



# 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 January 27, 2014, Board Meeting

**DATE:** January 23, 2014

## Administration Building Update

In the early morning hours of Saturday, January 4, due to extremely cold weather a pipe burst in the Administration Building, which caused water damage throughout the building. The building was closed for repairs, and clean-up began immediately.

Because we were in a heavy registration period leading up to the start of the spring semester, it was critical that student services continue uninterrupted. Through the diligent efforts of both Facilities and IT staff over the weekend, all student services were up and running in the Technology Building first thing Monday morning. This was an extraordinary accomplishment, and I extend congratulations to all staff involved. Full services were provided to students in the Technology Building for two weeks, and students experienced minimal inconvenience.

## Spring 2014 Colloquium

The Spring 2014 Colloquium was held on Tuesday, January 21, in the Arts and Community Center Theatre. The theme of the Colloquium was "Promising Practices of Student Engagement." The program featured four sessions facilitated by faculty members who shared meaningful ideas for discussions on classroom teaching.

Unfortunately, because of the snow storm, the Evening Adjunct Faculty Colloquium was cancelled. Another opportunity will be scheduled to meet with them.

I have attached a copy of my State-of-the-College speech for your information. 2014 is going to be a noteworthy year at Ocean County College as we position ourselves to successfully address the challenges of the future.

### Ocean County College's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Ocean County College is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. Since its inception in 1964, Ocean County College has become an outstanding institution, one that has continuously evolved to meet the needs of the citizens of Ocean County. The theme for this year's celebration is "Excellence in Education," which will be integrated into all campus activities. Featured during this year of celebration will be key events that will showcase the College to generate positive media exposure in the community and strengthen campus relations with the involvement of employees and students.

A 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo has been developed to assist us in marketing and recruiting:



Some of the special events that are scheduled this year include:

- Occasional rollbacks by Food Services and the Bookstore to 1964 price levels.
- The annual Student Dinner/Dance in April will highlight our 50<sup>th</sup> year with dress popular in 1964.
- The Nurses Pinning, Student Awards Ceremony, and Commencement in May will all focus on our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- The Ocean County College Band will perform music of the 60's in the fall.
- The Planetarium will provide scheduled shows with music from Pink Floyd and Beatlemania.
- The theme of the Ocean County College Foundation Gala in October will be centered on the College's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- In December, the year's activities will culminate with a momentous party celebrating our first 50 years at Ocean County College.

To officially begin our year-long commemoration, I respectfully request that a resolution be adopted to recognize and publicize 2014 as the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ocean County College and to encourage full participation by students, faculty, and staff in all activities and events to celebrate this significant milestone.

#### Instruction

- The staff of the Southern Education Center was presented with the United States Marine Corps Commander's Award for the outstanding support of the Toys for Tots Drive this past holiday season.
- The Spring 2014 Continuing and Professional Education brochure, *Learning Starts with You*, is being distributed throughout the community. It includes a wide variety of very interesting offerings, an increasing number of online courses, and many career and certificate programs. Ms. Pat Fenn, Executive Director of e-Learning and Continuing and Professional Education, Ms. Katie Calabrese, Community Programs Administrator, and Ms. Kathy Caro, Administrator for Nursing and Allied Health, will make a short presentation at Monday's meeting on this very impressive brochure.
- Mr. Jeff Harmon, Director of e-Learning, has been instrumental in the development of the College's new online partnership with Sussex County Community College. He will provide a short synopsis to update the trustees on Monday. Mr. Harmon will also describe e-Learning's plan to test BIOSIG during the 2014 Spring Quick Term. BIOSIG is a system that authenticates that the person participating in an online course is the individual who registered for the course.

#### Academic Affairs

- The pilot program on developmental education has been completed, and results are being utilized to design the College Ready Project. The Project will be launched in Spring 2014 by first working with the Toms River School District as a pilot. Subsequently, we will collaborate with Brick, Central Regional, and Southern Regional to better prepare high school students for college.
- The OCC Library has begun a process of analyzing its utilization of space to better serve the students. This follows up the installation of 46 additional computer stations in the Library last semester.
- The College will host a regional conference on Student Success on February 28. The conference will focus on the following areas: defining and measuring student success; creating a culture of student success on campus; using technology to promote and advance student success; and faculty and student perspectives and roles in student success.
- OCC has a number of outstanding academic programs that successfully prepare our students for either transfer or work. One such example is our Alcohol and Drug Counseling certificate program, which has grown over its ten years of existence. College

Lecturer II Dean Labolita will share with you on Monday a few highlights of the program.

### *Ocean Views*

The Winter 2014 edition of *Ocean Views* is available and will be distributed to you on Monday. It is an attractive publication highlighting the accomplishments of our alumni and our faculty and staff.

### Student Center Groundbreaking

Immediately following the Board meeting on Monday, we will walk to the site of the new Student Center for a Groundbreaking Ceremony. A dessert reception will follow in the College Center.



## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS,** Senators William T. Hering and Raymond Bateman sponsored legislation that was enacted in 1962 for the establishment and operation of county colleges in New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS,** on January 15, 1964, the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders adopted a resolution for the establishment of a county college in Ocean County; and

**WHEREAS,** 2014 marks Ocean County College's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since its establishment as the first community college in New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS,** this 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is a unique opportunity to share the College's history, achievements, and innovative firsts since its founding in 1964; and

**WHEREAS,** it is also an opportunity to build support for the future by re-engaging alumni, cultivating new and potential supporters, and making a powerful case for investing in the future of Ocean County College for the next 50 years;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees officially recognizes the year 2014 as Ocean County College's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and strongly encourages full participation by students, faculty, and staff in all activities and events that are planned throughout the year to celebrate this significant milestone.

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Stephan R. Leone  
Secretary

January 27, 2014

## Colloquium Spring, 2014

### I Have A Dream

Welcome, everyone, to Ocean County College's 2014 Spring Colloquium! It is so wonderful to see all of you again! Thank you for coming. And, thank you, each and every one, for all you have done and will do in this momentous year for this extraordinary institution.

2014 will be a year to remember in the annals of Ocean County College. This is OCC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year and we will celebrate that milestone in a series of events and programs throughout 2014.

We will also this year, in ways and to a degree never before experienced or envisioned, take time and care, and will extend exceptional effort, to give every person who counts himself or herself a valuable member of our community an unusual, substantial, and meaningful opportunity to impact the decisions that will guide our College in the future.

On this, the day after we celebrate the dream of Martin Luther King, and as we kick off celebrations of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, I want to share with you my own dream – a dream for Ocean County College.

I dream that each person in this room and those who will join us in the near term future as members of an exceptional community of soldiers in a mission that those so engaged will forever remember as 'our time' – a time of radical change in virtually every dimension of our College's life!

I have a dream that every faculty member, every member of our support staff, every administrator and every trustee will look back on 2014 and say: "We were present at the dawn of a new era and we made it happen!" We were the ones who chose to transform our role and thus transform the College. We were the ones who had the courage to stand up, to volunteer, to act, to decide! We were the founders of 'The New Way.'

I have a dream of a new way of working together that multiplies our ability to move mountains and part the waters of our fate ... to elevate our condition and enhance our status and magnify our presence in the academic world!

I have a dream that each and every one of us can conceive of our workplace as a wonderful garden of delight ... a place where great things can be done ... a place where we came together and became the ones who made a new reality – an OCC that was not just a community college ... not just a place to earn a living ... not just a second or third tier academic member of the higher education community, but a unique, never-before-seen type of institution!

I have a dream that we can build, we can create, a new college that becomes the norm for aggressive, successful, exceptional, collegiate institutions – not a Tier 2 or even a top-level Tier 1 institution, but a new category entirely, Tier Zero if you would like.

This is a goal we can achieve through partnering and collaboration from stem to stern, from the bottom to the top, from end to end, from secondary to two year, to four year to graduate, from private sector to public sector, from local to regional to national to international!

I have a dream!

Now ... I know some of you ... perhaps many of you ... may be skeptical.

Some of you may be thinking ... how can OCC transform itself so completely as to set a new standard ... establish a 'New Way,' when we have our history, our regulations, our culture, our problems, our disputes, our fractured relationships, our local mission, ourselves....

Hmmm. Good questions!

And, what is this grand future? What is this greatness? What does that get us? Why would we want it? What's wrong with who we are? What the hell (oops, 'heck') is he thinking?

Well folks, these are good questions all. But, just settle in and listen. Have I got a story for you! It's one I know well, because I have been dreaming it for years. It is a simple tale of a kind of academic utopia, a nirvana of workplace joy and success, a notion that few colleges, nor many universities, could hope to dream of, much less actually achieve. But, it is not a fairy tale for Ocean County College.

Before I get into the nitty gritty, let me take a moment to extend my appreciation and high regard for our stalwart supporters among our outstanding Board of Trustees who have once again, as they have so many time in the past, taken time from their own full and rich private lives to come here and share time with all of us about whom they care so deeply:

Mr. Van Thulin, Chair of the Board, and Mrs. Linda Novak, Vice Chair.

I thank you for joining us today, as you have so often, and for your commitment to this vision of our future that can, provided we all delve in and work to make it happen, create a new standard among all U.S. community colleges and that, indeed, establishes an entirely new academic entity -- one that honors the past and creates a new future, by joining together and with other institutions to establish a new order among successful collegiate institutions.

Now, let me put this into context and flesh out what it means in practical terms for all of us.

Before I do, though, I have a bitter-sweet announcement to make. One of our super stars, Sandy Broughton, Executive Director of the OCC Foundation, has been stolen away from us by Investors Bancorp. She will be leaving us at the end of February. She will be the Vice President of Community Relations for Investors for Monmouth and Ocean County.

The reason they wanted her in this role is because they have observed her work first hand as they are one of the OCC Foundation's major donors in recent years, a role in which they have benefitted many young Ocean County students seeking an affordable, high quality education who could not afford the unsustainable high tuition charges of much of traditional higher education in America.

Sandy has also been a prime conduit for two, and potentially a third, major gifts to the College that are, far and away, the largest we have ever received. Even one of these gifts would surpass any combination of major gifts received in any year of our existence.

The first of these gifts will assist us in establishing and maintaining a stellar fine and performing arts program that will be self-sustaining and will place us in a unique position among community colleges in NJ.

I know right now Sandy is squirming a little bit because we do not want to speak too soon on these matters, but we both have good reason to be convinced they will each materialize on the schedule necessary and will be the causes of major celebration by the Foundation and the College.

The second gift will be a major capital contribution toward the construction of a building that will house the Ocean County Vocational-Technical School Performing Arts Academy in a new building here on our campus, as well as provide expanded space for our own Associate Degree programs and bring Kean University Baccalaureate degrees in the fine and performing arts to the OCC campus.

We are very grateful for the support of the donors, who shall remain unidentified until the appropriate moment. And, we are grateful to Sandy Broughton for all she has done to advance Ocean County College during her 10 years at the helm of the Foundation. Sandy, please take a well-deserved bow.

Thank you. One reason why this is a new dawn for OCC is the potential for uniqueness of our position in the arts world. The same donors who have committed support for the two projects I just mentioned also have a big dream. May I say it is a very big dream.

They believe, and we hope, that it will, like my dream for OCC, become a reality ... a reality for Ocean County College, for the Toms River community, for Ocean County, and for all of South/Central New Jersey. Should it prove to be possible to achieve, it would involve the largest philanthropic gift to a two-year college and its surrounding community ... ever. And it would solidify Ocean County College's role as a major player in the arts world in New Jersey. Stay tuned.

So, the programs I have just described call for collaborations extending from the secondary school level to the community college associate degree level to the baccalaureate degree level, delivered by collaborating educational institutions, each of whom achieves synergies resulting from the intermingling of their missions and expertise and resources.

Think about it ... Whose students will they be, these 250 young people attending the Performing Arts Academy? At once and serially, they will belong to the OCCVTS, to OCC, and to Kean. They will have exposure to the Garden State Philharmonic Orchestra, professional actors and musicians performing in productions sponsored by the endowment provided by our benefactors, and they will have a continuing exposure to an increasingly diverse and enriched educational program.



We will not be the same as we once were. Already, as we have begun seeing the integration of the Kean/Ocean Alliance mature, we have become different, larger, better, grander, and more able to adapt and alter course as the winds of change nudge us away from our original course.

But, hold on a minute! Let's think about this ...

How does this development mesh with the transformational dream of building a new kind of institution? How does it fit? And, is it intentional or accidental? And what does it mean for each of you?

Let me just relate to you that I have always been a bit of a skeptic. I guess it is endemic to anyone who has survived a truly rigorous Ph.D. program. So when I have heard speakers expounding about grandiose ideas and visions, I always wince a little and think, "Well, visions and hallucinations are close cousins."

So, I forgive you if some of you are sitting there right now mumbling under your breath, "I knew it! I knew it! He's having those hallucinations again!" And I concede that it does, certainly, take a person of unusual disposition and outlook to successfully lead an academic institution, or any enterprise for that matter, as it transforms itself from a sustaining innovation to a disruptive one.

Walt Disney (Disney), Steve Jobs (Apple), Elon Musk (Pay Pal and Tesla Motors), Steven Zuckerberg (Facebook), Jeff Bezos (Amazon), all of them and many more like them at times were viewed as being unrealistic in their dreams and aspirations.

Andy Grove, the iconic leader of Intel Corporation, is famous for saying, "Only the paranoid survive"! He wasn't confessing, so much as declaiming, that 'thinking otherwise' requires a different view of things and a penchant for staying ahead of the pack.

That is what my dream for us is all about – taking a different view of things.

So, please be gentle in your judgments of me. As William Butler Yeats also begged, in *the Cloths of Heaven*, "But I, being poor, have only my dreams; I have spread my dreams under your feet; tread softly because you tread on my dreams."

I bring you my dream devoid of arrogance, hoping only for the best; striving only for the best for all of us; for each of you, regardless of your position or point of view. I believe in you - each of you, especially those of you who challenge and disagree and think otherwise. As Ruth Stone so aptly put it, "You are a lovely link in the great chain of being. Think how lucky it is to be born."

Think also what a glorious opportunity you have here to do something truly grand, truly exceptional. I am going to ask you to do just that.

You know, there is an old saw that goes. "If you always do what you always did you'll always get what you always got." Getting what we always got, in today's environment, puts us on the road to mediocrity at best, to the perdition of bankruptcy at worst, and 3<sup>rd</sup>-Tier irrelevance in either case. That's not acceptable. Not acceptable.

The basis for concluding that we must change, deeply, transformationally, or merely sit and watch in quiet desperation as others thrive and we fail, lies in an abundance of evidence all

around us. We live in a world that is engaged in rapid change, deep change; change that profoundly alters the relationships that have been the hallmarks of our history and traditions.

Academe is one of the very last of our societal institutions to awaken to the reality that these powerful forces will overwhelm us, as they have every industry and every nation on Earth. I have spoken in the past about these forces of disruption that threaten our stability and sustainability, so we need not revisit those facts again here today, but yet to again emphasize that this scope and pace of change is not a passing phenomenon.

Enrollments are down in the high schools nationwide. Universities are seeing that their overhead is too much to sustain and need new markets and cost containment to stay in business and retain their status. These forces are real, powerful, and potentially disastrous for major segments of existing higher education.

However, we here at Ocean County College, unlike many, if not most, other institutions in higher education in America, have an almost unique combination of blessings that makes it possible for us to escape the vortex, to avoid, as Yeats so auspiciously perceived in *The Second Coming*, 'turning and turning in the widening gyre' ... 'Things fall apart, the center cannot hold; Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world, ... The ceremony of innocence is drowned; The best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity.'

Let us not fall into the trap of becoming victims of our own past success. It does no good anyway, to fight a scorched earth, rear-guard action, fulminating against the unfairness of it all in 'passionate intensity' or throwing firebombs at other victims also unable to find a way out of the conundrum.

What can work is to accept the reality that we will never be the same again and resolve to work together to build a new way to survive, to flourish, to become meaningful, happy, productive; to win.

Yes, life is absurd. I have had occasion recently to look at life differently. We all have occasion to do so from time to time, not of our choosing, but of necessity. As Robert Louis Stevenson observed, "Everybody, soon or late, sits down to a banquet of consequences."

And yet ... and yet, it is in our power to strive against the absurdity of life, to not sit there and accept what fate hath wrought, to not just complain that the real world does not fit our preferences; but, instead, to face our 'sea of troubles' and have a go at surmounting them.

What we will be doing as an institution over the next two years will give everyone who is a member of our family an opportunity to participate in deciding what we will do, not to make every person or group satisfied, but to make the College into nothing less than the role model for The New Way – an institutional example for others who have the courage to address these forces of disruption and experiment with new ways of achieving distinction and serving our intended purposes, our mission. In that process we will be, to a degree, redefining our mission as we create an official new set of goals and means to those goals.

Throughout this process every one of you will have numerous opportunities to join in what we are calling our Guiding Coalition, a team of our colleagues who will engage with the

administrative and governance leaders of the College – the officers and trustees of OCC – to develop a new vision for our future and to implement it.

Now, I ask each of you to ask yourself, as I have asked myself, what Laurence J. Peter has suggested as a litmus test of intellectual honesty about our own effort and commitment: "Would the boy you were be proud of the man you are?" (This works for women too!)

When you can, with integrity, say this is the path you are following, the aim for which you strive, you will be ready to join this Guiding Coalition. We want everyone to participate and some to become the resonators of sound judgment on a myriad of issues we will face as we pursue this dream.

As those of you know who have regularly attended the twice each semester meetings the members of the President's Leadership Team and I hold with every employee group, we have many irons in the fire that we hope will allow OCC to flourish going forward in this 'brave new world'.

Recently, we have concluded an agreement with Dr. Don Norris and Dr. Tim Gilmour of Strategic Initiatives, Inc. to work with us to help design and monitor success with this transformational effort. We will be kicking off this effort at engaging everyone at OCC in this endeavor with a series of meetings beginning after the start of the Spring Semester.

I want to give you a short outline of the program we will be following, but let me say initially that the die is cast on some of the initiatives we will be undertaking to achieve The New Way.

Here are a few of them: we will formalize the two college structure, separating traditional teaching and learning from our online learning operations, referred to in the Norris/Gilmour outline as 'Track A' (traditional or legacy processes and methods) and 'Track B' (the disruptive agenda of online delivery outreach to the domestic US and international locations, adaptive completion and short semester scheduling, partnered delivery, market driven response, and alternative or non-traditional enterprise services similar to the ones we have underway with Sussex County College, Kean University, Pearson Learning Solutions, Ellucian, ESM Corporation, and some new ventures we are exploring with Fairleigh Dickenson University).

The look and feel of our curriculum in both tracks will be altered to reflect the enrollment management research conclusions about what students are seeking, so we will be creating new courses and degrees in each Track A and B, initiated by their respective leadership teams and guided by our Guiding Coalition decision making collaborative.

Our operating processes and standards, from physical plant management and operations to human resources, to recruitment, to technologies will be more rigorous and demanding to achieve a New Way performance standard expectation. We will get better and faster and more responsive in everything we do.

Our commitment to the success of our students will be monitored by an extended and enhanced commitment to analytics. We are fortunate to have the talent and the technology to accomplish

this goal so it will be a key method by which the Guiding Coalition can assess and determine the value of new ideas and proposed initiatives.

Underpinning all of this will be a renewed commitment to our human capital ... to you. One of the several building block concepts of The New Way is valuing people. We will focus our efforts there in growing talent from within and giving those who shine an opportunity to lead.

We will begin by initiating a program of paid internships for graduate students from Kean and perhaps other universities, with the goal of hiring into permanent jobs those 'best and brightest' high potential future leaders in every area of our college.

We will soon be receiving the report of the Hay Group which has been evaluating our hiring and compensation systems which will allow us to become more market competitive as we seek new talent to navigate the future as those of us who have done our stint move on.

We will above all be looking for opportunities for each employee group to radically restructure their relationship to the College and to their job, their discipline, their life at OCC. We will be meeting throughout the Spring Semester with all employee groups to discuss this concept further and explore how it can benefit the College and our employees.

As we pursue this ambitious agenda, we will try to keep it all together by assigning a project manager to monitor the tasks, assisted by a couple of bright staff who can keep the project on track with the help of software.

Similarly, we expect there will emerge other new leadership opportunities for which we will be seeking up and comers who want to play a role in making Ocean into the best example of a transformational New Way academic institution of the future. We invite your interest.

We will begin by developing our project management plan, proceed to group strategic thinking sessions with as many of you as wish to participate, and identify and develop our Guiding Coalition.

We will engage in team building exercises, review our existing Strategic and Campus Master Plans and identify approaches to revise, renew, and reconstitute each of them in the context of the New Way.

We will strengthen our leadership structure and begin an organizational and leadership development program including transition planning and identifying career path growth opportunities, expectations, and strategies.

We will establish a communications plan and begin our metrics and measurement analytics initiative. And, by summer, we will assess all of this effort and prepare for the FY 2015 activities.

Throughout this time, we will not let grass grow under our feet on the achievement of progress in generating new enrollment, new markets, expanded curricula, new partnerships, nor overlook

taking some time out to celebrate and acknowledge those who have played a critical role in transforming our College into a model of relevance and success in these disruptive times.

Please ... come and check it all out. Please ... join in and help.

Thank you!

As I noted earlier, 2014 is the 50th anniversary of Ocean County College, New Jersey's first and New Jersey's best community college. We are planning many activities to celebrate this milestone, some of which include:

- A theme for the year: "Excellence in Education."
- A 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo, shown on the screen, to help us market and recruit.
- Establishing an advisory committee to coordinate the year's events.
- Distributing commemorative gifts, like the lanyard you received today.
- Occasional rollbacks by Food Services and the Bookstore to 1964 price levels .
- The annual Student Dinner/Dance in April will highlight our 50th year with dress popular in 1964.
- The Nurses Pinning, Student Awards Ceremony, and Commencement in May will all focus on our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- The Ocean County College Band will perform music of the 60's in the fall.
- The Planetarium will provide scheduled shows with music from Pink Floyd and Beatlemania.
- The theme of the Ocean County College Foundation Gala in October will be centered on the College's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- In December, the year's activities will culminate with a momentous party celebrating our first 50 years at Ocean County College.

In the early 1960's, our former Board Chair, Senator William T. Hiering, introduced legislation to establish community colleges in New Jersey because he envisioned the many ways in which they could serve the public. Now, fifty years later, it could not be a more opportune time for us to begin anew, with a New Way to identify and meet the needs of today's new world. You have made Ocean County College the excellent institution it is today; with your help, we will move Ocean County College to a new level that will be the new benchmark for excellence in higher education.

Now, listen to just a few of the wonderful and exciting achievements of our various divisions of the College during the past year:

#### In Academic Affairs:

For the past three semesters, Academic Affairs has:

Focused on improving academic programs, instructional services, and strengthening relationships with local high schools and our four-year partners, including new programs in Web Marketing and Global Studies. Several additional new programs are also in progress, including Performing and Visual Arts, Gaming and Animation, Hospitality and Tourism, Cyber Security

and Geographic Information Systems, Construction Management, and Medical Billing and Coding;

Two additional study abroad programs have been developed: Travel-Learn in Japan and in Normandy, France;

A non-credit ESL program is being developed in conjunction with Continuing and Professional Education and a Certificate program for Nursing Clinical Instructors;

OCC has signed an agreement with Fairleigh Dickenson University, which gives OCC eligible graduates a 40% tuition discount;

Our joint Bachelor of Science in Nursing program with Kean University is scheduled to begin in September, 2014;

150 contracts were signed by OCC students to participate in our Honors by Contract program. Students produced high quality scholastic work. The Honors Scholar Conference will be held on May 1, 2014;

OCC will host a regional Student Success Conference on February 28, 2014;

And, OCC will launch the College Ready Project in the Spring Semester 2014 by working with school districts in Toms River, Brick, and Central and Southern Regional School Districts to better prepare high school students for college.

#### In Administration and Finance:

Custodial outsourcing was implemented bringing the DTZ team to the OCC Campus. Noticeable improvement in cleanliness college-wide has been the result.

Our Enrollment Management team was created under the leadership of Dr. Norma Betz. Process improvement analysis resulted in the implementation of technological upgrades and a staffing realignment.

The Datatel Recruiter Customer Relations Manager software was implemented which included a new on-line College admissions application and increased ability to proactively recruit new students.

Some previously contracted-out Information Technology services were brought in-house which resulted in significant budget savings. This included the appointment of Hatem Akl as Chief Information Officer.

A restructuring of the Facilities Department resulted in the appointment of new management team led by Associate Vice President of Facilities and Construction, Matthew Kennedy.

The Gateway Building opened for occupancy and the new Student Center was fully funded and designed. The Barnegat Bay Partnership staff was moved to new facilities at Brown's Woods on the Toms River.

OCC was awarded over \$16M of capital funds from the State of NJ. These State bond funds will be used to renovate and upgrade the Instructional Building, the existing Nursing Building, and to upgrade classroom technology and campus-wide technology infrastructure.

As part of the Student Commit to Complete Initiative, a new scholarship program was created to provide a free summer course to students who demonstrate commitment to graduate in a timely manner.

A new President's Scholarship was established that will provide book scholarships to underserved students who are not qualified for other forms of financial aid.

Long-term financial plans for both the capital and operating budgets were developed to solidify OCC's commitment to maintaining affordable tuition while continuing to improve services and facilities.

And, the OCC website was redesigned and streamlined. The public site is now modern and easily navigated and was designed primarily to attract new students. Information needed by employees has been moved to the OCC Intranet.

#### In the Instruction Division

Under the direction of Pat Fenn, e-Learning and Continuing and Professional Education has:

Increased delivery of training services across the state with financial assistance from the New Jersey Department of Labor;

Increased the number of programs offered on campus including our year round and summer Camps Program, as well as enlarged participation rates in all programs;

And, CPE grew revenue over costs, making a greater positive bottom-line contribution to the college.

Under the direction and leadership of Jeff Harmon, E-Learning has:

Grown student enrollment by over 14 percent in total and out of county enrollment by over 15 percent;

Successfully developed and begun initial implementation of our partnership with Sussex County College. Under this partnership, OCC will provide training and e-learning consulting services to Sussex, in conjunction with Pearson Learning Solutions, as a revenue activity for the College that will permit Sussex to achieve an accelerated presence on the web as an online education provider;

Continued outreach to other potential e-Learning partners including, but not limited to, Essex County College, Wenzhou-Kean University, and Farleigh Dickinson University;

And, during the Spring Quick Term, e-Learning will pilot BIO SIG, an authentication system for e-Learning courses.

Under the direction of Eileen Schilling, Academic Outreach and Schools Relations has:

Provided, in concert with Norma Betz, full-time student services on six days and five nights per week at the Southern Education Center;

Up-dated and improved, in collaboration with Jan Kirsten and Matthew Kennedy, Southern Education Center facilities both in appearance and physical plant support services;

And, in December, School Relations brought over 300 Middle and High School students from around the County to compete in the Tech Prep Robotics Annual Competition event.

#### In the Operations Division

Bob Kumpf has been elected Vice President of CUPSA, the state-wide College and University Police and Security Association;

OCC hosted last month's CUPSA meeting which included as invited guests the County Prosecutor and the Chiefs of Police from Toms River and Stafford Townships. The County Prosecutor made a presentation on the County's heroin epidemic and the County's response;

Bob Kumpf will continue to offer the "Shots Fired" presentation to classes and groups during the Spring Semester 2014. Contact him if you are interested in having him present to your class or group;

The Barnegat Bay Partnership, under the leadership of Dr. Stan Hales, continues to work on post-Sandy restoration projects in the Barnegat Bay and on other Bay-related research projects such the jelly fish infestation problem. The BBP, now housed in the Brown's Woods Property on the Toms River, is developing community projects for that property;

Preparations continue for the Middle States Accreditation Team visit and Jeff Harmon from e-Learning has taken on that task. We recently received the names of the team members who will be visiting the College and a broadcast message regarding the team membership and schedules for the visit will be issued by Jeff.

And, Dr. Mary Morley in Institutional Research was recently elected chairperson of the State's Institutional Research Affinity Group. Dr. Morley is also on the Mathematical Association of America's Committee on Classroom Resources and writes an educational column for the Association for Women in Mathematics.

#### In Student Affairs

During the week of October 21, we held our first Completion Convocation, which featured a panel of student alumni discussing the importance of the completion of an Associate Degree at Ocean County College in their overall academic and career successes. More than 400 students attended the conference. During that week, PTK and Student Government encouraged current students to sign the pledge to complete; we currently have more than 500 students having signed the pledge.



Career Services has introduced a Career Planning program to the majority of students who take our Student Success class in the Fall Semester and sponsored an Employer Panel/Convocation where several hundred students were introduced to many of the important skills that employers look for in their employees.

37 students have graduated from the Student Support Services Trio Grant program since it began. 83% of the active students in this program were retained from the Fall Semester to the Spring Term.

This past semester, the Equal Opportunity Fund Program had 126 enrolled and funded students. A pilot learning community featured 14 students who were enrolled in the same sections of four classes: Student Success, Math, English, and Psychology. 13 of those students completed all of the classes in the learning community.

OCC Athletics is presently ranked third in the country for the NATYCAA Cup, which recognizes excellence in the non-scholarship division of two-year college athletics based on success in national championship competition.

And, the Women's Cross Country Team finished its season as National champions. Elizabeth Kowalski came in first place overall at the event and was named Individual Champion.

That concludes our State of the College update. As you can tell, we have an abundance of efforts and achievements underway of which we can all be very proud. Congratulations to all who contributed to a successful academic year!

And now, to conclude our program for this segment, I am pleased to announce the Years of Service Recognitions for 2014. Will the following long-serving members of the OCC family please now come to the stage:

#### **Years of Service Recognitions:**

##### **20 years**

Dr. Detlef Kern, Adjunct Professor of Psychology

Dr. Martin Novelli, Professor of History

Barbara Polozzo, Library Reference Staff

Lynn Vazquez, Professor of Mathematics

##### **30 years**

Paul Butler, Professor of Engineering

Joseph 'Barry' Kolb, Professor of Computer Studies

##### **40 years**

Connie Bello, Executive Assistant to the President

Dr. James McGinty, Executive Vice President of Operations

Ladies and gentlemen, that concludes this portion of our Colloquium presentations. I will now turn the program over to Dr. Toni Clay. Thank you for your courteous attention.