



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 May 29, 2012, Board Meeting

DATE: May 23, 2012

Gateway Building Tour

If the weather is good, we will have the opportunity to take a tour of the Gateway Building and the Combined Heat and Power Plant following Tuesday's Board meeting. I am anxious for you to see the progress being made on the Gateway Building, the first facility on our "upper campus."

Phi Theta Kappa

Ocean County College's Tau Iota Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa inducted 199 new members on April 20th. To be eligible, these students must have earned at least fifteen graduation credits at OCC and have a minimum grade point average of 3.60.

Phi Theta Kappa is the national honor society for two-year colleges. Its purpose is to recognize and encourage scholarship among two-year college students. PTK provides the opportunity for the development of leadership, service, scholarship, and fellowship among its members.

The 2012 Phi Theta Kappa International Convention was held from April 11th to 15th in Nashville, Tennessee, and four PTK students were in attendance: Edward Day, President of Tau Iota Chapter; Jaclyn Caffrey, Vice President of Publications; Nicole Depasquale, Vice President of Service; and Christian Alexander, PTK member. There were 573 chapters at the convention, representing 4,030 members. It was the largest International Convention in the history of Phi Theta Kappa.

Ocean County College's Tau Iota Chapter received the following recognition on the international level:

- ♦ Tau Iota received the Honors in Action-Distinguished Issue Award for outstanding scholarly work in the area of Government and Public Policy. This award recognizes the three chapters internationally that scored the highest on their entries. This is an impressive achievement considering there are over 1,250 chapters throughout the world.
- ♦ In the Five-Star Chapter Development Plan, Tau Iota was awarded the Five-Star Level, the highest possible level a chapter can receive. This award recognizes outstanding achievement in the four hallmarks of Phi Theta Kappa: Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Fellowship.

The New Jersey Council of County Colleges hosted New Jersey Phi Theta Kappa Day for the 18th consecutive year on May 3rd in Trenton to recognize the All-State Academic Team. The State Academic Team provides scholarships and scholastic recognition to Phi Theta Kappa members. This year, Ocean County College students Lauren Morone and Azhar Shah were recognized as members of the All-State Academic Team for their academic achievement, leadership, and service.

Dr. William Rickert, Phi Theta Kappa Advisor and Professor of Mathematics, will attend Tuesday's meeting to share with you the success of the Tau Iota Chapter. Also serving as Phi Theta Kappa advisors are Assistant Professor of Mathematics Carolyn Showalter, Assistant Professor of Computer Science Robin Weitz, Assistant Professor of Science Dr. Nidhal Marashi, and Associate Professor of English and Literature Dr. Jennifer Dellner. We are deeply grateful for the time and effort they expend on behalf of our Phi Theta Kappa students.

Ocean County College Facilities Planning and Construction

I have asked Dr. James McGinty, Executive Vice President, Operations, and Mr. Ken Olsen, Assistant Vice President for Facilities Planning and Construction, to provide a report to the trustees on Tuesday on the status of capital projects that are currently underway. They include:

- ♦ The J. Phillip Citta Center for Sailing and Maritime Arts and Sciences at Mill Creek Park
- ♦ The College Center
- ♦ The Combined Heat and Power Plant
- ♦ The Gateway Building
- ♦ Renovation of the Administration Building
- ♦ Renovation of the Instructional Building

Ocean County College Nursing Program

We recently received the results of the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX- RN) for the period October 2011 to March 2012. Of the 46 OCC Nursing Program graduates who sat for the exam during that timeframe, 44, or 96%, were successful. Those results rank Ocean County College second of the 22 programs in our jurisdiction.

Our congratulations are extended to Nursing Dean Colleen Manzetti as well as the faculty and staff of the Nursing Program who provide exceptional teaching and guidance to our students to ensure their success on the licensure examination.

Ocean County College Sailing Program

The Ocean County College Sailing Team participated in the Drexel Open Regatta on the Delaware River the weekend of May 5th and 6th. Mr. Roy Wilkins, Sailing Program Manager, reported that OCC's Sailing Team won both the A and B divisions, with Zac Shippe and Andrew Deponte winning the A Division and Jenny Kempton and Kyle Donnelly winning the B Division. OCC finished ahead of Rochester Institute of Technology (2nd), Drexel University (3rd), Webb Institute (4th), and the U.S. Military Academy (5th).

We congratulate Mr. Wilkins and the Ocean County College Sailing Team for their first place finish at the Regatta.

Ocean County College Recognition

- ◆ Since 1995, the South Jersey Cultural Alliance has presented Aiken Encore Awards to honor organizations that have made significant contributions in support of the arts in the eight counties in southern New Jersey. The awards are presented in honor of Mr. Paul Aiken, a leader in the arts community, who was committed to developing and advancing the arts in southern New Jersey.

Each year, member organizations of the Cultural Alliance nominate recipients for the Aiken Encore Awards. This year, the Garden State Philharmonic nominated Ocean County College for being a "beacon of innovation to other institutions of higher education" and "a valued partner to the many cultural institutions throughout central and southern New Jersey."

The award was presented on May 17th at the Landis Theater in Vineland by the Philharmonic's Artistic Director and Conductor Anthony LaGruth to Ms. Carol Kaunitz, Director of Auxiliary Services, who represented the College at the event.

- ◆ The College of Western Idaho is in the process of developing a Civility Statement. After reviewing many statements online at a wide variety of institutions throughout the

country, they were most impressed with the quality of care and thoroughness of OCC's Civility Statement and requested permission to use it as a foundation for their work.

This request is a testament to the concern and effort taken by the members of Ocean County College's Civility Team to reflect our institutional mission and goals in a way that embraces all aspects of a community college.

Ocean County Senior Citizens Art Exhibit

Once again, the 36th Annual Ocean County Senior Citizens Art Exhibit, will be held in the Arts and Community Center Gallery from June 8th to 27th.

Original artwork, created by both professional and non-professional artists, spans many categories including acrylic, craft, computer imagery, drawing, mixed media, oil, pastel, photography, print, sculpture, and watercolor. All artwork is original and has been executed by the submitting artist within the past three years.

The Ocean County Senior Citizens Art Exhibit is sponsored by Ocean County College's Department of Resource Development, Office of College Relations, Senior Art Advisory Committee, and the Arts and Community Center, along with the Ocean County Office of Senior Services, Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and the Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission.

Board of Trustees Retreat

The last Board of Trustees Retreat of this academic year is scheduled for Friday, June 8th, from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Administration Building. If you have suggestions for discussion, please let me know.