



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 **April 22, 2021, Board Meeting**

DATE: April 19, 2021

Civic Literacy

At the **April 16, 2021, Board of Trustees event, A Conversation with the Trustees**, a student suggested that the College offer a **civics course**, and the **suggestion** seems to **imply** there is a **renewed interest** by students in **civic knowledge**. The College currently offers a **series of Political Science courses**, such as **Introduction to Political Science; American Federal, State, and Local Government; and Comparative Politics and Government**. However, it may be a **good time** to consider **changes** or **additions** to the **curricula** in order to **meet** the **needs** of our students.

Civic literacy requires an **understanding** of the **structure of government; rights and responsibilities; and methods of engagement**. **Educators** and **colleges** have a unique **opportunity** and **responsibility** to ensure that their **students** become **engaged** and **knowledgeable citizens**. A review of **OCC's offerings** will ensure that **students** are **learning** the **basics** of **American politics** and **civic life** and are **prepared** to **fulfill** the **responsibilities** and **privileges** of **citizenship**.

Pathways to Credentials

During the **Spring of 2020**, **Ocean County College** made a **competitive application** for a **Technical Assistance (TA) Opportunity** being **sponsored** by the **U.S. Department of Education** through the **Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE)**. **Ms. Susan O'Connor, Director of the Perkins Grant and Curriculum Compliance**, and **Ms. Eileen Schilling, Executive Director of Academic Articulation and Prior Learning Assessment**, worked closely with **Ms. Kayci Clayton, Associate Director of Grant Administration**, and the **Ellucian Grants team** to **assemble** the **application**, choosing to **highlight** one of **OCC's emerging new programs, Industrial Hygiene**. The **new Industrial Hygiene courses** and **proposed certificate** held **promise** for the **alignment** of **industry-valued credentials** in a **high demand field** to **college credit**.

OCTAE, working in conjunction with the Center for Occupational Research and Development (CORD), is interested in partnering with community and technical colleges to improve Career and Technical Education (CTE) completion rates through the intentional development and expansion of “stackable” credential opportunities for their students. Stackable credentials are typically created by linking industry-valued, non-credit certifications to college credits, which, in turn, can then be linked to academic certificates, associate degree programs, and beyond.

In late Spring 2020, OCC was one of ten colleges selected nationally to participate in the Technical Assistance cohort. The TA has allowed OCC to have access to a personal coach, Ms. Deanna Khemani, and specific training workshops and cohort exchanges sponsored by OCTAE. OCC access has also been made available to a very valuable archive of information related to developing and leveraging stackable credential opportunities for our students. A team has been working since May 2020, and the members are pleased to present on Thursday their progress to this point as well as plans for the future.

The team is comprised of Dr. Sylvia Riviello, Dean of STEM; Ms. Kaitlin Everett, Director of Workforce and Professional Education; Ms. Susan O’Connor; Mr. Lincoln Simmons, Biology College Lecturer II; Ms. Eileen Schilling; Dr. Amir Sadrian, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs; and Ms. Deana Khemani, Technical Assistance Coach, Center for Occupational Research and Development.

Phi Theta Kappa

The Middle States Regional Convention for 2021 was held virtually on Thursday, March 18, 2021, at 7 p.m.; Friday March 19, 2021, at 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday, March 20, 2021, at 10 a.m. The convention was presented in a manner which was very similar to a convention held in a physical setting.

The convention included keynote speeches, workshops, speeches by the candidates for Regional Office, and the presentation of awards. Tau Iota received the following recognition at the Convention:

- Tau Iota was recognized as a Five-Star Chapter, a Reach Chapter, and a Gold Chapter
- Kaitlyn Barrett was inducted into the Regional Hall of Honor for Chapter Officers
- Samantha Cassese was inducted into the Regional Hall of Honor for Chapter Officers
- Dr. Jennifer Dellner was named a Distinguished Advisor on the Regional Level
- Ms. Jennifer Fazio was named a Distinguished Administrator on the Regional Level
- Dr. William Rickert was name Advisor Emeritus on the Regional Level

Congratulations are again extended to Tau Iota members and their advisors for their outstanding success.

National Community College Month

April is designated by the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) as National Community College Month.

There are currently over 325,000 students enrolled at New Jersey’s 18 community colleges; they are the largest provider of higher education in the state. Community colleges serve the complex needs of students, employers, and local communities. They offer a diverse student population accessibility, affordability, and, most importantly, academic excellence, and they continually respond to the needs of the communities they serve. Community colleges are critical to the economic and social well-being of New Jersey’s residents.

In recognition and celebration of the invaluable contributions made by community colleges, it is respectfully requested that the Board of Trustees adopt a resolution to proclaim April as Community College Month at Ocean County College.

Academic Affairs

➤ School of Nursing and Health Sciences

- **Dr. Teresa Walsh, Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences, and Dr. Elizabeth Stevenson, Assistant Dean of the School, continue to meet weekly with the Chief Nursing Officer and Vice of President of Patient Care Services and the Director of Education at Community Medical Center to arrange clinical experiences due to the changing number of COVID cases within the facility. These meetings are to assure appropriate patient care experiences are provided relevant to the Nursing Program curriculum and to provide a safe environment for students and faculty.**
- **RWJBarnabas Behavioral Health Center provided N95 mask-fit testing to the School to ensure the safety of students, faculty, and patients. Students and faculty were also provided with goggles from the facility.**
- **The Student Nurse Organization is collecting donations for the Ocean County Food Pantry until April 22, 2021, under the direction of advisors Sue Gill, MSN, RN, Lecturer II; Barbara Hayles, MSN, RN, Lecturer II; and MaryAnn Kaufmann PhD, MSN, RN, Skills, Simulation, and Student Retention Specialist.**
- **Mary Fennessy, BA, MAS, Director of Program Services, represented the School of Nursing and Health Sciences at Pre-Nursing Information Sessions that were held virtually on March 12 and 31, 2021. These sessions are scheduled for students who intend to enter the Nursing Program. Forty-six students attended the March 12 program, and 39 attended the program on March 31.**
- **Donna Bonacorso, RN, MSN, NEA-BC, Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President for Patient Care Services, presented information to graduating students regarding the Nurse Residency Program at Community Medical Center on April 1, 2021. Ms. Bonacorso discussed the application process as well as the schedule of events included in this year's program.**
- **Dr. Teresa Walsh has been elected to serve as the Vice Chair of the RWJBarnabas Behavioral Health Center Board of Trustees, effective March 2021.**

➤ School of Arts and Humanities

- **College Lecturer II Brian Gilmore and Instructor Karin Gargone organized a piano recital on March 19, 2021. The musical event featured pianist Anna Keiserman performing masterworks by Russian and Iberian composers. The musical performance concluded with a post-recital chat with Ms. Keiserman.**
- **On April 7, 2021, College Lecturer II Stephanie Shestakow hosted a lecture by Ms. Victoria Wyeth for students in the Modern Art class, as well as other attendees from the OCC faculty and student population. Ms. Wyeth's lecture focused on the art and life of her grandfather, artist Andrew Wyeth.**

- In April, the **Social Justice Series** continued with **four events**:
 - As part of the **annual Poetry Festival**, a **reading** by **poet Olivia Gatwood** was held on **April 11, 2021**. This event was organized by **College Lecturers Christine Bryant and Richard Carr**.
 - **English Associate Professor Jayanti Tamm** hosted **Ms. Gatwood** at the **Open Mic** for **students** on **April 13, 2021**. **Ms. Gatwood** also gave a **workshop** for **creative writing students**, who received a **copy** of her **latest book**.
 - For the **third event** in **April**, **College Lecturer II Jason Molloy** presented the **final film** in the **2020-21 series**, *Tomorrow*. *Tomorrow* is a **2015 French documentary film** that addresses **climate change** and looks at possible **solutions** and **actions** to address the **issues** facing this **planet**. The **film** examines the **role agriculture, energy, economy, democracy, and education** play in **climate change**. After the screening, **viewers** held a **discussion** on the **issues** that were **illuminated** in the **film**.
 - The **final event** of the **2020-21 series** is the **Nimbus Dance event**, which will be held in conjunction with the **Grunin Center** on **April 24, 2021**. This event is **dual in nature**, as the **company** will present a **performance** of *Dance Speaks Out: Lynchtown/Thistown* and will work with **OCC dance students** to create a piece in response to this work.
- Throughout **April**, **English Lecturers** held several **professional development series** for **OCC's adjunct faculty**:
 - **Ms. Samantha Glassford**, began the month with an **ALP Round table** on **April 2, 2021**. This **round table meeting** featured a **presentation** by **Lecturer Kristyn Stout** on an **activity** to **foster belonging**.
 - **Dr. Madison Peschock**, continued the **professional development** on **April 21, 2021**, with an **English Adjunct meeting** focusing on **techniques** for **teaching English II**.
 - **Ms. Heather Sciarappa** rounds out the month with an **Arts and Humanities Adjunct Professional Development Series meeting** on **April 23, 2021**. At the meeting, **English Adjunct Marianne Critchley** is presenting on **reaching the underprepared student** in college classes, and **Spanish Adjunct Cesar Romero Fernandez** is discussing **building community** in the **online classroom**.
 - **Ms. Stephanie Shestakow** and **Professor of Humanities Marilyn Kralik** held a **"slow looking"** session for all **faculty** interested in **learning technique** which **focus** on how to **build a more engaging and deeper conversation** about **works of art** by **looking slowly** at the **artwork** and **listening** to what people **notice** about the **piece**. **Ms. Shestakow** and **Dr. Kralik** framed this **workshop** around how to **use this technique** with **artwork** and **images** across the **curriculum**. This **interactive and informative session** was held on **April 2, 2021**.
 - **Dean Heidi Sheridan** and **Assistant Dean Veronica Guevara-Lovgren** recently worked with **Assistant Director of Tutoring Brianna De Cicco** to determine the **best practices** going forward to assist **English Language Learners** in all of the **various modalities** and **locations** for **teaching**.
 - **College Lecturers Mark Westmoreland and Christopher Ruth** have taken the opportunity to **revitalize the Philosophy Club**. Throughout this **academic year**, the **Philosophy Club** has been

enhanced, with students, staff, and faculty meeting regularly online to discuss famous philosophical paradoxes and questions.

- Additionally, Mr. Mark Westmoreland had two recent publications:
 - “The Racial Oracle Has a History,” in *Teaching Race in Perilous Times*, edited by Jason Cohen and Dwayne Mack (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2021).
 - “White Supremacy: The Present is Prologue,” *Perspectives on Global Development and Technology*, Vol. 20, No. 1-2 (2021).
- College Lecturer II Richard Carr is piloting the use of Virtual Reality technology in the classroom. His pilot program uses a 360-degree camera, which allows him to create English lessons in full virtual reality. No matter where a person finds themselves in the world, using a virtual reality headset or glasses will put that person in a classroom that can be fully tailored to instructor and student wants and needs.

➤ School of STEM

- To highlight the designation of April as Math Awareness Month, Phi Theta Kappa and the OCC Mathematics Club sponsored a virtual lecture series via Webex. Presenters included College Lecturers Julia Kim and Dr. Vandana Saini; Professor William Rickert; Associate Professor of Science Marc LaBella; and Adjunct Professors Charles Cebula and Richard Brady.
- Dr. Sylvia Riviello, Dean, and Science Lecturer II Pamela Bogdan are making two public presentations of “CSIT XXX – Applied Programming for All Majors.” The first presentation was a Flash Talk at ACM Capital Region Celebration of Women in Computing (CAPWIC) 2021 on March 27, 2021. ACM is the world's largest educational and scientific computing society. It delivers resources that advance computing as a science and a profession.

The second event will be presentation and publication of a Work in Progress paper at the Frontiers in Education (FIE) Conference from October 13 to 16, 2021. The FIE Conference is a major international conference focusing on educational innovations and research in engineering and computing.

Positive feedback has been received about this novel curriculum, which rests on a foundation of contextual learning that customizes the course to the students’ interests and career goals. One comment read: “This work seems innovative in the sense of teaching programming to all majors, even those outside of STEM. “

- The Engineering Program was awarded \$40,000 for the Engineering and Technology Outreach Roadshow Trainers-in-a-Box (Manufacturing, Mechatronics, Electrical, Biomechanics). The purpose of this initiative is to stimulate an interest in STEM for both non-traditional and traditional students. There is an initiative spreading across the United States to fill the gap in STEM employees. There are many positions that need to be filled in what would traditionally be thought of as the technician/lab assistant roles. These roadshows help to both spark and increase interest in STEM and provide tangible experiences and mentoring to show a pathway to a career in STEM for all types of students. Ocean County high school and middle school students may participate in roadshow-enabled activities in a number of events that will occur both on the OCC campus and at their home schools.

- **Ms. Pam Bogdan**, in her effort to provide **real-world professional engineering experience opportunities** for **Engineering and Technology students**, has **announced a Request for Proposals activity**. **Students who participate** in this activity will be part of a **team** that will **create a competitive bid** in response to an **RFP for the Design of a Replacement Frictionless Pulley for the Physics Labs**. To make it **fun and competitive**, there will be **two teams**:
 - **Team 1: Students pursuing mechanical engineering and technology**
 - **Team 2: Students pursuing all other types of engineering and technology**
- The **5th annual Jersey Shore Junior Science Symposium** was **completed** with a **Webex virtual speaker** and the **announcement of winners**. For the **first time**, **Ryan Park**, from **Millburn High School**, took **first place** for the **second year** in a row. We await the **results** of the **National Competition** being held **virtually** this month.
- **Dr. Vandana Saini** will present a ***Connecting Shrimps and Period-Doubling Cascades*** poster on **Wednesday, May 26, 2021**, at the **2021 SIAM (Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics) Conference on Dynamical Systems**. An explanation of **Dr. Saini's work** is available at https://meetings.siam.org/sess/dsp_talk.cfm?p=114964.

SIAM is an **international community** that **advances the application of mathematics and computational science** to **engineering, industry, science, and society** and **promotes research** leading to **new mathematical and computational methods and techniques**.

- **College Lecturer II in Computer Studies Jonathan Weiss** continued the **Cybersecurity Seminar Series** on **Friday, April 2, 2021**, with **Dr. Edward Amoroso** presenting “**A Random Walk Through Cyber Security**.” **Dr. Amoroso** is an **experienced chief security officer** who is the **founder and CEO** of **TAG Cyber**, which provides **cybersecurity advice and training**.

Later this month, **Mr. Weiss** will **host a virtual presentation** by **Mr. Julian Cohen**, “**A History of Vulnerability Disclosure**” on **Friday, April 30, 2021**, from **1:00-2:00 p.m.** He will present a **timeline of significant milestones in vulnerability disclosure** as well as the **evolution of the processes, mechanisms, and standards** by which such **information is disseminated and protected**. A **description of his presentation** and a **Webex link to join the presentation** can be found at: <https://www.ocean.edu/news/occs-cybersecurity-seminar-series-continues-vulnerability-disclosure-is-this-months-topic/>

Mr. Cohen served as **Director of Security** and **Chief Information Security Officer** across **finance, healthcare, government, technology, and e-currency enterprises** after **beginning his career** contracting for the **United States Department of Defense**.

- **NJ HOSA's virtual State Leadership Conference** was held **last week**. **OCC student Sarah Sywancyz** competed in the **pathophysiology event** and took **3rd place**. Of the **top five winners** in this event, the other **four** were **students from Rutgers University**. **HOSA, future health professionals**, had **one student compete** this year at the **conference**. **Sarah** will **compete virtually** at **HOSA's International Leadership Conference** at the **end of June**. She is **graduating this semester** with an **A.S degree in General Studies-Science** and continuing to **Rutgers University** where she will be **majoring in Biochemistry** on a **pre-med track**.

➤ **School of Business and Social Sciences**

- **Mr. Sean Bips, College Lecturer II in Hospitality, Recreation, and Tourism Management**, announced that the following students participated in the **2021 NJ FBLA-PBL State Leadership Conference**, which was held **virtually** from **March 15 to April 2, 2021**. All three OCC students received either **1st or 2nd place** in their **competitions**.

Gianna Busichio competed in the **categories** of **Marketing Concepts and Management Concepts** and placed **1st and 2nd**, respectively; **Kyle Fischer** competed in the **category** of **Macroeconomics** and placed **2nd**; and **Brandon Piserchia** competed in the **category** of **Financial Services** and placed **1st**. Each student **competed** in **objective tests, case studies, or both**. All **objective tests** were **administered** through the **DLG AnswerWrite** system. This year, all tests were **open resource**, so students could **use any resource** to **assist** them in the **test**. Tests needed to be **completed** in **one sitting**. The **Grand Awards session** was held on **Friday, April 2, 2021**, at **6:30 p.m.**

- **Mr. Chris Bottomley, College Lecturer II in Business Studies**, and **Mr. Sean Bips** announced that the **2nd annual Sink or Swim Competition** will be held on **Friday, April 23, 2021**. The **Sink or Swim competition** provides **high school students** with the opportunity to **showcase** their **business acumen** while **vying** for a **chance to win awards and recognition**, including the **title** of **“High School Entrepreneurial Team of the Year.”** All students will be awarded a **certificate of participation**, with **monetary awards** given for **first, second, and third place winners**. A **special scholarship** will be given to the **student** who presents the **best pitch** for their **group’s project**. Students will **develop** an **entrepreneurial product or service**. Each team will **complete** and **submit** a **business plan**.

From among the **entries**, the **first set of judges, faculty and Ocean/Kean student members** of the **Entrepreneurial Club**, selected the **top ten business plans** for the actual **competition**. Each **team** will select **one student** from their group to present a **one-minute elevator pitch** to the **second set of judges**, which includes **prominent members** of the **Ocean County community**. The **judges** will have an opportunity to **critique/question** students about their idea. This year’s **judges** are **Mr. Jim Mahlmann, Managing Director at Net Cetra; Mr. Michael Forcella, OCC Manager of Business Engagement, Continuing/Professional Education; Mrs. Lori Pepenella, CEO of the Southern Ocean Chamber of Commerce; and Ms. Katie Calabrese, Director of Memberships and Projects, NACCE.**

The **Sink or Swim Competition** is hosted by the **Business Innovation Consortium (BIC)**, an **umbrella organization** of **OCC Business Clubs**, including the **Entrepreneurs Club, the HRTM Club, the Legal Club, and FBLA-PBL (Future Business Leaders of America).**

- **Ms. Sarah Campbell, College Lecturer II in Psychology**, announced that a **virtual wellness event** titled **“Release Stress and Test Anxiety-A Workshop”** will be held on **April 21, 2021**. The **workshop** will be **facilitated** by **psychotherapist Robin Bilazarian, LCSW**; she will discuss a **mind-body method** called **Emotional Freedom Techniques**, which is used to **desensitize** and **curb stress and test anxiety**. **Emotional Freedom Techniques**, also referred to as **Tapping**, is an **evidenced-based method** that **releases stress and tension** felt in one’s **body, thoughts, and emotions**. This **method** significantly **reduces interfering mental cloudiness**, while **restoring** one’s **capacity** for **productive thinking and learning**.
- **Mr. Jason Ghibesi, College Lecturer II in Political Science**, announced that a **virtual event** titled **Meet the Mayor** will be held on **April 21, 2021**. **Students and other event attendees** will have

the opportunity to meet and ask a variety of questions of Toms River's currently serving Mayor, Maurice B. "Mo" Hill.

- **Dr. Katherine Toy, College Lecturer II in Economics**, announced that this year, with the help and support of Student Life, at least 49 students will be electronically entered into the **Business Honor Society, Alpha Beta Gamma**. Established in 1970, Alpha Beta Gamma is an international business honor society which recognizes and encourages scholarship among two-year college students majoring in business curricula.
- **Dr. Margaret Maghan, College Lecturer II in Psychology**, announced that, in honor of **National Social Work Month**, the **Social Work Practicum** set up a **panel discussion** with the **VA of Ocean County**, which was held on **March 18, 2021**, as well as an **engaging presentation** conducted by **Jacqueline Durham, LCSW**, titled "**A Day in the Life of a Social Worker**," which was held on **March 30, 2021**.
- **Dr. Margaret Maghan** also announced that the **Psi Beta 2nd Annual Inauguration** is happening virtually through the end of **April** with over **100 OCC students** eligible for induction. **Psi Beta** is the **National Psychology Honors Society**.

Finance and Administration

- **Ms. Sara Winchester, Executive Vice President of Finance and Administration**, served on the **Middle States evaluation team** for **SUNY Broome Community College** in **Binghamton, New York**. The visit took place virtually from **March 29 to March 31, 2021**.
- The **County of Ocean** released a **payment** in the amount of **\$320,347.75** to the **College** for **participation** in the **Ocean County CARES Grant Program**. The **reimbursement** was for the **period of March 2020 through December 2020**. The **County** has **notified** the **College** that the **program** will be **extended** through **December 2021**, and the **College** plans to **participate**.
- The **annual Board of School Estimate meeting** took place on **April 14, 2021**. The **County of Ocean** confirmed a **2% increase** in **operating aid**, which **supports** the **College's commitment not to raise tuition** in the **coming year**. In addition, the **County** committed to **participating** in the **FY 2021 Chapter 12 program**, which will **fund** the **renovation** of the **library** and **creation** of **music rooms** in the **Grunin Building**.
- The **Return to Campus Committee** is continuing to **plan** for the **reoccupation** of the **campus**. A **phased-in return** of **non-teaching staff** is planned for the **summer**, and **face-to-face student services** will be available by **appointment**. **Faculty** will **return** to **campus** for the **Fall semester**, and a **project** is **underway** to **equip** most **classrooms** with **audio** and **video** to allow **some students** to **participate** remotely while others attend class on campus.
- **Accounting**
 - In an effort to **improve financial security**, the **College** implemented a **new ACH (Automated Clearing House) confirmation process** through **Santander Bank**. This feature will **prevent unauthorized withdrawals** from the **College account** by **prompting manual approval** of each **payment** before it is **processed** by the **bank**. **Accounting staff** has been **trained** to begin using this feature immediately.

- The **FY 2020 Audit Report** is on **Thursday’s meeting agenda** for **approval**. The **audit** was **delayed** due to the **pandemic**, and the **auditor’s work** was done **remotely**. The **audit** was especially **complex** this year due to the **various sources of pandemic relief** that had to be reviewed. The **audit process and administration** of the **pandemic relief funding** was managed by **Ms. Mary Lancaster, Controller**, who did an **outstanding job** under very **challenging circumstances**.

- **College Relations**
 - **College Relations** launched an **updated monthly newsletter** for **faculty and staff** in **April**. The **e-Notebook redesign** was done in **alignment** with **OCC’s branding and editorial guidelines** and **published** in the new, **standardized HTML email design**. **Appreciation** is expressed for the work done on this **project** by **Ms. Maureen Conlon, Associate Director of Web Services; Mr. Michael Leon, Manager of Graphic Design; and Ms. Brenda Lange, Marketing and Communications Writer/Editor**.

 - The **College Relations team** collaborated with the **Library** on a **National Library Week social media campaign**. **Campaign elements** included a **series of social media posts** introducing **library staff members** and describing their **roles** in providing **services to students**, as well as **historical photographs** depicting the **library** over the years. **Campaign posts** were viewed **9,401** times, with **337 engagements** over the **campaign period** from **April 5 to 9, 2021**.

- **Alumni**
 - The **quarterly alumni e-newsletter (Spring edition)** has been sent to nearly **20,000 alumni email addresses**. The **newsletter** promotes **upcoming virtual events, professional development and career services, updates** on the College’s **COVID-19 response and status**, and **opportunities for alumni to network and stay involved** with the College.

 - **Save the date** for the **2021 “SUP” the River** event on **Saturday, September 18, 2021**, at the **Toms River Yacht Club**. The **stand-up paddleboard event** is an **initiative** between the **OCC Foundation** and the **Kiwanis Club of Greater Toms River** to **engage and support** our **local community**. All **OCC Alumni** are **invited and encouraged** to **join** the event.

- **OCC Foundation**
 - **Rachmaninoff Squared**

On **May 7, 2021, Friday Matinée Recitals** will **return** at **2 p.m.** in a **virtual format**. A **long-time supporter** of the **Foundation** and the **arts at OCC**, **Mr. Richard Askoff**, has **challenged** our very own **College Lecturer II Brian Gilmore** to a **piano duel** on **two Borsendoffer Imperial Grand Pianos**; the event will be **broadcast** from the **music room on campus**. **Event registration** is available at **grunincenter.org**.

 - **Summer Scholarship Celebration**

This year’s **hybrid celebration** will be **hosted** on the **campus mall** on **Friday, June 18, 2021**. **Appreciation** is expressed to **all** who have **already contributed** to the **Foundation’s fund-raising efforts**, totaling over **\$100,000** in **advance of formal invitations**. This year’s **honorees** are **Dr. Henry A. Jackson, Executive Director of Academic Success; Dr. Teresa Walsh, Dean**

of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences; and the **200 Club of Ocean County**. Sponsorship opportunities, tickets, and virtual registration are available on the website.

➤ **Grunin Center**

A new Executive and Artistic Director of the Grunin Center for the Arts has been selected. The national search was conducted by the Arts Consulting Group, and a diverse committee participated in the process. The successful candidate is Ms. Shannon Mayers, who comes to the College with many years of experience in the arts and a level of professionalism that will serve the Center well in the years to come.

➤ **Human Resources**

A one-year extension of the OCC Support Staff Association Agreement was negotiated. The extension provides a salary increase for FY 2022 and a change in hiring rates. No other changes were considered due to the ongoing pandemic and related disruption to normal College operations. A full negotiating process will take place next year.

➤ **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 March 16, 2021, through April 13, 2021.

Student Affairs

Vice President of Student Affairs Gerald Racioppi and Executive Director of Enrollment Sheenah Hartigan presented at Ellucian Live this month; the title of the presentation was “Virtually Powered by Recruit: Moving to a Fully Virtual Enrollment Process Leads to Growth at OCC.” The presentation focused on changes made to the process that students follow to enroll at OCC, the many improvements made over the years, the many technological systems implemented, and how all these enhancements produced growth in the count of new students at OCC despite the fact the National Student Loan Clearinghouse reported that, nationwide, the average community college saw a significant decrease in the size of the freshman class in the Fall of 2020.

Dr. Racioppi and Ms. Hartigan were interviewed by representatives of a company called “Content 4 Demand” to develop an influencer-content piece entitled, “Where Do We Go from Here? Predictions from Higher Ed Admissions Leaders.” The individual who invited them to contribute noted: “We’re inviting noted influencers with a broad range of perspectives on the subject to contribute. After reviewing Ocean’s success and your Ellucian Live materials, your insights and thoughts would add tremendous value to the e-book.”

For the fifth year in a row, the percentage of Ocean County high school seniors who enrolled at OCC for the Fall or Spring semester following their graduation increased. OCC’s yield from the Class of 2019 was 32.7% of graduating seniors; for 2020, it was 33.9%. This is considerably higher than nationwide averages and reflects very well on the work of all who contributed to this achievement.

➤ **Advising**

➤ **Advising Training**

The Advising Office hosted multiple training opportunities this Spring for all campus advisors. Topics included using Student Planning, Advising for Transfer, hosted by Transfer Coordinator Laura Wills and Advisor Kirsten Bollinger; and Advising for Pre-Nursing Students, hosted by Assistant Director of Academic Advising Michele Connolly.

➤ **Advising Information Sessions**

A series of virtual advising events is being offered for students in preparation for Fall 2021 registration.

Advisor Lauren Humphrey coordinated two Pre-Nursing Information sessions in collaboration with Records and Registration and OCC's School of Nursing. About 100 students attended between the two sessions. Feedback from attendees included comments that the session was helpful and informative. As a follow-up to the Pre-Nursing sessions, Ms. Laura Wills is hosting two sessions for transfer specific to Nursing students. Topics include options for RN-BSN, accelerated BSN, and MSN programs with some of OCC's partner institutions.

Major-specific sessions for academic planning and transfer were also conducted by Ms. Laura Wills, with support from Academic Affairs for Education and Social Work.

Advising is hosting several Student Planning and Registration sessions for current students. Advisors will discuss degree requirements and how to plan and schedule classes to assist students in registering for the Fall semester.

➤ **New Student Information Sessions**

The Advising Office hosted its first New Student Information Session for Fall 2021 on April 13, 2021. Over 20 students attended, which is a great turnout for the first session. Multiple additional sessions are planned throughout the spring and summer. Additionally, Advising will be partnering with the HUB and Financial Aid to offer high school-specific new student sessions.

➤ **Transfer Update**

Ms. Laura Wills is utilizing Handshake, the new Career CRM, to schedule and promote events with four-year institutions. This Spring, she has planned Instant Decision Days with Montclair, NJIT, and Rutgers New Brunswick. These events are a great service to OCC students, as they simplify the admissions process and often waive the application fee.

Additionally, Ms. Wills has coordinated with several four-year institutions to schedule one-on-one informational meetings with students to discuss options for transfer. These institutions include Centenary University, The College of Saint Rose, Excelsior College, Georgian Court University, Kean-Ocean, NJCU, Rowan University, Saint Elizabeth University, Southern New Hampshire University, Stockton University, and Drew University. Virtual information sessions have been hosted by Savannah College of Art and Design, Columbia University, TCNJ, Temple University, and NJCU. All of these events were promoted to students via Handshake.

OCC also participated in the New Jersey Statewide Transfer Fair. Ms. Wills moderated two sessions for this event, at which students interacted with four-year institutions on topics such as admissions and credit transfer.

➤ **Counseling Center**

- The Counseling Center, through direct interventions, consultations, programs, services, and activities, provides students with the resources needed to persist and succeed in their classes, remain enrolled, and promote their overall well-being. Since September 1, 2020, the Counseling Center staff has interacted with 545 students, for a total of 1,036 attended appointments. The Counseling Center fosters partnerships and alliances with faculty, staff, and external stakeholders to meet the ever-increasing and changing needs of students.
- The Supporting Students in Recovery Program approaches recovery through a variety of lenses and with strong partnerships/affiliations with internal and external stakeholders. Events are focused on promoting awareness, education, prevention, and recovery and are held in partnership with Hope Sheds Light, the DART Prevention Coalition, the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, Kean-Ocean, Kean's Counselor Education Program, the Society of Prevention for Teen Suicide, and the Addictions Studies Program. The Recovery Program provides resources, individual recovery coaching, and group support.
- April is recognized as Alcohol Abuse Prevention Month, and a series of events and programs are planned throughout the month, with the theme "Recovery Views." As is done every year since its inception, the annual Addiction Summit on April 12, 2021, was the kickoff for the month-long series of activities, which includes training for professionals on current drug trends, presented by the DART Coalition on April 13, 2021; a panel of individuals in recovery, speaking about language and stigma, on April 19, 2021; and a collaborative presentation with the DART Coalition and the Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide on self-care scheduled for April 26, 2021. Now in its second year, the Recovery Program is serving 101 students. Prevention Coordinator Katie Hueth represents OCC's Recovery Support Program in the Northeast Regional Collegiate Recovery Network.
- April is also Sexual Assault Awareness Month. On Thursday, April 22, 2021, the Counseling Center is hosting a prevention education session on the topic of online safety. In a time of virtual connection and increasing likelihood of individuals participating in online dating platforms, a discussion on safety, warning signs, and reportability will be hosted. This event is held in cooperation with St. Francis Counseling Service and Providence House Domestic Violence Services of Catholic Charities.
- Continuing the Center's goal to provide comprehensive supportive services to students in academic jeopardy, two programs (Restore Your Score and Starfish) are focused on providing support and resources to 225 students with academic sanctions due to their grade point averages. Activities include enrollment in Canvas courses, frequent contact efforts, and individual meetings with Ms. Kelly Petrolis, Student Intervention Specialist, and connection with Ms. Kerry Holzschuh, Mental Health Technician. Several workshops have been sponsored by Tutoring Services, and the recordings are available to students on Canvas.
- Members of the Academic Retention CARE Team, composed of Counseling and Student Services staff, have been working diligently to connect with students who are reported as being in academic difficulty (e.g., attendance, not participating, and not completing assignments).

Since this **sub-committee** of the **CARE Team** was **formed** in early **February**, it has **responded** to over **155 academic reports**. Many more reports reflected the need for **counselor intervention**, which are addressed as **regular CARE reports**. A **model**, which is **informed by best practices** and **experiences with students**, is being **developed**.

- The **CARE Team** received **512 reports** since **July 1, 2021**; **Ms. Susan Ebeling-Witte, Student Intervention Specialist**, responds to the **majority** of these reports. Reports have been received from **faculty and staff** about **students with mental health challenges, emotional distress, severe psychological crisis, personal illness, illness or death of family members**, and other situations impacting **student performance in classes**. The **success** of the **CARE reporting system** depends on **prompt and accurate reporting by faculty and staff**.
- **COVID** has **exacerbated** the already **increasing anxiety and depression** among **college-age students**. To address the **overall well-being and health of students**, the **Counseling Center** offers **weekly Relax and Recharge** on **Thursdays at 11:00 a.m.** and other **planned stress reduction activities**. The **Mental Health Canvas course** is a **format to communicate information, resources, and activities**. The popular **Sunset Meditation**, in **collaboration** with the **Planetarium**, will be held on **May 10, 2021**.
- In **addition to programs and services**, the **Counseling Center** contributes to meeting the **College's legal requirements for students**. The annual **Drug-Free School and Communities Act (DFSCA) notification** to students, informing them about **internal and external services and community resources**, was **distributed** on **April 1, 2021**, by **email**, **linking to the DFSCA web page**. In **compliance** with the **New Jersey Madison Holleran Suicide Prevention Act**, every **semester a notification is sent to New Jersey students about suicide prevention**; this was **sent in February**. The **College** is also **mandated to provide on-going education and information about sexual violence, alcohol and drugs, and suicide prevention**.
- The **Displaced Homemakers Program**, which focuses on **helping individuals** who must become **economically self-sufficient due to the death, disability, divorce, or separation of the primary wage earner**, is currently serving **75 clients**, **24 of whom are new unduplicated clients** and **51 are continuing clients**. **Five clients** are presently working toward a **Medical Assistant Certificate**. **Clients are participating in computer skills and career/job search trainings**.
- **Disability Services**
 - **Disability Services staff** co-presented **three informational sessions** to **parents, staff, and students at Pinelands Regional High School**. The events were presented in **collaboration** with the **New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS)** and focused on **services available to students with disabilities graduating from high school**.
 - **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 **March training** had over **30 active participants**, including many **OCC students and staff**. Due to **increased demand**, an **April 2021 training** was scheduled, and **details were shared with the OCC community**.
- **The HUB/Enrollment Services**
 - **Ms. Jenna Puglisi, Enrollment Services Technician**, represented **Ocean County College** on **March 24, 2021**, at the **Ocean County School Counselor Association's Annual College Fair**.

The event was virtual and allowed for hundreds of Ocean County high school students and parents to meet with representatives from a multitude of colleges from across the country.

- The Enrollment Services team has been facilitating Application Days with high schools, including Jackson Liberty, Jackson Memorial, New Egypt, and Pinelands, in order to increase the number of OCC applications from incoming high school seniors. The team has been met with excitement and many questions from the potential students.
- The HUB was able to use text messaging, emails, and direct phone calls to encourage students to return their rental books from the Fall semester. The efforts resulted in 40% of the students returning their books, saving the College \$60,000 in total.

➤ Financial Aid

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

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) emergency grant application processing was made available to students on February 1, 2021. Since then, Financial Aid has received 1,505 applications and awarded \$1,503,000 to 949 students. 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, Ocean County College has decided, in order to help as many students as possible, the maximum amount that will be funded to eligible students for eligible expenses will be \$2,000 to full-time students (12 credit hours or more) and \$1,000 to part-time students (11 credit hours or less).

➤ FAFSA Completion Assistance

When the new FAFSA filing cycle began on October 1, 2020, FAFSA applications for the 2021-22 academic year were down 8 percent compared to last year, which is comparable to national trends. Since remote operations began, the Financial Aid Office has been facilitating one-on-one virtual appointments to assist with the completion of FAFSA paperwork and discuss the basic concepts of financial aid for our students and the Ocean County community. This effort has led to a current decrease in FAFSA applications of only 1.06 percent compared to the same time last year.

➤ Southern Education Center

- Installation work on the synchronous immersive classrooms, a component of a Title III grant, has been completed at the Southern Education Center. This endeavor will link, through technology, at least one classroom and a small group instruction/conference room with classes and services, respectively, on the main campus. SEC students will now be able to take classes being taught on the main campus or receive instructional support through a virtual and fully immersive experience with the same class or service while staying at the Southern Education Center. Additionally, with the connectivity of the small group instruction/conference room at the SEC, students will be able to meet with main campus Student Affairs personnel or receive tutoring through a WebEx connection while remaining in Manahawkin. Both utilizations will greatly expand opportunities for southern-based students academically while opening a stronger continuum of collegiate supports for success.

- The **utilization** of the **Canvas shell** dedicated to the **Southern Education Center** continues to **alert students** registered in **one or more** of the **class sections** labelled as **SEC** or **MT (MATES Building)** to many of the **campus events**. During **March** and **April**, the **SEC Canvas shell** has recorded over **1,425 views** of these **announcement emails**. The **topics** covered include: **Handshake/Career Services; Counseling Services; and multiple Veterans' programs**, such as **veteran vaccine opportunities**, the **Student Veteran Organization**, and **Operation Gratitude**. The **SEC Canvas shell** has seen over **6,300 views** of **announcements** since the **start** of the **Spring 2021 semester**.
- The rollout of the **P.L.A.N., Promoting Learners to Achieve Now, program** at both **Barnegat** and **Pinelands Regional High Schools** continues. **Outreach** to **students** is **ongoing** while **parent/student virtual information sessions** are being **planned** for **April 22, 2021**, at **Barnegat High School** and **April 29, 2021**, at **Pinelands Regional High School**. **Presentations** by **Ms. Sheenah Hartigan** and **Mr. James Hauenstein, Director of the Southern Education Center**, will provide **details** of the **initiative** whereby **students** can **complete one year of college studies** prior to **completing high school**. Additionally, **both schools** will be receiving **lists of courses** offered at **OCC** during the **Fall 2021 semester** that have had **strong Early College enrollment** over the **past years** as a **guide** for **students** in the **program**.
- **Veterans and Military Resources Center**
 - The **Veterans and Military Resources Center** launched the **Center's BookMe scheduler**, allowing **face-to-face** and **phone appointments** to be more **streamlined**.
 - The **Center** completed its **second episode** of **Veterans Voices** and is working on **recording** the **third episode** at the **end of April**. Additional information may be found at: <https://www.ocean.edu/veterans-services/>.
 - The **Ocean County Mental Health Commission** has **connected** with the **VRMC** to **provide insight** and **perspective** on **military-connected student interaction** and **engagement**.
 - The **Center** was pleased to **receive** an **anonymous donation** of **\$1,900** to be dedicated to a **Chromebook library** for **military-connected students** by the **Fall Semester**.
 - The **first discussion** was **launched** for **campus-wide programs** of **Green Zone Training**, which **combats stereotypes** and **ideologies** of **military** and **veteran students**. The **OCC Green Zone logo** has been **approved** and **completed**:



- The **College Relations web design team** and the **VMRC** have made numerous **updates** to the **website** to **increase visibility**, **programs**, **offers**, **awards**, and **distinctions**.

- By the **Fall semester**, the **Center and College Relations** hope to **develop** an **online library** of **events** for all **past, current, and future students** to **visit** and enjoy the **array of accomplishments** of the **OCC Veterans and Military Resources Center**.

e-Learning and Learning Enterprises

➤ Academics

- **e-Learning** collaborated with **Academic Affairs** and **Student Services** on the recommended **revisions** to the **College's Academic Integrity Policy #5180**. This will help **streamline processes** and make it **more efficient** for **faculty** and **students**.

On **April 28, 2021**, **Dean of e-Learning Vivian Lynn** and **Assistant e-Learning Deans Christine Webster-Hansen** and **Howaida Wahby Eraky** will **present** the **basics** of the **Academic Integrity policy** and offer **guidance** to **online instructors** on how to **prevent** and **report incidents** of **academic dishonesty**. This will include **tips** for **monitoring discussions** and **interpreting Turnitin reports** and **HonorLock videos**.

➤ Professional Development

- The **Spring 2021 e-Learning weekly professional development series** concluded this month. On **April 7, 2021**, **Ms. Dana Newton, Interim College Lecturer II**, presented **creative ways** to **utilize Twitter** in the **online classroom** to **11 faculty members** either **attending** or **viewing** the **session**.
- As **e-Learning** continues to **innovate** with **new technologies**, **regular training** is **essential** for **successful adoption**. **Training** and **development** are provided to **administrators** and **educators** for **Turnitin's Authorship Investigation platform**, **Code Similarity Checker** in **Gradescope**, and **Knewton Alta**, a **new courseware partner**.

➤ Course Design and Technology – Personnel

The **e-Learning Department** recently added **three employees** to the **Instructional Design and Technology Team**: **Graduate intern Aleah Dacey** and **Part-Time Instructional Designers Juliann Young** and **Jin Hong (Justin) Kim**. All three will be **assisting** the **Instructional Design and Technology Team** with **course development**, **content creation**, **redevelopment of STEM courses** to **remove Hands-On Labs**, and **special projects**. Additionally, the **e-Learning Department** is **actively searching** for **two Lead Instructional Designers** and **one Instructional Design Specialist**.

➤ International

➤ Professional Development

- On **March 17, 2021**, **Dr. Maysa Hayward, Associate Vice President of International Programs**, attended a **virtual conference** entitled, **The Road to Accessible Higher Education in Egypt**. She participated in the **panel discussion, Accessible Higher Education in the Time of Pandemic**, providing a **brief** on **OCC's efforts** in **remote teaching**.

- **Ms. Enjee Auda, Student Coordinator in Egypt, and Ms. Alexis Crosta, Academic Administrator, International, attended the PayMyTuition training to facilitate the payments of tuition and include the Western Union process as an option to students.**
- **Current OCC/ASU/Kean Program**
 - **On March 23, 2021, Dr. Howaida Wahby-Eraky conducted a workshop for OCC/ASU/Kean students on Academic Dishonesty. The workshop included hands-on exercises in breakrooms and was very informative and helpful to the students.**
 - **In May, 34 students of the OCC/ASU/Kean Program are graduating Kean University, with an additional 3 graduating in August, and 34 students of Cohort 4 are graduating OCC in August.**
- **Special Programs**
 - **The School of STEM coordinated with e-Learning International in drafting the preparatory bridge program year in the STEM field for Egyptian Universities' STEM colleges.**
 - **Previously, OCC signed a non-disclosure agreement with the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGCU). Currently, Ms. Eileen Schilling is working on a letter of intent for UMGCU to offer the third and fourth years for Egypt's special programs.**
 - **Ms. Eileen Schilling and Dr. Maysa Hayward continue to meet with William Paterson University deans to finalize the cross walks of curriculum. Both teams are also working on a dual admission draft.**
- **Egypt Extensions**

e-Learning International held two meetings with New Jersey City University. The first meeting was to discuss the teach-out plan in the NJCU Egypt agreement. The second meeting was with the Middle States representative to discuss the MSCHE requirements for the NJCU/OCC agreement, the substantive change, and site visit to Egypt.

Dr. Henderson, President of NJCU and I are planning a July visit to Egypt. The goal of the trip is to discuss the execution of OCC plans and timeline, including the NJCU branch campus. In addition, the plan is to submit NJCU's full file for its branch campus, including agreement, application, and supporting paperwork.
- **Expanding Efforts**

In e-Learning's attempts to expand its affiliates, Dr. Eileen Garcia, Vice President of e-Learning and Learning Enterprises, reached out to Florida International University (FIU) as a potential partner domestically and internationally. OCC's team gave a presentation to explain e-Learning's programs and activities to FIU as well as provide sample articulation documents. The next meeting with the FIU team is scheduled for April 26, 2021. The team also started working with Ms. Kaitlin Everett, Director of Workforce and Community Development, on the possible development of non-credit English as a Second Language courses.

➤ **Presentations**

On April 8, 2021, Dr. Eileen Garcia and Dr. Maysa Hayward presented on OCC's Egypt efforts during the Board of Trustees Retreat. The presentation covered the history of OCC's current and future programs in Egypt as well as a description of the various Egyptian educational systems.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, April is designated nationally as Community College Month by the Association of Community College Trustees; and

WHEREAS, the primary goal of New Jersey's 18 community colleges is to meet the ever-changing educational needs of State residents; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's 18 community colleges enroll over 300,000 people each year in credit, noncredit, and workforce development courses at over 70 campuses throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, 45 percent of all students earning bachelor's degrees in New Jersey completed courses at community colleges during their academic careers; and

WHEREAS, community colleges have developed strong partnerships and articulation agreements for the benefit of their students; and

WHEREAS, community colleges play a critical role in preparing individuals who are at varying stages of their lives for success in an increasingly diverse society and global economy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the month of April 2021 be proclaimed Community College Month at Ocean County College in recognition of the important contributions of community colleges throughout New Jersey and the nation.

Adopted: April 22, 2021

Stephan R. Leone
Secretary

REQUIRED REPORTING STATISTICS

Board of Trustees Meeting APRIL 22, 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 **March 16 and April 13, 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:		Nothing to report this period	
Occurred: Reported:			
Occurred: Reported:			
2.) A list of campus alerts, threats or emergencies which occurred on campus			
DATE	ALERT/THREAT	SUMMARY	STATUS
Occurred: Reported:		Nothing to report this period	
Occurred: Reported:			
Occurred: Reported:			
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:		Nothing to report this period	
Occurred: Reported:			

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: *John A. Lopez Sr*