



# 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 5, 2011, Board Meeting

**DATE:** November 30, 2011

## Spring 2012 Colloquium

The Spring 2012 Colloquium is scheduled for Thursday, January 19, 2012, in the Theatre of the Arts and Community Center. The Evening Colloquium for adjunct faculty will take place the same day in the evening.

The morning will begin with a continental breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. in the Center Lobby. I will address the faculty and staff at 9:00 a.m. This year's Colloquium theme is, "The Self-Study Design Report: A Review and Discussion of our Upcoming Middle States Accreditation Process."

Following my address, four workshops will be offered, one relating to each chapter of the Middle States Report:

- ◆ **Restructuring the Institution for Effectiveness** – A series of institutional, divisional, and departmental reorganizations in line with strategic goals and objectives;
- ◆ **A Portrait of Institutional Leadership** – A revision of college governance and administrative initiatives to enhance institutional effectiveness;
- ◆ **The Entering Student** – A revised emphasis on the needs of the entering student and the elements of student engagement particular to our institution and administrative initiatives to enhance institutional effectiveness; and

- ♦ **Building on Educational Success** – A look at academic innovations for the 21<sup>st</sup> century that continue to mark the curriculum and teaching/learning at Ocean County College with the hallmarks of creativity, innovation, and academic excellence.

The goals of the workshops are to:

- ♦ Acquaint the college community with the self-study design;
- ♦ Discuss the topics within each chapter, solicit feedback, and exchange ideas; and
- ♦ Identify resource people to assist in broadening and strengthening each chapter.

#### Memorandum of Understanding – Online Learning Project in China

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by and among TimeCruiser Computing Corporation, Tianjin Radio and TV University, and Ocean County College is being recommended for approval and signature at Monday's meeting. This MOU establishes a pilot Project during the spring 2012 semester to assess the viability of establishing an online learning program in China.

The purpose of the agreement is to build a cooperative framework to establish an accredited two-year online distance learning project in China for students to pursue higher education goals as well as to prepare the students for the possibility of future transfer to baccalaureate programs at four-year colleges and universities in the United States. The spring 2012 pilot Project will be offered to two cohorts of 25 students in the degree options of Business Administration and Computer Science. The students will register for four courses in the spring semester.

Following the Board's approval on Monday, I will be traveling to Tianjin, China, from Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, to Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, with Dr. James McGinty, Executive Vice President for Operations, and Professor of English Xiao-Ming Yang, who will serve as our interpreter. We will be joined on the trip by Mr. Allen Wang, President and CEO of CampusCruiser, and Mr. John Laing, CampusCruiser, Shanghai. While in Tianjin, we will secure the signature on the MOU of Dr. Feng Xuifei, the President of Tianjin Radio and TV University.

This agreement of mutual cooperation between Ocean County College and Tianjin Radio and TV University, in partnership with TimeCruiser for delivery of distance online education, is a very exciting venture that will benefit both institutions as well as make opportunities available to many students who might not otherwise pursue higher education.

#### Learning Outcomes Assessment

In light of recent news stories concerning accreditation actions taken against New Jersey colleges and universities that have failed to demonstrate adequate learning outcomes assessment measures, I want to assure you that Ocean County College has a robust and

comprehensive process for assessing student learning. Our process has received the formal scrutiny of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education several times over the last five years and has received both approval and commendation. OCC's program is considered an exemplar one, and our College has been called upon to provide consultation on learning assessment to other colleges and universities.

I have asked Ms. Janet Hubbs, Assistant to the President for Institutional Quality, to discuss assessment briefly at Monday's meeting. Ms. Hubbs is intimately familiar with the learning outcomes assessment process utilized at OCC.

### *Lend Me a Tenor Update*

After two years of planning, the theatrical production of *Lend Me a Tenor*, a collaboration between Ocean County College and the Ocean County Vocational-Technical School Performing Arts Academy, received rave reviews. On November 17<sup>th</sup>, there was a full house for a matinee performance for middle and high school students and, later that evening, OceanFirst Foundation sponsored a VIP reception in the Black Box Theater for award recipients. The Ocean County Vocational-Technical School Culinary Institute provided scrumptious desserts at the reception and during intermission.

The success of this production resulted from the sharing of talent, students, facilities, faculty, staff, and resources, which is a winning partnership for both Ocean County College and the Ocean County Vocational-Technical School. Many Performing Arts Academy students already enroll in OCC Theatre courses through our Jump Start program, and this partnership provides the opportunity to showcase their talent. This program has the potential to increase the number of Performing Arts Academy students at OCC as well as to enhance OCC's Performing Arts program. Because of the success of this initiative, future similar productions are being planned.

Deep appreciation is expressed to everyone from both institutions who worked very hard to make this program a success.

### *Holiday Party*

Ocean County College's Holiday Party is scheduled for Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m. in the Gymnasium. The cost is \$16 per person for a buffet dinner, dancing, and an evening of fun and collegiality.

We would be pleased to have you join us at the party.

### *Employee Recognition*

- ♦ The District 1 Conference Awards Ceremony of the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations was held from November 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> in Baltimore. I am very pleased to inform you that Ocean County College received a Silver Medallion Award for the 2011 *State of the Bay Report*, which was produced in collaboration with the Barnegat Bay

Partnership. Working together, the Barnegat Bay Partnership and the College Relations Department created a beautiful booklet, and Mr. Scott Bruinooge, Coordinator of Publications, and Mr. Jim Vasslides, the Partnership's Scientist, are commended for their outstanding work on this project.

- ♦ Dr. Jim Brown, Associate Professor of Science, spoke at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Pennsylvania Distance Learning Association held on November 18<sup>th</sup> at Temple University. He discussed *Ten Tips to Teaching Science Totally Online* and featured the effective and creative strategies for engaging online science students at Ocean County College. These strategies include such practices as immediately building a learning community within the online course, providing a “hands-on” lab experience, creating highly interactive content, sharing images and videos produced by students within the online class, and implementing cooperative and collaborative learning. Dr. Brown also spoke about the approaches being utilized for U.S. military personnel deployed in remote locations.

#### Board of Trustees Retreat

Please be reminded that the next Board of Trustees Retreat is scheduled for Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, at 12 noon in the Conference Room of the Technology Building. If there are items you would like to discuss, please let me know.