
59TH COMMENCEMENT

ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY  TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026



OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE STUDENT AWARDS CEREMONY

CHARLES READ MEMORIAL MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

In memory of OCC's first professor of Music, Charles Read, who taught at OCC from 1966 until 2000. Professor Read was also the founder and director of the OCC Community Chorus. \$100 is awarded to a graduating student with a 3.5 GPA or higher in all music classes who has been accepted into a four-year institution as a Music major.

ENROLLMENT SERVICES LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP

\$150 is awarded to three graduating Student Ambassadors who have demonstrated exceptional student leadership and a meaningful impact on both prospective and current students. Recipients are trusted peer leaders who enhance the enrollment experience and expand the reach of the college through exemplary academic achievement, initiative, dependability, and a student-first mindset.

VIKING ATHLETICS COMMITMENT AWARD

\$200 is awarded to a student who has shown outstanding commitment and support of the athletics program and loyalty to the college.

ARMANDO QUIROZ AWARD

Donated by Dr. Marilyn Kralik, \$200 is awarded to a graduating student for commitment to biliteracy and second language learning or advocating for cultural responsiveness in the community.

CHRISTOPHER W. MANNION SCHOLARSHIP

Donated by Marilyn Kralik, \$200 is awarded to a graduating student who has demonstrated a commitment to international travel for the purpose of academic achievement.

PATRICK CARROLL AWARD

\$200 is awarded to a student who has excelled academically, whose influence has been most constructive in the field of Athletics, and who has exhibited satisfactory scholarship, sound citizenship, and loyalty to the college.

JULIE FOUKARAKIS MEMORIAL AWARD

\$200 each is awarded to two female students who have excelled academically, whose influence has been most constructive in the field of Athletics, and who has exhibited satisfactory scholarship, sound citizenship, and loyalty to the college.

AMANDA CANTILLON AWARD

Donated by Marilyn Kralik, \$200 is awarded to a graduating student who has actively supported the Fine Arts program at OCC.

PHI THETA KAPPA FRATERNITY AWARD

A total of \$1,000 is awarded to five students who best exemplify the ideals of the Phi Theta Kappa fraternity, for making significant contributions to the work of the Tau Iota chapter, and promoting intellectual and cultural growth.

WHO'S WHO AMONG STUDENTS AT OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE

\$250 each is awarded to graduating students nominated in 2026, for significant contributions to Ocean County College in the areas of scholarship and leadership.

MEALS ON WHEELS OF OCEAN COUNTY AWARD

(in honor of Virginia and Jack Lamping)

\$250 is awarded to a graduating student interested in pursuing a career in Public Affairs, Policy, or Government.

OPERATION OCEAN HEROES SCHOLARSHIP

\$250 each is awarded to a student who has impacted student engagement through SALUTE honor society, student VA, VMRC work-study program or other student organization.

RICHARD M. TRIMBLE SCHOLARSHIP

\$250 is awarded to a graduating student who has excelled in historical research and academic development in the field of History. Donated by the OCC History Club in conjunction with the Jersey Shore Civil War Round Table in recognition of the late Richard Trimble.

JENNIE HORNE CECE AWARD

Donated by Dottie Cece LaPosa in honor of her mother, Jennie Horne Cece, a working mom with eight children, \$300 is given to a working mother raising her children and pursuing her education simultaneously.

JOSEPH HATHAWAY COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER AWARD

Donated by Student Life, \$300 each is awarded to the two student commencement speakers in honor of Joseph C. Hathaway Jr., commencement speaker for the Class of 2012.

DR. ALBERT SOCOL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

\$500 is awarded to an outstanding student in Mathematics.

DONALD W. SMITH SCHOLARSHIP

Donated by DW Smith Associates, \$500 each is awarded to two graduating students pursuing an education in Civil Engineering, Surveying, Planning Landscape Design, and/or Environmental Services.

FACULTY ASSOCIATION OF OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE

Donated by the Faculty Association of OCC, \$500 is awarded to an outstanding student transferring to a four-year institution.

FRANK RICHETTI SR. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

\$500 is awarded to a graduating student in honor of Mr. Frank Richetti, Sr. who was an OCC concert band member for over 30 years and served his country in the South Pacific during World War II.

JOAN M. KENNEALLY AND WILLIAM J. KENNEALLY SCHOLARSHIP

A \$500 scholarship donated by Professor Lynn A. Kenneally and Jeffrey J. McWeeny in recognition of Professor Kenneally's parents, who encouraged education.

JOYCE PREVITE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

\$500 is awarded to an outstanding graduate of the Nursing program who has maintained a 3.0 GPA or better.

MICHAEL D. VENA MEMORIAL MUAA SCHOLARSHIP

Donated by the Municipal Utilities Authorities Association of Ocean County, \$500 is awarded to a graduate transferring to a four-year institution and majoring in Environmental Sciences or directly related fields.



OCEAN COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION ART AWARD

Donated by the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission, a certificate and \$500 is awarded to an outstanding student in the field of Art.

PAULINE S. MILLER AWARD

Donated by the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission, a certificate and \$500 is awarded to an outstanding student in the field of History.

PHI THETA KAPPA HEATHER MUSER MEMORIAL ALUMNI AWARD

\$500 total is awarded by the Alumni Association of Phi Theta Kappa of Ocean County College to one member of Phi Theta Kappa who has made significant contributions to the programs and activities sponsored by the Tau Iota chapter of Phi Theta Kappa.

PROBATION OFFICER TODD BENINTEnte SCHOLARSHIP

\$500 is awarded to a graduate of the Criminal Justice program in honor of Probation Officer Todd Benintente, who served and protected his community over his long career.

DR. STEPHEN A. KUBOW MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Donated by his former colleagues in memory of Kean Ocean's Associate Vice President, \$500 is awarded to a graduating student transferring to Kean University or Kean Ocean.

VIKING SPIRIT AWARD

\$500 is awarded to a graduating EOF student who exemplifies leadership, service and character.

OCEAN COUNTY PTA

Donated by the Ocean County PTA in honor of Elise Kelber, \$500 is awarded to a second-year student and resident of Ocean County, based on financial need.

DR. WILLIAM RICKERT MATH AWARD

Donated by Dr. William Rickert and his wife Lois,, \$500 is awarded to a graduating student who has demonstrated outstanding service in promoting mathematics awareness on the Ocean County College campus.

FRANK RICHETTI, SR. NURSING

\$500 is awarded to a graduating nurse in honor of Mr. Frank Richetti, Sr., who was a member of the Ocean County College concert band for over 30 years and served his country in the South Pacific during World War II.

SCOTT R. FARRELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Donated by Mary-Ellen Rada, \$500 is awarded in remembrance of a beloved chemistry professor who was dedicated to his students and always had the best interests of the students in mind. As HOSA Club advisor, Professor Farrell constantly did his best to prepare students for their career goals.

OCC ADJUNCT FACULTY ASSOCIATION AWARD

Donated by the Adjunct Faculty Association of Ocean County College, \$500 each is awarded to two graduating students.

THE MATHEMATICS CLUB AWARD

A total of \$1,000 is awarded to three graduating students pursuing a degree in Mathematics or related majors. Preference is given to students active in the Mathematics Club.

SUPPORT STAFF ASSOCIATION OF OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE AWARD

Donated by the Support Staff Association, \$700 each is awarded to three graduating students who have worked at Ocean County College while earning their degrees.

ANDREW T. BARAN SCHOLARSHIP

\$750 is awarded to a graduating student who has enrolled in a four-year institution to complete a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice.

100 WOMEN AWARD

\$750 is awarded on behalf of the 100 Women campaign, an endeavor by the Ocean County College Foundation to bring together dynamic, innovative, and accomplished Ocean County women who will support each other's life and career goals, share their insights and experiences, and encourage education through Ocean County College.

PAUL FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

(in memory of Joyce Previte)

\$775 is awarded to a student who demonstrates aptitude in the study of Nursing with the intent to pursue a career in Nursing.

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE AWARDS

(in memory of Thomas J. Brady)

Donated by Student Life, a total of \$1,600 is presented by Student Government to graduating students displaying a consistently strong record of involvement in a cocurricular program.

NORCIA ASPIRING ATTORNEY AWARD

Donated by OCC alum RJ Norcia (Class of 2010), \$1,000 is awarded to a graduating student who has demonstrated interest in attending law school and becoming a practicing attorney in the State of New Jersey.

PHI THETA KAPPA OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

(Sponsored by Dr. & Mrs. William Rickert)

\$1,000 is awarded to a student who has made outstanding contributions to the activities of the Tau Iota Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. The recipient must exemplify the ideals of Phi Theta Kappa as outlined in the four Hallmarks, namely: Leadership, Scholarship, Service, and Fellowship.

OUTSTANDING TUTORING SCHOLARSHIP

Donated by retired professor of mathematics Dr. William Rickert and his wife Lois, \$1,000 is awarded to an outstanding graduate who also served as a peer tutor within OCC Tutoring Center.

JOSEPH J. QUATTROCK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

\$1,000 is awarded to a nontraditional graduating student with a 3.0 GPA or better, continuing in a four-year institution.

DOUGLAS C. KING MEMORIAL

\$1,000 is awarded to a graduate of the Criminal Justice program who is pursuing a four-year degree in Criminal Justice .

JAMES INMAN AWARD

\$1,000 is awarded to a student who demonstrates outstanding qualities of scholarship, loyalty, citizenship, and contribution to extracurricular activities.

CARLEEN STERLING ORSI MEMORIAL AWARD

\$1,000 is awarded to two graduates transferring to a four-year institution. (Renewable for a second year.)



LAVERNE D. AND ROBERT R. WEIGOLD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
\$1,000 is awarded to an outstanding student demonstrating scholarship abilities and an interest in the area of English or the Humanities.

40 FOR 40 GRADUATING AWARD

\$1,000 awarded to a student in honor of Foundation Executive Director Kenneth J. Malagiere's 40th birthday; guests were invited to contribute to several opportunities, including this unrestricted graduating award. The goal was to raise \$40,000 and they were successful in raising more than double.

ALUMNI FUND FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

\$1,000 is awarded for scholarships and opportunities for students and alumni of Ocean County College.

DR. CHARLES ABELES SCHOLARSHIP

This \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to a student who demonstrates outstanding aptitude in languages, literature, or philosophy.

DOVER BRICK BEACH FIRST AID PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOLARSHIP

\$1,000 each is awarded to five graduating students in honor of dedicated volunteers who gave of themselves in service to the community. Dover-Brick Beach First Aid Squad offers financial support to those pursuing studies in the Public Health/Sciences field.

JOHN F. POWELL AWARD

This \$1,000 scholarship is named in memory of President Monaco's father. Born and raised in Virginia, he worked as a statistician for the Census Bureau, but his love was supporting those who wanted to change their lives through education. He would be very proud of OCC students.

MILDRED KEHNE AWARD

This \$1,000 scholarship is named in memory of Donald Kehne's mother. Born and raised in South Dakota, Mrs. Kehne trained to be a nurse and served in the Pacific Theatre during WWII. She and Don's father settled in Maryland, where she raised nine children. Education was important to the Kehne family, and she would be honored to support a deserving student.

NEXT GEN ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

The Building a Better World Scholarship awards \$1,000 each to two students enrolled and/or graduating from Ocean County College in the A.S. Engineering or A.A.S. Technical Studies with Industrial/Technical Option programs that demonstrate a commitment to building a better and more sustainable world through engineering and technology.

NJ ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS FUND

\$1,000 is awarded to support students who are committed to a career in accounting.

OCEAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Donated by the Ocean County Sheriff's Foundation, \$1,000 is awarded to a graduate of the Criminal Justice program pursuing a four-year degree in Criminal Justice who has demonstrated academic success and service to the community.

OCEAN COUNTY SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AWARD

\$1,000 is awarded to a student for outstanding achievement in Engineering.

ROBERT J. NOVINS MEMORIAL GRADUATE AWARD

\$1,000 is awarded to a graduating student with a 3.0 GPA or better continuing in a four-year institution, majoring in Political Science and Government Studies.

SENATOR JOHN F. RUSSO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

\$1,000 is awarded to a graduating student with a 3.0 GPA or better, continuing in a four-year institution.

SHELDON LINZ MEMORIAL AWARD

Donated by the family of Jennifer Linz Cooper, \$1,000 is awarded to an outstanding Photography and Visual Arts student.

THOMAS R. DORSO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

\$1,000 is awarded to a graduating student from Lacey Township School District.

SOROPTIMIST CLUB OF TOMS RIVER SCHOLARSHIP

\$1,250 is awarded to a graduating female student continuing her education at a four-year institution.

SOROPTIMIST SIGMA AWARD KEAN OCEAN

\$1,250 is awarded to a graduating student with a 3.0 GPA or better, continuing in a four-year institution.

OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AWARD

Donated by the OCC Board of Trustees, \$1,500 each is awarded to three graduating students who have achieved outstanding academic performance at Ocean County College and who will continue their education in the Kean Ocean program.

D'ONOFRIO GRADUATING AWARD

\$2,000 is awarded to a student with a 3.0 GPA or better who demonstrates aptitude in the study of Health/Medicine, with the intent to pursue a career in a related field.

DOLLIE & HARRY DAVID SUSSNA SCHOLARSHIP

Donated by Dollie and Harry David Sussna, an initial \$1,500 each is awarded to two outstanding students transferring to four-year institutions. Possible \$2,000 is renewable upon re-enrollment.

WILLIAM T. HIERING SCHOLARSHIP

\$2,000 is awarded to an outstanding student who has completed 60 credits at Ocean County College and maintained a 4.0 GPA.

ROBERTA W. WINTRODE MEMORIAL AWARD

Established to honor the memory of a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. Roberta's love for education, biology, nursing, and arts was present in every aspect of her career and avocation. \$5,000 each will be awarded to two graduating students.

PHILIP G. ZITELLI SCHOLARSHIP IN LEADERSHIP

Donated by Phil Zitelli, a member of the first graduating class of Ocean County College in June 1968, \$5,000 is awarded to an outstanding graduating student leader, with a 3.5 GPA or better, continuing in a four-year institution.

GRACE REINHEIMER-LISOTTO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

\$5,000 is awarded to a woman who is either returning to college after a break or starting her college journey after raising a family. This endowment was created by the family to honor their mother's vision of supporting women pursuing higher education under unique circumstances.

