



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 March 5, 2012, Board Meeting

DATE: February 29, 2012

Governor Chris Christie's Proposed FY 2013 Budget

On Tuesday, February 21st, Governor Chris Christie proposed a \$32.15 billion FY 2013 State budget that calls for an increase in funds for higher education. This increase follows two years of flat or decreased funding. The FY 2013 budget:

- ♦ **Expands Opportunities for Students with \$393.2 Million in Financial Assistance** - Governor Christie's budget increases financial support for New Jersey students attending in-state institutions to an all-time high. More than \$393.2 million is recommended for the various programs that make up the State's student financial assistance package.
- ♦ **Increases Funding by \$37.5 Million for the Neediest Students through Tuition Aid Grants (TAG)** - \$341.4 million in State funding is provided in total for TAG programs. This level of support will allow the average award in each sector to increase. Additionally, the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) will align its regulations with those of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) regarding family size.
- ♦ **Increases Funding for the New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) for the First Time in Four Years** - More than \$38.8 million is provided for annual EOF grants ranging from \$200 to \$2,500 to the economically and educationally disadvantaged students who need it most. EOF grants assist low income residents who are capable and motivated but lack adequate preparation for college study.

♦ Continues NJ STARS Funding – The budget continues funding for this State-sponsored, merit-based NJ STARS scholarship program designed to reward academic excellence to outstanding high school graduates. Mr. Dave Wolfe, Special Assistant to the President and 10th District Assemblyman, and I devised a revision to the program, which has the full support of the Governor, the Legislature, and all segments of New Jersey higher education. Effective in fall 2012, the revisions to the program for new NJ STARS recipients are:

- ♦ NJ STARS scholarships will cover only tuition costs.
- ♦ NJ STARS II students may use the scholarship to attend New Jersey independent four-year institutions of higher education as well as public institutions.
- ♦ The NJ STARS II scholarship will no longer be calculated on the student's grade point average.
- ♦ The cost of the NJ STARS II scholarships will be paid by the State.
- ♦ Community colleges are encouraged to provide four-year institutions with the opportunity to recruit NJ STARS I students.

Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA)

Governor Christie, on Monday, February 27th, filed nominations with the State Senate for various State Board appointments. He has nominated me as the County College Representative on the Board of the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA). The nomination is subject to the advice and consent of the State Senate.

HESAA delivers millions of dollars in financial aid annually; since its inception in 1959, it has delivered over \$18 billion in financial aid. HESAA administers the Tuition Aid Grant (TAG), the Part-Time TAG for County College Students, NJ STARS I and II, the Garden State Scholars programs, the Federal Family Education Loan program, NJ CLASS, and NJ BEST. HESAA also offers financial literacy programs for young adults, training programs for guidance counselors, and outreach programs across the State to ensure that students and families gain valuable information about the availability and affordability of higher education. HESAA is a co-sponsor of College Goal Sunday, which was held on our campus on Sunday, February 26th.

Ocean County College Board of School Estimate

The Ocean County College FY 2013 budget will be presented for approval at the Ocean County College Board of School Estimate meeting, which is scheduled for Wednesday, March 7th, at the Ocean County Administration Building. The Board is comprised of three freeholders and two trustees. This year's Board of School Estimate members are Freeholders John C. Bartlett, Jr., James F. Lacey, and Gerry P. Little and Board Chair Van Thulin and Board Treasurer Jerry Dasti. Board Secretary Stephan Leone serves as the Secretary of the Board of School Estimate.

Ocean County College Website

The Ocean County College website, www.ocean.edu, is updated and improved continuously by Ms. Maureen Conlon, Manager of Web Services, and individual departments of the College. Ms. Tara Kelly, Vice President of College Advancement, will make a brief presentation on the Ocean County College website at Monday's meeting.

Some of the new and revised content includes:

- ♦ **Online Admissions Application (www.apply.ocean.edu)** – The new online admissions application allows a prospective student to create an individual account with a user name and password and then to complete and submit the application directly to the Registration Office. The student is assured that the personal information submitted is encrypted and secure. Links are included for College resources that may be of interest to a prospective student.
- ♦ **Ocean County College E-Learning (www.online.ocean.edu)** – This new micro-site provides a separate and distinct web presence for individuals who are interested in pursuing their education through distance learning. The site welcomes the students, provides guidance on the application process, highlights distance learning courses and degrees programs, delineates tuition and fees, and provides links to the course schedule, e-advising, the Library, and the 24/7 Help Desk for assistance in the event problems are encountered. From a marketing perspective, this micro-site displays various messages to engage potential students from throughout the country and includes interactive features, such as video, image gallery, and rotating degree spotlights. The site also collects information from individuals who want to learn more about distance learning at Ocean County College before applying; a return telephone call is made to the prospective student within 24 hours after a request is made.
- ♦ **Ocean County College Purchasing (www.purchasing.ocean.edu)** – After several years, the Purchasing Department recently completed the development of a specialized portal for both College employees and prospective vendors. It includes the names of Purchasing Department employees, current bid opportunities, vendor forms, previous contract awards, and policies and procedures for purchases.
- ♦ **Ocean County College Human Resources (www.career.ocean.edu)** – Also prominently displayed on the College's home page is a link for individuals who are interested in applying for employment. This unique sub-domain allows interested people to search for position openings, provides an application to be completed online and submitted to the Human Resources Department, and lets individuals manage their application for six months for possible resubmission. Additionally, current employees have HR information available to them through OceanCruiser.
- ♦ **Ocean County College Theatre (www.tickets.ocean.edu)** – All tickets for Theatre performances may now be purchased on the College website. Patrons no longer need to travel to the College for their tickets. They can view details of events, which are

categorized by genre, create personal accounts for future use, and purchase their tickets using a credit card.

- ♦ Ocean County College Planetarium (www.ocean.edu/planet.htm) – The Robert J. Novins Planetarium site provides extensive information on a variety of programs for students and the community-at-large:
 - ♦ The schedule of ongoing public shows with descriptions and ticket prices
 - ♦ A listing of special events, such as Pajama Nights and the popular Laser Shows
 - ♦ Public school programs for students from pre-kindergarten to high school
 - ♦ Academic Astronomy courses
 - ♦ Information on ASTRA, the Astronomical Society of the Toms River Area
 - ♦ A link to “Universe Today,” which contains space and astronomy news

All of these revisions and additions to the College website have resulted in not only ease of use by students and visitors but also in more efficient operations and effective fiscal management through significant savings. Many more improvements and enhancements are scheduled and ongoing.

Ocean County College Athletics

I am very excited to share with you that two Ocean County College athletes have been honored by the National Junior College Athletic Association. JaMario Clayton and Elizabeth Lawler have been named to the Region XIX All-Region First Team, and JaMario and Elizabeth were recognized as the basketball Players of the Year.

The achievements of JaMario and Elizabeth have been outstanding in both academics and athletics. Both are excellent students and both have excelled in sports. On February 9th, JaMario became one of six athletes in the history of the College to score 1,000 points. And, after today's semi-final Region XIX game, which OCC won, Elizabeth is only 2 points from also reaching 1,000 points. The next game of the semi-finals is Saturday, and we will surely have reason to celebrate Elizabeth's performance.

We could not be more proud of JaMario and Elizabeth. They have been exceptional representatives for their teams and the College.

Ocean County College Senior Living Expo

Ocean County College will host the Second Annual Senior Living Expo from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 15th, in the College Gymnasium. Admission to the Expo is free.

Expo highlights include:

- ♦ Health and wellness screenings presented by Community Medical Center.

- ♦ Free food samples from area eateries and restaurants, including Anthony's Café, Quality Inn, Johnny G's Italian Restaurant, and The Creative Basket/Devil Brownies. Additional food vendors will be announced.
- ♦ Musical entertainment provided by Pizazz featuring hits of the past.
- ♦ Dozens of business and professional exhibitors.
- ♦ Door prizes and free giveaways

The Ocean County College Senior Living Expo 2012 is sponsored by Community Medical Center/Barnabas Health, Harrogate, and New Jersey Natural Gas.

Last year's inaugural event was extremely successful, with over 400 people attending. It is anticipated that 600 to 700 will visit the campus for the Expo this year.

Ocean County College Open House/Planning Conference

Ocean County College will offer an Open House/Planning Conference on Thursday, March 29th, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. The event is open to all, from high school students to adults who desire to continue their education. Campus tours will be offered and light refreshments will be served.

Participants will have the opportunity to speak with College representatives about general college planning or specific OCC programs, including American sign language, computer technology, criminal justice, engineering, English, graphic arts, homeland security, mathematics, music, nursing, science, theatre, and the Kean-Ocean partnership. The schedule for the evening conference includes:

- 5:00 p.m. - Campus Tours Begin
- 6:00 p.m. - Welcome by the President
- 6:30 p.m. - How to Plan a Cost-Efficient College Education
- 7:30 p.m. - Workshops
- 8:00 p.m. - Funding your College Education

The workshops to be offered are:

- ♦ Planning Your Degree Program - A Guide for Transfer Students
- ♦ Connecting the Dots: From Degree to Career
- ♦ Financial Aid Workshop - Funding Your College Education
- ♦ There Are No I.E.P.'S in College - Using Disability Services in College

Board of Trustees Retreat

Please note that the next Board of Trustees Retreat is scheduled for Friday, March 9th, from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. in the Administration Building Boardroom. If there are any specific issues you would like to discuss, please let me know.