



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jon H. Larson, Ph.D.

TO: Members, OCC Board of Trustees

FROM: Jon H. Larson, Ph.D.
President

SUBJECT: Items of Interest for the **February 23, 2023, Board Meeting**

DATE: February 20, 2023

Phi Theta Kappa Recognition

Phi Theta Kappa, the **national honor society for community colleges**, recognizes **student academic success** and provides **opportunities to develop professional and leadership skills, earn scholarships, explore career paths, and expand goals**. It is the **largest honor society in American higher education** with more than **1.5 million members and 1,200 chapters**.

Tau Iota, Ocean County College's chapter, has enjoyed **great success** throughout the years and received the society's **highest honors**, being named a **REACH (Recognizing Excellence and Completion with Honors) Chapter**, a **Five-Star Chapter**, and a **Gold Chapter**. Additionally, **hundreds of OCC students** have been **individually honored** for their **PTK contributions**.

None of these **achievements** would have been possible without the **steadfast commitment and dedication** of **Tau Iota advisors**. It is with **gratitude and pride** that I will **acknowledge PTK advisor milestones at Thursday's meeting**. **Service pins** will be **presented to Mrs. Lois Rickert, for fifteen years as an advisor, and Ms. Carolyn Showalter, Assistant Dean of STEM, for thirty-five years of service as an advisor. Dr. William Rickert, Retired Professor Emeritus, will also attend the meeting. He was named as a PTK Advisor Emeritus on the Regional Level.**

Academic Affairs

➤ School of Arts and Humanities

- **Dr. Elizabeth Brierley, Associate Professor of Humanities, and Mr. Gary Shaffer, Assistant Professor of Humanities, have established a Sigma Chi Eta Chapter at OCC. Sigma Chi Eta, with more than 45 chapters across the nation, is the official community college honor society of the National Communication Association for undergraduates in two-year communications programs. The purpose is to recognize the work of outstanding communication students and**

explore options for community college students to transfer to four-year colleges or universities or enter the workforce.

- **Dr. Sungji Kim, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Applied Music, sang as part of the Afternoon Recital Series on January 27, 2023.** The event took place on the Grunin Center’s main stage.
- **On February 5, 2023, OCC Music Instructor Karin Gargone performed in the 2023 Choir Festival** sponsored by the **Ocean County Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.** The event took place at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Beachwood, New Jersey.** It was **free and open to the public.** Ms. Gargone performed **“Kyrie, Gott Heiliger Geist”** from **Klavierübung, Part Three, by J.S. Bach** on the church’s **pipe organ.** She also accompanied **“Prayer”** by **New Jersey composer Amanda Harberg,** featuring **OCC student Hilda Howlett as flute soloist.**
- **Communications College Lecturer II Lee Kobus** announced the **winner of the WOCC Logo Contest.** The **competition was open to OCC graphic arts students,** and **Mr. Kobus** worked with **Graphic Arts Instructor Renate Pustiak** as **advisors for the project.** **Five artists** submitted a **variety of work samples,** and **Alex Gablix’s design** was chosen as **first place** by the **station’s students.** It will become the **official trademark** for the **station in the future.** While **one winner** was **chosen,** it is noted that **all five students worked hard** and **demonstrated the skills** they are **developing as artists.**
- **Dr. Michael Edmondson, Interim College Lecturer II in Humanities and Fine Arts,** presented on **LinkedIn Learning** at two **Lunch and Learn** presentations on **February 3 and February 15, 2023.** **Dr. Edmondson** collaborated with the **Faculty Development and Learning Center** to **showcase the interactive platform.**
- **Dr. Madison Peschock, College Lecturer II in English and Literature,** hosted the **first English round table** of the semester on **February 16, 2023.** **Dr. Ameer Sohrawardy, College Lecturer II in English,** presented.
- **On February 17, 2023, the Grunin Center Afternoon Recital Series** featured **pianist Alexander Timofeev.** **Mr. Timofeev** won **first prizes** at both the **Niš International Piano Competition, Serbia (2006),** and the **Margaret Guthman Piano Competition, Atlanta (2006),** and received **third prize** at the **2007 MTNA Young Artist Piano Competition (Toronto).**
- **School of Business and Social Sciences**
 - **Beginning in Spring 2023, College Lecturer II Christopher D. Bottomley, Program Chair in Business,** will **participate in a statewide advisory committee** for the **New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Career Readiness,** in **Trenton.** He will offer his **finance, business administration, and marketing program expertise.** The **advisory committee** will be composed of **postsecondary institutions, secondary schools, industry professionals, parents, students, and various stakeholders.** This **advisory committee** will help **inform and guide educational programming and curriculum** in **CTE programs** throughout the **state.** The **primary topic** will focus on **industry-valued credentials.**
 - **The first Hospitality, Tourism, and Recreation culinary option course, HRTM 230, Principles of Food and Beverage Management,** will run during the **Spring 2023 semester.** The **course** is part of **OCC's new credit-based culinary program.** Also, **three new apprentices** began **working at Java Junction** in the **Gateway Building** on **January 23, 2023.** **Java Junction** is a **student-run coffee shop** that **teaches students** how to **operate a small business** by having them **manage**

the store. Students are responsible for ordering items for sale, assessing financials, and developing marketing strategies to increase sales. Student apprentices receive three credits and are paid as student workers for the College.

- On February 9, 2023, College Lecturer II in Social Sciences Charlotte Langeveld hosted “A Discussion about Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice with Dr. Vernon Smith.” Dr. Smith, Assistant Professor of the School of Education and Assistant Director of the Social Justice Academy at Monmouth University, presented and led a discussion about issues focused on creating a free environment where students and professors with different viewpoints can express their ideas.
- On January 10, 11, and 12, 2023, College Lecturer II in Addictions Patricia Gianotti participated in the intermediate school workshops hosted by Academic Affairs. Dr. Gianotti presented experiential sessions to six groups of seventh-grade students from Toms River Intermediate School East, North, and South. The sessions provided potential future students with information about attending a college class, as well as an opportunity to ask questions about higher education in general.
- **School of Nursing and Health Sciences**
 - From the 110 graduates who sat for the Nursing licensing examination (NCLEX-RN) in 2022, OCC’s passing rate was 89%. Scores remain above the national passing rate for all associate degree nursing programs and all types of nursing programs.
 - There are 303 students enrolled in OCC’s Nursing program for the Spring 2023 semester.
 - Nursing lecturers and 70 Nursing students attended the New Jersey Nursing Students (NJNS) annual convention on February 16, 2023, in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The focus of the convention was “Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity: The Impact on Student Nurses and the Nursing Profession.” Attending the convention provided students with opportunities to meet with peers and potential employers. This is the first time the NJNS convention has been held in person since the pandemic occurred.
 - Ms. Marybeth Millan, MSN, RNC, CCE, and Ms. Sharon Scrofine, DNP, RN, CNE, CEN, both College Lecturer IIs in Nursing, presented, “A Guided Student Mentoring Program: The Key to NCLEX-RN® Success” at the Spring 2023 Lecturer and Adjunct Institutes on January 18, 2023. Their presentation focused on the structured mentoring processes implemented within the School of Nursing and Health Sciences this past academic year to assist graduates in successfully passing the licensing examination (NCLEX-RN) required to practice as a Registered Nurse.
- **School of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics**
 - As part of an AACC grant awarded to OCC for the AI Incubator Network (AIIN) funded by Intel and Dell, Computer Studies College Lecturer II Kenneth Michalek attended the AACC Workforce Development Institute in Indian Wells, California. The conference focused on bringing together industry, federal agencies, and colleges to develop the nation’s workforce pipeline. The conference hosted a panel discussion on the AI program that is being introduced at over 70 community colleges across the nation, as well as a lunch working session for AIIN grant award winners.

- The **Engineering and Industrial/Technical Studies program** celebrated both **Black History Month** and **Engineering Week** from **February 20 to 24, 2023**. It started with the **annual paper airplane competition** in front of the **Student Center**. On **February 22, 2023**, **Engineering Adjunct Associate Professor Charles Cebula, PE**, gave a talk titled “**Dr. Walter McAfee-Hidden Figure and Pioneer in Radar.**” The week concluded with the **annual speed mentoring event** that pairs **high school students, OCC students, and members of the public** with **industry volunteers** to advise them on **career and academic topics**.
- The **Math Counts competition**, held on **February 4, 2023**, on campus was a **success**. The event is **sponsored** by the **Engineering Society of New Jersey**, and **42 students** from **five middle schools** competed **individually** and as **groups**. The **winning team** was **William Allen Middle School** from **Moorestown, New Jersey**. **Math Counts** is a **national competition** in which the **winning team** will move to the **state level**. Several **individuals** volunteered to **assist**, including **STEM Assistant Dean Carolyn Showalter, Mathematics College Lecturer II Nancy Rizzuto, Mathematics Assistant Professor Shirley Grone**, retired member of the **Engineering Department Paul Butler**, and **OCC graduate Michael Birdsall**.
- During the **winter session**, **20 students** and **2 instructors** traveled to **Italy** and spent **two weeks studying art and science**. The **students** were fascinated with the **Galileo Museum**, viewing the **telescope** and the **many globes Galileo produced**. The students were **introduced to healthcare education** during the **Renaissance** and visited a **hospital** that was in **operation** from the **9th century to 1975**. They were even more intrigued by the **Da Vinci Museum**, where they could play with **models** made from **Da Vinci’s sketches**. In addition, the **students** were able to **taste Italy** through the **food**, **hear Italy** through **communication**, and further **embrace the Italian culture** by **learning** about **daily routines, politics, and their view of the world**. Thank you to the **Ocean County College Foundation** for its **generosity** in providing **scholarships** to the **students**, making the trip **affordable** to many who would **not otherwise** have been able to **participate**.
- The **New Jersey Southern Junior Science and Humanities Symposium** will be held at the **Lakehurst Naval Air Base** on **February 24, 2023**. After reviewing almost **50 submissions** of **research papers**, **10 students** were chosen to **compete** for the **top 5 spots** in the **national competition** in **Virginia Beach** in **April**. The **projects** ranged from **biomedical research, environmental science, mathematics, computer science, and engineering**.

Finance and Administration

- The **OCC FY2024 budget and related tuition policy update** will be on the **agenda** for **approval** on **Thursday**. The **budget** was **reviewed** in **detail** with the **full Board** at the **retreat** on **February 9, 2023**. As always, **student affordability** is at the **forefront** of all **discussions**, and a **very moderate three percent tuition increase** is being **recommended**. The **budget** includes an **additional \$1.3 million** for **healthcare premiums** and over **\$400,000** for **increased IT software expenses**. The **College** is also **absorbing increased expenses** for **tutoring, employee pay increases, utilities, and property insurance**. The **increased expenses** are **partially offset** by **freezing unfilled positions**, but a **substantial allocation** from **fund balance** is needed to **balance the budget**.
- Also on **Thursday’s agenda** is a **resolution** for **FY2024 Chapter 12 funding** in the amount of **\$4,444,166**. The **funds** will be used to **repave and update Parking Lot 1** on the **main campus** and to **add a parking lot** for the **disabled** near the **Gateway Building**. The **projects** will include **lighting, landscaping, striping, and signage**.

➤ **Office of Information Technology**

A new **2024-2028 Information Technology Strategic Plan** has been developed and is attached. A recommendation for approval by the **Board of Trustees** will be made at **Thursday's meeting**. The plan will function as a **guide** to the **allocation and use of technology resources at OCC**. The **IT Strategic Plan** demonstrates the **College's commitment to using technology resources to support student learning** and to **improve overall institutional effectiveness**. In addition, the **plan stresses IT governance and cyber security**. **Strengthened IT governance** will ensure that the **appropriate policies and procedures** are in place to **guide how the College evaluates, launches, and controls new initiatives** and ensures that **budget limitations are respected**. The **plan** also places a **renewed emphasis** on the **importance of cyber security** and the **need for the entire institution** to adopt **diligent practices to protect our digital resources**.

Furthermore, the **plan** establishes **five major technology goals with measurable objectives** that **support the strategic plan**. A **process for overseeing the implementation of the plan** will be **developed**, and there will be many **opportunities for faculty, lecturers, and staff** to become **involved**. **Broad participation** will result in **better outcomes and better governance over the life of the plan**. The **support of the entire College community** is **requested** as the **new IT Strategic Plan** is implemented.

➤ **Purchasing**

On **January 20, 2023**, a **New Jersey Council of County Colleges' (NJCCC) proposal** seeking **state legislation to modernize and update the County College Contracts Law (CCCL)** to **align with recent changes to the State College Procurement Law** was presented at the **NJCCC Presidents' meeting**. At the **Council's request**, **Ms. Christine Healey, Executive Director of Procurement and Compliance**, attended the **Presidents' meeting** to provide **clear evidence** as to why **modernization and updates are needed and answer questions**. All **background, rationale, and recommendations** in the **proposal** were provided from **prior documents** produced by a **JPC Committee** led by **Ms. Healey**. **Final approval** is **expected** at the **Council's March meeting**, after which the **proposal** will enter the **legislative process**.

➤ **College Relations**

➤ **Alumni**

➤ **Ocean Views Magazine** – The **Winter/Spring 2023 Ocean Views magazine** has been mailed to over **42,000 alumni and College stakeholders**. This issue **commemorates my presidency** and **highlights the Foundation's Legacy Campaign and long-term impact on the local community and its students**. The **alumni feature showcases the journey of a graduate from his time at OCC through his career focusing on LGBTQ advocacy, human rights, and DEI efforts**. Many other **exciting features** are included in this issue. **Extra copies** can be requested of the **College Relations office**.

➤ **Web Services** – **Mr. Eric Gonnella, Website Coordinator**, collaborated with **Mr. Christopher Brittain, Operations Manager in Workforce and Professional Education**, to **redesign the WPE landing page**. This redesign focused on **search engine optimization (SEO) and visual navigation elements to access courses, events, and programs offered by WPE**. Since the **launch of the redesigned landing page on November 29, 2022**, the **page** has been viewed **3,264 times**, with **2,212 of these visitors viewing the page for the first time**.

➤ **Ocean County College Foundation**

- **Scholarships** for the current **Spring semester** have been **awarded** and will **officially post** to all student accounts after the **final census**. The **Graduating Awards application period** will **open March 1, 2023**, and **remain open** through **April 17, 2023**. All students who **graduated** this past **December** or who will be **graduating** this **Spring** or **Summer** are **encouraged to apply**.
- **Annual Appeal Update – Thank you** to all who **participated** in this year’s **annual appeal**. This **giving opportunity** has been the **Foundation’s most successful effort** to date, as **gifts** continued to be **received** through the **end of January**, raising over **\$83,000** for the students of **Ocean County College**.
- **Foundation Art Collection Update** – Recently, the **co-chairs** of the **Foundation Art Committee**, along with **Alumni and Advancement Director Kim Maloney** and **Executive Director Kenneth Malagiere**, visited **Hudson County Community College’s Foundation Art Collection** to gain **firsthand knowledge** of the **acquisition and management process** as well as **tour the collection** of over **2,000 works**.

To that end, the **Foundation** hopes to **establish** an **initial budget** in the **upcoming fiscal year** to begin the **process** of **promotion, awareness, and acquisition** of a **collection** to be **displayed** in **public spaces** throughout **campus** and to **complement existing** and **future student work**.

OCC would join just **three other community colleges** in **New Jersey** with such a **dedicated collection**. The institutions include **Bergen Community College**, **Camden County College**, and **Hudson County Community College**, with a **collective goal** to **inspire** each of the **18 community colleges** throughout the **state** to do the **same**.

- This **Spring**, the **Blauvelt Speaker Series** will welcome **Olympic Gold Medalist Mia Hamm** on **March 8, 2023**, to a **sold-out crowd** at the **Grunin Center**; and **Presidential Historian Michael Beschloss** will be welcomed on **April 25, 2023**. Please visit www.grunincenter.org for more **information** and to book seats for the **discussion**. All events are available **free of charge** **virtually** with **registration**.
 - The **Foundation’s first post-pandemic Donor/Scholar Reception** will be held on **Wednesday, May 3, 2023**, at **5 p.m.** in the beautiful **atrium** of the **Instructional Building**. **Formal invitations** will **follow**.
 - Lastly, **work** is well **underway** in **planning** the **2023 Annual Scholarship Celebration** which will be held on **Friday, June 23, 2023**. This year the students of **Ocean County College** will be **celebrated**, and the **Foundation** will **recognize** my **departure** from the **presidency**. For more **information**, please visit go.ocean.edu/gala.
- **Jay and Linda Grunin Center for the Arts**
- The **Grunin Center** is the **regional partner** for the **high school Poetry Out Loud contest**; it **hosted** the **regional competition** on **February 8, 2023**. The event, **coordinated** by **Mr. Erik Stratton**, **Education and Community Engagement Coordinator**, featured **champions** from **Ocean, Monmouth, and Middlesex county high schools**. **Two** of the **fifteen competitors** were selected to **move on** to the **state championships**. The **Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean region** of **New Jersey Poetry Out Loud** serves approximately **8,000 students** across **15 schools**.

Poetry Out Loud, a free national program sponsored by the **National Endowment for the Arts** and the **Poetry Foundation**, encourages **high school students** across the **country** to **learn** about **great works of classic and contemporary poetry** through **memorization and recitation**. Not only do they **share** their **interpretation and delivery of poetry**, they also **vie** for **awards and scholarships** totaling **\$50,000**.

- The **Afternoon Recital Series**, coordinated by **Music College Lecturer II Brian Gilmore**, continued with its array of **talented musicians**, with **Alexander Timofeev**, a **Philadelphia-based composer and pianist**. The **event** took place on **February 17, 2023**, on the **Grunin Center main stage**.
- Also, the **Grunin Center** **partnered** both with the **College** and with the **community** on several **events**. In the **first**, with the **Office of Student Life**, **four student bands** were **hosted** for the **WOCC Radio Club**. The **bands** were **showcased** to **raise awareness** of the **relaunch** of **WOCC**, the **local radio station**. In the **second**, the **Center** worked with **Broadway on Main** for its **dance recital rental**.

➤ **Novins Planetarium**

On **January 28, 2023**, the **Novins Planetarium** once again **performed** the “**The Astronomy of Harry Potter**” event to **two sold-out audiences**. This event was **25%** of the **planetarium’s January public show revenue**, making **January** the **highest revenue month** so far in **FY 2023**.

In addition, the **Valentine’s star talk**, “**Love Stories in the Stars**,” was **nearly sold out** on **February 14, 2023**.

➤ **Workforce and Professional Education**

➤ **Work Readiness Assistance Program (WRAP) for At-Risk Youth and Young Adults**

Community outreach work for this **important program** continues, including a **recent event** with the **Toms River South Guidance and Child Study Team** reviewing **current and expanded services** offered through the **Ocean County Achievement Center** and funded through the **WRAP Grant**. Since **November 2022**, **25 new participants** have been **served**, including **19** who have **completed the orientation process**. Additionally, **11 current students** in the ‘**Exploration of Career Pathways and Entrepreneurship**’ course obtained **new, industry-valued credentials** (**Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation/Basic Life Support certifications**).

➤ **Updates for Adult Education, Civics, and Workforce Preparation (Title II)**

The **January 12, 2023, orientation** at the **SEC** was **well attended**, with **43 new students registered for ESL** at this event. This **positive turnout** is due, in part, to the **successful canvassing** by **staff** in the **southern part of the county** (**Little Egg Harbor, Manahawkin, Barnegat, and Long Beach Island**). Staff went **door-to-door** with **flyers** and **posted the flyers** in **multiple languages** at **several businesses** to **promote the program**.

In addition, **orientations** held at the **Toms River campus** on **January 9 (High School Equivalency)** and **January 10 and 11, 2023 (English as a Second Language)** had an **additional 447 potential students register and complete placement testing**.

Adult Education and ESL classes kicked off the week of February 6, 2023. Classes meet Monday/Wednesday, Tuesday/Thursday, and Saturday at multiple locations throughout the county. To date, this program has supported 83 new, non-traditional student graduates as they studied for and obtained their high school diplomas. In addition, eight students have earned industry-valued credentials in Customer Service through this program.

➤ **New and Expanded Partnerships in Customized Training**

In January, 64 students completed custom training courses, resulting in 1,314 hours of training, and 2 Civil Service tests were administered, resulting in over \$17,000 in revenue. Additionally, new partnerships are being created with Habitat for Humanity and the Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide.

➤ **Earning Marketable Credentials, Fast**

In February, a new cohort of students started the Google IT program, which raises the total of Google IT students to 25 for the fiscal year. Google IT students earn credit upon completion and are able to move to a computer science degree or directly to employment.

➤ **Human Resources**

- **NeoEd is a platform that was purchased in July 2022. The product transforms the way the College recruits, onboards, exits, evaluates, develops, and trains faculty, lecturers, and staff. Implementation of the fifth, and final module, LEARN, is well underway. Training has been held for managers and employees, and a LEARN Users Group has been identified and trained.**

Comprised of stakeholders across the College, the Users Group will utilize LEARN to attain or develop new training and corral existing training into the LEARN system. Faculty, lecturers, and staff will be able to self-select training, be assigned training by managers, or request assistance from the Users Group in developing or adding new training. Employees or their managers can easily review employee training records. Compliance training for all employees will be delivered from the LEARN module, and reports will be readily available. Beyond the introductory rollout, the Office of Human Resources will work with the Users Group to develop and implement employee certificate programs that will continue to support a highly trained workforce.

➤ **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 of January 21 through February 17, 2023.

Student Affairs

➤ Advising

➤ Transfer Events

- **Transfer Coordinator Laura Wills** has organized a **full schedule** of **on-campus transfer events** this **Spring**. **Representatives** from **institutions** such as **Kean Ocean, Stockton University, and Thomas Edison State University** will be on **campus** to speak with students about **degrees, programs, and campus life**.
- **OCC students** will also have the opportunity to **attend Instant Decision Days**. These events give **students** the **opportunity** to meet with an **admissions representative** and **waive the application fee**. **Students** almost always receive an **offer of admission** at the events. **Participating institutions** include **Stockton University, Rowan University, Drew University, Farleigh Dickinson University, Monmouth University, Montclair University, Kean Ocean, NJIT, and Seton Hall University**.
- **Ms. Wills** has worked with **Kean Ocean** to organize **Kean Ocean Dual Advising Days**. **Students** can meet with **OCC Advising** and **Kean Ocean Admissions** for a **dual appointment** to talk with them about how their **credits** will **transfer seamlessly**.
- Finally, **Ms. Wills** will be hosting **three Transfer Roundtables** this **Spring**. All **campus advisors** and **staff** are invited to **come together** to discuss any **transfer issues** or **questions** they encounter in their work with **students** or **curriculum**. Through these events, **Advising** and **Transfer Services** hope to provide a **forum** that will help to **facilitate communication** and **collaboration** among all **campus stakeholders** in the area of **transfer**.

➤ NJ STARS

- **NJ STARS Coordinator Jennifer Kipp** reports that **26 NJ STARS students** graduated in **December 2022**. **Spring 2023 NJ STARS enrollment** currently stands at **269 students** (with **36 potential STARS students** awaiting confirmation).
- In **Fall 2022**, over **300 alerts** were raised for **163 unique NJ STARS students** via **Advise CRM**. Of these alerts, **many** were for **students** whose **grades** fell **below 80%** in **one or more** of their **courses**. **Students** received an **email communication** informing them of the **status** of their **courses**. Through this communication, **students** were **encouraged** to **contact Advisor Diane DeFilippo** to discuss **academic resources** and **strategies**. **Students** who **continued** to have **course averages below 80%** for an **extended period** of time received **phone calls** as well. The **remaining alerts** were issued by **instructors** for **missed assignments** and **attendance**.

NJ STARS students who fell **below 3.0** in the **Fall 2022 semester** received **letters** informing them of their **academic status** and advising them to **contact Advisor Diane DeFilippo**. These **students** also received **follow-up phone calls** regarding their status. **Discussions** with **students** included **academic plans, study strategies, time management, critical thinking, tutoring services, degree programs, and transfer plans**. **Students** were encouraged to **reach out** if they had any **questions** or needed additional **assistance** or **information**.

➤ **Advise**

Advising, the HUB, Academic Affairs, e-Learning, and IT are continuing to **collaborate** on the **administration of Faculty CX**. **Instructors** are able to **raise alerts** for **students of academic concern** throughout the semester. **Seventy instructors** have **access** to the **system**; as of **February 12, 2023**, there were **207 alerts** raised for **183 unique students** in **Spring terms**. The **most utilized alert**, at this point in the semester, has been **attendance** issues, followed by **missed assignments**. **Success Coaches** are responding to the **alerts** by contacting **students** to discuss topics such as the **importance of attendance, technical issues, study strategies, and resources on campus**.

➤ **Advisor Training**

The **Advising Office** will be offering a **robust training schedule** for all **campus advisors** this **Spring**. **Advisors** will be able to attend **workshops** on **Student Planning**, including using **Curriculum Tracks** to assist **students** in **planning to complete** their **degree programs**. **Advisors** for **Pre-Nursing students** will have an opportunity to **meet** with **Associate Director Michele Connolly** to review **Nursing requirements** and **best practices** for **students** intending to **pursue Nursing** at **OCC**. **Transfer Coordinator Laura Wills** is offering **training** to help **advisors** assist **students** at all **stages** of the **transfer process**. **Advisors** can attend a **Transfer Advising Overview**, which will cover topics such as how **credits transfer** and the **NJ Statewide Transfer Agreement**. **Sessions** will also be offered for **Kean Ocean Transfer Advising** and **Using NJ Transfer**.

➤ **Career Services**

➤ **Presentations**

- On **January 17 and 18, 2023**, **Dr. Deborah Kepics, Director of Career Services**, presented to **Medical Billing and Coding students** on **interview skills, resume reviews, and how to be a valuable employee**.
- **Dr. Kepics** was invited to **introduce herself** and discuss **potential job and internship opportunities** at the **New Jersey Municipal Management Association Ocean County Administrators' Meeting** on **January 18, 2023**.
- **Career Services** is **partnering** with **Enrollment Services** to present a **Career Workshop** at **Jackson Liberty High School** on **March 14, 2023**.

➤ **Planning, Visits, and Events**

- **Dr. Kepics** attended the **Southern Ocean Chamber of Commerce Women in Business Roundtable meeting** on **January 24, 2023**.
- On **February 28, 2023**, a **meeting** is scheduled with **Keystone Cyber Protection** and **Dean of STEM Sylvia Riviello** to discuss the possibility of a **public event** introducing this **new local company** in **partnership** with **OCC's Cyber Security Program**.
- **Career Services** is planning a **STEM Virtual Mingle** with **Ms. Cheyenne Riehl, OCC STEM Librarian**, to be held on **March 6, 2023**, to **highlight STEM faculty and lecturers** and their **career/industry backgrounds**.

- **Southern Education Center Director Brian Schillaci and Dr. Kepics** are scheduled to be on the **Southern Ocean County Chamber Radio show on March 17, 2023**, to highlight the **part-time/summer career fairs** planned at the SEC for **April 5 and 6, 2023**.
- **Dr. Kepics and Ms. Allison Betts, new Career Pathways Coordinator of Social Work**, are invited to **Bright Harbor Healthcare on March 1, 2023**, for a **tour** and to **meet the Human Resources representative and Student Intern Supervisor**.
- **Ms. Taylor Dulemba, Career Services Coordinator**, began **weekly office hours in Advising**, and both **Ms. Dulemba and Dr. Kepics** are holding **bi-monthly office hours** at the SEC to be more **accessible and visible to students**.
- **Ms. Dulemba** completed the **Certified Veteran Career Strategist Certification** from the **Professional Association of Resume Writers and Career Coaches**.
- **Career Services** is assisting in the **Hospitality, Recreation, and Tourism Management (HRTM) Connect event** scheduled for **March 9, 2023**, in the **Conference Center**. **Ocean County College** is **preparing students** for rewarding careers in **culinary arts, hospitality, recreation, tourism, and event marketing** through **targeted degree and certificate programs**.

The **HRTM Career Fair** is created, planned, and managed by **OCC's HRTM students**. It will showcase their **customer service, event planning, and marketing skills**. **HRTM College Lecturer Sean Bips** will speak on **international trends in hospitality and gaming**. The **Hard Rock, Borgata, Hotel LBI, and Merri-Makers Catering** are a few of the **employers** who will be in **attendance**.

➤ **Counseling Center**

- The **Counseling Center** is experiencing a **busy semester**. **Dr. Kate Pandolpho, Director of Counseling and Student Development**, presented on **Resilience** at the **Spring Colloquium**, along with **Ms. Tracey Donaldson, Associate Vice President of Human Resources**, and **Ms. Jackie D'Amore, Director of Talent and Organizational Development**. They plan to present **another workshop on Resilience** during the **Spring semester**. **Dr. Pandolpho** is also presenting several **CARE Reporting sessions** over the next few months. **Four Counseling Center staff members** are now **certified instructors** in **Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR)** and **Mental Health First Aid**: **Ms. Heather Mayer, Case Manager and Mental Health Technician**; **Ms. Darra Stack, Student Intervention Specialist**; **Ms. Katie Hueth, Prevention Education Specialist**; and **Ms. Kelly Petrolis, Student Intervention Specialist**. **Ms. Heather Mayer** also completed the **Peer Recovery Coach training**.
- In **collaboration** with the **Grants Office**, an **application** was **completed** for the **New Jersey Department of Education, Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, Community Provider Partnerships and Professional Development Grant**, which provides **funding to support and increase mental health services for college students**. This **non-competitive grant program** provides a **designated amount of funding to each college** over a **three-and-one-half-year period**. **Grant participants** are excited about the **activities and programs** they plan to **offer to the campus community**. Another **State initiative for college student mental health** is to provide **tele-mental health services to students** from **New Jersey's community colleges, colleges, and universities**.

- The **essential mission** of the **Center** and the **focus** of all **activities** and **programs** is to **help students** and the **campus community** embrace **wellness, self-care, and overall well-being**; deal with **issues** that **interfere** with that **wellness**; increase **help-seeking behaviors**; and **eliminate stigma** of all kinds. The Center's **reinforcing message** about the **importance** of **self-care** is to foster **resilience** and provide **strength** to **face the challenges life brings**. Everything the **Center** does is geared to **help students** to be **academically successful**, to **achieve their goals and dreams**, and to **persist to graduation**.
- In the **spirit** of **self-care, well-being, and collaboration**, the **Counseling Center**, with **Student Life** and **Disability Services**, hosted **two Days of Wellness** for the **campus community**. Activities such as **drumming circles, creative mindfulness, meditation, a walking labyrinth, chair massages, meditation with singing crystal bowls, positive affirmations, and goal setting** all encouraged a **comprehensive plan for self-care**.
- **Upcoming activities** include:
 - **March 1, 2023** – A **presentation** by **Minding Your Mind**, an **organization** that features **speakers** telling their **stories of hope and recovery** from **mental health challenges** while in college.
 - **April 19, 2023** – **Ms. Rachel Piazza** returns to present **Empowerment Self-Defense**.
 - **March 15 and 21, 2023** – **Two all-day sessions** will be held on **Mental Health First Aid**, an **evidence-based, skills-based training course** that **teaches participants** about **mental health and substance use issues**. The **course** instructs on how to **identify, understand, and respond**. It is **designed** for people who are **not mental health practitioners**. **Registration in advance is required**.
 - **Sessions** continue to be **offered** on **QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer)**, an **evidence-based suicide prevention program**. In the **Fall semester**, **68 Student Affairs staff members** were **trained**; the **goal** is for **every Student Affairs employee** to be **trained in QPR**. Efforts are being made to **work with Academic Affairs** to **train faculty, lecturers, and staff**. Additional **sessions** will be **hosted** throughout the **Spring semester**, including on **March 6 and April 6, 2023**. **Registration in advance is requested**.
 - The **Supporting Students in Recovery Program** trained **ten members** of the **Recovery Support Program** to pursue **professional roles** as **Peer Recovery Specialists**. These **individuals** now have the opportunity to **provide support** to their **peers** in the **program**, advancing a **sustainable, connected, and supportive community** of students that have been **affected** by a **Substance Use Disorder**. The **Recovery Program**, which **began in 2020**, provides **counseling, activities, information, a weekly support group, and supportive services** to **individuals in recovery** or who are **interested in recovery**. There are **189 individuals** enrolled in the **non-credit Canvas course**.

The **Recovery Support Program** resumed its **weekly All Recovery Meeting** on campus, **co-led** by **Ms. Katie Hueth, Prevention Education Coordinator** and a **Peer Recovery Specialist**. A number of **activities** are being **planned** during **Collegiate Recovery Week, April 10 to 14, 2023**, including **Recovery Speaks** on **April 13, 2023**, in **collaboration** with **community partner Hope Sheds Light**.

- **Restore Your Score**, the **academic support intervention program** for students who are in **academic probation status**, has a **new cohort of 66 students**. All are **enrolled in the non-credit Canvas course**; they receive **regular communication about important dates, academic success, and encouraging messages**. The **Spring semester programming** includes **workshops and seminars**.
- The **CARE Team** has handled **442 reports** since **July 1, 2022**, with **63** of these reports since **January 1, 2023**. **Increases** continue to be seen in **student mental health concerns, family issues, relationship breakups, and housing insecurity**. **One CARE Reporting training** will be conducted this **month** and another in **March**. This **training is available to departments and schools**.
- The **Displaced Homemakers Program** is providing services to **20 new and 99 continuing clients**, for a total of **119 clients**. **Efforts are focused on recruitment, retention, and post-pandemic rebuilding**. There is an **increase in client engagement in services and activities**. This semester, **six clients are enrolled full-time at OCC, two are students pursuing B.A. or B.S. degrees, and six are completing certifications through WPE**. The **program offers skill-building workshops and computer skills classes**. **On February 24, 2023, a community connections event is being hosted to promote the program to government, community, and social services organizations**.
- **Enrollment Services – The HUB**
 - **On January 17, 2023, the Enrollment team gave a presentation and tour of Ocean County College to the students in the Exploration of Career Pathways and Entrepreneurship course under the Workforce and Professional Education Department.**
 - **On January 18, 2023, Enrollment Services presented at DCF Regional School, Monmouth Campus, for Ocean County residents graduating from high school in May 2023.**
 - **On January 25, 2023, Dr. Sheenah Hartigan, Executive Director of Enrollment Services, and Dr. Amir Sadrian, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, presented to employees at Monmouth Medical Center, Southern Campus, at their weekly meeting regarding college programs and pathways their staff may find interesting. Over 70 individuals attended the presentations and had great feedback and questions.**
 - **Ms. Melissa Sporer, Enrollment Services Advisor for College Pathways, presented virtually on January 31, 2023, along with Ms. Jennifer Kipp, NJ STARS Coordinator, representatives from Kean Ocean, and student speakers for the NJ STARS Information Session. In attendance were 49 potential students and their families.**
 - **In January, the Success Coaches completed 884 outgoing calls, most of which were related to Alerts issued through the CRM Advise system. The alerts were due to not logging in to an online class for the Accelerated Term 1 and Spring semester or for students who had not completed their Honorlock-required Orientation Quiz. The retention team also called students who were enrolled in the Fall semester and needed to still enroll for the Spring.**
 - **The Enrollment Team, in January, completed 3,502 outgoing phone calls to support students' efforts to enroll and matriculate in the Spring semester. The team saw an average service time of 3.63 minutes and an average wait time of 3.62 minutes in the month of January. The Enrollment Team completed 1,779 transactions in January, as well.**

- **Enrollment Services** facilitated **multiple days** at both the **Performing Arts Academy** and **Brick Memorial High School** to provide **training** to **guidance staff** and **students** to **self-register** for **online early college dual-enrollment classes** using **Student Planning**. The **team** helped almost **200 students** register themselves in a **single day** on **February 7, 2023**.
- On **February 9, 2023**, the **Enrollment Services team** assisted **17 Toms River students** who came to **campus** to get a **tour** of the **TV Studio** and **learn** more about **broadcasting** and **journalism majors**. They also received a **campus tour**, information about the **programs**, a game of **Kahoot**, and **lunch** at **Bubbakoos** on **campus**.
- On **February 11, 2023**, **Enrollment Services Advisors Melissa Sporer** and **Haley Abruzzese** attended the **Ocean County Mall Expo** where they **met** with **community members** and distributed **information** about **OCC** to **potential students** and their **families**.
- **Enrollment Services** was invited to **present** at the **Brick and Beyond** event on **February 15, 2023**, speaking with **parents** and **teachers** at **Brick Memorial High School** about **opportunities** at **OCC** and with the **early college program**.
- **Ocean County College's partnership** with **Ben Hudnall Memorial Trust (BHMT)** is continuing to yield **success**. As of **February 14, 2023**, there are **68 unique students** taking **235 credits** in the **Spring term**, an **all-time high** for the **partnership**. **BHMT 2022-2023 student credits** are up almost **9%** when compared with **2021-22**. This **increase** does **not** include **Summer credits**, so it is expected that there will be a **double-digit increase** this year for the **partnership**.
- **Office of Disability Services**
 - The **Office of Disability Services** continues to **increase outreach efforts** and provide **accommodation services** to **eligible enrolled students**. During this **reporting period**, the **office** conducted the following **student** and **faculty/lecturer activities**:
 - **Student Support Group Meetings: 3**
 - **Virtual Drop-In Sessions: 7**
 - **Student Contacts/Communications: 215**
 - **Faculty/Lecturer/Staff Consultations: 19**
 - On **February 1, 2023**, **staff** met with a group of **parents** and **prospective students** from **Lacey** and **Little Egg Harbor School Districts**. They were provided with an **overview** of **services** and **OCC's accommodation request process**. On **February 9, 2023**, **staff** met with **parents** and **prospective students** from **Jackson Liberty High School** for an **overview** of **transition** from **high school** to **college**, including the **College's accommodation request process**.
 - **Staff** continue to **meet bi-weekly** with a **representative** from **Symplicity** to **customize** the **new accommodation software management system**, "**Accommodate**."
- **Registration and Records**
 - The **Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)** has **approved OCC's Form I-17 recertification petition**. Any school in the **United States** whose **officials** want to **enroll F and/or M Visa students** must **file a Form I-17, "Petition for Approval of School for Attendance by a Nonimmigrant Student,"** and receive **approval** from the **Department of Homeland Security**

(DHS). By accepting SEVP certification, OCC makes a legally binding commitment to comply with certain federal laws and regulations and DHS requirements.

➤ **Southern Education Center**

The SEC Canvas Announcements continue to be an effective message board for students and staff. Recent announcements have included the opportunity to register for Summer courses, dates when various services will be visiting the SEC, and various college-wide opportunities. Many of OCC's service areas have joined the SEC in person during the first month of this semester. This continues to afford SEC students the chance to gain a strong understanding of opportunities available to them closer to home. The SEC students and staff extend their appreciation to their colleagues in Disability Services, Career Services, the Library, Transfer, the Counseling Center, Student Support, and Student Life for continuing to connect with the SEC.

➤ **SEC Happenings**

- SEC Director Brian Schillaci and the Advising Team of Mr. Jeff Kurz, Ms. Toni Ann DiPasquale, and Ms. Jenna McAteer recently met with high school guidance teams from Lacey and Barnegat. This was a follow-up to their first introduction to the SEC back in December. This particular meeting focused on planning potential student visits from these high schools in the Spring. This was a great opportunity to continue the connection and provide additional awareness about the SEC to the local area high schools.
- Director Schillaci shared Summer course offerings with high school guidance teams from Southern Regional, Lacey, Barnegat, and Pinelands. Those teams are sharing the information with their students to provide awareness of opportunities to enroll at the SEC. In addition, SEC Student Advisor Toni Ann DiPasquale has been giving class presentations to current students about Summer courses. This has been a great, personal way to provide awareness about these additional course opportunities.
- The SEC and Career Services Teams are coordinating with the Southern Ocean County Chamber of Commerce to bring a Part-Time Job Fair to the SEC in April. This event will afford local businesses and SEC students the chance to connect about job opportunities for the Summer months. A successful event is anticipated with continued partnership with the Chamber in subsequent semesters.

➤ **Veterans and Military Resources Center**

- The Veterans and Military Resources Center (VMRC) is currently working toward increasing knowledge of services and programs offered to military affiliated students.

During this reporting period, the following contacts were made:

- Student Interactions by email or phone: 20
 - Student Interactions in the Center: 55
 - Internal and external stakeholder contacts: 46
- The VMRC established first contact and monthly meetings with other 2019 Centers of Excellence for Veteran Student Success (CVES) grant recipients to discuss best practices. These meetings provide connections with other veterans programs to discuss successes and challenges as well as what each school has found to be successful in serving students.

- The **Chief of the Education Center** at **Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst** was contacted to begin discussion of **embedding OCC** at the **base** to help **increase enrollment** of **active duty members** and their **dependents** as well as any **members leaving service**.
- The **Center** developed a **relationship** with the **Ocean County Veteran Service Bureau** to offer the **services** of an **embedded Veterans Service Officer** in the **VMRC** on a **weekly basis**. The **Veterans Service Officer** provides **Ocean County veterans** and their **dependents** with **information** and **guidance** in **filing** and **reopening claims**. This **collaboration** is expected to help **drive current students** to the **Center** and supports the **Center's** move toward a **one-stop-shop model**.
- The **Wounded Warrior Project** is being hosted on **February 16, 2023**, to **connect veterans** with available **services**. This **meet-and-greet event** will be an **excellent opportunity** to learn how to **receive services** from the **program**, **support a veteran**, or **support the initiatives** of the **Wounded Warrior Project**. **Attendees** will have the chance to **enjoy snacks** and **refreshments**. The **Wounded Warrior Project** directs **programs** in **mental health**, **career counseling**, and **long-term rehabilitative care**, along with **advocacy efforts**.
- The **VMRC** was **invited** to hold a **spot** on the local **Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) advisory board**. The **board** consists of **parents**, **students**, **Assistant Superintendent Adrienne Gold**, **Principal Ed Keller**, **Supervisor Mat Maligiore**, **JROTC Instructors SGM Cosmanioc** and **SFC Long** from **OCC's** **district** as well as **JROTC instructors** from **other districts**. This will assist in developing **more connections** with **local area schools** and potentially **children of veterans** as well as any **students** that may be interested in **pursuing the military** as they reach **age 18**.
- The **VMRC** is preparing for a **virtual site visit** with **Ellucian** for **grant compliance**.

e-Learning and Learning Enterprises

➤ e-Learning Academics

➤ Orientation Quiz Mandate

Starting this **Spring 2023**, all **students enrolled** in **online courses** are now **required** to **complete** the **Honorlock-proctored "Get Started Orientation Quiz (or Orientation Quiz)**. During the **proctoring process**, each **student** must take a **photo** of themselves and **present** their **government-issued identification** to **verify** and **authenticate** their **identity**. After **successful ID verification**, **students** will take the **Orientation Quiz** and must receive a **score of 100%** to **complete** the **quiz successfully**. In addition, the **students** need to **complete** the **quiz** to **access** the **course content**. **Students** can attempt to **complete** the **quiz** as **many times** as **needed**.

Students who opt **not to take the quiz** may **not qualify** for **financial aid assistance**. To date, **94%** of the **Spring 2023 online students** and **89%** of the **Spring 2023 Accelerated Term 1 online students** have **successfully completed** the **Orientation Quiz**.

The **e-Learning Department** is also **collaborating** with **Student Affairs** to notify the **students** of this **new mandate** using **various mediums** to **convey the message**. The **e-Learning Department faculty** were instructed to **view** the **Honorlock-proctored video** after the **student** took the **quiz** and **report** any **suspicious student behavior**. **Five students** have been **reported** for exhibiting

suspicious behavior, and an **active investigation** is being **completed** by the **e-Learning Department, Student Affairs, the Registrar's Office, and IT**.

Also, if **students do not adhere** to the **student identification and authentication procedure**, it can **result** in them being **deactivated** from the **online course**. The **e-Learning Department** will continue **monitoring** the **student IDs** used to **enroll** in the **courses** and the **data** relative to the **completion** of the **Orientation Quiz**. The **department** will **report instances** of **fraudulent students** every term.

➤ **Watermark**

On **Monday, January 23, 2023**, the **e-Learning Department** attended **customized training** with **Mr. Tomm Bjornsen** from **Watermark Insights**. **Watermark** is the **evaluation survey software** implemented in **Spring 2022** for **anonymous Student Course Evaluations**. During the **training**, **e-Learning administrators** learned how to **create tailored customized reports** by **extracting raw data** to **assess the student's opinion** of **instruction, course design, and technology**. Currently, the **student response rate** is approximately **50%**.

The **customized report data** from **Spring 2022, Summer 2022, and Fall 2022** will be **assessed** to **enhance course design and content** as necessary. The **report data** will be **analyzed** to **evaluate** the **student's online experience** and will help administrators **implement strategies** to **increase the student response rate**. In addition, the **student feedback** will allow the department to **explore professional development opportunities** for **e-Learning faculty and lecturers**. Finally, it will supply the **information** to assist the **e-Learning Department** in the **strategic plan** for **student retention**.

The **e-Learning Department** collects the **student course evaluation seven times** each **academic year**; **data collection** will **launch** on **March 1, 2023**, for the **Spring Accelerated Term 1**.

➤ **Simple Syllabus**

In **Fall 2022**, **Simple Syllabus** was **launched** in **all online courses**. **Simple Syllabus** is a **syllabus management platform** that assists **students** with **understanding** the **course expectations and requirements** to be **successful**. Since the **launch** of **Simple Syllabus**, the **syllabi** for **online courses** have been **viewed** more than **55,000 times**.

During the **2023 Spring semester**, **Simple Syllabus software** was implemented in **102 sections**. By course census, **2,391 enrolled students** have **viewed** their **syllabi** more than **11,000 times**, an **average** of **4.5 times** each. To date, **85%** of **enrolled Spring semester students** have **viewed** their **syllabi**.

During the **2023 Spring Accelerated 1 Term**, **Simple Syllabus software** was utilized in **53 sections**. In those courses, **923 students** interacted with their **syllabi** by the census, which is an **83% view rate**. The **syllabi** were viewed **4,846 times**, averaging **5 views** per **student**.

In **mid-February 2023**, the **e-Learning Department** will make the **Syllabus Library** available to the **public** to **view** and **research syllabi** for the **176 unique online courses** offered. This **course preview** will give **visiting students** a **streamlined process** to **obtain course information** before **registering** for a **course**. The **advanced availability** of the **syllabi** will **better assist students** in **evaluating course requirements**.

➤ **Professional Development**

➤ **General Faculty Meeting and Post-Professional Development Survey**

Over **75 faculty members** and **lecturers** attended the **Spring Faculty General Meeting** on **January 17, 2023**, for a **presentation** entitled "**Is it Fake or Real? How to Identify Fraudulent Students and Coursework in a Virtual Classroom.**" The **meeting** focused on the **financial aid fraud** committed by some **students** trying to obtain **financial aid refunds** by **posing** as **legitimate students** in an **online class**.

Dean of e-Learning Vivian Lynn emphasized the need for **instructors** to be **diligent** and **communicate** any **suspicion** of a **fake student** in their **courses**, recognizing that they play a **key role** in the **communications** that will assist the **Student Services, Academic Advising, and IT departments** in their efforts to **ensure** the **integrity** of **online courses**. In addition, they were **advised** on how to **report suspicious students** enrolled in their **courses**.

A **Post-Professional Development survey** was offered to all who **attended** the **meeting**. There was a **38% response rate** to the **survey**; of the **30 participants** who took the **survey**, **86.5%** were **highly satisfied** with the **General Meeting**. In addition, nearly **90%** believed that the **presenters** were **knowledgeable** and **effective** or thought the **strategies** used by the **presenters** were **appropriate** in helping **faculty** and **lecturers** attain the **goals** and **outcomes** of this **professional development event**.

The following **comments** from the **survey** revealed that the **participants** were **highly satisfied** with the variety of **topics** covered at the **General Meeting**. A few of the **comments** are as follows:

- "A very **well-presented meeting** with **useful information**. Thank you!"
- "The **speakers** were **excellent**. The **breakrooms** offered an **excellent choice** for me to gain the **perspective** of **students**. It was well worth the time spent. By far the **best Professional Development** I have **received** at **OCC**!"
- "Thank you for the **opportunity** to meet **new people** and **improve** my **online teaching**. This was the **best General Meeting** yet. It was **informative** and **interesting**."
- "There was a **great suggestion** to use **Voice Thread** to **engage students**. I love the fact that all **e-Learning meetings** are **one hour**. I am more likely to attend because the **presenters** always **adhere** to the **schedule**."

The **survey** also revealed that **21%** of **participants** would like to see **more online courses** or **workshops** offered for **professional development**, and **100%** of those **surveyed** are interested in **learning more** about the **new e-BreakRoom**.

➤ **Master Course Development Kick-Off Meeting**

The **Content Developer Training** is a **three-week online training course** for **Subject Matter Experts** to become **proficient** in the **course design process**. It provides an **overview** of the **course development procedures** and the **attributes** of a **quality online course**. The entire **course development process** is a **collaborative partnership** between the **Developer, Reviewer, and Instructional Designer**, who create an **engaging, interactive master course** that reinforces the

course learning outcomes. After completing the training, the Subject Matter Experts will begin with their respective course developments.

To complete the onboarding of newly hired online Master Course Developers and Reviewers, the e-Learning Deans hosted the department's second Master Course Development Kick-Off training for the academic year on February 2, 2023. The new cohort in the department's online course development training was comprised of five faculty hired as Subject Matter Experts in Computer Science, Finance, Social Work, and Supply Chain.

Topics included multiple learning styles, Bloom's Taxonomy, a discussion on rubric criteria, and Open Educational Resources (OER). A recorded OER training was provided by Ms. Donna Rosinski-Kauz, Director of Library Services.

➤ **February Adjunct Roundtable**

On February 16, 2023, adjunct faculty participated in the February Adjunct Roundtable, "Open Forum, A New Villain Enters - Artificial Intelligence, How Can I Make Sure My Students Are Real?"

During a breakout session, attendees debated the capabilities and limitations of artificial intelligence in higher education. They examined best practices to ensure that their students were legitimately enrolled. Mr. Neil Mastroianni, Associate Director of Educational Technology, and Ms. Janice Salerno, College Lecturer II in Business, illustrated the effectiveness of the ChatGPT chatbot by demonstrating its ability to answer questions and summarize information.

The adjunct faculty explored ways to ensure their students are authentic and shared the best practices for course management and engaging students in their courses. Best practices were shared to connect students to others within their course community by promoting peer consultation in projects and group work. Lastly, the participants discussed how implementing open-ended questions in course discussions can enhance student communication, critical thinking, and collaboration skills.

The next Adjunct Faculty Roundtable will be on March 16, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. This professional development event will focus on promoting positive relationships with students.

➤ **Faculty/Lecturer Professional Development Series on Artificial Intelligence**

On March 2, 2023, e-Learning and Learning Enterprises will hold a professional development event entitled "Artificial Intelligence and ChatGPT." The event will be held via WebEx.

Participants will explore ChatGPT and how it relates to higher education. Since its release in November of last year, ChatGPT has become the most talked about modern technology in education. Students and educators have been discovering and discussing how this artificial intelligence development can aid student learning or obfuscate academic dishonesty.

Please join the e-Learning team to discover this news-making application and learn tips on managing it in courses. The other topics for the series to be featured in March and April 2023 include Designing, Teaching, and Learning with Artificial Intelligence; Designing Courses with ChatGPT; Artificial Intelligence in Academic Writing; and Getting the Weeds of Artificial Intelligence from a Computer Science Perspective.

Effective **February 2023**, the **e-Learning Department** will host all **professional development training** on the **NeoEd LEARN** platform.

➤ **e-Learning Personnel**

The **Academic Team** has hired **eight e-Learning adjuncts** in the disciplines of **Computer Science, English, Psychology, Social Work, and Supply Chain**. The **new adjuncts** will be **paired with mentors**, invited to **attend monthly professional development sessions**, and will **enroll** in the **Online Instructor Training course**. Before accepting a teaching assignment, the **adjunct** must **successfully complete the training course**. The **Online Instructor Training** provides the **adjunct** with the **knowledge of best practices of the online teaching modality**, how to **prepare instructional content**, and how to **deliver a high-quality online learning experience** to **Ocean County College students**.

➤ **International Programs**

Dr. Essam El Kordi, President of Alamein International University (AIU), Dr. Rouchdy Zahran, AIU Board of Trustees Chair, and their **spouses** were **hosted** by **OCC** from **January 28 through February 5, 2023**. During this week, the **AIU team** and **OCC team** of Vice President of e-Learning and Learning Enterprises **Eileen Garcia, Associate Vice President of International Programs Maysa Hayward, Senior Liaison to the President for Institutional Initiatives Eileen Schilling**, and I had **meetings** with **representatives of University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC), William Paterson University (WPU), Rutgers-Camden University (RU), and Kean University (KU)**. The **purpose** of the visit was to discuss how the **Egyptian consortium** managed by **AIU** will work to **offer Special Programs** where **students complete the first two years at OCC, the third year at an Egyptian university, and the fourth year at an American university**. In addition to the **productive meetings**, the **AIU group** had an opportunity to **meet** several **members of the OCC Board of Trustees**.

Dr. Maysa Hayward and I will be in **Egypt** from **February 25 through March 4, 2023**. We will be **accompanied** by **OCC Board of Trustees Chair Jerry Dasti**, and his **wife**. During this visit, we will be **meeting** with the **Minister of Higher Education** and **presidents and representatives of AIU, Badr University Cairo (BUC), and Ain Shams University (ASU)**.