications, FEMA rental assistance receipts as a result of displacement, and/or copies of detailed insurance claims for losses resulting from the storm. Once this information was provided, a committee reviewed the documents and awarded funding based on the individual situation and number of credits the student was registered for in the Spring 2013 semester.

All \$200,000 from the Robin Hood Relief Fund was distributed by the OCC Foundation to 165 needy students, with the goal of providing the necessary support so they could continue their college education. Funding was provided for:

- Computers
- Textbooks
- School supplies
- Food
- Transportation/gas
- Cars
- Clothing
- Furniture
- Medication

I am very proud of the response by the OCC community to this unprecedented storm and believe the College has emerged from the crisis stronger and more united than ever before.

37th Annual Ocean County Senior Citizens Art Exhibit

The 37th Annual Ocean County Senior Citizens Art Exhibit will be open to the public from June 1 to June 26 in the Ocean County College Arts and Community Center Gallery. Gallery hours are Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Admission is free.

The original artwork on display is created by both professional and non-professional artists age 60 and older. Categories include acrylic, craft, computer imagery, drawing, mixed media, oil, pastel, photography, print, sculpture, and watercolor.

A Reception and Awards Ceremony will be held on Friday, June 7, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Awards will be announced and presented in the Ocean County College Theatre. Light refreshments will be served. Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey is generously sponsoring the reception.

A special tribute in memory of local artist Jane Robbins will take place during the ceremony. Ms. Robbins, a frequent participant and two-time ribbon winner in the Art Show Exhibit, passed away last year. Because of Ms. Robbins' fondness for the event, her family asked that donations be given to the Art Show Exhibit in lieu of flowers. Two

easels have been purchased that feature special nameplates honoring Ms. Robbins. The easels will be used in the Arts and Community Center Gallery during future exhibits.

The 37th Annual Ocean County Senior Citizens Art Exhibit is sponsored by Ocean County College's Department of Resource Development, Office of College Relations, Senior Art Advisory Committee, and the Arts and Community Center, along with the Ocean County Office of Senior Services, Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission.

Academic Affairs

- ◆ On Friday, June 7, four OCC American Sign Language students will serve as volunteer interpreters for the Opening Ceremonies of the 2013 New Jersey Special Olympics Summer Games at Lions Football Stadium on the campus of the College of New Jersey. Over 3,500 athletes and coaches and 5,000 spectators are expected to attend.
- ◆ Once again, OCC's Nursing Program graduates were extremely successful on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN), another indicator of the strength of our program. The results recently received reported a 97 percent pass rate for OCC graduates who sat for the examination between April 2012 and March 2013, a pass rate that continues to be higher than other similar programs in the State and Nation.
- ◆ OCC's Interim Dean of Adjuncts has been providing some very valuable services to OCC's adjunct faculty as part of our efforts to increase student success.
- ◆ The new Task Force on Scheduling is busy at work; its subcommittee recently distributed a survey to students seeking input for improving the scheduling of classes to meet their needs. To date, over 2,000 students have responded.
- ◆ The Developmental Education Committee is currently planning for the implementation of the developmental Math and English pilot programs this summer.
- ◆ The Global Education Committee submitted a comprehensive recommendation for strengthening our institutional commitment to that effort. As a result, the Study Abroad Program will be expanded and global awareness will be more infused across the College, both inside and outside the classroom.
- ◆ Three new associate degree programs and two new certificates are being recommended for approval at Monday's meeting, all of which are made possible through articulation agreements with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – School of Health Related Professions:
 - ◆ A.A.S. Degree in Respiratory Therapy
 - ◆ A.S. Degree in Respiratory Care

- ♦ A.S. Degree in Psychosocial Rehabilitation
 - ♦ Dental Assisting Certificate of Completion
 - ♦ Dietary Manager Certificate of Completion
- ♦ Additional academic programs currently in development include cyber security, gaming and animation, tourism and hospitality, and environmental studies.

Commendation

Dr. Maysa Hayward, Dean of e-Learning, was the Keynote Speaker at the Ocean County Bar Association Law Day Program held at the Ocean County Courthouse in Toms River on May 1. A letter was received from a woman who attended the event with her family praising Dr. Hayward for her presentation, which they found “electrifying” as she discussed the differences between life in Egypt and the United States.

Board of Trustees Retreat

The last Board of Trustees Retreat of this academic year is scheduled for Friday, June 7, from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Administration Building. If you have suggestions for discussion, please let me know.