



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 April 22, 2013, Board Meeting

DATE: April 17, 2013

Ocean County College Athletics

I am very excited to share with you that the Ocean County College Women's Basketball Team was announced as the 2013 Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Russell Athletic "Together We R" Team Award winner. The women's basketball programs at Cal State Fullerton, Purdue University, the University of Oklahoma, and OCC had been selected as finalists.

The award was announced and formally recognized during the Third Annual WBCA Awards Show on Monday, April 8, in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Awards Show is part of the WBCA National Convention, which is held in conjunction with the National College Athletic Association Women's Final Four.

At the presentation, Russell Athletic Senior Vice President Gary Barfield said, "The perseverance and selflessness of Ocean County College women's basketball team in the wake of Super Storm Sandy is truly inspiring. This group of young women has overcome tremendous odds to be both successful on the court and at putting their community first. For this, we are proud to award them the 'Together We R' award." OCC's Head Women's Basketball Coach Dana Kovich accepted the award on behalf of the team and spoke in front of 500 of her colleagues and peers.

In its second year, the "Together We R" Team Award honors programs that have strived to succeed in the face of adversity and overcome extraordinary circumstances, such as an unforeseen team crisis, barrier, or unfortunate situation that caused extra stress. The team

must exemplify strong commitment to the core values of togetherness, courage, unparalleled work ethic, and heart and must personify the "Together We R" belief that teams are stronger than individuals.

Executive Director of Athletics Ilene Cohen and Director of Athletics A.J. Trump will attend Monday's meeting to share with you the video that was prepared for consideration of this award.

We are equally excited that Ocean County College was successful in its bid to host the Division III Women's Soccer National Championship games in 2014, 2015, and 2016. Based on our bid submission and because of our beautiful new athletic facilities, the National Junior College Athletic Association selected our campus as the site for the soccer tournaments for the next three years.

Ocean County College Commencement Week

Ocean County College's 46th Commencement will be held on Thursday, May 23, at 6:00 p.m. on the College mall. In the event of rain, the ceremony will be moved to the Pine Belt Arena on Old Freehold Road in Toms River. The Board of Trustees will present Freeholder John C. Bartlett, Jr., with the 2013 Distinguished Service Medal.

The Nursing Pinning Ceremony will precede Commencement on Tuesday evening, May 21, at 7:00 p.m., and the annual Awards Ceremony will take place on Wednesday evening, May 22, at 7:00 p.m. Both events will be held in our Theatre in the Arts and Community Center.

Members of the College community will be invited to a reception prior to commencement from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Arts and Community Center Atrium. At 5:30 p.m., the trustees and platform party will robe for the ceremony in the Boardroom.

We look forward to another wonderful evening as we congratulate our 2013 graduates for their achievements.

Displaced Homemakers Month

Since 2007, Ocean County College has been the recipient of a grant from the New Jersey Division on Women for the Displaced Homemakers Program of Ocean County. The program provides services to women to become economically self-sufficient after the loss of their primary source of income due to divorce, separation, death, or disability of a spouse.

Ms. Eileen Burdge serves as the Coordinator of the Displaced Homemakers Program, and Dr. Kathryn Pandolpho is the Program Director. The Program has had a very productive year, with 78 clients currently participating. Nineteen clients are enrolled in higher education, 16 of whom are registered at OCC for a total of 114 credit hours, 2 at Kean University and 1 at Richard Stockton College. At least three clients will graduate from OCC this semester. Two of the clients are members of Phi Theta Kappa, the national honor

society. Two clients are enrolled in the Kean-Ocean program, and both are graduating this year. Since last July, three clients found full-time employment and seven secured part-time positions. Ten clients were adversely affected by Super Storm Sandy.

At Monday's meeting, I will offer a resolution to proclaim the month of May 2013 as Displaced Homemakers Awareness Month at Ocean County College. Additionally, Ms. Burdge and Dr. Pandolpho will attend the meeting to share with you the success of the program and the ways in which it is having an impact on the lives of its participants.

The Ocean County College Foundation

The Ocean County College Foundation's 12th Annual Golf Outing is taking place at the Pine Barrens Golf Club in Jackson on Tuesday, May 7. Over the last 11 years, the Foundation has raised over \$500,000 from the Golf Outing to support the students of Ocean County College.

The entry fee is \$295 per player, which includes lunch, the use of the driving range for one hour before the shotgun start, greens fees, a golf cart, and a golf gift. An Awards and Cocktail Reception will immediately follow the tournament in the Club House. The fee for the Cocktail Reception alone is \$100. Sponsorship opportunities are still available.

If you are not a golfer, please consider joining us for the Reception. It is a terrific day and evening.

Academic Affairs

Academic Affairs continues to explore several program initiatives on which Vice President of Academic Affairs Jianping Wang will report at the May Board meeting. Dr. Wang is currently attending the 93rd Annual Convention of the American Association of Community Colleges in San Francisco.

On Saturday, April 6, Professor Kathy Basilotto and students in the Deaf Interpreter Training Program presented the annual American Sign Language Rock and Roll Show as a fundraiser. More than 300 deaf and hearing audience members enjoyed sign language performances by our professors and students.

The performance raised \$3,179, of which \$500 will be donated to the Deaf-Blind League of New Jersey. The remaining funds will be used to support the students' annual trip to Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., in the Fall semester.

Proceeds from past fundraising events have been donated to:

- ♦ Wounded Warrior Project
- ♦ Louisiana School for the Deaf
- ♦ Deaf Movie Producer
- ♦ American Heart Association

- ♦ American Cancer Society
- ♦ Senior Deaf Housing Organization
- ♦ Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf
- ♦ Lustgarten Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research

Ocean County College Online

Because of the efforts of Ms. Pat Fenn, Executive Director of e-Learning and Continuing and Professional Education, Ms. Joanne Padrone, Director of Resource Development, and Ms. Sharla Trimm and her staff from Ellucian, Ocean County College was awarded a Recovery New Jersey Talent Network Grant. Under this grant, the OCC Continuing and Professional Education Department will be responsible to:

- ♦ Identify business needs across the state with emphasis in the recovery communities
- ♦ Communicate and document resources available for displaced businesses
- ♦ Provide support for new industries that take advantage of rebuilding efforts and create new jobs and opportunities (infrastructure, environment, public health, healthcare, education, human services, and coastal protection)
- ♦ Connect displaced and dislocated jobseekers to businesses with on-the-job training assistance, skills training, and other career and placement services

OCC is also part of a second Talent Network Grant that was awarded to Stockton College in the area of hospitality, tourism, and retail.

Under Mr. Jeff Harmon, Associate Director of e-Learning, and Ms. Fenn, e-Learning is in the final stage of a pilot that will permit online students to achieve proper placement in developmental and college-level courses. This pilot will involve our Pearson partner in terms of aligning Ocean County College's course learning outcomes of our developmental courses with Pearson's diagnostic test instrument. If it proves successful, students with developmental needs will be able to master their deficiencies and proceed to college-level courses within one semester. At a later date, e-Learning will be making an in-depth presentation to the Board. While e-Learning is conducting its totally online pilot, the department will also be working cooperatively with Academic Affairs as it conducts its own pilot in this area for traditional courses.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, April 16 and 17, Ms. Fenn attended the Conference on State Authorization and Reciprocity Agreement, which was sponsored by the Lumina Foundation and held in Indianapolis, Indiana, to discuss the establishment of a national reciprocity agreement for students taking online courses from providers located in other states. Ms. Fenn was one of a three-person delegation appointed by Secretary of Education Rochelle Hendricks to represent New Jersey. The other delegates were Thomas Edison College President George Pruitt and NJIT Associate Vice President for Continuing and Distance Education Gale Spak.

Ms. Fenn's initial report from the conference indicates that New Jersey will need to decide about the way in which it wants to participate in a reciprocity agreement and that this is a

complicated issue that will require two to three years of active participation for an agreement to be achieved.

OCC Summer Camps

Continuing and Professional Education recently released its 2013 Summer Kids Camps brochure. There are an impressive number of offerings available for children during the summer months of June, July, and August. They include courses, workshops, and activities in such areas as arts and crafts, business, dance, languages, writing, sports, computers, music, mathematics, science, building and engineering, adventure, mind building, and just plain summer fun. A four-week performing arts intensive camp, Ocean's Theatre Makers, is also being offered.

Ms. Carol Kaunitz, Director of Auxiliary Services, will provide you with additional information at Monday's meeting and report on the Open House that was held on April 13.

Commendations

- ♦ Several months ago, Dr. William Rickert, Professor of Mathematics, was nominated for a 2012 John and Suanne Roueche Excellence Award from the League for Innovation in the Community College. I was recently informed that Dr. Rickert was selected as one of only two New Jersey professors who were honored.

John and Suanne Roueche are leaders in the community college sector and friends of the League for Innovation for over thirty-five years. The League established the Excellence Awards in 2012. The awards celebrate outstanding contributions and leadership by community college faculty and staff.

Dr. Rickert has been invited to Monday's Board meeting to be presented with the League's certificate and medallion. His selection in the inaugural year of the award is noteworthy and very well deserved.

- ♦ In November, following Super Storm Sandy, I shared with you that Associate Professor of Science Marc Labella remained as one of five EMT's at the Barnegat Light Firehouse on Long Beach Island, performing rescues during the height of the storm, providing meals, first aid, and assistance to emergency personnel, and working with police and military personnel to open the roadway off the Island.

On April 6, Mr. Labella was honored by the Barnegat Light First Aid Squad in recognition of his "quick thinking, exemplary dedication, and unselfish bravery during Super Storm Sandy." He was also installed as treasurer and trustee of the Squad. We extend congratulations and appreciation to Mr. Labella.

- ♦ The Ocean County College Sailing Team won the Team Race Regatta that was held on the weekend of April 6 and 7 on the Toms River, hosted by the Toms River Yacht Club. OCC defeated Fordham University, Monmouth University, Webb Institute, Cornell

University, Drexel University, and Bucknell University. Nick Rinaldi and Zac Shippe skippered the winning team, with Mary Noricia, Liam Boyle, and Shawn Hartigan crewing for the two days.

Mr. Roy Wilkins, Sailing Program Manager, and the entire OCC sailing team are commended for their outstanding performance.

- ♦ Ms. Eileen Burdge was recently selected to receive the Patricia C. Donohue Leadership Award from the American Association of Women in Community Colleges, Mercer Chapter. The award was presented to Ms. Burdge at the 3rd Annual Leaders' Breakfast on April 5 at Mercer County Community College for her exemplary service as the Community Service Specialist for the Displaced Homemakers Program.

Dr. Donohue, President of Mercer, is president emerita of the national association. This award was presented to five professional community college women in New Jersey for their service to and mentoring of women in the community, their leadership, and their successful implementation of initiatives for women.

Ms. Maureen Conlon, Manager of Web Services, was also nominated for this award for the computer training she provides to clients of the Displaced Homemakers Program. She, too, attended the Awards Breakfast and is commended for her service.