



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 **June 24, 2013, Board Meeting**

DATE: June 19, 2013

Enhanced Communication

The OCC Advising Office, recognizing the need to find innovative methods of communicating with students, is always seeking new ways to accommodate student needs and to foster a personal connection with them, especially with nontraditional students, distance learning students, and students at the Southern Education Center. With that in mind, research was undertaken recently to identify products which would allow students to meet with advisors remotely.

Initially, Skype was considered an efficient tool to advise students, but it lacks some essential advising aspects and does not provide the opportunity for other offices, such as Financial Aid and Registration and Records, to utilize the software. Eventually, after contacting other community colleges, a Cisco product named Jabber was discovered, which offers face-to-face and voice capabilities, instant messaging, desktop sharing, and conferencing.

The short-term goal in utilizing the Jabber software is to establish a better partnership between the Toms River campus and the Southern Education Center. The long-term goal is for students to be able to speak to a college representative remotely with the advantage of the desktop sharing and conferencing ability.

A pilot program will begin in September wherein NJ STARS students will have the capability of scheduling appointments remotely with the Coordinator via Jabber. Following a successful completion of the pilot program, steps will be taken in January 2014 to make Jabber available to the entire student body. Students will be able to connect

via Jabber with staff members in various College offices. While the service will be available to all students, it will be most useful to nontraditional students who cannot readily travel to campus.

At Monday's meeting, Ms. Anna Regan, Director of Academic Advising, will provide additional information about Jabber as well as demonstrate its usability. She will be joined by Ms. Elaine Schardien, Coordinator of the NJ STARS Program, and Mr. Ed Tafaro, Programmer Analyst, Ellucian.

Instruction Division Update

- ◆ Under the leadership of Executive Director Pat Fenn, the Department of Continuing and Professional Education has been very involved in several projects under the auspices of the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development:

- ◆ The implementation of the Recovery New Jersey Talent Grant that was awarded to OCC to assist businesses and jobseekers displaced by Super Storm Sandy during their recovery.
- ◆ The New Jersey Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development, which brings together the vast resources of the 19 New Jersey community colleges for New Jersey companies and organizations to access, develop, and receive workforce education and training for their current and emerging workforce statewide.

Mr. Michael Forcella, our recently hired Manager of Business Engagement, is busy with both the Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development and the Recovery New Jersey Talent Grant. OCC will soon be hosting FEMA on campus to meet with contractors who will help with Ocean County's recovery.

- ◆ The development of an application for the 2013 Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) Grant Program, which provides community colleges with funds to expand and improve their ability to deliver career training programs to assist adults in acquiring the skills, degrees, and credentials needed for employment. The College's grant application focuses on Health Information Technology.
- Ms. Kathryn Caro, Nursing and Allied Health Administrator, Ms. Tracey Walsh, Dean of Nursing, and Ms. Joanne Padrone, Director of Resource Development, are completing this eleven-college grant application with assistance from Ms. Sharla Trimm, Senior Grants Consultant, Ellucian. The application is due in July.
- ◆ Associate Professor of Computer Studies Mary Burke, who also serves as OCC's Perkins Grant Coordinator, has spent the last several months developing the FY 2014 Perkins Grant Budget. On Monday, June 17, she presented the budget to the Ocean

County Workforce Investment Board and received its support for a request of \$514,000. The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Grant is intended to be used to develop more fully the academic, career, and technical skills of students, with emphasis on those Career Clusters that support workforce development, economic development, and stakeholder partnerships. A recommendation is included in Monday's Business and Finance Committee agenda to authorize the submission of an application for this funding.

Professor Burke received invaluable support in this effort from:

- ♦ Mr. Angel Camilo, Interim Dean of Adjunct Faculty
 - ♦ Dr. Yehia Elmogahzy, Dean of Mathematics, Science, and Technology
 - ♦ Ms. Tracey Walsh, Dean of Nursing
 - ♦ Mr. Brad Young, Interim Dean of Social Sciences
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- ♦ In the e-Learning area, Associate Director Jeff Harmon and his staff have assembled a pilot program as an alternative to OCC's Accuplacer Placement Test for distance learning students. The program will be operational for the Fall 2013 semester and run for four semesters, during which time the program will be analyzed and evaluated to determine its effectiveness as an alternative to Accuplacer.
 - ♦ Pearson, OCC's e-Learning partner, is very impressed with the Master Courses that we have developed utilizing its software, so much so that Pearson would like to showcase our e-Learning courses when demonstrating its products to other colleges.
 - ♦ Mr. Harmon has completed an online student survey to confirm that there are no problems with OCC's online science laboratory courses transferring to four-year institutions, both in New Jersey and nationally.
 - ♦ Ms. Fenn, Mr. Harmon, and Ms. Eileen Schilling, Executive Director of Academic Outreach Programs, are identifying a market for the delivery of our online college courses to high school students, regionally and nationally. In the same way, Ms. Maysa Hayward, Dean of e-Learning, is working on the delivery of English as a Second Language courses to and the cultural emersion of students in the Eastern Mediterranean seeking to come to the United States to study at four-year colleges.

Academic Affairs Update

- ♦ The Academic Affairs Leadership Team attended a retreat at Long Beach Island Foundation of the Arts and Sciences in Loveladies on Wednesday, May 29. The Retreat focused on conflict management and relationship building and was quite successful.

The team took advantage of the location and had a wonderful tour of the facilities. As a result, Academic Affairs is working to develop a partnership with the Foundation by expanding OCC's course offerings there. The College currently offers only Ceramics

and Drawing classes at the site. Some other course possibilities include Art History, United States Military History, History and Culture of Jewish People, History and Culture of China, History of Russia, History of the Arab World since World War I, Modern Israel, Introduction to Film, Introduction to Music Appreciation, Basic Photography, Marine Biology, General Biology, Ecology, and Environmental Science.

- ♦ Progress continues on several projects:
 - ♦ The Developmental Education Committee is working on the implementation of a pilot program in remedial math and English in partnership with Pearson and McGraw-Hill. Beginning on July 8 and running through the Fall 2013 semester, 160 students are expected to participate. The goal is to improve the course delivery of remedial math and English courses.
 - ♦ The Scheduling Task Force has been collecting data on OCC's past scheduling practices in preparation for its recommendations for improving the class schedules to make them student-friendly. Almost 2,000 students participated in a recent survey, and the data received will be used as decisions are made in the future.
 - ♦ The Task Force on Instructional Technology is collecting data and developing policies and procedures to ensure that the College's classroom technology is current. A survey was distributed to faculty, and 133 faculty members responded.

Ocean County College Foundation Scholarship Celebration

The Ocean County College Foundation 2013 Scholarship Celebration will take place on Saturday, August 24, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. The proceeds of this year's event, "East Meets West...the Gateway to Giving," will again assist the Foundation in its mission to make higher education accessible to Ocean County residents through scholarships and awards. The celebration will feature gourmet food, live entertainment, and a silent auction.