



# 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 November 19, 2012, Board Meeting

**DATE:** November 14, 2012

## Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Efforts

The disastrous effects of Hurricane Sandy on October 29 are far reaching and impact all of us in some way. Many of our students and employees find themselves facing issues never before imagined.

Although the College was without power and, therefore, closed for two weeks, the campus itself fared surprisingly well. When the power was finally restored, and despite the Nor'easter that occurred simultaneously, our Physical Plant personnel were remarkable in their response, enabling the return of administrators and staff to the campus within 48 hours.

I have always been proud of the Ocean County College community, but never more so than following Hurricane Sandy. Immediately after recognizing the seriousness of the situation, members of the College family, without delay, began reaching out electronically from their homes to check on colleagues, offer assistance, and organize relief efforts. I could not be more pleased with the response that ensued.

I have asked Vice Presidents Winchester, Jianping Wang, and Don Doran to report at Monday's meeting on the relief programs and the status of loans, grants, and special arrangements made for students and staff.

I also hope to have in attendance all or most of the individuals whose hard work, long hours, and deep commitment made a difference as we struggled after the storm. They deserve

recognition and our thanks for their initiative, strength of character, and volunteerism in difficult circumstances. I particularly want to recognize:

- ◆ **Vice President Sara Winchester and her staff, who worked from her home to conceive, organize, and implement our initial outreach efforts to employees and students:**
  - ◆ **Mr. Leslie Cohen, Assistant Vice President of Human Resources**
  - ◆ **Ms. Ann Feneis, Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Business and Finance**
  - ◆ **Ms. Carol Kaunitz, Director of Auxiliary Services**
  - ◆ **Ms. Karen Papakonstantinou, Director of Accounting**
  - ◆ **Ms. Jan Kirsten, Executive Director of College Relations**
- ◆ **Mr. Matthew Kennedy, Facilities Consultant, who directed the Facilities operation throughout the crisis by preparing the campus for the storm, monitoring conditions during the power outage, communicating with management, and supervising clean-up after the storm, including the snow from the Nor'easter. It should be noted that Mr. Kennedy lost his apartment on the barrier island, but that did not interrupt his work at the College. He spent several nights on campus and then relocated to a hotel. His commitment to the College during this time was extraordinary.**
- ◆ **Vice President Jianping Wang and the academic administrators for developing plans to ensure the academic integrity of the semester.**

Although not inclusive, below is a list of employees whose outstanding efforts, above and beyond, in spite of their own adversity, should be noted:

- ◆ **For coming to the College to process the payroll that was issued on time on November 2:**
  - ◆ **Ms. Mary Lancaster, Director of Financial Reporting**
  - ◆ **Ms. Sabreena Joynes, Assistant Director of Payroll**
  - ◆ **Ms. Kathy Bukowski, Senior Confidential Payroll Technician**
  - ◆ **Ms. Ruby Nanchoo, Confidential Payroll Technician**
  - ◆ **Ms. Siu Lee Gong, Confidential Payroll Technician**
- ◆ **For ensuring the continued operation of Information Technology systems:**
  - ◆ **Mr. Hatem Akl, Executive Director of Information Technology – overall coordination for the protection of the IT systems and operation of the servers**
  - ◆ **Mr. Peter Eliseev, Programmer Analyst – for processing financial aid student refunds**
  - ◆ **Ms. Kerry McEachen, Systems Administrator – for processing financial aid student refunds**
  - ◆ **Mr. Kirk Humphreys, Network Systems Administrator – for assisting with communication needs**
  - ◆ **Mr. Rick Goshey, Technical Director – for correcting a problem with the main UPS**

- ♦ For processing **student refunds** during the power outage:
  - ♦ **Ms. Lisa Hussain, Accounts Receivable Technician**
  - ♦ **Ms. Karen Papakonstantinou, Director of Accounting**
- ♦ For **contacting vendors**, arranging for **emergency procurements**, and **assisting Facilities personnel**:
  - ♦ **Mr. Mark Bowcock, Buyer/Compliance Agent**
- ♦ For taking **leadership roles** in the **facilities operation** and ensuring the **safety** of their coworkers:
  - ♦ **Mr. Lenny Mannino, Preventive Maintenance Mechanic**
  - ♦ **Mr. Joe Heumiller, General Maintenance Mechanic**
- ♦ For providing **financial aid information** to students and **volunteering** at the **Southern Education Center**:
  - ♦ **Dr. Norma Betz, Director of Admissions and Financial Aid**
- ♦ For mobilizing **student workers** to assist with **student relief efforts** and ensuring that every enrolled **veteran student** received a **phone call of welcome and concern**:
  - ♦ **Ms. Deanne Gatta-Salter, Senior Financial Aid Specialist**
- ♦ For **daily contact** with **faculty members** while the College was closed and for **visiting all classrooms** to meet with faculty members and students when the College reopened:
  - ♦ **Dr. Yehia Elmogahzy, Dean of the School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology**
  - ♦ **Dr. Maysa Hayward, Dean of e-Learning and Adjunct Faculty**
  - ♦ **Mr. Bradford Young, Interim Dean of the School of Social Science and Human Services**
  - ♦ **Ms. Tracie Walsh, Dean of the School of Nursing**
  - ♦ **Dr. Angel Camilo, Interim Dean of Adjunct Faculty**
  - ♦ **Dr. Henry Jackson, Interim Dean for the School of Language and the Arts**
- ♦ For coordinating and posting **electronic messages** during the College closing to keep students and staff informed of **College operations and relief efforts**:
  - ♦ **Ms. Jan Kirsten, Executive Director of College Relations**
  - ♦ **Ms. Maureen Conlon, Manager of Web Services**

- ♦ For remaining as one of five EMT's at the Barnegat Light Firehouse on Long Beach Island, performing rescues during the height of the storm, providing meals, first aid, and assistance to emergency personnel, and working with police and military personnel to open the roadway off the Island:

- ♦ **Mr. Marc Labella, Associate Professor of Science**

I have also invited two students, Zack Silk and Daniel DiMaria, to attend the Board meeting. Ms. Diane Barnicle, a resident of Point Pleasant whose house was flooded by the storm, sent me an email describing how Zack and Daniel removed the heavy, water-soaked items from her home and then punched holes in the sheetrock to aid in drying out the house. Although storm victims themselves, Zack and Daniel nevertheless assisted their neighbor. Zach and Daniel represented Ocean County College well and deserve recognition for their work.

Following our return to campus, other activities were undertaken in outreach to our students and staff:

- ♦ A Hurricane Sandy community resources referral network was developed to facilitate ride-sharing and room-sharing message boards, student information sessions were offered, and arrangements have been made with the Ramada Inn Executive Chef for a Thanksgiving Day dinner at OCC for community members affected by Hurricane Sandy. Ms. Jennifer Fazio, Director of Student Life, Ms. Alison Noone, Coordinator of Student Volunteerism, and Ms. Ilene Cohen, Executive Director of Athletics and Judicial Affairs, assisted.
- ♦ Dr. Carolyn Lafferty, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Christine Kephart, Writing Center/Tutoring Resources, and Ms. Wendy Giarratana, Administrative Assistant, Business Studies, visited all classrooms to welcome students and faculty back on campus and to distribute critical recovery information to them.

As a result of the storm, a county-wide Long-Term Recovery Committee is being established by the Ocean County Department of Human Services. The committee is intended to be the centralized point at which all funders, nonprofit agencies, faith-based communities, and volunteer groups discuss needs and plans for a formalized and unified effort. The first meeting is scheduled for November 19, and Executive Vice President Jim McGinty will serve as Ocean County College's representative on this committee.

### **Ocean County College Security**

The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Police and Campus Crime Statistics Act, known as the Clery Act, is the federal law that requires colleges and universities to disclose information about crime on and around their campuses. The law applies to all institutions of higher education, both public and private, and is enforced by the U.S. Department of Higher Education.

**Published annually, the security report is made available to students and employees to provide information about the College's security policies and procedures as well as to disclose specific statistics for certain crimes, arrests, and disciplinary referrals.**

**The 2012 Campus Safety and Security Report was completed in October. Mr. Robert Kumpf, Director of Security, will summarize the report at Monday's meeting.**

**Mr. Kumpf will also share with you the efforts of his security personnel during the two-week period the College was closed following the Hurricane.**

### **Academic Program Development**

**The School of Nursing at OCC is developing two new Allied Health programs in cooperation with the School of Health Related Professions at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). These joint OCC/UMDNJ programs are the A.A.S. degree in Dental Hygiene and the A.A.S. degree in Occupational Therapy Assistant. Students will be able to enroll in these programs beginning in spring 2013.**

**In the coming months, OCC will be developing other Allied Health programs in partnership with UMDNJ. These will include degree programs in Psychosocial Rehabilitation, Respiratory Care, and Respiratory Therapy, as well as a certificate program in Dietary Management. In addition to these health-related programs, Academic Affairs is also working with faculty to develop new programs in Global Studies and Theater Arts and is exploring new possibilities for our Honors Program.**

### **Ocean County College 2012 Fall Transfer Fair**

**The 2012 Fall Transfer Fair proved to be a highly popular event for our students and participating colleges. On Thursday, October 4, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Gymnasium, Ocean County College hosted 74 colleges from 14 states, including Rhode Island, Vermont, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, North Carolina, and Florida. The Transfer Fair showcased the College's strong commitment to students who plan to transfer to four-year colleges and universities.**

**As we have heard in past years, many of the college recruiters commented on the high caliber of our students and how well prepared they were to discuss transfer opportunities. That was most likely due, in part, to the workshops the Advising Center offers to students on navigating the transfer process.**

**Approximately 500 students attended the fair, with 300 student surveys being distributed in the first hour. Students were pleased with the number of colleges represented and reported positive conversations with admissions representatives. This year, a new database with degree program information was established so students could more easily identify colleges that offered programs of interest to them.**

Appreciation is expressed to Ms. Laura Wills, Coordinator of Transfer Services, the Academic Advising Center, the NJ STARS Club, and the Office of Student Life for ensuring the success of the Transfer Fair.

### **The Center for Peace, Genocide, and Holocaust Studies**

Ocean County College's Center for Peace, Genocide, and Holocaust Studies was recently invited by the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education to be recognized as an official Holocaust/Genocide Resource Center. As such, OCC's Center becomes part of the network of state-wide programs under the auspices of the Commission.

The Center for Peace, Genocide, and Holocaust Studies supports the mission of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education by fostering an understanding of the history, literature, and social context of the consequences of genocide and the Holocaust as well as by sponsoring lectures and programs to nurture relationships between people of different backgrounds that promote peaceful co-existence and conflict resolution.

Ocean County College's liaison to the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education will be Dr. Ali Botein-Furriveg, Assistant Professor of English, who has provided leadership for the Center's mission of offering educational programs for our students, the campus community, and the community-at-large on awareness, compassion, and remembrance.

### **GED Testing Center**

The GED (General Educational Development) test provides adults who did not complete a formal high school program with the opportunity to certify their attainment of high school level academic knowledge and skills. A State-issued high school diploma is awarded when the test is passed.

The Ocean County College GED Testing Center is an activity of the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Since 2006, the Center was funded through Ocean County PIC in cooperation with the Ocean County Workforce Investment Board, Ocean County College, and the New Jersey Department of Education, Bureau of Adult Education and Family Literacy/GED. However, most of the state-funded grant for this program will, unfortunately, no longer be available after this calendar year.

Through the efforts of Vice President Sara Winchester, the program will remain in operation at Ocean County College through December 2013 with financial support from the College and continuing support from the County of Ocean; as a result, hundreds of Ocean County residents will continue to benefit from the Center. GED tests are currently offered only in a paper-pencil format at Testing Centers. Effective January 1, 2014, it is expected that the GED tests will be offered in a computer-based format, with new testing accommodations being established.

A letter received from the Ocean County Workforce Investment Board expressed gratitude to the College for its support of this program. I commend Ms. Winchester and others for their

efforts in continuing the program at Ocean County College: Ms. Carol Cappetta, GED Chief Examiner; Ms. Lori Trachtenberg, Director of Testing and Adaptive Services; Ms. Mary Lancaster, Director of Financial Reporting; and Ms. Patricia Fenn, Executive Director of e-Learning and Ocean County College's representative on the Ocean County Workforce Investment Board.

### **Ocean County College Fall Sports**

Ms. Ilene Cohen, Executive Director of Athletics and Judicial Affairs, will attend the December 14 Board meeting to provide a detailed report on the success of Ocean County College fall sports teams. However, I am pleased to share briefly the following with you:

- ◆ The Women's Soccer team, for the fifth year, is the Garden State Athletic Conference champion.
- ◆ Men's Soccer anticipates completing its season among the top six teams in the country.
- ◆ Men's and Women's Cross Country teams both finished in fourth place in the country.
- ◆ Women's Tennis ended the season in fourth place in the country.

In addition, Mr. Kirk Periccioli was named Region Coach of the Year for Men's Soccer, and Mr. AJ Trump was selected as the Garden State Athletic Conference Coach of the Year in Women's Soccer.