



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 **February 25, 2021, Board Meeting**

DATE: February 22, 2021

Middle States

As part of the **Middle States Self-Study process**, **Dr. Ellie Fogarty, OCC's Vice President Liaison from Middle States**, will be available to **meet with College constituency groups on Tuesday, March 9, 2021**. This **all-day virtual Self-Study visit** will allow **Dr. Fogarty to learn** about the **current state** of the **institution**, to **provide insight** to the **Self-Study process**, and to **address** any **questions** that the various **groups** may have. **Dr. Fogarty will be meeting** throughout the **day** with **faculty, staff, students**, the **Self-Study Steering Committee**, the **President**, and the **Board of Trustees**.

The **trustees** are scheduled to **meet with Dr. Fogarty from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** The **meeting** will be **open** to the **public**, and an **opportunity** will be provided for **public comments**. **Self-Study co-chairs Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth, Executive Director of Institutional Research, Planning, and Compliance, and Ms. Heidi Sheridan, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities**, will also **participate** in the **meeting**.

Phi Theta Kappa

Phi Theta Kappa designed a **rewards program** for **chapters** focused on **Recognizing Excellence in Acceptance and Completion with Honors (REACH Rewards)**. The **REACH Rewards program** encourages **membership** by **recognizing chapters** that **achieve or exceed 15 percent** for their **membership acceptance rate**. The **purpose** of this **program** is to ensure that as **many students** as possible receive the **benefits** of **PTK membership**, including **scholarships** and **increased opportunities** for **engagement**.

I received notice from the **President and CEO of PTK, Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner**, that **OCC's Tau Iota Chapter** has been named a **2021 REACH Chapter** as a result of its **excellence in increasing membership**. The **chapter** will receive **special recognition** in the form of **six Phi Theta Kappa graduation stoles**.

Additionally, **more good news** was received. **Phi Theta Kappa** has named **Ms. Jen Fazio, Director of Student Life**, as a **Phi Theta Kappa Distinguished Administrator** for **2021**. The officers of **Tau Iota** nominated **Ms. Fazio** for this well-deserved honor as a **Hallmark submission** in **December 2020**.

Ms. Fazio will be recognized at the **International Convention (Catalyst)** on **Friday, April 9, 2021**, at the **third General Session** at **6 p.m.** The entire **Tau Iota Chapter** is registered for **Catalyst** this year (**special registrations** were available since the **convention is virtual**) so many from **OCC** will be in attendance for this great recognition of **Ms. Fazio**.

Once again, I offer my **deepest gratitude** and **sincerest congratulations** to the members of the **Tau Iota Chapter**, its advisors, and its supporters for making **Ocean County College** an example of excellence.

Black History Month

The month of **February** is designated **nationally** as **Black History Month**. Although late in the month, it is **respectfully requested** that the **Board of Trustees** adopt the attached **resolution proclaiming February** as **Black History Month** at **Ocean County College**.

This year's theme is **The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity**. The **Office of Student Life** and the **Organization for Black Unity** sponsored several events to celebrate **Black History Month**:

- **Monday, February 1, 2021 – Raising of the Black Flag** on the campus mall
- **Friday, February 19, 2021, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. – From the Black Lives Matter Movement to the Capital Hill Insurrection: How do We begin to Unite a Nation Clearly Divided?** This **presentation/discussion** addressed the **rising tension** in America around **ideological differences, privilege/access (Black and White)**, and our role as **citizens** when it comes to **uniting a country** and **respecting one another** regardless of **ideology**.
- **Friday, February 26, 2021 – Lowering of the Black Flag** on the campus mall

Dr. Henry Jackson, Executive Director of Academic Success, will say a few words at the **Board meeting** regarding the activities.

Arts on Campus

The **first phase** of the **Arts on Campus project** was **completed** in **March 2019** when **student artwork** and **literary quotations** were **installed** on the **third floor** of the **Instructional Building**. **Students, faculty, and visitors** were **impressed** and **inspired** by the work presented.

The **second phase** of the **project** has now been **completed** with the **recent installation** of **student artwork** on the **second floor** of the **Instructional Building**. The **transformation** of these **hallway spaces** not only **brightens** the areas, but, more importantly, it provides **students** the **opportunity** to be **recognized** for their **talent** and **innovative work**.

At **Thursday's meeting**, **Ms. Jan Kirsten, Executive Director of College Relations**, and **Ms. Heidi Sheridan, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities**, will discuss the **most recent installation** of the **Arts on Campus project** and will share with you some of the **outstanding student art** now on display.

Academic Affairs

➤ School of Nursing and Health Sciences

- There are **320 students** enrolled in the **Nursing Program** for the **Spring 2021 semester**. The **School of Nursing** continues to work closely with **Security** and **Facilities** to ensure that all **guidelines** included in the **Ocean County College Return to Camps Plan** are **implemented** as **students** enter the **Skills and Simulation Labs** for **hands-on practice** daily.
- In **collaboration** with the **RWJBarnabas Health Medical Group**, the **School of Nursing and Health Sciences** offered **COVID testing** to **students** and **faculty** required by **health care facilities** prior to the **initiation** of **clinical experiences**. Over a course of **four days**, **168 tests** were **delivered** within the **Health and Wellness Center** located in the **H. Hovnanian Health Sciences Building**.
- **Ocean County College's 2020 Nursing licensure passing rate** was **86.67%**. There were **135 graduates** from **Fall 2019** and **Spring 2020** who took the **examination**. **Scores** remain **above** the **national passing rate** for **all associate degree nursing programs** and **all types of nursing programs**.
- **Nursing Skills Coordinator Linda Simmons, MSN, RN, CE**, completed a **Master of Science Degree** with a **focus on Nursing Education** in **December 2020** from **Drexel University**.
- On **January 7, 2021**, the **Nursing School** collaborated with **Dr. Henry Jackson, Executive Director of Academic Success**, to provide **Lakewood High School students** with information on the **Nursing Program**. **Skills, Simulation, and Student Retention Specialist MaryAnn Kaufmann, PhD, MSN**, and **Director of Program Services Mary Fennessy** provided students with information on how to **prepare for entry** into the **Nursing Program**, the **skills required**, and **expectations** of a **Nursing student**. Students were given a **virtual overview** of the **School's extensive lab facilities** and how they are **utilized** by **student nurses** in order to **learn skills**. Students were shown **pictures of simulated healthcare situations** and were able to see a **simulation mannequin functioning**.

➤ School of Business and Social Sciences

- In **conjunction** with **STEM faculty**, **Dr. Katherine Toy, College Lecturer II in Economics**, is attending the **Lead Facilitator Workshop** as part of **Intel's new AI readiness program** called **Intel® AI for Workforce Version: Vocational**. This **program** is designed to provide **in-demand skills** to **students of two-year colleges** for the expanding field of **Artificial Intelligence**. Eventually this **program** will result in **increased curriculum offerings** at **OCC**, which include **applications to business and economics**. This effort is being led by **Mr. Kenneth Michalek, College Lecturer II in Computer Studies**.
- **Mr. Chris Bottomley, College Lecture II in Business Studies**, and **Mr. Sean Bips, College Lecturer II in Hospitality, Recreation and Tourism Management**, organized **Design for Delight, Part II**, through **OCC's Business Innovation Consortium (BIC) student organization**. This **two-hour BIC-hosted workshop**, sponsored by the **National Association of Community College Entrepreneurs (NACCE)**, will take place on **Friday, February 26, 2021**; it is a **follow-up** to the **2020 Fall presentation** that was **micro-targeted** to the **OCC administration** and **Business/Engineering faculty and lecturers**.

This second OCC virtual event, to be moderated by Ms. Katie Calabrese, NACCE Director of Memberships and Projects, is titled Part II, Design Thinking Activity. Mr. Andy Gold and Ms. Beth Kerly, Professors of Business at Hillsborough Community College in Florida, will cover a series of three principles which represent how Intuit innovates: (1) Purpose: A Deep Dive into the Practice of Design Thinking, (2) Exploring “Real Life” Challenges Within the College and Community; and (3) Problem Solving: Collaboration and Prototyping.

NACCE provides leadership and resources to foster entrepreneurial thinking and action for community colleges all across North America.

- As part of the Social Justice Series, Ms. Charlotte Langeveld, College Lecturer II in Social Sciences, hosted two events. The first occurred on February 16, 2021, the Landscape of Higher Education in Prisons. In this event, OCC was joined by Ms. Sheila Meiman, Director of the Raritan Valley Community College RISE (Returning and Incarcerated Student Education) program. RISE operates statewide within the New Jersey State Prison system and offers an associate degree in liberal arts to students who are incarcerated. This program is a national model for higher education in prison and has a long-standing commitment to ensuring that the degree quality inside prison is equitable with the same degree on campus. Ms. Meiman shared information about the structure of the program, both academically and administratively, as well as addressed the successful statewide instructional partnerships that are operational. Program outcomes, student successes, and legislative initiatives at both the federal and state level were part of the conversation.

Ms. Langeveld’s second event, called Juvenile Justice – Realizing Full Potential, will be held on February 23, 2021, featuring Mr. Brendan Ward, who works as a Program Manager for Big Brothers Big Sisters. He has helped develop the Back on Track program that provides one-to-one mentoring for children ages 11-17 years who have committed first-/second-time minor offenses. This program aims to keep juveniles outside of the criminal justice system. Mr. Ward will lead a discussion about the program and its outcomes. He will talk the need for mentors to work with troubled youth and how together they identify and cultivate strengths needed to realize their full potential.

- Dr. Patricia Gianotti, College Lecturer II in Addictions Studies, announced that the newly formed Institute for Counseling Professionals will be hosting its first virtual presentation on March 31, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. Kenneth Finn, M.D., will be delivering a lecture on Why Legalized Marijuana is Not Helping the Opioid Epidemic. Dr. Finn has been practicing Pain Medicine in Colorado Springs since 1994. He is Board Certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Pain Medicine, and Pain Management. He is President of the American Board of Pain Medicine and has served on the Colorado Governor’s Task Force on Amendment 64 (which legalized marijuana for recreational use), on Consumer Safety and Social Issues Work Group, and on Colorado’s Medical Marijuana Scientific Advisory Council. He is editor of Cannabis in Medicine: An Evidence-Based Approach.

This presentation has been approved by the Addiction Certification Board of New Jersey for three hours of continuing education for the addiction counseling credentials, some of which are Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor, Certified Alcohol Drug Counselor, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, and Licensed Professional Counselor. The enrollment fee for the presentation is \$30 per person. Interested parties may submit payment and receive registration credentials by calling OCC’s Workforce and Professional Education at 732-255-0400, extension 409.

Dr. Gianotti also announced that the **Addictions Studies Program** will be **hosting Stories of Hope**, a **celebration of recovery from substance use disorder**. The **day-long virtual event** will feature **music, poetry, and artwork of recovering addicts**. There will be a **panel of recovering individuals to share their stories of hope and answer questions from students and family members**. **Local treatment centers** will present the latest in **integrative approaches in addiction treatment**, and the **Ocean County Prosecutor's Office** will highlight some of its **proactive outreach programs** for helping those in **active addiction**. Information on the **date and time of the event** will be **forthcoming**.

- **Mr. Benny Castillo, College Lecturer II in Criminal Justice**, announced that the **New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (NJOHSP)** will conduct a **Hometown Security Seminar**. **Topics** will include information on the **current threat environment, securing soft targets and crowded places, and community preparedness programs and resources**. **NJOHSP's Hometown Security program** is a **collaborative effort** to discuss **tools and resources** that help **strengthen the security of communities** across **New Jersey**. Information on the **date and time of the event** will be **forthcoming**.

Mr. Castillo also announced that the **planning** for an **upcoming Ocean County Police Chiefs' Roundtable** is currently **underway**. Discussion will include various **topics** related specifically to current **local and national policing issues** and **criminal justice** in general by **select Chiefs of Police** from various **Ocean County municipalities**. Information on the **March 2021 date and time** of this event will be **forthcoming**.

➤ School of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

- **Congratulations** are extended to **Dr. Vandana Saini, College Lecturer II in Mathematics**. **Dr. Saini** recently **completed her Doctorate of Philosophy, Mathematics College of Science**, from **George Mason University**.
- **Ocean County College** is **excited** to become a **member of Intel's Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Future Workforce Program**. This **program** is offered to **community colleges and vocational schools** to accomplish **three goals with students**: 1) **enabling students to gain technical confidence in AI**, 2) **enhancing employability for AI-related jobs**, and 3) **applying the AI training to produce solutions to industrial or social issues using AI**. To make this program a success, **Intel** offers **training for faculty**, access to **prepared course lessons** and over **200 hours of AI educational material**, as well as assistance with the **creation of an AI laboratory and AI-based curriculum**. **Faculty and lecturers** attended **training** during **January and February**. The training and assistance from **Intel** will be used to **develop and offer new associate degrees (A.S., A.A.S.) in Computer Science with a concentration in Artificial Intelligence**. A **Certificate of Completion in Artificial Intelligence** is also **planned for Industry Professionals**. The **OCC AI program and degrees** are expected to be **available in Fall 2021**.
- **Ocean County College** **launched** the **initial courses** of its **Cybersecurity curriculum** in the **Spring 2021 semester**. The **Bureau of Labor Statistics** estimated **131,000 jobs** in the **cybersecurity field, increasing by 31% by 2029**, while the **Chair of the House Subcommittee on Research and Technology** pointed out that **one-third of such jobs go unfilled today** and noted that **certificate programs, apprenticeships, and other accelerated paths, like the one offered by OCC, will be key to filling the positions**.

OCC's Cybersecurity curriculum is **stackable**, offering a **one-year certificate program** that is the **basis** for both a **specialized two-year Associate in Applied Science Computer Science**

degree option and an **Associate in Science Computer Science degree option with articulation** to both **public** and **private four-year institutions**. It also provides the **basis** for **students** to pursue **specific industry certifications**, **Security+**, and **Certified Ethical Hacker**, through **evolving OCC academic partnerships** with their **sponsoring organizations**, **CompTIA** and the **EC-Council**. The **curriculum** is being **developed** and **administered** by **Mr. Jon Weiss**, **College Lecturer II**, a **published, full-time OCC Lecturer** with over **35 years** of experience in the field.

In addition to **launching** the **courses** in this **curriculum**, **OCC** has **established** a **Cybersecurity Seminar Series** with **notable** and **distinguished Chief Information Security Officers** from across the **industry**, including such companies as **FireEye**, **T-Mobile**, **AT&T**, and **Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory**. These **speakers** provide **unique practical perspective** on **cybersecurity career paths** and **implementation considerations**.

- **Ms. Christine Girtain**, **Director of Authentic Science Research for Toms River High Schools South and North**, and **Ms. Jeanne Gogolski** from **educationprojects.org** will **partner** with **OCC** to become an **InnovATEBIO Ag Biotechnology Hub** by working together to **secure a grant** and **start a program** with **Ag Biotech Academy** in **New Jersey**. **Ag Biotech Academy** introduces **faculty** to the ways **biotech** can be used in **agriculture** through **food science** and **technology labs** and assists in a **national effort** to **educate** and **inspire science teachers** in **topics** around **food production**.
- **Ms. Pam Bogdan**, **College Lecturer II in Engineering**, worked with an **OCC student** and an **area high school student** on **submissions** to the **11th IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) Integrated STEM Education Conference (ISEC '21)**, a **virtual event** on **Saturday, March 13, 2021**.

The **OCC student** and **Ms. Bogdan** will **co-author** a **WIP (Work-in-Progress) paper** about the **emerging experiential learning activities** at **OCC**, **highlighting** his **engineering design** and **experience**. The **high school student** is doing a **research project** in the area of **bio-mechanics** and may submit an **abstract** for **posters** by **K-12 students**.

- **Engineering Week 2021** is from **February 22 through 26, 2021**. **Virtual versions** of events are taking place, such as the **annual kick-off event**, the **Paper Airplane Contest**, **Speed Mentoring/Career Networking**, and a **featured speaker**.
- The following **awards** were **announced** at the **OCC Fall 2020 Semester Engineering and Technology Virtual Celebration** held on **December 21, 2020**:
 - **Engineering Course Assignments Group – Individual**
 - **1st Place:** **Johnny Verderosa**, **Plug Handle Re-Design (ENGR 181 - Remote)**
 - **2nd Place:** **Johnny Verderosa**, **YMCA Support (STSC 160 - Remote)**
 - **3rd Place:** **Nicholas DiMartino**, **Capo Design (ENGR 181 - DL)**
 - **Engineering Course Assignments Group – Group (Common Group Assignment)**
 - **1st Place:** **Cassidy Wojcik**, **Jimmie Goodman**, **John Troncone**, and **Chris Heuner** **Waterfall (ENGR 181 - Remote)**
 - **1st Place:** **Cassidy Wojcik**, **Jimmie Goodman**, **McKayla Miksza** **Weathervane (STSC 160 - Remote)**

- **Engineering Club – COG Awards**
 - **Career Networking COG Winner – Kate Tobin**
 - **Community Service COG Winners – Jimmie Goodman and Cassidy Wojcik**
- **Dr. William Rickert, Professor of Mathematics, chaired and Assistant Dean of STEM Carolyn Showalter served on an OCC committee to select students for the ALL-USA Academic Team for 2021. The following students will represent Ocean County College as nominees for the ALL-USA Team and the Coca Cola Academic Team for 2021:**
 - **Transfer Category**
Kaitlyn Barrett
Anaheed Dakrat
 - **Workforce Category**
Miranda Wells

In the past seven years, OCC has had **three Gold scholars, one Silver scholar, and one Bronze scholar**. Usually, **1,800 students** are in the **competition** on the **international level**.

- **OCC student Sean O'Connor has been awarded an internship at Otsuka Pharmaceuticals in Princeton, starting February 1, 2021, as part of the Applied Innovation and Process Improvement Team.**
- **The latest edition of the Computer Studies Newsletter can be found on social media platforms, such as LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook as well as on the STEM webpage: <https://z19gk1a29t11uf15h455jmuw-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/002048-ACAF-Computer-Studies-Newsletter-December-2020.pdf>**
- **School of Arts and Humanities**
 - **Ms. Catherine Mancuso, College Lecturer II in Dance, and Ms. Kristyn Stout, College Lecturer II in English, were nominated to the state-wide General Education Committee. They are in current conversations with other New Jersey community college members. The main topic of discussion is the impending legislation to reduce the number of general education credits required for the associate in arts degree.**
 - **The School of Arts and Humanities offered several professional development opportunities in February. The first, a roundtable hosted by Dr. Madison Peschock, College Lecturer II in English, on February 17, 2021, was called, How to Stand Out as an Adjunct Faculty Member. Dr. Peschock discussed helpful tips about developing a conference proposal, finding calls for papers (CPFs), and how to create a curriculum vitae (CV).**

Second, English College Lecturer II Heather Sciarappa hosted the Arts and Humanities Adjunct Professional Development Series meeting during this last week in February. In addition to adjunct presenters, College Lecturer II Catherine Mancuso presented on the School's curriculum processes and its page on Canvas.

Finally, College Lecturer II in History Stephen Downey is hosting a workshop for history adjuncts on February 25, 2021.

- **College Lecturer II in Humanities and Fine Arts Stephanie Shestakow** began a **program** for students interested in **contemporary art trends** called **Course Within a Course**, which is open to **all students** in **art history courses**. It is designed as a **virtual meet-up** to discuss **topics** in **contemporary art** and **visual culture**. It provides a chance for **students** to **talk** more about **art** and to **apply** the **visual skills** they are building. **Students** may also **view art** that **Ms. Shestakow** may not have **time** to **cover** in **class**, and the **students** can **explore ideas** about **what art history** is and what it **can** be for the **future**. These **meetings** are being held on **four Thursdays** throughout the **semester**.
- As part of the **American Sign Language Interpreter Training Program** and hosted by **program faculty Kathleen Basilotto** and **Saundra Piscitelli**, **speaker and author Ms. Trix Bruce** presented on **February 22, 2021**. Her **presentation, ASL Semantics: Precision of Expression**, served **students** in better **understanding** the **grammar** of **American Sign Language**.

➤ CircleIn

- With the help of **IT, College Relations, Student Life, and the HUB**, **CircleIn**, **OCC's new studying app**, went **live** at **12:00 a.m.** on **January 25, 2021**, the **first day** of the **Spring semester**. **CircleIn** is an **app** that allows **students** to **study together remotely**. The students **collaborate**, they **chat**, and they **stay productive**. Using **CircleIn**, **OCC students** can **brainstorm together online** just like they would in a **coffee shop** or a **library study room**.

Within the **first 48 hours**, **CircleIn** had **1,336 student downloads**, **234 studying flashcards created**, **469 studying tasks created**, and **214 messages exchanged** among **students**. To further **assist students** with their **questions asynchronously**, **tutors** are **embedded** in over **100 courses** on **CircleIn**.

- **Knewton Alta**, an **Artificial Intelligence adaptive learning technology**, is now **readily available** for **students** needing **supplemental support**, **outside** of the **Tutoring Center**, in **math** and **chemistry courses**.
- In **early January**, **Professional Writing Tutor, Dr. Mary-Beth Brophy**, attended the **Modern Language Association's annual conference** and **facilitated** a **workshop** titled **Borrowed Tools for Digital Scholarship and Pedagogy**.

➤ Center for Academic Success

- In **collaboration** with the **Engineering Department**, **two sessions** are being offered for **middle school students** on **STEAM Spatial Visualization Camp** this **Spring 2021 semester**. **Students** may **sign up** for **one** or **both sessions**.
 - **Session One: Tuesdays, February 23 to March 16, 2021, from 6 to 8 p.m.**
 - **Session Two: Wednesdays, April 14 to May 5, 2021, from 6 to 8 p.m.**

Additionally, **efforts** continue with the **Engineering Department** to **recruit students** for the **High School Design Competition**, with **final submissions** due **May 1, 2021**, and to **promote Engineering Week, February 22 through 26, 2021**, to **middle** and **high school partners**.

- The **College Readiness Now Program** is offering **English I courses** at **Lacey High School** to **14 students** and potentially at **Lakewood High School** to **12-15 students**. The **course** is **grant funded** at **both schools**.

- **High School Academies/Embedded Courses:** Approval was received from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education on January 11, 2021, for Brick Memorial, Brick Township, Central Regional, Jackson Liberty, Jackson Memorial, and Toms River East, North, and South high schools to be OCC additional locations. Efforts are currently underway to expand course offerings for the Fall 2021 semester.

Finance and Administration

The fiscal year 2022 budget is on the agenda for approval on Thursday. In accordance with the announcement made at the January Board meeting, Ocean County College will not increase student tuition and fees next year, maintaining costs at their 2021 level. OCC is the first New Jersey community college to make such an announcement. Tuition for the 2022 fiscal year will remain at \$175 per credit.

Last year, OCC bundled the cost of books and electronic course materials, as well as college and student fees, with tuition. The freeze on the all-inclusive tuition rate is another effort to keep OCC affordable and assist students in reaching their educational goals, which is especially important as families struggle with the economic challenges brought on by the pandemic.

Expenses increased moderately in the fiscal year 2022 budget. This reflects predictable operating cost increases, including salary increases, software maintenance contracts, and utilities, which were partially offset by the reduction in activity on campus projected for a portion of fiscal year 2022. In addition, Federal Higher Education Emergency Relief grants will fund approximately \$900,000 in salary and benefit costs related to the continuing pandemic response. These grants will also be used to improve remote instructional technology and support a safe return to campus.

➤ **Ocean County College Foundation**

➤ **Blauvelt Speaker Series Update**

Best-selling author and journalist David Ignatius will be at OCC for a virtual lunch and learn on Wednesday, March 3, 2021, at 12:30 p.m. Dr. Temple Grandin will be welcomed back to OCC on Saturday, March 13, 2021. Advanced registration is required, and both events and more information can be found at www.GruninCenter.org.

The Blauvelt Speaker Series Committee continues to meet as it develops the balance of the Spring 2020 Series and continues into Fall 2021 and beyond.

➤ **Scholarships**

The current scholarship award period is well underway. Named scholarships will be awarded this week for the coming Spring semester. All rollover awards from the Fall semester have been submitted to the cashiers to be posted to student accounts.

Efforts continue through the HUB and Student Affairs teams daily to reach students with 2020 Fall semester balances to bring them current so eligible students may enroll in the 2021 Spring semester using the recently approved dollar for dollar match opportunity provided by the Foundation. With much appreciation to the Foundation Board's leadership, these opportunities will have a meaningful impact for the students of Ocean County College.

➤ **Annual Appeal**

To date, the **Foundation's annual appeal** has raised an **additional \$30,000** for the **students of OCC**, which is a **tremendous response** given the **vast majority of gifts** in this **campaign** have been **under \$100**.

➤ **The Year Ahead**

The **Foundation** is currently working with its **Board Chair** and **respective committees** to determine **special events dates** for **2021** and into **2022**. The **Annual Scholarship Celebration** is scheduled to be held on **Friday, June 18, 2021**, guidance permitting.

The **Foundation** and **Alumni Advancement**, in **partnership** with **community organizations** and **College divisions**, have scheduled **SUP the River**, the **annual stand-up paddle board race** on the **Toms River**, for **Saturday, September 18, 2021**.

The **Annual Foundation Golf Outing** has been scheduled for **Tuesday, October 12, 2021**.

➤ **Security**

In accordance with **New Jersey Public Law 2015, Chapter 220**, and **College Policy #2332, Reporting of On-Campus Criminal and Fire Events**, attached is the **monthly statistics report** of **crimes, fires, and other emergencies on campus** for the reporting period, **January 14, 2021, through February 19, 2021**.

Student Affairs

➤ **Advising**

➤ **Transfer Update**

Transfer Coordinator Laura Wills has continued to organize **remote events** with **four-year institutions** this **Spring semester**. These events are **critical** in ensuring **OCC students** receive the **information** they need regarding **transfer**, even while **most institutions operate remotely**. **OCC hosted an information session** with **Rutgers School of Arts and Science**, with about **20 students** attending. **Rutgers School of Engineering** also **met remotely** with **10 OCC students** regarding **transfer** in **STEM**.

Partner colleges **Montclair, Stockton, New Jersey Institute of Technology, and New Jersey City University** are all **hosting events** this **Spring**. In addition, some **out-of-state institutions**, such as **The College of Saint Rose, SCAD: The University for Creative Careers, Temple University, and University of the Sciences (USciences)**, will be **hosting drop-in sessions** for **OCC students**.

➤ **Advise**

Advising continues to **collaborate** with **IT, the HUB, and Academic Affairs** to **implement Advise CRM (customer relationship manager)**. The **Title III Coaches** are currently **responding** to **alerts generated** by **Advise** for **students** enrolled in **Title III courses**. These **alerts** prompt **intervention** due to **low assessments**. In the **Spring 2021 semester**, over **450 alerts** have been **generated** so far. The **Advising Office** is also utilizing **Advise** this **Spring** for **communications**

and **documentation**, as well as **early intervention** for NJ STARS students and **outreach** to pre-nursing students.

➤ **Career Services**

Mr. Chris Carbone, Career Services Coordinator, has been **invited** to **Thursday's meeting** to discuss with you **two new programs** that are now **available** to **OCC students, Handshake** and **MyPlan**.

- The **Career Service department** recently premiered its **new CRM platform** called **Handshake**. **Ocean County College** is the **first community college** in **New Jersey** to **add this professional network platform**. Over **12,000 students and alumni** have been **uploaded** to the system and over **600 employers and nonprofit organizations** have been **recruited**, which have **posted over 2,000 jobs, internships, fellowships, and volunteer opportunities**.

Career Services, in **partnership** with the **Southern Ocean County Chamber**, will **host a webinar series** for the **community**, leading to a **virtual career fair** titled **Start Hiring on a Handshake**. The **webinar**, which will take place via **Zoom** on **February 24, 2021, at 10 a.m.** will **introduce Handshake** and **train employers** how to **connect** with **thousands of students and alumni** of all ages with **businesses** around the **region** and the **world**. In addition to the **opening information session** on **February 24**, there will be **technical assistance workshops** to **support users** on **March 3, 2021, at 10 a.m.** and **March 10, 2021, at 3 p.m.** This will all lead up to **OCC Virtual Career Connect** on **April 7, 2021**. **Students and alumni** will **meet with employers** through **online video interviews**, with the opportunity to be **hired on-the-spot**. **Students and alumni** will be able to **access Virtual Career Connect** for **free** from their **computers** or their **phones** from **3 to 6 p.m.**

- **MyPlan** is a **comprehensive academic planning tool**, available to **students** to help them **develop a plan** by making **well-informed decisions** about their **education** and **careers**. It **assists students** **explore options** by bringing **clarity** and **insight** into determining their **interests** and **strengths** and provides **invaluable information** about **courses, curricula, transfer colleges, and careers**.

Career Services continues to provide **virtual Career Counseling; Online Career Assessments and Review; Resume, Cover Letter, and LinkedIn Profile Writing; and Internship and Employment Placements** for **students and alumni**.

➤ **Disability Services**

- The **Office of Disability Services** continues to facilitate **training** and **awareness** of **Ally** for **Canvas**, an integrated program that helps check for **accessibility issues** within **Canvas** and generate **alternative accessible format materials** for **students**. Since the **start** of the **Spring semester**, **Ally** has been **downloaded 619 times** at the **conversion rate** of **25.67%**. **Disability Services** is working with **e-Learning** and the **School of Arts and Humanities** to **deploy a Faculty Survey** on the use of **Ally** for **course content remediation** and **usefulness**. A **student survey** will be **deployed** to **analyze usage** and **accessibility**. **Ally** will be continually **promoted** and **marketed** through **Ocean Connect, the OCC app, and social media platforms**.

- **Disability Services** and **e-Learning** presented a **session** titled **Ally for Canvas and Inclusive Learning** at the **Lecturer Institute** and **Adjunct Institute**. Staff **promoted** the use of **Ally** in the **School of Arts and Humanities** and anticipate presenting to the **School of Business and Social Sciences** in **early March**.

- **Disability Services staff performed training for Tutoring Services on working with students with disabilities. Trainings will continue throughout the Spring semester, targeting prospective high school students and their families. Additionally, eight brief webinar sessions were conducted to discuss Ally for Canvas, Sonocent Audio Notetaker, and Glean Notetaking software. The sessions provided students with an introductory overview of each application and how it may help a student in the remote learning environment. Additional webinars will be scheduled throughout the Spring 2021 semester.**
- **Disability Services continued to collaborate with the Ocean County Office of Emergency Management to provide training and technical support for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) online training. The February training had over 50 active participants, including many OCC students and staff. Due to increased demand, a March 2021 training is scheduled, and details will be shared with the OCC community.**
- **Educational Opportunity Fund**
- **EOF@Ocean is proud to announce its 2021 Educational Opportunity Fund Graduate Achievement Awardees. There are four categories of awards for students who graduated at the end of Summer 2020, Fall 2020, or anticipate a Spring 2021 graduation. The grade point average required for each designation and the students recognized follow:
The 2021 Educational Opportunity Fund Graduate Achievement Award Winners are:**
 - **Distinguished Scholar Award – 4.0 grade point average
Charles Pastori – 4.0**
 - **Outstanding Academic Achievement Award – 3.5 to 3.99 grade point average
Freddy Juarez – 3.697
Jackolin Hernandez-Lopez – 3.765
Valentina Marrone – 3.63
Grace Roveda – 3.608
Leah-Marie Williams – 3.601
Zachary Carroll – Best exemplifies the spirit and intent of EOF**
 - **Academic Achievement Award – 3.2 to 3.49 grade point average
Spencer Grant – 3.493
Sarah McHenry – 3.212
Alexzia Quiles – 3.471
Cesar Serrano – 3.311**

These students will be recognized in a virtual ceremony on Friday, April 9, 2021.

- **EOF is proud to feature Grace Roveda for the EOF Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight. Grace lives in New Egypt, New Jersey, and is a graduate of New Egypt High School. Grace will be graduating from Ocean County College with an Associate in Applied Science degree in American Sign Language-English Interpreting. Grace displays her passion for American Sign Language by serving as secretary for the Ocean County College Interpreter Training Program Sign Club. As an active member, she has participated in the club's holiday shows as well as represented the group during Club Day Fairs on campus. Grace is also a member of Phi Theta Kappa. She has been named to the President's Honors List numerous times during her tenure at OCC.**

Grace is an **enthusiastic member** of EOF. She actively **participates** in EOF retreats and **summer programs** and works with EOF staff to help **plan retreats**. Grace **created and directed** a **Murder Mystery Game** for an EOF retreat that was **hailed** as a **success** by students and staff alike. With **Grace's roots** from **England**, she helped **plan an authentic English Tea** for the **Spring retreat**. Grace was **inducted** into EOF'S Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society in **2019**.

Grace's **future plans** include becoming an **American Sign Language Interpreter** and a **Teacher of the Deaf**. She plans to **obtain** her **National Interpreter Certification** and become **credentialed** to **work in schools**. Grace would also like to **work** at one of **New Jersey's military bases** serving as an **interpreter**.

➤ Financial Aid

➤ Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) Grants for Students

Ocean County College has received **authorization and funding** through the **Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA)** to **disburse federal emergency grants** to students. The **federal government** has clarified that **funds** must be **reserved** to provide students with **financial aid grants**, which may be **used** for any **component** of the student's **cost of attendance** or for **emergency costs** that arise due to the **coronavirus**, such as **tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care) or child care**. The College developed an **application form** designed to help **understand students' circumstances and needs**. The application has been **posted** on OCC's **COVID-19** page, the **Federal Emergency Grants for Students** page, and as an **Ocean Connect announcement**.

The CRRSAA requires that **institutions prioritize students** with **exceptional need**, such as **students** who receive **Pell grants**, in awarding **financial aid grants**. In an effort to make **CRRSAA funding** available to **students** whose **academic pursuits** are **negatively impacted** by **COVID-19**, the College has decided, in order to **help as many students as possible**, the amount of **eligible expenses** that an **eligible student requests** can be funded up to a **maximum amount** of **\$2,000 to full-time students (12 credit hours or more) or \$1,000 to part-time students (11 credit hours or less)**.

Thus far, **529 applications** have been received, and **352 students** have received **awards**. The **total amount awarded and disbursed** is **\$551,000**.

➤ FAFSA Completion Assistance

The new **FAFSA filing cycle** began **October 1, 2020**, for the **2021-2022 academic year**. The **Opening Pathways to Education Now (OPEN) workshops** were **cancelled** for **Spring 2021**. In lieu of **face-to-face workshops**, the **Financial Aid Office** will be facilitating **one-on-one virtual appointments** to assist with the **completion of FAFSA paperwork** and discuss the **basic concepts of financial aid** for students and the **Ocean County community**. Additionally, the **Financial Aid 101 presentation** has been **posted** on the **website** for **students, parents, and community members** to **access**. As of **February 16, 2021**, the **Financial Aid Office** has received **8,039 FAFSA applications** for **2020-2021** and **2, 562 FAFSA applications** for **2021-22**.

➤ **Southern Education Center**

- **The Promoting Learners to Achieve Now (P.L.A.N.) Program** is currently being introduced to prospective students at **Barnegat Township High School**. **P.L.A.N.** is a collaborative effort between **OCC** and two high schools in the southern part of the county to assist students in completing one full year of college experience prior to high school graduation. After collaborating with **Ms. Leah Purpuri, Barnegat Township School District's Supervisor of Guidance**, and **Ms. Sheenah Hartigan, Executive Director of Enrollment Services**, two **PowerPoint slides** were created and will be presented to all **Barnegat High School juniors and seniors** outlining the specifics of **P.L.A.N.** Presentations will be made to the **Barnegat students** during **class-based scheduling information sessions**. Additionally, a **PowerPoint slide** will be shown to **eighth graders** to prepare them for this opportunity as they progress through high school. In moving the **P.L.A.N. program** forward at **Pinelands Regional High School**, two presentations are being prepared for an **April roll-out**; **informational invitations** are in design phase.
- **Mr. James Hauenstein, Director of the Southern Education Center**, will be representing **OCC** at the **annual Lacey Township High School Career and Education Fair**, being held via a **virtual platform** the evening of **February 25, 2021**. The goal is to create awareness not only of the opportunities at **OCC** but to provide information that the same community college opportunities are available at the **Manahawkin campus**.
- **Proposed courses and course schedule information** for the **SEC Fall 2021 semester** has been sent to the **College's Academic Administrators**.
- The **SEC Canvas shell** is continuing to serve as a **message board** for students who are enrolled in courses identified as **SEC or MT sections** in the **course code**. Since the opening of the **Spring 2021 semester**, **CircleIn (tutoring)** and **Handshake (employment)** have been featured, resulting in over **1,700 views**. **Upcoming outreach** will be conducted for **EOF** and **other departments**.
- Both **Ms. Michele Marcum, Senior Student Services Technician, SEC**, and **Mr. James Hauenstein** have been identified as **SEC liaisons** for the **Veterans and Military Resource Center, Center of Excellence Grant**.

➤ **Veterans and Military Resource Center**

- **Veteran Voices** is a **televised program** developed by the **Veterans and Military Resource Center (VMRC)** in partnership with the **Director of Television and Media, Ralph Bertini**. The program will host **non-profit, organizations, and community leaders** that **advocate, develop, and lead industry models** for **military and veteran Ocean County constituents**. The goal is to have an **episode or two, per month, throughout the year**. The platforms will be on **OceanTV20, Comcast Channel 24**, and the new **YouTube Mini Series** by **OCC Media Relations Specialist Nicolaus Burr**.

Veteran Voices will air on the following schedule: **Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.;** **Thursdays, 12:00 a.m.;** and **Sundays, 7:00 p.m.**

- **Episode 1: Project Refit** featuring **BlueSky Mobile App** for **Veteran and First Responders; Combating Isolation through Virtual Community Socialization**.

- **Episode 2 [Tentative]: Sally Stenton, Esq., Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Air Force (Retired), specializing in Military and Veterans Law, Veteran Affairs Compensation, Disability Understanding, and Female Veteran Health Advocate.**
- **Ocean County College has been designated the 2021-2022 Military Friendly Badge of Excellence. The VMRC represents integrity, innovation, community, and transparency, and it is in the beginning stages of expanding the social community representation with outreach, partnership, and mentorship for all Ocean County military and veteran residents through the development of monthly virtually hosted socials.**
- **OCC's Student Veterans Organization and VMRC will be participating in the 2021 Student Veterans of America National Conference (SVA NatCon), virtually this year, with the OCC Organization President, Ms. Maryellen De Leon, who is graduating this Spring 2021. The SVA NatCon is the largest conference in the country for post 9/11 veterans. Over 5,000 student veterans from across the country gather and socialize with industry leaders on transitioning from a college student to an industry success story.**
- **The U.S. Department of Education, Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), awarded OCC \$444,130 over a three-year period, designating the College as a Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success. With this grant, the VMRC will develop a Laptop/Chromebook lending library for all military- and veteran-affiliated students in partnership with the OCC IT Department.**

e-Learning and Learning Enterprises

➤ Faculty Training and Professional Development

January was a busy month for training and professional development in e-Learning. On January 21, 2021, department leaders hosted a faculty meeting to welcome instructors and provide updates on new developments.

- **Webinars and virtual training sessions were provided on a variety of topics, including Honorlock proctoring for face-to-face and e-Learning faculty as well as Cisco WebEx, Turnitin, and all processes related to the Canvas LMS. To kick off the weekly professional development series, several members of our Academic and Instructional Design teams presented a webinar titled Creating Interactive Discussions, which reviewed out-of-the-box methods for engaging and robust online discussions. The webinar attracted 22 participants.**
- **At both the Lecturer and Adjunct Institutes, e-Learning partnered with Disability Services to introduce Blackboard Ally, a tool that provides real-time feedback regarding the accessibility of all content in Canvas. Forty-six were in attendance.**
- **The Faculty Onboarding program, which the department has expanded this Spring, provides new online instructors with the tools needed to deliver exceptional instruction to students. On January 13, 2021, for the first time, a live onboarding was hosted where course preparation was discussed and technical training was provided to 27 attendees for the Spring 2021 term. On February 3, 2021, a second live training was hosted; best teaching practices were discussed and guidance was provided to 23 attendees on how to conduct self-evaluations and prepare for an official OCC teaching evaluation.**

- The **Center for Instructional Empowerment (CIE)** continues to be **home** to a **growing number** of **training** and **professional development materials** for **faculty** and **staff**. The **CIE** provides a **central resource center** for all **technical training material**, **recorded webinars**, **schedules** for **upcoming events** and **professional development**, as well as a **knowledge base** for **Canvas** and **Canvas-related products**.
- **Student Support**
 - The **e-Learning Department** met with **Mr. Ryan Luurtsema, Coordinator of the Veterans and Military Resource Center**, to discuss a **process** for **allowing deployed students** to take **proctored exams** with a **military official** for **courses that require Honorlock proctoring**. **Students** who are **stationed in high-security locations** that do **not permit use** of a **camera** or **microphone** now have a **means** for **taking proctored assessments**.
- **Course Design and Technology**
 - The **Instructional Design and Technology team** has been actively **researching** and **testing software** products that will **enhance the design** and **development** of **OCC's distance learning courses**. These **software products** will allow **Instructional Designers** the ability to bring **courses to life** by creating **interactive** and **engaging content** for **diverse student populations**, as well as allow for the **development** of **courses** that meet **universal design**.
 - The **department** has moved forward with **purchasing software** from **Articulate 360, H5P, WellSaid Labs**, and is currently looking into **Canva Pro**. With **state-of-the-art instructional design software tools**, the **Instructional Design and Technology team** can bring **Ocean County College's courses** to the **next level** by **designing higher quality, engaging, and interactive content**, while, most of all, **making learning fun**. The **Instructional Design and Technology team** has already started **utilizing** these tools in the **courses** being **developed** or **redeveloped** for **Summer and Fall 2021**, with a **focus** on implementing them into the **highest enrolled distance learning courses** to **enhance the student learning experience**. For example, **Instructional Designers** can bring **ordinary text lectures** to **life** by creating **VoiceThread lecture presentations** and utilizing **WellSaid Labs** to produce **voiceovers** without **spending countless hours of recording narration**. The **software** **reduces time** and allows for **more innovation** and **creativity** in **courses**, bringing **Ocean County College** closer to **achieving the vision** of being the **"boldest, most innovative and entrepreneurial student-centered college in the nation."**
 - The **Summer 2021 Course Development Schedule** will be **wrapping up** on **March 1, 2021**, which includes **one new development**, **seven redevelopments**, and **two courses** with **minor content updates**. The **Fall 2021 Course Development Schedule** is still in **progress** and will **conclude** on **July 1, 2021**.
- **International**
 - **Ocean County College, Ain Shams University, and Kean University Partnership**
 - **Cohorts 4 and 5** started their **Spring terms** with **OCC**, and **Cohort 3** starts its **final courses** with **Kean University** in **March**. **Dr. Howaida Wahby Eraky, e-Learning College Lecturer II**, conducted a **series of virtual pre-semester trainings** and is **meeting** with **students** regularly to **assist** in their **academic progress**. With the **return** of **Ms. Alexis Crosta** as an **academic administrator**, **ASU students** are getting **weekly notification** from **Ms. Crosta** on their **progress** and how to be **more successful** in their **courses**.

- In January, Dr. William Rickert and the officers of Tau Iota Chapter at Ocean County College engaged with the members of Phi Theta Kappa in Egypt in a virtual activity. The outcome of engaging OCC Egyptian students with domestic students was very positive. In continuation of such engagement, Dr. Ameer Sohrawardy, College Lecturer II in English, started a pen pal project between his English I class and 20 Egyptian students from Cohort 4 at ASU.
- In an effort to motivate ASU students for excellence, International scholarships were announced to Cohort 4 students graduating from OCC with a 3.8 grade point average and above. Six students are competing for three scholarships totaling \$1,000: \$500, \$300, and \$200.
- Student Coordinator Enjee Auda and Office Coordinator Rehab Ismail in Egypt are continuing to assist Cohort 3 students in completing Kean applications as well as following up with the students on their academic and financial obligations.
- **Special Programs**
 - Dr. Maysa Hayward, Associate Vice President of International Programs, in collaboration with Ms. Eileen Schilling, Executive Director of Academic Assessment, continue to work on course mapping for programs needed in Egypt. In addition to working on programs with Kean University and William Paterson University, Dr. Hayward and Ms. Schilling are working currently with the University of Maryland Global Campus on mapping Digital Media and Web Technology as well Biotechnology programs. Southern New Hampshire University is currently reviewing its curricula and will continue working with OCC in May.
 - Dr. Eileen Garcia, Vice President of e-Learning and Learning Enterprises, and I will be meeting the Egyptian Minister of Higher Education soon to discuss the status of OCC's proposals for Egypt.
- **Additional Location**

New Jersey City University (NJCU) is well poised to open an additional location in Egypt starting in Fall 2021. The OCC and NJCU agreement on the additional location will be finalized next month.
- **New Programs**
 - The International team participated in a meeting with Ms. Suzan Thompson from Discovery Education to discuss the possibility of delivering Discovery professional education programs to Egypt.
 - Dr. Eileen Garcia, Dr. Maysa Hayward, and I met with Dr. Kamal Shahrabi, President of Rochester Institute of Technology Kosovo. OCC will draft a business model on ways to collaborate in three areas: 2+2, Study Abroad, and a pre-college Bridge program.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, February is designated nationally as Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, the achievements, contributions, culture, and heritage of African-Americans are celebrated in February at Ocean County College and at other educational institutions throughout the country to promote an understanding of and appreciation for the rich cultural diversity of the American people; and

WHEREAS, Ocean County College wishes to affirm its support for the education and advancement of African-American people by formally honoring their history and contributions each year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the month of February 2021 be proclaimed Black History Month at Ocean County College, that programs and events continue to be implemented to celebrate this observance, and that members of the college be encouraged to participate in all activities designed to raise consciousness about African-American culture, heritage, and history.

Adopted: February 25, 2021

Stephan R. Leone
Secretary

Required Reporting Statistics
Board of Trustees Meeting
February 25, 2021

The following has been prepared for presentation to the Ocean County College Board of Trustees, for its regular meeting. This report consists of all offenses defined as reportable crimes under the federal Jeanne Clery Act, fires, and other emergencies which occurred on campus during the reporting period of **Jan. 14 thru Feb. 19, 2021**

1. A count and classification of all criminal incidents (defined as reportable crimes under the federal Jeanne Clery Act) which occurred on campus and which were recorded by campus security, campus security authority (CSA) or local police departments.

Date	Crime	Summary	Status
Occurred: Reported:	NONE		
Occurred: Reported:			

2. A list of campus alerts, threats, or emergencies which occurred on campus.

Date	Alert/Threat	Summary	Status
Occurred: Reported:	NONE		

3. A count and classification of all fire incidents which occurred on campus and which were recorded by campus security and local fire departments.

Date	Fire Incident	Summary	Status
Occurred: Reported:	NONE		

Respectfully Submitted, *John A. Lopez* – Director of Security