



# 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 27, 2015, Board Meeting

**DATE:** April 22, 2015

## Commendations

- I am extremely pleased to share with you that **Ms. Christine Kitchen, Associate Professor of Anthropology, School of Business, Social Science and Human Services**, has been selected as a **recipient** of the **League for Innovation in the Community College's John and Suanne Roueche Excellence Award**. Professor Kitchen is one of **only three faculty members** recognized from New Jersey. I will present Ms. Kitchen with her **medallion** and **certificate** on **Monday**.

**John and Suanne Roueche** are leaders in the **community college field** and **early proponents** of the idea that **teachers have major responsibility for students' performance** in the **classroom**. **Recipients of the Excellence Award** exemplify **exceptional community college teaching and leadership**.

Professor Kitchen has **served the College for 12 years** with **devotion and distinction**. She has led the **Study Abroad to Mexico seminar for many years**. Currently, she is the **co-chair of the Study Abroad Committee** that works tirelessly on improving all study abroad programs at the College.

- **Ms. Jayanti Tamm, Assistant Professor of English and Literature**, was selected to serve as a **judge for The Allegra Johnson Prize in Memoir and Novel Writing**. The award is offered by **UCLA** in the hope of making a difference in the lives of promising **Writers' Program memoir and novel writing students** by providing both **formal recognition** of their **talents** and **financial resources** to support them as they **complete their manuscripts**.

The international award is merit-based and is given to **one memoirist and one novelist** in alternating years. It is an **honor** to have one of our **faculty members** invited to serve as a **judge**.

- On April 10, 2015, OCC's Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, Tau Iota, held its annual Spring Induction Ceremony in the Grunin Center Theatre. At that time, 155 students were welcomed into the organization. Dr. Jianping Wang, Vice President of Academic Affairs, spoke at this very meaningful ceremony on my behalf.

At the Twenty-Eighth Annual Middle State Regional Convention on March 13, 14, and 15, 2015, Tau Iota Chapter and three students were recognized in the following ways:

- Tau Iota was recognized once again as a **Five-Star Chapter**, the **highest level of achievement** possible for a chapter of Phi Theta Kappa
- **Dominic Addonizio** was inducted into the **Regional Hall of Honor for Chapter Members**
- **Kayla Burciar** was inducted into the **Regional Hall of Honor for Chapter Officers**
- **Christina Vardouniotis** was inducted into the **Regional Hall of Honor for Chapter Officers**
- **Christina Vardouniotis** was one of three chapter officers throughout the entire **Middle States region** to receive the **Distinguished Chapter Officer Award**. This award recognizes her for **outstanding achievement** as a **chapter officer**. Considering that there are approximately **600 to 650 chapter officers**, it is a **great honor** to have an officer from Tau Iota recognized in this manner.

Also, Kayla has been named a **Silver Scholar** for the **2015 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team**. She will receive a **\$1,250 scholarship** and be recognized at **Phi Theta Kappa Day** in Trenton on May 7, 2015.

Kayla serves as the **President of Tau Iota**, and Christina is the **Vice President of Publications**. The College is indeed **fortunate** to have these **outstanding students** representing Ocean County College on the **regional and international levels**.

Three members of Tau Iota recently attended the **annual PTK International Convention, NerdNation**, from April 16 to 18, 2015, in San Antonio, Texas. This year's theme was **"Cool 2B Smart!"** Students attended educational sessions fostering **personal and chapter development** that will help to help **promote an engaged student body** on campus.

The PTK advisors continue their excellent guidance to our Tau Iota members. Our appreciation is expressed to **Dr. William Rickert, Professor of Mathematics**; **Dr. Jennifer Dellner, Professor of English and Literature**; **Ms. Carolyn Showalter**,

**Assistant Professor of Mathematics; and Ms. Robin Weitz, Assistant Professor of Mathematics.**

**Dr. Rickert and Kayla Burcia will attend Monday's meeting to update the trustees on all of Tau Iota's achievements this past year.**

### **Ocean County College Commencement Week**

**Ocean County College's 48<sup>th</sup> Commencement is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, at 6:00 p.m. on the College mall. This year, we are pleased to have as our guest speaker Dr. Richard W. Schneider, Rear Admiral, USCGR (Ret.) and President of Norwich University.**

**Members of the College community will be invited to a reception prior to Commencement from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center Atrium. At 5:00 p.m., the trustees and platform party will robe for the ceremony in the Boardroom.**

**The Nursing Pinning Ceremony will precede Commencement on Tuesday evening, May 19, at 7:00 p.m., and the annual Awards Ceremony will take place on Wednesday evening, May 20, at 7:00 p.m. Both events will be held in the Theatre of The Jay and Linda Grunin Performing Arts Center.**

**This year, we are planning a rededication ceremony of the Veterans Memorial on the campus mall at 3 p.m. prior to Commencement. If you are so inclined and are available, we would be delighted to see you at the ceremony.**

**We look forward to another successful week of special events for our students this year.**

### **The Displaced Homemakers Program**

**The Displaced Homemakers Program continues to provide its very important services to women who have lost their primary source of income through divorce, separation, death, or disability of a spouse, helping them to reach their full potential and become economically self-sufficient. The program is serving 113 clients in 2014-2015.**

**Currently, there are 26 clients enrolled in college, 21 of whom are here at OCC, 1 is attending Georgian Court University, and 4 are in the Kean Ocean Program. Five clients graduated from OCC in 2014, one from Georgian Court, and two from Kean Ocean.**

**Short-term training is also available to the clients through OCC's Continuing and Professional Education offerings. This past year, 11 have completed CPE programs: 4 in Medical Assistant, 1 in Phlebotomy, 5 in Pharmacy Technician, and 1 in Certified Home Health Aide. These clients were trained through the federal Superstorm Sandy Social Service Block Grant (SSBG), which OCC has received for two years. In total, 23 clients completed job training with SSBG funds. Unfortunately, this program is ending on June 30 due to the termination of funding.**

One particular program client has overcome many life circumstances, including being displaced from her home after Superstorm Sandy. After the storm, she enrolled in GED classes at OCC, passed the GED, enrolled in credit classes, and is graduating with an A.A.S. degree in Alcohol and Drug Counseling in December 2015.

Other highlights of the Displaced Homemakers Program include:

- In partnership with a local church, Thanksgiving baskets were distributed to 20 families.
- The first Pizza with Santa event was held this year for clients and their families.
- In collaboration with the Ocean County Family Success Center and with donations from many OCC employees, a Women's Clothing Closet was opened, which provides clients with clothing appropriate for interviews.

Dr. Kate Pandolpho, Director of Career, Employment, and Personal Counseling, and Ms. Eileen Budge, Community Services Specialist, will provide you with additional information on Monday. Following their presentation, the Board is requested to adopt a resolution to proclaim May 2015 as Displaced Homemakers Awareness Month at Ocean County College.

#### e-Learning and Enterprise Initiatives

Ms. Allison King, Vice President of e-Learning and Enterprise Initiatives, and Mr. Jeff Harmon, Executive Director of e-Learning, will give a brief report on the following:

- Remedial Education Pilot - In fall 2013, e-Learning began its two-year longitudinal pilot study aimed at enhancing the online admissions testing and remediation issues of our students. The pilot will conclude with the end of the fall 2015 semester. To date, 789 online students enrolled for the placement test, and 437 have completed it.

Between fall 2013 and fall 2014, 1,729 students have used the adaptive learning remediation software, My Foundations Labs, which is also in use in New Jersey's College Readiness Now Program. An analysis of data for the first year pointed toward higher levels of student achievement and a shortened remediation timeline. Based on this success, Pearson posted a "Success Story" about OCC on its website, which is attached.

- Sussex County Community College Partnership – OCC's partnership with Sussex County Community College continues to grow. We will be delivering six new courses this summer and fall, for a total of 10.
- New Jersey Council of County Colleges Mini Grants - Thus far, e-Learning has received one \$500 "mini-grant" from the New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC) for faculty professional development. This particular application was developed jointly by Dean of e-Learning Jack Kelnhofer and Graduate Intern Britni Epstein. The funds will be utilized to purchase several teaching/learning innovation webinars that will be broadcast for the campus community in the Gateway Lecture Hall.

- **Corporate Partnerships - e-Learning** continues its efforts to **develop partnerships** with **companies** that offer **tuition reimbursement programs** for their **employees**. Discussions with **CVS Health, Home Depot, UPS, Southwest Airlines, and Vail Resorts** are showing the most promise, and the hope is to **engage** with at least one by **fall 2015**.

### **Continuing and Professional Education**

- **Summer Camps** – This summer’s offerings include **22 more camps** than last year, representing a **20% increase**. As a result, **student registration is up**; there are currently over **180 registrations this year** as compared to **67** at this same point in time **last year**. New programs are focused on **increasing STEM awareness** to campers of all ages. In addition, a **new Entrepreneurs Camp** for budding business moguls is being offered.

This year, a **unique collaboration** with our **K-12 partners** offered extensive **advertising** of the camps. Over **20,000 flyers** announcing the summer offerings were sent to **students’ homes** through their **“backpack” distribution program**, and the **flyer is posted** on the **school websites**.

**Ms. Katie Calabrese, CPE Community Programs Administrator**, will attend **Monday’s meeting** to speak about the many new offerings.

- **Customized Training** - As the **Recovery New Jersey Talent Network Grant** ended, **research and connections** from this effort led to a **strategic plan** for developing a **Customized and Contract Training initiative** to reach out to the **business community**. Work continues with the **New Jersey Labor and Workforce Development** offices, the **Ocean County WIB**, and the **New Jersey Council of County Colleges’ Workforce Development Program**, now known as **Coalition 19**, to engage businesses to provide **training and assistance** for their **employees**.

This year, **OCC** was very **successful** in its association with **Coalition 19**. To date, the College has **exceeded its required \$54,000 threshold** in **business programs** by **\$40,000**, for a total of **\$94,000** in **booked revenue**. **CPE Business and Customized Training** has offerings for company employees in areas such as **Advanced Manufacturing, Basic Skills, Customer Service**, and **specialized technology training**.

**Ms. Patricia Fenn, Assistant Vice President of Continuing and Professional Education and Workforce Development**, will briefly discuss the above initiatives at the meeting.

### **American Association of Community Colleges Conference**

**Dr. Jianping Wang and Ms. Sara Winchester, Executive Vice President of Finance and Administration**, presented at the **American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Annual Conference** in **San Antonio** on **April 21, 2015**. The presentation was entitled **“Building Business Partnerships to Enhance Student Success.”** The session highlighted the **long and mutually beneficial partnership** between **Ocean County College** and **Ellucian**



**Managed Services**, with particular emphasis on how the partnership has **benefited OCC students**. The power point presentation is available on request.

If you are interested in reviewing the Ellucian “Retention and Student Success” whitepaper which highlights **Ocean County College’s initiatives**, the website link is:

<http://www.ellucian.com/Insights/Retention-and-student-success--Implementing-strategies-that-make-a-difference/>.

The link to the **OCC-Ellucian Student Success Forum** site is:

[https://www.ocean.edu/content/public/about/education\\_forum\\_student\\_success.html](https://www.ocean.edu/content/public/about/education_forum_student_success.html).

OCC was invited to **co-host an Ellucian-sponsored dinner** at the conference, at which **Ms. Winchester** served as a **guest host**. She shared **OCC’s experience with Ellucian-managed services**, emphasizing the **fluid and collaborative nature** of the relationship, which has enabled the College to **support students using current technology** while, at the same time, dealing with the **reality of limited funding**.

### **New Jersey Council of County Colleges Best Practices Conference**

**Vice Presidents Sara Winchester and Allison King** presented at the **NJCCC 2015 Best Practices Conference** on **April 24, 2015**. Their presentation focused on the following topics:

- **Review of Ocean County College’s e-Learning Programs**
- **Review of Ocean County College’s Business Relationship with Pearson**
- **Building Business Relationships to Enhance Institutional and Student Success**
- **Review of Available Partnering Opportunities**

It is hoped that other New Jersey community colleges will consider **e-Learning partnerships** with Ocean County College after learning more about the ways they can **benefit from Ocean’s e-Learning expertise**.

### **Finance and Administration**

- **Facilities** - The **Facilities Department** will be holding the first **surplus sale** of the year in **May** via **GovDeals.com**. GovDeals.com provides an **easy process to buy and sell** used items at a **fair local value** without the expense of advertising or using an auction company.

A listing of all **auction items** will be posted on the **website** in the near future. Some of the items to be auctioned include **work stations, computer screens, and HVAC equipment**. All **revenue** from the sale is **received** directly by the **Accounting Department**, with no cash involved.

- **Information Technology**

**Ms. Janine Dillard**, IT’s new **Trainer of Technology**, has finalized content for **several training sessions** scheduled this month. A broadcast email was distributed to the College

community inviting them to take advantage of training on **various technology topics**. **Departmental workshops** are available, as is **individual training**. New classes will be offered each month, and each session is one hour in length.

As part of the **Higher Education Technology Improvement (HETI) grant initiatives**, IT is completing the establishment of a **video conferencing infrastructure** that will integrate with OCC's existing **CISCO telephone and networking infrastructure**. Video conferencing is considered a **pivotal tool** to support the College's growing **online educational programs and partnerships**. The **video conferencing solution** will have the capacity to **combine classes** at the **Toms River campus** and the **Southern Education campus**.

➤ **Auxiliary Services**

The **Robert J. Novins Planetarium** is promoting several special events:

- **Saturday, May 2, at 12:30 p.m.** – Returning to OCC is ***Puppy Power Presentation: Seeing Eye Puppies***, at which children learn about puppies being trained as service animals for the disabled. This event is paired with **The Stars from my Backyard and Big Bird's Adventure**.
- **Saturday, May 9, at 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.** – **Card Craft** for children to make cards for their Moms, which is paired with **Celebrate Mom, Pajama Night Party**.
- **Saturday, May 16, at 6:30 p.m.** – **Armed Forces Day**, a special presentation for **Veterans**, which will also include the **Laser Spirit show**. Veteran organizations will be invited.

The **Grunin Center for the Arts** is presenting **Branford Marsalis** on **Saturday, May 30, at 8:00 p.m.** Tickets are still available for this sensational evening of **world class musical entertainment**.

➤ **Ellucian Focus Group**

During the months of **January through March 2015**, Ocean County College participated in a **focus group** with Ellucian to resolve issues with the **Colleague Financial Aid award transmittal process**. The project included **weekly web conference meetings** and the **installation of software updates** in a test environment. OCC's participation in the focus group provided **direct access to correct long-standing problems** experienced with the process and associated software. After months of work by the participants, the **software update** was made available for general delivery to all Ellucian clients on **March 30, 2015**, and was **installed** on the College's live system **this month**.

The following **OCC staff members** participated in the **focus group** and were **instrumental** to its **success**:

- **Ms. Elise Barocas, Director of Accounting**
  - **Ms. Eileen Buckle, Director of Financial Aid**
  - **Mr. Keith Bunn, Enrollment Management Technician**
  - **Ms. Kerry McEachen, IT Systems Administrator**
  - **Ms. Karen Papakonstantinou, Controller**
  - **Ms. Angela Stephen, Accounts Receivable Manager**
- **Human Resources** – The Human Resources Department is offering **training** to all employees who serve on **Search Committees**. The purpose of the training is three-fold:
1. All **search committee participants** will be appropriately **trained** in **Affirmative Action** issues, eliminating the need for the chair to find an Affirmative Action Officer to serve on each committee.
  2. The **responsibilities** of the **chair and team members** will be explained in a clear and specific manner.
  3. **Timelines** will be provided within the search process to **avoid losing prime candidates**.

This **one-hour training session** is required for all **Search Committee participants** who have not been trained in this fiscal year. Human Resources will invite individuals slated to serve on search committees to their choice of several upcoming training sessions. Individuals who **elect not to attend** will **not be permitted to serve**. This training is currently offered **face to face** only, but it will soon be converted to an **online course** for convenience. Online training will be announced campus-wide when it becomes available.

### **Ocean County College Foundation**

- **Ms. Heather Barberi, Executive Director of the Ocean County College Foundation**, will attend Monday's meeting with several announcements:
- **100 Women Campaign** – The Foundation is set to launch the **100 Women Campaign** in early May. The **100 Women Campaign's mission** is to **bring together** dynamic, innovative, and accomplished **Ocean County women** who will **support each other's life and career goals**, share their **insights and experiences**, and encourage **women's education** through Ocean County College. The **goal** is to identify **100 women participants** who will contribute at least **\$100 a year for five years**, allowing the Foundation to provide **annual scholarships** to very deserving OCC students. **Scholarships** will be awarded in **two categories**: women entering **STEM disciplines** and women entering **general academic disciplines**.

Beyond scholarships, the 100 Women Campaign seeks to **support female students** through **mentoring**. This program will provide a **learning experience** outside the classroom, with the opportunity for **professional development, networking**, and an **exchange of ideas** between **experienced professionals** and the **next generation of leaders**. In addition, there will be activities held throughout the year that will provide the opportunity for campaign members to **make connections** and **build enduring, mutually beneficial relationships** with fellow Ocean County women.



- **Annual Ocean County College Foundation Scholarship Celebration** – The Ocean County College Foundation's 2015 Scholarship Celebration is being held on Saturday, June 20, at 6:00 p.m. in the Health and Human Performance Center. This year, the Foundation is recognizing The Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation for its outstanding support of the arts, education, and healthcare in Ocean County.

The event co-chairs are Mr. Kenneth J. Malagiere and Mr. Domenick M. Servodio. All proceeds from the Celebration will benefit the Foundation's mission to support the growth and development of the College through scholarships, endowments, and capital and special projects.

Please join us this year to honor and congratulate The Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation and help support the Foundation's mission. Gourmet food will be served, live music will be provided, and a silent auction will take place.



## Board of Trustees

### RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS,** the New Jersey Displaced Homemakers Act was signed into law by Governor Brendan Byrne in 1979; and

**WHEREAS,** the Displaced Homemakers Program of Ocean County, funded by a grant from the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, Division on Women, has been at Ocean County College since 2007; and

**WHEREAS,** the Program currently provides services to many women who have lost their primary source of income, due to divorce, separation, death, or disability of a spouse, assisting them to become economically self-sufficient through career counseling, training, educational opportunities, and information/referrals to community resources and social services; and

**WHEREAS,** the Displaced Homemakers Program of Ocean County significantly impacted the lives of over 530 Ocean County women by helping them reach their full potential, gain self-confidence, and enhance their employability;

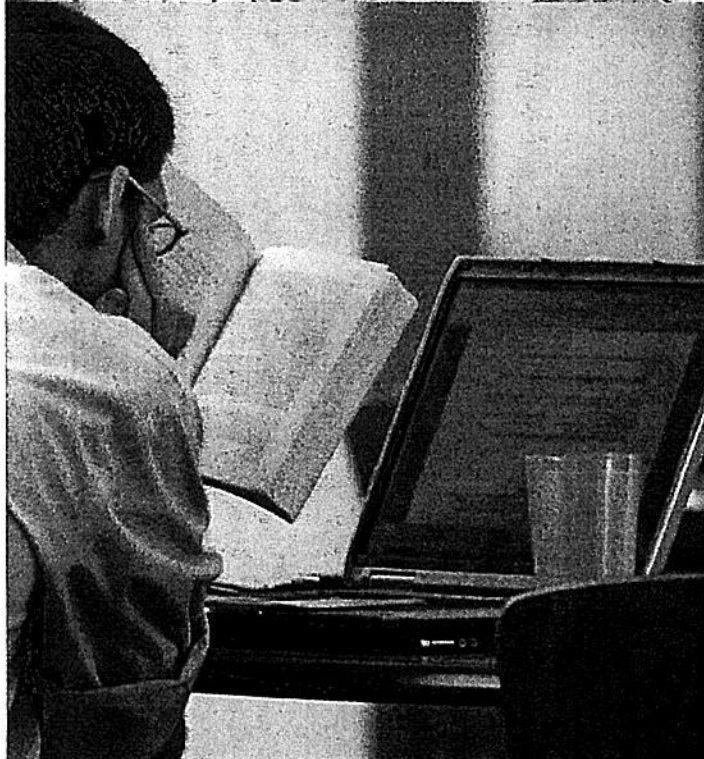
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the month of May 2015 be proclaimed as Displaced Homemakers Awareness Month at Ocean County College; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the college community recognize the importance of the Displaced Homemakers Program as it provides women with the skills necessary to meet the challenges of the labor market so they can provide for themselves and their children.

*Adopted: April 27, 2015*

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Carl V. Thulin, Jr.  
Chair



Community college  
reaches more students  
and increases achievement  
through online learning.

Ocean County College  
SUCCESS STORY »

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## School Profile

City/State:

Toms River, NJ

School Type:

Community College

Full-Time Enrollment:

9,477 students

Ethnicity:

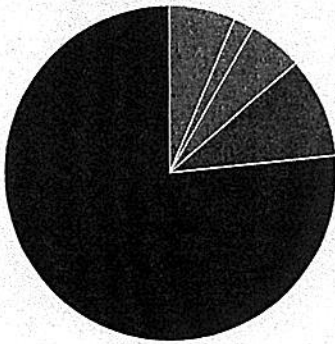
■ 76.9% Caucasian

■ 9.5% Hispanic

■ 5.5% African American

■ 1.9% Asian

■ 6.2% Other



## » Ocean County College Overview

Ocean County College (OCC), an innovative, two-year public community college in New Jersey, provides a comprehensive education to post-secondary students of all ages. Utilizing the latest technology and teaching methods, OCC strives to prepare its students for success whether they aspire to transfer to a four-year college program or pursue a career. To serve the needs of its working-student population, grow beyond the limitations of its physical campus, and attract students outside of the county, OCC is investing in online learning programs.

## » Challenge

OCC is an open-enrollment institution, and 66 percent of its incoming students require remediation before they can progress to credit-bearing courses. OCC had been using ACCUPLACER® to place incoming students, a test that worked well when students could come to campus at a scheduled time to take the exam. Students who could not take a scheduled in-person exam, either because of the distance to campus or scheduling conflicts, had to arrange to take the ACCUPLACER exam with a remote proctor, which was a barrier to enrollment. To overcome this barrier and encourage more students to enroll in its online programs, OCC sought an online placement test that would work with its internal systems and remedial course structure.

## » Solution

In the fall of 2013, OCC began a two-year pilot of MyFoundationsLab, an online, adaptive remedial math and English program, by Pearson. Pearson customized the MyFoundationsLab pathbuilder diagnostic test to meet OCC's needs, dividing it into four pre-tests aligned to the college's two remedial math and two remedial English courses. After taking the pre-tests, students received customized learning pathways based on their results, which indicated specific learning modules in the MyFoundationsLab program that they needed to complete.



## » Solution (continued)

The new online test and curriculum posed some challenges for faculty and students. Because each student had a customized learning pathway with a varying number of modules, professors had to find new ways to monitor progress and ensure that students would complete the work by the end of the ten- or fifteen-week semester. Students also needed to learn to pace themselves so that they would not leave all the work for the end of the semester. After identifying the scheduling challenges during the first term of the pilot, Jeff Harmon, executive director of e-learning, and his team of instructional designers, developed a tracking template. "Students would pop into the template what learning modules were required of them, identify a timeline to complete them through the rest of the semester, and have the instructor approve it. Instructors could cross reference the timeline with what module students were completing via their dashboard reports in the actual tool," explained Harmon. Once the template system was implemented, the pilot progressed smoothly.

## » Results

More than halfway through the two-year pilot program, OCC is pleased with the results. During the first fifteen months that MyFoundationsLab was used, 269 unique individuals took the online exam, more than twice the number of unique individuals (113) who took the ACCUPLACER exam with a remote proctor in the twenty-three-month period prior to the implementation of the online test. Since the pilot was implemented, the percent of distance-learning credits increased by 3.9 percent to 18.8 percent of total credits, and the percent of distance-learning credits earned by out-of-county students increased by 5.0 percent to 17.7 percent of distance-learning credits.

Student course scores and course completion rates have also increased. Students' average course scores rose from 68 to 85 percent in remedial English and from 64 to 85 percent in remedial math from spring 2013 when the courses were taught using traditional methods to spring 2014 when the pilot courses incorporated MyFoundationsLab (see Figures 1 & 2). Course completion rates increased from 67 percent to almost 85 percent over the same period (see Figure 3).

*"Learning achievement is significantly enhanced with MyFoundationsLab."*

— Jeff Harmon  
Executive Director of E-Learning

FIGURE 1:  
Students' Average English Course Scores

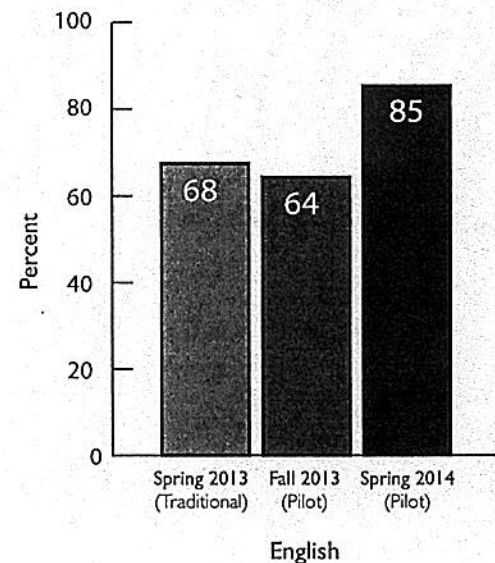
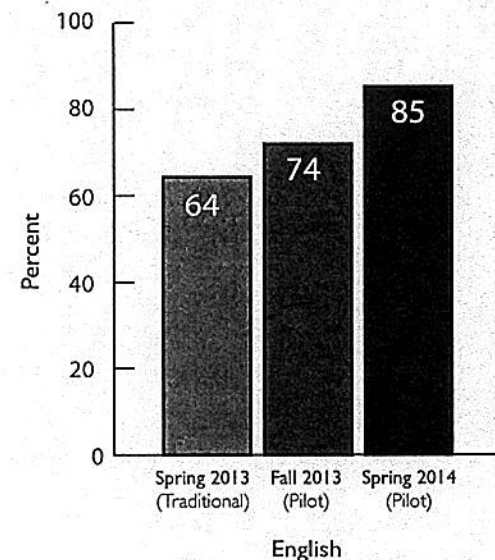


FIGURE 2:  
Students' Average Math Course Scores





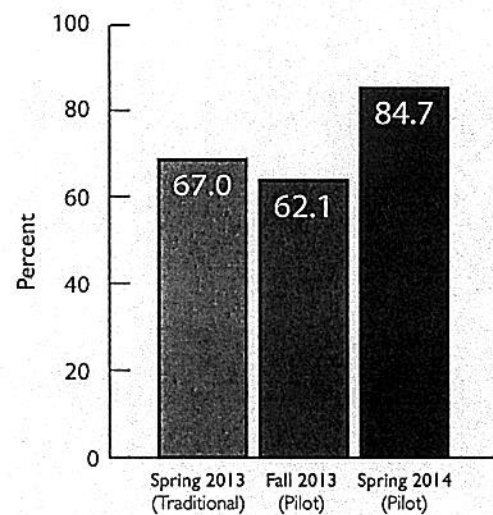
## » Results (continued)

Targeted remediation and increased engagement may account for some of the achievement increases. The customized learning pathways included in MyFoundationsLab allow students to bypass material that they have already mastered and focus on what they need to learn. Erica Carboy, lecturer and program chair, English, has taught remedial English in both the traditional and online formats. She explained, "The online course allows students to work at their own pace and to complete the work as they are able to. It is designed in such a way that it targets their problem areas, so that even though a class may be learning the same material, their individual assignments are focused in different areas. Therefore, a student who may do really well in one area does not have to waste time working on that area because that is not where he or she is struggling."

Students also saved money by enrolling in the online pilot program as opposed to traditional face-to-face courses. Factoring in the cost of textbooks and other course-related fees for four remedial classes, OCC calculates that MyFoundationsLab saves students \$502.

OCC is monitoring longitudinal results throughout the two-year pilot program to see how the initial promising results are sustained. Harmon explained, "We followed students through their remediation and we plan to follow them through their first college-level math and college-level English course and then generate, analyze, interpret, and utilize the data for future planning." OCC's success thus far earned it the Innovation of the Year Award for Advancing Online Student Remediation from the League for Innovation in the Community College.

FIGURE 3:  
Remedial Course Completion Rate



For more information about how MyFoundationsLab  
can help you meet your online learning goals, visit  
[pearsonhighered.com/myfoundationslab](http://pearsonhighered.com/myfoundationslab)