Student Success Goal: Access to Comprehensive Community College Educational Programs:

Our student service and recruiting staff have been meeting with all local high schools to review the concurrent education program. The purpose of these meetings is to ascertain if there are additional offerings of college programs that the K-12 schools would like to see offered. We are finding that a number of schools would like to see more CTE programs offered on a concurrent basis, as well as, more college level programs offered through the use of technology and utilization of college faculty as opposed to the use of certified high school instructors. The reason for the demand by local high schools seems to be that because of high turnover and recent retirements, high schools don’t feel they may have the staffs that can teach college level courses on a concurrent basis. OJC will work with the high schools in our service area to stand up new concurrent programs for the spring and fall semesters of 2013. The OJC technology staff will work with all local schools that are interested to ensure connectivity so that courses can be offered at a distance. Our goal is to meet the changing needs of the school districts in our service area, as well as, increasing concurrent enrollment by 10% over the next year.

OJC recently held the 3rd annual Math Olympiad on campus. The OJC Math and Science department hosted the event. Top middle and high school math students including home school students from our service area participated in the event this year. This program is one of the outreach programs to expose and promote student involvement in math and science, as well as, other STEM related fields.

As the holidays approach OJC is involved in hosting a number of holiday events. The OJC Choir will put on its annual Christmas/Holiday concert. The choir is made up of both OJC students, as well as, community members. This program always fills the theatre with students and community members. The Community Orchestra group will in turn be presenting its concert during the upcoming weeks. This is always a great time on campus where OJC students, faculty
and staff, and members from the community and students from the local school districts come together to celebrate the season.

OJC’s application for accreditation of the Medical Lab Technician program has been submitted and staff has been hired so as to offer this new program beginning in spring of 2013. OJC will be the only school in southeastern Colorado that is offering this program and we feel it will generate a lot of interest and participation based on input from our local health care providers.

The OJC Learning Commons is about complete. Contractors indicate the facility other than the “punch list” adjustments will be finished by November 30th. This project will bring our library and student success center together in one venue. The facility will offer state of the art technology for students to use to prepare for classes, as well as, receiving tutorial assistance. Beginning December 11th OJC staff will begin to move furniture and hook up technology so that the facility will be available for students when they return in January from their Christmas/Holiday break.

**Operational Excellence Goal:** The financial stability of the system’s institutions and the physical safety of its students shall be ensured:

OJC is in the process of putting in LED lighting throughout the campus to ensure a safer environment for all. This project was funded through an energy grant that OJC received and should be completed by the end of the year.

OJC is working with Sodexho (OJC food service vendor) to develop a plan for the expansion of our student center cafeteria. OJC and Sodexho met with architects this month to start to develop plans for the expansion of the student cafeteria. Our student cafeteria is well over capacity, as far as, the number of students that are served in relation to the seating capacity as defined by the local fire department. This is a project that I will bring to the state board in early 2013 for consideration.

OJC continues to work on its default rate. Our plan has been submitted to the US Department of Education and they have approved our draft proposal. We have assigned individuals on campus to call students that are getting close to repayment of loans so as to assist them and ensure that they do not go into default. We will, also, be meeting with ECMC Solutions in early December so as to learn how they can assist in our student default rate. The latest National Student Loan Data System report shows the OJC 2 year cohort rate for period October 2010 – September 2012 to be at 23.2%. It is extremely important that OJC stay below the 25% default rate in that we could face loss of federal financial aid. The draft rate will come out in February of 2013 and the final rate in fall of 2013. The 23.2% is not final but it does give us an indication of where OJC is in terms of our default rate for our 2 year cohort.

The OJC cabinet will begin in early December reviewing the adopted 2012-13 college budget and make any modifications based on enrollment, projected revenues so as to ensure that the college budget is balanced.
Other happenings at OJC:

OJC will be losing to retirement or relocation three important people who have helped shape the lives of the students who have attended our institution. Our Vice President of Instruction, Mr. Jim Herrell will retire after 38 years in education. Jim has been at OJC for 12 years after serving in a number of administrative roles in the K-12 system. He has been invaluable in developing an overall college goal of ensuring teaching excellence in the classroom. Ms. Kiki Medina will retire after 29 years at OJC. Kiki has been the director of the Bueno Hep GED program that OJC offers in partnership with the University of Colorado. Kiki has been responsible for assisting hundreds of students over the years to ensure that they obtain their GED and move on to successful careers or pursuit of their college degrees. Also, Ms. Gwen Torrez will be re-locating with her family and will be leaving her position as the Director of our TRIO program. Gwen was instrumental in building the TRIO program from its origination to now where it serves 180 students on campus. Her efforts have resulted in students completing their college education and moving on to successful careers.

These three individuals will all be leaving at the end of this calendar year. It is because of people like them that the community colleges throughout the state are looked up to as institutions that will go the extra mile to ensure student success. We at OJC wish them well in their new life’s adventure, but, most of all we want to thank them for making a difference in a lot of people’s lives over the course of their careers.