



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 **June 2, 2022, Board Meeting**

DATE: May 27, 2022

Phi Theta Kappa

On **April 28, 2022**, the **New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC)** honored **38 students** from the state's **18 community colleges** for being named to the **2022 New Jersey All-State Academic Team**. The students were recognized for their **outstanding academic achievements** and **exceptional service** to their communities and colleges as members of **Phi Theta Kappa**, the **national honor society** for community colleges. The **New Jersey Community College Scholars Celebration** was held at the **New Jersey State Museum** in Trenton. OCC's honorees were **Kaitlin Barrett** and **Sarah Wymbs**.

Unfortunately, **Kaitlin** was **unable** to **attend** the **celebration** in **Trenton**; however, we are delighted she will be with us at **Thursday's Board meeting**. **Assistant Dean of STEM** and **PTK advisor Carolyn Showalter** will **introduce Kaitlin** and **present** her with her **medal of achievement** and **certificate of honor**. Additionally, **Congressman Andy Kim** asked that we present **Congressional resolutions** to **Kaitlin** and **Sarah** in **recognition** of their **All-State status**.

Ms. Showalter will also **report** on other **PTK activities**:

- **Kaitlyn Barrett** and **Sarah Wymbs** led the **Honors in Action Project** for this year. Their research topic is "**Heirs of Our Ways**," which centers on the questions:
 - **How does one's background affect the decision to attend college?**
 - **Why would an individual choose not to attend college?**
 - **Why would an individual feel pressure into attending college or not?**
 - **Why would an individual feel out of place in college?**

Kaitlin and **Sarah** read **numerous peer-reviewed published articles** and **concluded** they would create a **survey** for **OCC's current student body** and **faculty** to find out who **struggled** with the

decision to attend college, or if they even **thought attending college** was **possible for them**. This **project will continue into next year**.

- The **chapter's College Project** was **researched** this year and will be **presented in Fall 2022**. **Tau Iota** chose to **improve the outdoor gathering areas on campus** with the **installation of outdoor heat lamps**. **Research is continuing** to identify the **safest and most efficient commercial model heat lamps** considering **quality, cost, size, and fuel source**.

Academic Affairs

➤ School of Arts and Humanities

- **Dr. David Bordelon, Professor of English**, will report at **Thursday's Board meeting** with an **overview of his sabbatical project**, a revision of the **Canvas Course shell for ENGL 151, English I**.
- From **April 22 to May 1, 2022**, **Community/Theatre College Lecturer II Paul Chalakani** and the **OCC Repertory Theatre Company** presented **Arthur Miller's classic, *The Crucible***, in the **Black Box Theatre**. Every performance was **entirely sold out**.
- On **April 28, 2022**, **Mr. Justin Pfeifer, College Lecturer II in History**, led the **History Club** and about **12 student volunteers** at the **Old Methodist Cemetery in Toms River** to do **cleanup and conservation work** at the **historic grounds**. This is part of an **ongoing effort** spearheaded by **club president** and **soon-to-be graduate Joseph Latshaw**, with the hope that **further efforts** will be made to **conserve this historic site** through **mapping, fundraising, and research**.
- On **May 7, 2022**, the **Grinin Center main stage** hosted the **OCC Concert Band's performance of *The Great American Songbook***. The performance was **highly acclaimed**.
- **Music Instructor Karin Gargone** and **Fine Arts College Lecturer II Brian Gilmore** hosted a **music open house on May 13, 2022**. The event featured **three recitals, Individual Focus Student Recital, Vocal Ensemble Recital, and Music Club Student Recital**, and was **open to the community** for the **promotion of the music program and student music performances**.

On **May 15, 2022**, **Ms. Gargone**, who is an **organ and piano accompanist**, led a **concert of patriotic music** at the **Presbyterian Church of Toms River**.

- The **OCC music faculty chamber performance** by **Mr. Gilmore (piano), Beomjae Kim, Fine Arts Adjunct Assistant Professor (flute), DoYeon Kim (cello), Fine Arts Adjunct Assistant Professor, and Jee Sun Lee (violin)** for the **Perkins program showcase for high school students** was held on **May 20, 2022**, and featured **performances of "Spring Sonata" by Beethoven; "Trio" by Weber; and "Three Water Colors" by Gaubert**. Also, on **May 20, 2022**, **OCC students** performed a **pre-concert**, with **works by J.S. Bach, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Grieg, and Franck**.
- On **May 25, 2022**, **OCC music student Ted Murolo** will serve as the **national anthem soloist** for the **OCC awards ceremony**.
- The **Concert Band** will perform at the **OCC Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony** on **May 26, 2022**, at the **OCC Veterans Memorial site**; performances will include **"King Cotton"**

and “The Stars and Stripes Forever” by Sousa; “National Emblem” by Bagley; and the national anthem, taps, and the Armed Forces medley.

- From **May 30 to June 1, 2022**, **Dr. Jennifer Dellner, English Professor**, will present a **paper** at the **Electronic Literature Organization's annual international conference**, taking place this year in **Como, Italy**. The paper's **title**, which incorporates the **titles of two works of electronic literature**, is **“How to Rob a Bank with These Waves of Girls while Flash is Dying.”** **Paper proposals** for this conference were **blind peer reviewed** and **rated by two independent reviewers**; the **acceptance rate** was **47%**. **Dr. Dellner** will discuss her **teaching of ENGL 262, Digital and Electronic Literature**, a **new OCC course**, during the time of the **pandemic** and **fully remote learning**. She noted **support for Flash on the internet** was **ending**, and **students**, all of whom but one had **no experience** at all in **digital environments** or **coding**, used **pieces of electronic literature** themselves as **platforms** to **explore** and **create** in these **emerging digital ecologies** by **tinkering** under the **hood** of **narrative, text, and reading**.
- On **May 31, June 1, and June 2, 2022**, **auditions** will be held for **OCC's July production** of the **Andrew Lloyd-Weber musical, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat***.
- **Academic Affairs and Tutoring Center**
 - On **April 28, 2022**, **Academic Affairs** collaborated with **RWJ Barnabas Community Medical Center** on hosting **Healthcare Career Discovery Day**. **OCC students** had the opportunity to **participate** in a **“speed-networking”** event with **healthcare professionals** from **Community Medical Center** and discover **non-traditional career opportunities in healthcare**. **Students** were able to **chat** and **network** with various **RWJ professionals** in **cancer registry, medical social work, patient care, medical laboratory, and health information management**.
 - **Academic Affairs** has embarked on **piloting a program** with **RWJ Barnabas Health**. Through this **collaboration**, **employees of RWJ Barnabas Monmouth Medical Center South** can learn about **career and educational options** open to them. **Employees** are provided the opportunity to **explore future career paths** by **assessing their skills, interests, and personalities**. Using the **MyPlan career assessment tool**, **employees** will collaborate with **OCC's Health Science Career Specialist, Taylor Dulemba**, to **identify a new career in healthcare**. The **meeting with RWJBH employees** was hosted by the **chief administrative officer of Monmouth Medical Center and Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus** on **May 11, 2022**.
 - There are **three concurrent initiatives** that have been **implemented** to ensure that the **first set of fully HyFlex courses** in the **Summer** will **run smoothly** and give our students a **great learning experience**:
 1. **Two orientation sessions** were held for our **HyFlex faculty and lecturers** who will be **starting the first set of fully HyFlex courses** on **May 23, 2022**. These **orientations** were in **addition to HyFlex workshops** and **one-on-one sessions** held previously. The **orientation sessions** covered **student and faculty expectations** and also provided time to **ask questions and voice concerns**.
 2. As part of **assisting faculty and lecturers** who will be **teaching HyFlex courses** for the **first time**, **six HyFlex navigators** will be hired to **assist** them. The **HyFlex navigators** are **students** who are **good at technology** and wish to work to **supplement their income**. The **navigators**

will be assisting with **technology setup, monitoring WebEx sessions (chats, polls, etc.)**, as well as **troubleshooting minor technology issues** that could occur during **class time**.

3. **Dean of Faculty Development and Learning Innovation Catherine Mancuso** has been working with IT to jointly **test HyFlex classrooms** from the **instructor's point of view** to ensure that the **technology is in working order** for the **Summer sessions**.
- **Academic and Tutoring Support Services** held an **internal professional workshop series** for the **entire department** on **April 19, 2022**, and concluded with a **workshop on emotional intelligence** facilitated by **Ms. Reenie Castellanos, Coordinator of Academic Support Services**, and **American Sign Language Supplemental Instruction Leaders Melchior Fernandez, Michelle Malara, and Bonnie Barrett**.
 - In collaboration with **Assistant Professor of Humanities Kathy Basilotto**, and the **ASL Interpreting Program**, students from the program were given an **opportunity to earn experiential learning hours** to fulfill the **program requirements**. The students' **skills** were evaluated by **ASL Supplemental Instruction Leaders** and were given **constructive feedback**.
 - **Ms. Reenie Castellanos, Supplemental Instruction Leader Phil Lingat, and Peer-Assisted Learning Leader Ashley De La Rosa-Hanlon** attended and **presented** at the **Accounting Symposium** on **April 21, 2022**. Their **presentation** was entitled, "**Academic Support for Accounting: Supplemental Instruction and Peer-Assisted Learning**." The **symposium** had a **discussion panel**, which included **former Peer-Assisted Learning Leaders and Supplemental Instruction Leaders**, who shared how their **participation** in the **program** assisted with their **career success**.
 - This **Spring**, a **new course evaluation system, Watermark**, began, which gives a **richer set of features** in **disseminating the survey** as well as **reminding students** who have **not completed the survey**. The **course evaluation survey closed** on **May 16, 2022**. The **response rates** for both **e-Learning and face-to-face courses** have reached **50%**, whereas in the **previous several years** the rates have been ranging between **9% to 17%**.
- **School of Nursing**
 - The **School of Nursing** held an **advisory committee meeting** on **April 21, 2022**. There were **22 participants** representing various **clinical agencies** as well as **members of the community, students, lecturers, and staff**. **Program outcomes** were **shared** with members, including **licensure pass rates, program completion rates, job placement rates, student learning outcome survey information, and clinical agency satisfaction survey information**. **Representatives from major acute care organizations** spoke highly of **OCC graduates** and indicated they are **hiring new nurses**, many offering **one-year residency programs**. **Students** expressed their **satisfaction** with the **Nursing program** and **clinical agencies** and **thanked** them for all the **efforts** made to ensure **patient care experiences continued** throughout the **semester** despite **multiple surges** in **COVID cases** within the **community**.
 - The **Student Nurses Organization (SNO)** sponsored a **blood drive** in **collaboration** with **Robert Wood Johnson Barnabas Health** on **April 18, 2022**, under the **direction** of advisors **Mary Sue Gill, MSN, RN, Nursing Lecturer II; MaryAnn Kaufmann, Ph.D., MSN, RN, Skills, Simulation, and Student Retention Specialist; and Linda Simmons, MSN, RN**. There were **25 units** of whole **blood** collected.

- The **job placement rate** for **Fall 2020** was **100%**. This **data** was **collected** in **Fall 2021**, **one year following completion** of the **Nursing program** as **required** by **accreditation standards**. The **response rate** to this **survey** was **56.45%**.
- **Program completion rates** (defined as the **percentage of students** who **complete the Nursing program** within **six semesters**) for the **class** that **began Nursing courses** in **Spring 2019** was **78%**. The **completion rate** for **students** who **completed the program** within **four semesters** was **63%**.
- **Dean Teresa (Tracy) Walsh, Ph.D., MSN, RN**, was asked by **representatives** of **Robert Wood Johnson Barnabas Health** to serve as a **member** of the **Community Health Needs Assessment Advisory Committee** that represents **Monmouth and Ocean counties**. The **first meeting** was held on **April 14, 2022**, to discuss the **community survey findings** and provide **feedback** regarding **survey data**. The **survey** examined the **health status** of the **two counties**, including **social determinants of health**; identification of **community strengths, resources, and gaps**; and exploration of **priorities** for action.
- **School of Business and Social Sciences**
 - **Dr. Katherine Toy, College Lecturer II in Economics**, attended the **virtual induction ceremony** for **Alpha Beta Gamma**, the **National Business Honor Society** for **two-year degree-granting colleges**, where **32 business students** from **OCC** were **recognized**.
 - **Ellison O'Grady**, a **student** of **Dr. Toy**, received **first place** in the **Honors by Contract awards ceremony** for her **research paper** in **Dr. Toy's Microeconomic Principles (ECON 152)** course. **Ellison is concentrating in mathematics** at **OCC**, and her **research paper** was titled, "**New Markets for Aspiring Writers: Changing Competition in the Publishing Industry.**"
 - **Author Kevin Bales** participated in a **virtual Webex student discussion** on **April 19, 2022**, for **students enrolled in global issues courses**. The **discussion** was **facilitated** by **College Lecturer II in Political Science Jason Ghibesi**. All **global issues students** are required to **read and analyze**, *Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy*, by **Mr. Bales** as part of their **coursework**. This **discussion** allowed **students** to **interact** with the **author** and gain **valuable information** to be used in their **research papers**.

Mr. Bales is the **author** of **several works** that focus on **contemporary slavery**, such as *The Slave Next Door*, *Blood and Earth: Modern Slavery*, and *Ecocide and the Secret to Saving the World and Ending Slavery*. The **film** based on *Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy* titled, *Slavery: A Global Investigation* (TrueVision), which **Mr. Bales** co-wrote for **HBO**, won a **Peabody Award** and two **Emmys**. **Mr. Bales** is the **co-founder** of **Free the Slaves** in **Washington, D.C.**, and is considered the **leading expert** on **contemporary slavery**. He is a **professor of contemporary slavery** at the **University of Nottingham**.
 - **College Lecturer II in Criminal Justice Vincent Petrecca** welcomed **two police officers** as **guest speakers** in his **Criminal Justice System (CRIM 150)** class. **Captain Thomas Barstow**, who **retired** from the **Manalapan Police Department** and is an **Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Internship Program agent**, spoke to **students** on **May 2, 2022**. **Captain Vincent Manco** of the **Manchester Police Department** spoke on **May 4, 2022**. **Mr. Petrecca** also invited **retired Executive Assistant Mike Paulus** from the **Ocean County Prosecutor's Office** to his **Criminal**

Investigation (CRIM 281) class to talk to students about his twenty-five-year career, which included prosecuting homicide cases. Mr. Paulus is now a homicide defense attorney.

- **Dr. Nicole Kammer, College Lecturer II in Education, and OCC student volunteers Ryan Mathews, Jackie Fox, Bella Lemley, Jake Tapia, Haley Montgomery, and Allysan Acuirre coordinated a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) Family Night at Ocean Gate Elementary School on April 29, 2022. The program provided over 20 STEAM activities for Ocean Gate students in grades K-5. Highlighted experiences included children exploring animal habitats with augmented reality and block-based programming with Cubelets robot blocks, which are designed to help students build cognitive skills.**
- **College Lecturer II in Business Studies James Hadley welcomed a representative from the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants (NJCPA) as a guest panelist for OCC's first Accounting Symposium, which was held on April 2, 2022. The business studies faculty and lecturers expect that NJCPA will be actively engaged with OCC's accounting students beginning in the Fall 2022 semester. Through this partnership, NJCPA will be supporting OCC's new Accounting Club by providing guest speakers and other resources. NJCPA collaborates with the majority of New Jersey's four-year colleges and universities and, through this partnership, will offer OCC's accounting students free membership, access to practicing professionals, and career planning guidance. Following the symposium, several OCC students signed up for membership in NJCPA. OCC is the only community college in New Jersey to have established this type of relationship with NJCPA.**
- **School of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics**
- **On April 16, 2022, College Lecturer II in Computer Studies Jon Weiss announced student Michael Mancini passed his CompTIA Security+ exam to achieve Security+ SY0-601 certification. Michael is the first OCC student to achieve this certification by successfully completing preparation via CSIT 200, Information Security Fundamentals, and being awarded grant money from OCC to pay for both practice tests and the exam voucher. Three other OCC students are pursuing this path of opportunity and expect to be certified this Summer, but Michael is the first to take advantage of this element of OCC's Cybersecurity curriculum and its path to professional accreditation.**
- **For the third year in a row, and second time in those three years, Ryan Park of Millburn High School, representing the Jersey Shore Junior Science Symposium, placed first at the National JSHS Symposium in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in his category *Mathematics and Computer Science* for his project, "Adversarial Neural Evolution for Variant Forecasting and Proactive Therapeutic Design." Ryan correctly predicted the coronavirus Omicron variant before it became apparent, as well as possible therapeutic resolutions.**
- **College Lecturer II in Computer Studies Ken Michalek and Ms. Gretchen Stewart, Chief Data Scientist, Intel Public Sector, co-authored an article in eCampus April News: [How to build the AI workforce through accessible education](#). The article highlights the new AI programs available at OCC that offer a certificate and two-year associate in applied science degree. The degree and certificate are based on Intel's AI for Workforce program. These programs and courses are designed specifically to introduce and make AI skills available to students at community colleges to address the growing demands being experienced by industry in AI.**

- On **May 13, 2022**, **students** were able to experience **industrial-type application of robotics**. The **activities** included **students** utilizing the **robotic arm simulation** and **controls software** to explore the **use** of the **robotic arm** prior to the day of the event. **Students** **created programs** for **two activities**, executed their **agility program** to **manipulate** the **arm** through the **required movements**, and executed their **pick and place program** to **manipulate** the **arm** to **achieve** the **required movements**.
- The **Engineering Career Day speakers** from **Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division Lakehurst** were **Ms. Karen McDonnell** and **Ms. Kristina Jones**, both **mechanical engineers** in **systems standardization** and **Packaging, Handling, Storage, and Transportation Branch (PHS&T)**. They spoke to **students** about **packaging, handling, storage, and transportation and standardization**. Both speakers joined as part of **OCC's Educational Partnership Agreement** with **NAVAIR**.
- **Engineering and Industrial/Technical Studies students** are gearing up for **summer career-aligned jobs**. Examples of **local industry partners** giving **students jobs**, **part-time, full-time, and summer**, include **UNEX Manufacturing LLC; Morgan Engineering; FWH Engineering; Geo-Technology Associates, Inc.; and RC Burdick Engineers and Associates**. Acknowledging that the **majority of OCC students** need to **work**, the **Engineering and Industrial/Technical Studies department** is working hard to assist **students** with **career-aligned employment** as early as their **first semester** at **OCC**.
- **Two OCC engineering students**, **Tyler Whalen** and **Kody Huffert**, were each awarded the **\$1,500 Anselmi Scholarship** from the **Construction Industry Advancement Program of New Jersey**. This is the **second year** in a row **two OCC students** have been awarded one of the **ten scholarships**.
- The **OCC Engineering and Industrial/Technical Studies Department's end-of-semester celebration** was held on **May 16, 2022**, in the **Larson Student Center**. Annually, the **department** celebrates **new students** to the **program; graduating students; transferring students; alumni, faculty, and administration; and local industry partners**. **Winners** for the **Spring 2022 design competition, outstanding student awards, and the OCC Engineering Club awards** were announced.
- **Assistant Dean Carolyn Showalter** presented, "**On Being Intentional**," at the **April STEM meeting**. She attended the *Inside Higher Ed* webinar on "**Student, Faculty, and Administration Perspectives on Evolving Digital Learning in the Community College**" on **April 21, 2022**. On **April 25, 2022**, **Ms. Showalter** attended the **virtual workshop, "Inspiring Courage to Excel through Self-Efficacy,"** at the **National Alliances for Partnerships in Equity Conference (NAPE)**.
- **Representatives** from the **School of STEM** and **OCC administration** met with **Daniela Shebitz, Ph.D., Executive Director** at **Kean University**, on the **initial stages** of **articulating OCC's sustainability courses** into **Kean's environmental science program**. **Students** from **Kean** have begun to **register** for these **courses**. **Initial articulation work** is also being investigated with **The College of New Jersey** for **OCC's sustainability program**.
- The **Perkins Grant-funded environmental management advisory board** welcomed another **new member, Ms. Karen L. Hershey** from **Atlantic Shore Winds**.

- The **School of STEM** is pleased to announce the **newly named, “Dr. William J. Rickert Lecture Series”** held throughout the **month of April**, was a **big success**. A total of **273 students** attended one of the **eight scheduled lectures**.

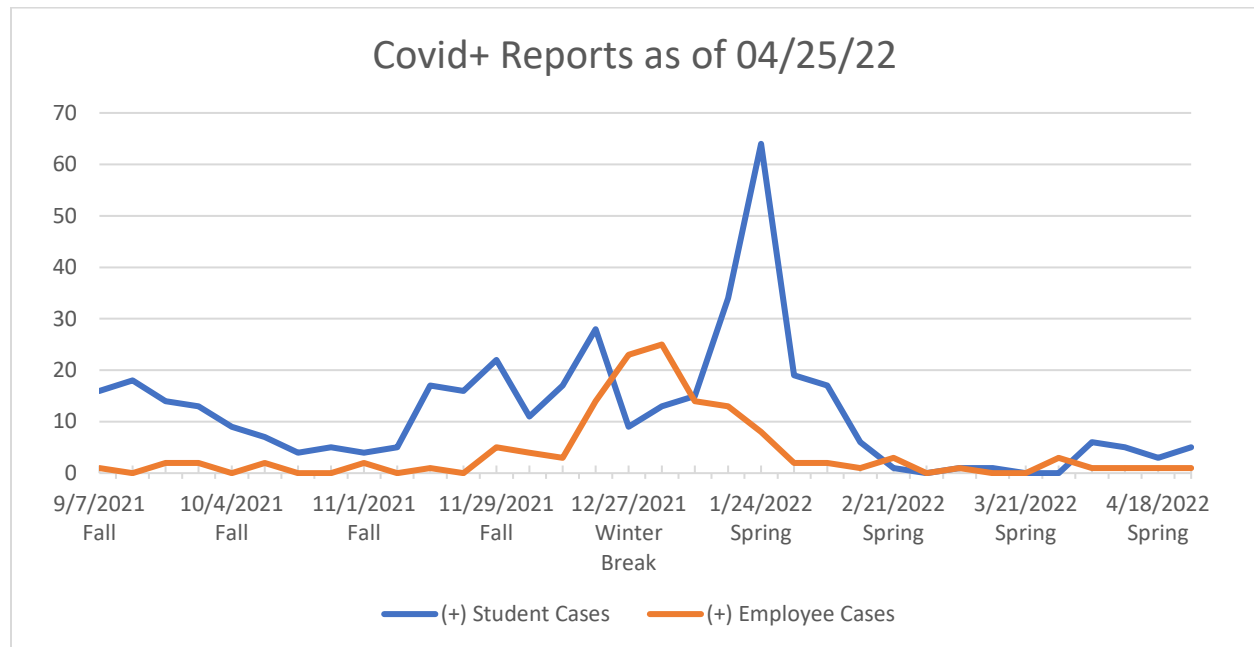
Finance and Administration

- The **New Jersey Community College Business Officers Affinity Group** held its **Annual Conference** at the **OCC’s Conference Center** on **May 13, 2022**. The **agenda** was **developed** by **Ms. Mary Lancaster, Controller**, and **current Chair** of the group. In addition to **regular business**, the **agenda** included **educational presentations** from **professionals** from **Borden Perlman Insurance** and **CliftonLarsonAllen**.

The **Purchasing Committee**, led by **Ms. Christine Healey, Executive Director of Procurement and Compliance**, also **participated** in the **conference** and held a **full day** of **educational sessions** for **purchasing professionals**.

- **Return to Campus Update**

COVID-19 cases on the **OCC campus** have been very **low** over the **past few weeks**. The **Health Reporting Team** is continuing **contact tracing**, and **Brio** provided **testing on campus** on a **daily basis** until the **semester ended**. **Brio** will be on **campus once per week** during the **summer**. **OCC’s COVID-19 protocols and protections** will be **revisited** prior to the **start of the Fall semester**.



- **Office of Information Technology (OIT)**

- The process of **updating the OCC Technology Plan** will soon **begin** with **assistance** from **Ellucian**. A **committee** is currently being **established** to **work** on this **project**, which will require **commitment** for a **considerable period of time**. The **President’s Leadership Team** will appoint **representation** from all **divisions**, and **work** will **begin** over the **Summer**.

- **OIT** has a number of **important projects** on the agenda for **completion** this **Summer**, including **deployment** of **CrowdStrike** to improve **cyber security**. **CrowdStrike** is a **single-agent solution** to **stop breaches, ransomware, and cyber attacks** powered by **world-class security expertise** and **deep industry experience**. In addition, the **Summer term** will be the **pilot** of the **first Hi-Flex classes** on campus whereby **students** may **attend** the **courses** either **in person** or **remotely**. The **success** of both of these **projects** is **critical**, and **several interns** are being **hired** to **work** on these **initiatives** over the **Summer**. The **interns** are **recent OCC graduates** who will have the opportunity to **gain valuable experience** in their **chosen field**.

- **College Relations**

- **Mr. Michael Leon, Graphic Design Manager**, with **Mr. Stan Hales, Director of the Barnegat Bay Partnership (BBP)**, created the **State-of-the-Bay Annual Report** to be **distributed** along with the **182-page Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP)** as a **roadmap** to **protecting** and **restoring** the **Barnegat Bay ecosystem** for the **next ten years**. The **booklets** target **environmental changes, measurable improvements, and restoration**. The information is a **collaboration** among **BBP, Brick Township, Stockton University, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Ocean County, the U.S. Geological Survey, and 12 New Jersey working groups**. **Mr. Leon's report-designed layouts** are used across **print, web, email, and presentation collateral**.
- **Mr. Michael Leon** also created **invitations** and **envelopes** for the **OCC Spring Open House**. The **creative design** invited **students** to **tour** the **campus**, enjoy **refreshments/games**, engage with **faculty/staff**, and learn more about **OCC degree programs** and **career opportunities**. The **campaign** reached **600** in **attendance**. In **collaboration** with **Ms. Sheenah Hartigan, Director of Enrollment Services**, **Mr. Leon** designed **brochures** and **signage** that highlight **OCC departments** and **faculty** for the **on-campus events**. The **materials** were used across **multiple marketing platforms**, including **web, social, and television**. The **event** successfully reached **268 potential high school students**.
- As a **contribution** to **Student Life's Spring Day event**, the **web team** launched the **social media campaign**, "**Vidar's Dance Challenge**." This was a **multi-faceted campaign**, in which **students** and **community members** were encouraged to **interact** with **Vidar's dance challenge video** which was shared on **OCC's TikTok and Instagram accounts**. The **video** was **viewed** and **engaged** with **5,778** times; and, following this **campaign**, **engagement** on the **College's Instagram account** increased by an additional **28.9%** over the **previous month**.

- **Ocean County College Foundation**

- On behalf of the **Foundation Board Chair, David Paulus**, deepest **condolences** are extended to the **family** of **Mr. Frank Gelormini** as well as sincere **appreciation** for his **service** to the **Foundation Board** and **College** for many years.

This month the **Foundation Board** officially **welcomed Ms. Anne Kraljic** to its **Executive Board team**.

- The **Foundation** extends its **congratulations** to all members of the **Class of 2022**. All **Graduating** and **Nursing Pinning** awards were **finalized** and **funded**. The **Office of Student**

Life and the School of Nursing and Health Sciences distributed these awards to some of OCC's most deserving applicants.

➤ **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion**

Dr. Eileen Garcia, Vice President of e-Learning and Learning Enterprises, and Mr. Ken Malagiere, Executive Director of the Foundation, are working with the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Steering Committee in creating a report to the Foundation and College Boards of Trustees. While the committee does have a draft EDI Statement and action items, the report will be wide-ranging and introspective continuing process. The statement currently reads:

At Ocean County College, we act with continued determination to support equity, diversity, and inclusion in our pursuit of academic excellence and to foster social, economic, and cultural growth.

➤ **National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship**

Mr. Ken Malagiere will be involved with the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship as part of the leadership team for the College and as liaison to the Foundation. The first conference will be held June 2 and 3, 2022, in Charlotte, North Carolina. He will be attending with Dr. Joseph Konopka, Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Dr. Rosann Bar, Dean of Business and Social Sciences.

➤ **New Jersey Symphony**

The New Jersey Symphony (NJS, formally NJSO) will be welcomed back to campus on Tuesday, June 28, 2022, at 8 p.m. The Foundation will be the exclusive sponsor of the event for the College and broader community to enjoy. Press releases for the Symphony have been distributed, and College Relations will begin promoting in the near future.

➤ **Gale G. Wayman Celebration of Life**

A Celebration of Life will be held on July 15, 2022, from 6 to 9 p.m. for Gale G. Wayman at Vansant Park in Island Heights. An email invitation will be sent to members of the Foundation and College Boards of Trustees. Additional information is available by contacting the Foundation Office at Foundation@ocean.edu.

➤ **Summer Scholarship Celebration**

The Summer Scholarship Celebration is being held on the College mall on Friday, June 24, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. Please join us for a wonderful evening to support students and honor:

- Rosann Bar, Ph.D. and Patricia Gianotti, Ph.D., LCADA, for their contributions to the Addictions and Counseling Program
- Alison Noone, M.B.A., for outstanding dedication to the operation of the Helping Hands Food Pantry
- The Wintrode Family Foundation
For the Establishment of the Roberta W. Wintrode Memorial Fund

➤ **Jay and Linda Grunin Center for the Arts**

- **Registration has opened for the return of Camps on Campus with oversight by the Grunin Center and Mr. Erik Stratton, Education and Community Engagement Coordinator. Week-long summer camps, for students ages 8-18, focus on STEM, arts, sports, and career/college preparation. Utilizing a new registration platform, CourseStorm, parents/guardians can register their students online for these camps. Interested faculty and staff are encouraged to review the full schedule on the website at <https://www.ocean.edu/programs-and-courses/camps-on-campus/>.**
- **Under the direction of Ms. Jaclyn Wood, Assistant Director of Education and Community Engagement, the Grunin Center finished the 2021-2022 *Schools n' Stage* series with two great programs. On April 11, 2022, *Vox Sambou*, an MC, poet, and multilingual artist from Montreal performed to a full house of high school students and then joined the students at the Grunin Performing Arts Academy for a workshop in the recording studio. Next, *Miwa Matreyek*, an international touring artist specializing in animation and live shadow silhouette art, performed in the theatre on April 21, 2022, and followed up her show with a presentation to Visual Arts Instructor Nat Bard's art students.**

Upcoming student workshops and master classes for high school students include a songwriting workshop with the Americana band, Amanda Anne Platt & The Honeycutters. and a dance workshop with Ephrat Asherie.

- **Ms. Jaclyn Wood will be joined by College Lecturer II Brian Gilmore and his students for a presentation and performance at Holiday City Silverton, where they will entertain residents and share information about both OCC's music program and the Grunin Center's upcoming performances. .**

➤ **Robert J. Novins Planetarium**

- **Under the direction and management of Planetarium Manager Cara Muscio, the Planetarium is meeting increased audience demand and providing engaging programming for the College, K-12 schools and groups, and the broader Ocean County community. Overall, the Planetarium exceeded its FY 2022 projections for private party revenue, with two-thirds of the 53 events booked in the past three months. This Spring has also seen a surge in K-12 and camp bookings as the mask and social distance mandates were lifted for schools and organizations, with 70% of 148 bookings also in the past three months.**
- **In March and April 2022, the Planetarium was closed for three weeks to upgrade its cove lighting and Zeiss star projector to LED lighting for improved performance and energy efficiency. The Digistar planetarium software was also upgraded to provide state-of-the-art possibilities for creation and delivery of STEAM content to the College and community. The new digital projectors will be installed this Fall to complete this transformation.**

➤ **Human Resources**

- **During May, the Human Resources Department is conducting open enrollment for OCC's Flexible Spending Account Plan, Section 125 Plan, and the Horizon Dental Plan. The Horizon Dental Plan was renewed at no additional cost to the employee or the College.**

The **School Employees' Health Benefits Program (SEHBP)** is offering the **new lower cost Aetna Garden State Health Plan**, which takes effect **July 1, 2022**, through a **special limited enrollment period**.

- This plan will have **50% lower premiums** than the **Educators Health Plan**.
- **Deductibles** from this year will **carry over** into the **new plan**.
- **Members** must **select** an **Aetna Whole Health Network provider** to be considered **in-network**.
- By **enrolling** in the **Garden State Health Plan**, services must be received **within New Jersey**. **Services** will **not** be covered if a **doctor** is seen **outside** of **New Jersey**.

➤ **Presidential Search**

The **OCC President Search process** is **underway**, **facilitated** by **Bradley Ebersole, Ph.D.**, of the **Association of Community Colleges (ACCT)**. The **internal search committee membership** has been **finalized** as follows:

- **Dr. David Bordelon, Professor of English**
- **Dr. Antionette Clay, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs**
- **Tracey Donaldson, Associate Vice President of Human Resources**
- **Eileen Garcia, Vice President of e-Learning and Learning Enterprises**
- **Yessika Garcia-Guzman, Executive Director of Financial Aid**
- **Tom Gialanella, Executive Director of School Relations**
- **Veronica Guevara-Lovgren, Executive Director of Student Services**
- **Henry Jackson, Executive Director of Academic Success**
- **Daniel Keiser, Mathematics College Lecturer II**
- **Jack Kelnhofer, e-Learning College Lecturer II**
- **Christopher Petrich, Security Officer II**
- **Wayne Reed, Campus Security Safety Officer**
- **Sylvia Riviello, Dean of the School of STEM**
- **Kim Samarelli, Adjunct Professor of Business Studies**
- **Jayanti Tamm, Associate Professor of English**
- **Sara Winchester, Executive Vice President of Finance and Administration**

The **committee** had its **first meeting** on **May 20, 2022**, and were **welcomed** by **Board Chair Jerry Dasti** and **me**. Several **documents** were **reviewed**, including the **Charge to the Committee**, **Confidentiality Policy**, **Timeline**, and **draft President Profile**. The **profile** was developed with **input** from the **open forums** and the **confidential electronic responses**. At the **conclusion** of the **internal committee's work**, **finalists** will be **recommended** to the **Board Search Committee** for **consideration**; however, **Board members** are **welcome** to **participate** in **all phases** of the **search process**.

➤ **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 **April 23, 2022, through May 27, 2022**.

Student Affairs

➤ Advising

➤ New Student Registration

- The **Advising Office** is participating this **Spring** and **Summer** in **high school specific** and **general express enrollment events**.

When **students sign up** for these **events**, advisors **register** the **students** in **advance** of the **event** and enter **advising notes** for the **students**. When the students **attend** the **event**, an advisor **reviews** the **schedules** and shares **important information**. Finally, **after** the **event**, an advisor **reviews** each **student schedule** and **follows up** as needed to ensure that **every student** has an **accurate schedule** for **Fall**. There are **13 high school events** and **6 general enrollment events** scheduled in **Spring** and **Summer 2022**.

The **Advising Office** is also **managing**, in **collaboration** with the **HUB**, **new student registrations** via the **New Student Registration form**. Via this process, **new students** are able to **request a Fall schedule**, and an advisor **registers** the **student** based on the **student's major** and **preferences**. **Advising** also has **processes** to effectively **manage new students** who are **veterans** as well as **new students** in the **Education degree program**. **Advisor Deeanne Gatta-Salter** is **completing registrations** for **new veterans** and then ensuring the **students** are **connected** with the **Veterans and Military Resources Center**. **Transfer Coordinator Laura Wills** is **managing registration** for **Education majors**, as this **major** and required **courses vary** widely depending on the **student's planned teaching area** and **transfer institution**. **Ms. Wills** is also **working** closely with **Education Lecturer Nicole Kammer** on these **registrations**.

Finally, the **Advising Office** is hosting **eight virtual New Student Information Sessions** this **Spring** and **Summer**. **Students** can attend a **session** and receive all the **information** they need to start their **first semester** at **OCC**.

➤ NJ STARS

- **NJ STARS Coordinator Jennifer Kipp** reports that, as of **May 19, 2022**, **106 returning NJ STARS students** are enrolled for **Fall 2022**, and **102 potential STARS students** are enrolled for **Fall 2022**. **Information Technology/Enrollment Management** have **coded** the potentially **eligible incoming students** based upon the **junior list** received from **HESAA**.
- **Congratulations** are extended to the **246 full-time** and **6 part-time NJ STARS students** who made the **President's Honors List** following the **Fall 2021 semester**, which represents approximately **83%** of **OCC's enrolled STARS students**.
- **Ms. Kipp** hosted a **NJ STARS Pre-Nursing Information Session** in **April**, providing **information** to **NJ STARS students** who are pursuing **nursing** to help them **navigate** the **Nursing program** and **NJ STARS eligibility requirements**.
- **Ms. Kipp** and **Advisor Diane DeFilippo** hosted a **NJ STARS Information Session** during the **Open House** in **April** and are also hosting **five virtual NJ STARS New Student Information Sessions**.

- The **NJ STARS Club** raised approximately **\$600** this **semester** through a **bake sale** and a **virtual Kahoot Night** for a **local charity, Emiliana’s Hope**, that supports **families of children** who have **pediatric cancer**.
- **Counseling Center**
 - The **Counseling Center** concluded the **Spring semester** with **increased services and programming** to **students** and the **OCC and Kean/Ocean communities**. The **impact of COVID** and other **stressors** on the **mental health** of the **students** continues to be **recognized**; there was an **increase** in the **number of students** who were **assessed** for **psychological distress and crisis**.
 - **Ms. Kelly Petrolis, Student Intervention Specialist, and Ms. Katie Hueth, Prevention Education Coordinator**, completed **Train the Trainer for Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR)** and are now **certified instructors**. Both will become **certified trainers in Mental Health First Aid** in **August**. This was through a **collaboration** with the **New Jersey Council of County Colleges and New Jersey Mental Health Association**. These **activities** help to keep **OCC** in **compliance** with **state and federal laws**.
 - **Ms. Katie Hueth** has been selected as a **speaker** at the **annual New Jersey College Counselors Association conference**; she will be **speaking** about **Current Topics in College Counseling – Addressing Substance Use Among College Students**, with a **focus on opioids**. About **100 counselors** from across **New Jersey** usually **attend** this **conference**.
 - **Additional training** is being offered in **Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR)** and **Mental Health First Aid**. **Table events** have been conducted for **wellness activities** in collaboration with the **Veterans and Military Resources Center** and with **Disability Services**. **Ms. Darra Stack, Student Intervention Specialist**, has been **meeting** with **students** at the **Southern Education Center**. **Stress Relief Kits** were provided to the **Library** to give to **students** when they **return books**. A **Sunset Meditation session** was held in **collaboration** with the **Planetarium**.
 - The **Displaced Homemakers Program** is working with **44 new clients** and **79 continuing clients**. **Two clients graduated**, one from the **Nursing program**, which demonstrates the **impact** of the **Displaced Homemakers Program** on **supporting clients** in their **journeys to self-sufficiency**. **Four clients** continue their **training** in **Workforce and Professional Education classes** and are expected to **complete** in **June**. **Computer skills classes** are mostly **virtual**, with the **exception** of the **beginner’s class**. **Ms. Maureen Conlon, Associate Director of Web Services**, continues her **excellent instruction** in all **WPE computer skills training classes**.
 - The **Recovery Support Program**, under the **direction** of **Ms. Katie Hueth**, provides **services and information** to **students** in **support** of their **recovery**. There are currently **189 students** participating in the **program**, and **activities and services** continue throughout the **Summer**. The **second quarter performance report** was **submitted** to the **State funding agency**.
 - The **academic support program, Restore Your Score**, provides **services and information** to the **60 students** on **academic probation** from the **Fall 2021 semester**, **35** of whom have **worked individually** with **Ms. Kelly Petrolis, Student Intervention Specialist**, for a total of **86 appointments**. The **academic support program, Starfish**, provides **information** to the **377 students** who are on **academic warning status** from the **Fall 2021 semester**. **Both programs** use **Canvas** to provide their **services**.

- **Ms. Heather Mayer, Mental Health Technician**, assumed **responsibility** for the **processing** of **SERF applications**. **Ms. Mayer** works closely with the **Foundation staff** on these **applications**, to be sure they are **processed accurately** and **expeditiously**.
- Since **July 1, 2021**, the **CARE Team** has handled **871 CARE reports**. This is **85 more** reports than in the **same timeframe** in **2020-2021**; there were a total of **816 reports** from **July 1, 2020**, through **June 3, 2021**. **Ms. Susan Ebeling-Witte, Student Intervention Specialist**, handles most of the **counseling related CARE reports**. The **CARE Team** **thanks** members of the **campus community** for their **diligence** in **reporting concerning behaviors** and **students** who are **experiencing challenges** that **impact** their **academic success**.
- **Educational Opportunity Fund and Center for Access and Equity**
 - **EOF** is currently **accepting applications**. **Students** can **apply** using **OCC's online application** available at: <https://www.ocean.edu/student-services/apply-for-eof/>. Both **academic** and **financial assistance** are available to **EOF students**.
 - **EOF** is proud to announce **Hailey Sadowski, EOF State Academic Achievement Award winner** with a perfect **4.0 grade point average**, is also **Valedictorian 2022**.
 - **EOF** is preparing for its **First Experience summer program**, **face-to-face** for the **first time** in **several years**. The **2022 theme** is **Expand Your MIND, Fuel Your BODY, Feed Your SOUL**.
 - **EOF's program** on **Wednesday and Thursday, August 17 and 18, 2022**, includes **workshops** on **academic preparation**, **college expectations**, **team and community building**, and **preparation for transfer**. On **day two**, **participants** will meet in the **morning** at **Cattus Island**. Both **incoming** and **returning students** are **eligible**.
 - **Preliminary funding news** for **EOF FY 2023** is **positive** and may include an **increase** in the **grant** to **\$800** for **full time-enrollment**. **Additional EOF Article III resources** for **FY 2023** make it possible to provide **EOF undergraduate** and **graduate students** with a **\$150 per semester increase** in the **maximum EOF grant award** for the **academic year**.
 - **OCC's EOF 2022 graduates** are:

Name	Honors/Distinctions
Hailey Sadowski	4.0 GPA, EOF State Academic Achievement Awardee, Valedictorian
Alexus Anderson	
Sandra Arias	
Tori Benoit	EOF State Academic Achievement Awardee
Nicholas D'Elia	
Maven Dossous	
Meredith Fabozzi	
Katelynn Kappock	
Dmytro Kushka	
Leticia Lacerda	EOF State Academic Achievement Awardee
Mattalyn McCaffrey	4.0 GPA, EOF State Academic Achievement Awardee
Samantha Sesta	

➤ **Enrollment and Retention Services**

- **Executive Director of Enrollment Services, Dr. Sheenah Hartigan**, presented at the **Spring Conference** for the **New Jersey Chapter of the National Organization of Student Success** at **New Jersey City University, Fort Monmouth location**. The presentation, on behalf of **Vice President of Student Affairs Jerry Racioppi**, was titled, “**A Different Way of Thinking**,” which detailed **OCC’s new, innovative retention efforts**.
- The **Spring Open House** was held on **Wednesday, April 27, 2022**, on **campus**. In attendance were **268 potential students** and **100 new students** enrolled in classes for the **Fall 2022 term**. **Students** were treated to **campus tours** and **engaging demonstrations** by **faculty** and **staff**, met with **non-academic** and **academic student support services**, and enjoyed **refreshments** and **swag**. Over **600 students** and **guests** were on **campus** for the **successful event**.
- **Dr. Sheenah Hartigan** presented at the **2022 Annual Conference** for the **American Association of Community Colleges (AACC)** in **New York City** on **Saturday, April 30, 2022**. The title of the **presentation** was, “**Ocean County College’s Unique One-Stop Drives Enrollment**.” The **session** was **standing room only**, and **attendees** had **positive feedback** and **reactions** to the **presentation**.
- To date, there have been **12 high school specific Express Enrollment Days** with area **high school students** coming to the **campus** to enjoy **presentations** in **collaboration** with **Academic Advising**. **Students** were provided with **campus tours** and **lunch** and **left** with their **student ID cards**, **Fall schedules**, and **swag bags** full of **goodies**.
- On **May 18, 2018**, **Mr. Jim Campbell, Coordinator of Enrollment and Outreach**, met with the **Ocean County Municipal Managers Association** and discussed **partnership opportunities**. **Twelve municipalities** were **represented** at the **meeting**.
- During **April 2022**, the average wait time in the **HUB lobby** of the **Student Enrollment Building** was **3.53 minutes**. There were **774 in-person transactions**, and the average duration time was **2.63 minutes**. The **busiest day and time** were **April 28, 2022**, at **10 a.m.**
- **Student surveys** given **after service** in the **Student Enrollment Building** indicate an **average rating of 4.9** out of **5.0 stars**. The **surveys**, sent via **text message** through **Survey Monkey**, indicate whether **students** would **return** to use the **HUB services**, as well as whether they would **recommend the HUB** to a **friend**.
- **Dr. Kathleen Mohr, Assistant Director of Enrollment Services**, and **Dr. Sheenah Hartigan**, along with **Dr. Jerry Racioppi**, presented a **virtual version** of the **award-winning Bellwether presentation** on **May 19, 2022**, through the **Bellwether Consortium Innovation Series**.

➤ **Office of Disability Services**

- The **Office of Disability Services** continues to provide **outreach** to **programs** and **schools** throughout **Ocean County**. **Outreach events** allow an **opportunity** for **prospective students** to inquire about **services**, including **accommodation requests**, available at **Ocean County College**. During **May**, **outreach events** were **conducted** for the following **schools** and **programs**:

- **MOCEANS Center for Independent Living, Inc.**
- **Ocean County Vocational Technical School (OCVTS) – Brick Location**
- **Lakewood High School**
- **Lacey High School**

- On **May 5, 2022**, **Office of Disability Services** staff attended the **2022 Law and Disability Conference** sponsored and hosted by the **New Jersey State Bar Foundation** and presented by the **Community Health Law Project**. Topics presented included **integrated and holistic care** through **partnerships**, **services** available to **individuals** with **intellectual** and/or **developmental disabilities**, and **jail diversion** for **individuals** living with **mental illness**.

- The **Office of Disability Services** collaborated with the **Counseling Center** to host **three days of wellness activities** encouraging **students** to take **time** each day to **care for themselves**. **Students** were encouraged to **stop by** for **resources** and **events** scheduled on the **main campus** and the **Southern Education Center**.

- On **May 20, 2022**, staff attended a **meeting** hosted by the **Ocean County Commission for Individuals with Disabilities**, a **County commission** responsible to the **Ocean County Board of Commissioners** and to the **Office of Individuals with Disabilities (OID)**. **Ms. Jamie Arasz Prioli**, **Assistant Director of Disability Services**, serves as an **appointed commission member**. **Commission members** serve in an **advisory capacity** providing information regarding the **needs** and **status** of **Ocean County residents** with **disabilities**.

- The **Office of Disability Services** continues to provide **accommodation** and **support services** to **eligible students** under the **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** and **Section 504** of the **Rehabilitation Act of 1973**. The **office** also provides **consultation** to **OCC faculty, instructors** and **staff**. To date, the office records a **43.6% increase** in **new student eligibility requests** between **Spring 2021** and **Spring 2022**.

- **Southern Education Center**
 - The **Southern Education Center** welcomed **Ms. Jenna McAteer, Academic Advisor**, to its **staff**. **Ms. McAteer** joins the **SEC** with **experience** in **high school counseling** and **undergraduate admissions**.

 - The **Spring 2022 semester** at the **SEC** closed with a few **student life events**. During the **last week** of classes, **students** enjoyed **donuts** or **pizza** as they also **heard** details regarding **Summer** and **Fall registration opportunities**. **Ms. Jamie Arasz Prioli, Student Disability Services**, and **Ms. Darra Stack, Student Intervention Specialist**, co-hosted a **Wellness Day** event at the **SEC**. **Students** enjoyed **sub sandwiches** while hearing about the **critical support** both the **Disability Services Office** and the **Counseling Center** can provide **students**.

 - **Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs Amir Sadrian, Dean of Faculty Development and Learning Innovation Catherine Mancuso, SEC Director James Hauenstein**, and **SEC Academic Advisor Toni Ann DiPasquale** collaborated to **conduct a connection test** of the **main campus HyFlex classroom technology** with the **video-connected classroom** at the **SEC**. The **successful trial** ensures the ability to **connect the classrooms** at the **two campuses virtually** to **expand course offering opportunities** to **students** residing in **Southern Ocean County**. The **SEC** will be **co-hosting nine video-connected classes** with the **main campus** for the **Fall 2022 semester**.

- As the **Spring semester** concluded, the **SEC Canvas Announcement shell** continued to be an **effective message board** for students attending classes at the SEC. **May's Canvas Announcements** informed students of an **information session** with **Stockton University** and the **Kean Ocean Instant Decision Day**, **student life events**, **Wellness Day** hosted by **Disability Services** and the **Counseling Center**, the **Displaced Homemakers program**, the **OCC Foundation Fall 2022 scholarship program**, and **Summer/Fall registration information**. **Analytics** indicated over **1,900 student views** of these various **messages** during **May**. For the **Spring 2022 semester**, the **Canvas shell SEC Announcements** had over **9,000 student views**.
- The **SEC staff** has **completed training** in the **functionality** of the **QLess system**, thanks to **Mr. James Campbell, Coordinator of Enrollment and Outreach**. **QLess** is now fully **functioning** at the SEC. The **SEC staff** continues to **support** the overall **mission** of **Academic Advising** by handling **incoming emails** to the **advising email inbox** and offering **virtual appointments**.
- The **Workforce and Professional Education program** is continuing to use the **SEC** as an **additional location** for **Adult Basic Education**, specifically the **English as a Second Language program**, with **evening classes** through **June 2022**.
- **Student Life**

Ms. Jennifer Fazio, Director of Student Life, is pleased to share the **updates** for **OCC's honor societies** this semester:

- **Psi Beta, Psychology Honor Society**, inducted **30 new members** at the **virtual induction** held on **April 29, 2022**.
- **Alpha Beta Gamma, the Business Honor Society**, welcomed **30 initiates** this **Spring semester**.
- **OCC's Tau Iota Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa** inducted **75 students** during the **induction** held **virtually** on **April 22, 2022**.
- The **Social Work Honor Society** inducted **20 students** at the **induction** held **virtually** on **May 5, 2022**.
- **Sigma Kappa Delta, the National English Honor Society for two-year colleges**, welcomed **117 inductees** on **May 11, 2022**.
- **SALUTE, the Veterans Honor Society** inducted **two initiates** during the **ceremony** held on **May 13, 2022**.
- **OCC's new honor society for first-generation college students, Tri-Alpha**, inducted **50 members and honorary members** into the **Gamma Psi Chapter** on **May 18, 2022**, at its **chartering induction ceremony**.
- **NLSL, National Society for Leadership and Success**, has **142 students** who **joined** this semester. The **new initiates** are in **various steps** toward induction, with **12 students** being **inducted** this **Spring**.

➤ **Veterans and Military Resources Center**

- **Military Spouse Appreciation Month** is celebrated during **May** by the **Veterans and Military Resources Center**. A message from Assistant Director **Ryan Luurtsema** can be viewed on the **Veterans and Military** website at <https://www.ocean.edu/veterans-services/>.
- **Mr. Ryan Luurtsema** was invited to participate in a **ground-breaking ceremony** for the **highly anticipated Toms River Veterans Administration: Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC)**. This **clinic** will be replacing the **Brick CBOC** in early **2024** by **doubling its size to 68,000 sq. ft.** and offering **new specified resources** for **women health needs**.
- The **VMRC** hosted its **inaugural Movie Night Out** on **May 4, 2022**. This **successful event** presented ***Ghostbusters: Afterlife***, with over **90 people** in attendance. **Food** was provided by the **Center of Excellence for Student Veteran Success** in partnership with the **food truck, Good Food=Good Mood**.
- **VMRC staff member Rachelle Bertholf** has been promoted from **Center of Excellence for Student Veteran Success Program Assistant** to **Data Research Specialist**. **Ms. Bertholf** will be researching **best practices** within **higher education** to **assist, develop, and report** on **service members transitioning out of military service** as well as **military-connected members** of the **community** such as **veterans, spouses, and dependents**. **Ms. Bertholf** will also serve a **unique role** within the **VMRC** to **track and analyze incoming students**; determine the ways the **Center** serves the **students, retention, and enrollment**; and the **success rates** of all **military-connected students**.
- **Congratulations** are extended to the **43 military-connected students** graduating in **2022**. The **graduates** are transferring to **Princeton University, Kean University, Montclair University, Stockton University, University of Kentucky, Rowan University, Rutgers University, Cornell University, and Seton Hall University**.

e-Learning and Learning Enterprises

➤ **Student Course Evaluation**

The **e-Learning Department** has updated the survey for **online student opinions of instruction**. In the survey, **students** can share their **e-Learning experiences** and **evaluate course content** in terms of **design, instruction, and technology**. This **Spring**, the **new survey** was **distributed** with the assistance of a **new software** adopted by the institution called **Watermark**. **Watermark** provides a **platform** for students that is **easy to use**, can be **accessed** via their **mobile devices**, and includes **automatic reminders** to **students** prompting students to **complete the evaluations**. Over **41%** of the **online students participated**, which is a **big improvement** from **previous student participation**. Finally, the **data** gathered from the **evaluations** will provide **great insight** into the **dynamics of e-Learning courses** and give **insight** into the **perspective** of the **e-Learning students**.

➤ **Faculty Evaluation**

In **Spring 2022**, the **e-Learning Department** implemented a **standardized procedure** for maintaining **faculty evaluations** using **Smartsheets**. **Smartsheets** is a **project management software platform** that allows the **e-Learning team** to **work and collaborate**, in **real-time**, to **manage** the entire **adjunct pool** comprised of **211 active members**.

The **new process** allows the department to **seamlessly search** and **track** pertinent **information** regarding the **adjunct pool**. Some **features** include **attaching copies of communications, setting alerts, tracking internal notes, online course assignments, and tracking evaluations**. This **Spring, e-Learning College Lecturers and administrators** completed nearly **100 course evaluations** with the help of this **new tool**. Additionally, the **department** recently **digitized** the **form** used to **evaluate adjuncts**. With this **new form**, the **evaluators** can: 1) provide **constructive teaching feedback** to the adjuncts, 2) **connect** with **adjuncts** and assist them with **strategically implementing** the **course learning outcomes**, and 3) **maximize** the **learning** and **success** of the **students** we serve.

➤ **Simple Syllabus**

The **e-Learning Department** is on track to **launch** a **Simple Syllabus pilot** for the **2022 Summer term**. The **software** will assist with **efficiency** by **automating** the **syllabi requests** for **online students**. **Simple Syllabus** is a **centralized template-driven platform** that will provide the ability to **create and publish interactive class syllabi** for its **online courses**. The **software** will give students **immediate access** to **research courses** before **registration** and identify **required course materials** and **expectations**. With **Simple Syllabus**, **course information** is easily **accessible** in **web, mobile, and print formats** automatically **integrated** within **OCC's LMS system, Canvas**. The **software** will also allow **faculty** to **personalize specific information** for their **courses**.

➤ **Discussion Rubric**

e-Learning is excited to **launch** a **new and more simplified discussion rubric** in this upcoming **2022 Accelerated 4 Summer term**. This **rubric** will **streamline** the **grading** of **discussions** and **improve students' understanding** and **expectations** in **distance learning**. The **rubric** was carefully **designed** with over a **year of academic discourse** and **research**, integrating many of the **components** other **top institutions** use to **guide engaging discussions**. The **students** will find the **rubric**, as an **assessment tool**, **easier to understand**, and the **faculty** will be able to **grade with ease**. The **Discussion Rubric** is a **new criterion** for the **e-Learning Department** that will **benefit the students** by providing them with a **quality learning experience**.

➤ **e-Learning Professional Development Series**

➤ **Quality Matters – QM Improving Your Online Course**

In **April 2022**, **e-Learning College Lecturers** and the **Instructional Designers team** completed a **QM "Improving Your Online Course" workshop**. The **workshop** focuses on **applying** the essential **Specific Review Standards** of the **Quality Matters Rubric** to **online courses**. As a result of the **training**, the **e-Learning Department** will **evaluate online courses** to **meet the QM Rubric standards**.

➤ **Adjunct Roundtables**

The **2022 Spring Professional Development Series** is coming to an **end**. Throughout the **Spring**, **Dr. Meredith Riddle, Assistant Dean of e-Learning**, has addressed **valuable topics**, such as promoting **best practices** to support **student success** and **effective communication** in **online learning**.

➤ **Check-in Chats**

In addition to the **Adjunct Roundtable meetings**, the **e-Learning Department** has initiated **informal virtual office hours** for **adjunct faculty** via meetings called "**Check-in Chats.**" **Dr. Meredith Riddle** launched this opportunity where **faculty** are welcome to **discuss course design, student communications,** and the **challenges** that impact **student learning** in an **informal and private setting.**

➤ **Software Training**

The **e-Learning Department** has expanded **Honorlock proctoring** for **third-party courses.** As a result, the **department** offered **workshops** on **May 10 and 17, 2022,** to **advise faculty** on using **Honorlock proctoring** for **third-party assessments** in their **online courses.** During this **training,** **faculty and lecturers** learned how to **set up Honorlock** to **proctor quizzes and exams** in **Canvas.** The **training** also discussed how **instructors** could **support** their **students** to enable **Honorlock** while taking **third-party quizzes and exams** in their **e-Learning courses.**

➤ **Instructional Design and Technology**

The **Instructional Design Team** has **completed** the **Summer and Fall 2022 course development schedule.** The **Instructional Design team** has done a **fantastic job** **designing and developing** **universally accessible, interactive, engaging distance learning courses** that serve **OCC's mission and vision.** This month, the **Instructional Design team** began the **last workshop** of **Quality Matters** on **peer reviewing.**

➤ **International Programs**

In **April,** **Dr. Eileen Garcia, Dr. Maysa Hayward,** and **Dr. Howaida Wahby-Eraky** traveled to **Virginia** with me to meet the **CEO of Badr University, Dr. Hassan Elkalla.** The **purpose** of the **meeting** was to discuss the **development** of a "**Bridge**" **program** that will be offered in **partnership** between **OCC and Badr University** in **Cairo** beginning in **Fall 2022.** The **International Programs team** has since been working to bring that **concept** to **fruition;** and **Associate Vice President of International Programs, Dr. Maysa Hayward,** will **return** from a **visit** to **Egypt** on **May 25, 2022,** where she was **scheduled** to continue the **conversations** about this **project** with **Dr. Elkalla.**

International Programs welcomed **Dr. Shahira Zaki, Executive Director of International Relations and Academic Collaboration Sector** of **Ain Shams University,** during the week of **May 23-27, 2022.** **Dr. Zaki** met the **International Programs faculty and staff,** **toured the campus,** and **attended OCC's Nurses Pinning Ceremony and commencement.** She also visited **Kean University** and attended **Kean's commencement** the prior week.

The **International Programs team** is working to **refine** the **tracking** of **student progress, performance issues, tuition payments,** and **communications** through **SmartSheets** and **Microsoft Lists.** This new system will **streamline** the **student services** provided to **international students.**