

THE LIFE & LEGACY

A Newsletter for the Ocean County College Foundation
Vol. I: No. 2 • November 2023

A MESSAGE FROM OCEAN COUNTY COMMISSIONER VIRGINIA E. HAINES

Since its founding as New Jersey's first community college in 1964, Ocean County College has remained at the forefront of innovation and leadership. In 2023, the college made history once again, welcoming a new president – its first female president – to the executive office. As the college approaches its 60th anniversary, I am certain it will continue to build on the foundation built so solidly in the past as it helps develop the next generation of extraordinary leaders, and prepares them to take up new challenges that are unique to today's world.

The future of Ocean County College is bright and full of exciting prospects. As the institution takes on a new leader and a new vision, it seems fitting that we take a moment to look back on all that led us here: to reflect on the many achievements that continue to bolster us from the past, and the lasting contributions from those giants on whose shoulders we stand.

In this issue, we honor the enduring legacy of Joseph A. Citta, an outstanding humanitarian and community leader whose commitment to Ocean County and contributions to the college exemplified service and leadership, helping to make Ocean County College one of the finest community colleges in the country.

Joe's impact can be seen across the OCC campus and throughout Ocean County. He felt, just as I do, that it is a privilege to serve as a partner with OCC, to bridge the communities of the

college and the county it serves and to help create opportunities that have the ability to transform peoples' lives.

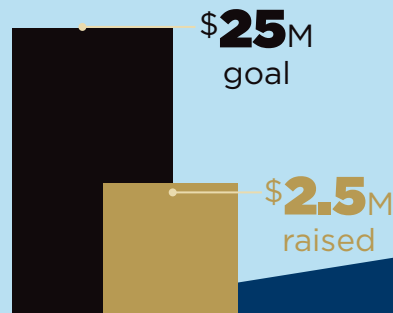
I hope you will join me, and all of our partners who continue to support the college in its critical mission – building a future for the students of Ocean County through quality, affordable education that is accessible to all.



Virginia E. Haines,
Ocean County Board Of Commissioner
Liaison to Ocean County College

LEGACY CAMPAIGN "BY THE NUMBERS"

Together, we have raised over \$2.5 million in pledges toward our \$25M campaign goal. Thank you for your support!



“

While our impact has been significant, there is much more to do. The landscape of higher education continues to evolve right before our eyes. A college degree, vocational certificate and opportunities to expand one's personal knowledge base has never been more important in ensuring continued individual and professional success in today's world. ”

- David C. Wintrode,
Campaign Chair



A LIFETIME OF GIVING BACK

Joseph A. Citta's Legacy Continues to Shape Education in Ocean County.

Toms River attorney and philanthropist **Joseph A. Citta** was a driving force in Ocean County and a longtime friend and benefactor to Ocean County College. His remarkable life is a testament to the impact of one man's dedication to his community.

Mr. Citta's commitment to Ocean County was evident in the many hats he wore during his lifetime: serving as the county's first public defender, the first president of the Toms River Chamber of Commerce, and the president of the Toms River Board of Education. He also served as the president of the Ocean County Council of the Boy Scouts of America, the Toms River Athletic Association, the Rotary Club, and the Ocean County Bar Association.

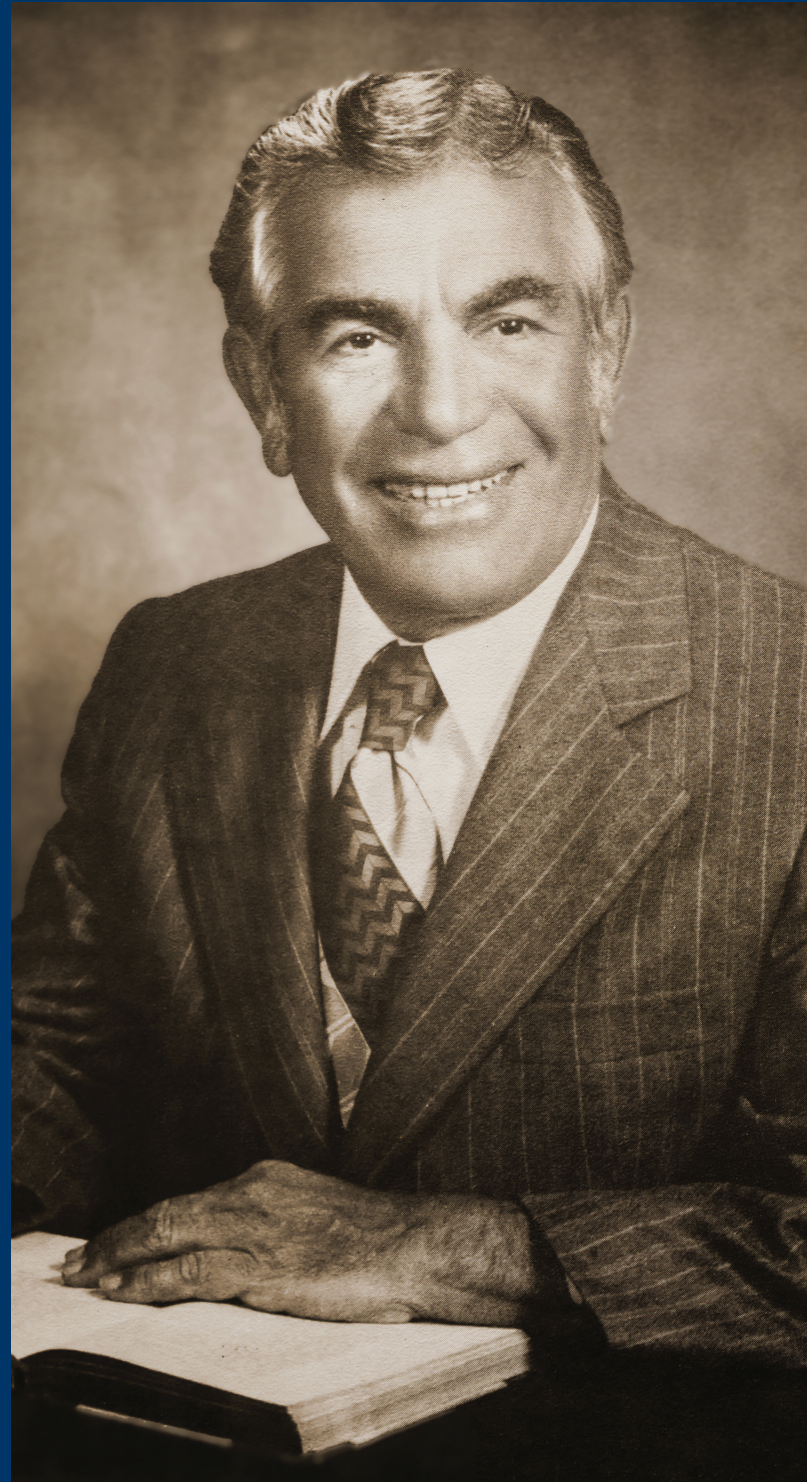
But perhaps one of the most enduring aspects of Mr. Citta's legacy is his involvement with Ocean County College. He joined the OCC Board of Trustees in 1973, serving for an astounding 32 years, and left an indelible mark during his tenure, co-founding the Sambol-Citta Arboretum on OCC's main campus, establishing the college's Safe Sailing program, and contributing to the development of the Novins Planetarium. The Citta family became the first to establish

a million-dollar endowment with the OCC Foundation. He was twice honored by OCC with the Distinguished Medal for outstanding contributions to higher education, and was recognized as the OCC Foundation's Humanitarian of the Year in both 1986 and 2004. His dedication to OCC extended to roles as the chairman of the OCC Board of Trustees and the OCC Foundation, where he played a pivotal role in advancing the college's mission and helping countless students achieve their educational goals.

FUN FACT

The Citta Family is one of three, multi-generational families on our Foundation Board. Presently represented by Kristin Farfalla, granddaughter of Joseph A. Citta.

Joseph A. Citta passed away in 2009 at the age of 100. Although he is no longer with us, his outstanding contributions to Ocean County College are a reminder of the profound impact one person can have on a community, and serve as an inspiring example of the enduring power of philanthropy, community engagement, and a dedication to improving the lives of others.



Joseph A. Citta appointed first public defender of Ocean County

1967



Joseph A. Citta elected to OCC Foundation

1970



Joseph A. Citta appointed to OCC Board of Trustees

1973



Nature Trail and Sambol-Citta Arboretum

1983



Sambol-Citta Garden Established

2008

THEN & NOW



1986 William T. Hiering-Joseph A. Citta



1978 Joseph Buckelew, Joseph A. Citta, Robert Joseph ("Bob") Dole



Citta Family, 1986 Joseph A. Citta Foundation Formed

A Celebration OF MOMENTS



The Foundation Art Collection was launched on October 13. The display is from the esteemed Seward Johnson Atelier and consists of 20 bronze sculptures displayed across campus grounds. This collection will be on loan on the OCC campus through June of 2024, and is the first of hopefully many pieces of fine art that our community can enjoy on the Ocean County College campus.



“ The OCC Foundation Legacy Campaign partners the long-standing support of our donors with the future aspirations of our students, ensuring Ocean County College will always be a pillar of educational advancement in our community. ” - OCC President Pamela Monaco

SAVE THE DATE!

BLAUVELT SPEAKER SERIES

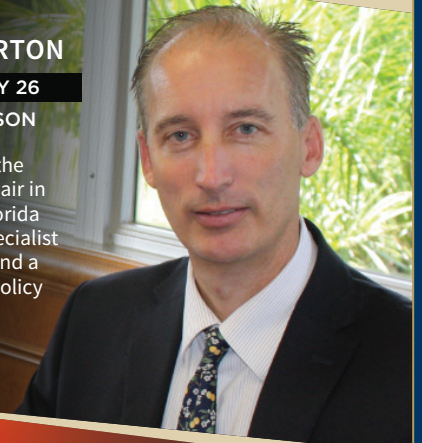


DR. JEFFREY MORTON

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

12:30 p.m. - IN PERSON

Jeffrey S. Morton is the Pierrepoint Comfort Chair in Political Science at Florida Atlantic University, a specialist in international law, and a fellow at the Foreign Policy Association.



REGINALD DWAYNE BETTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

11:00 a.m. - IN PERSON

Reginald Dwayne Betts is a poet, lawyer and founder of *Freedom Reads*. He won the National Magazine Award for his NY Times Magazine essay chronicling his journey from prison to becoming a licensed attorney.

Photo Credit: Mamadi Doumbouya



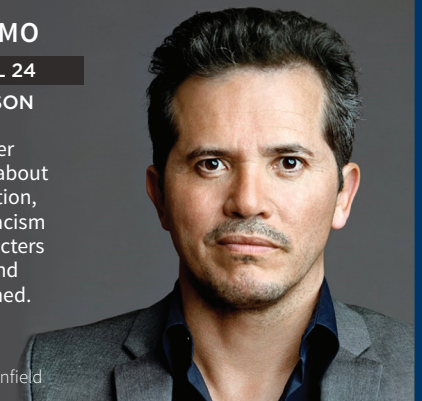
JOHN LEGUIZAMO

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

6:00 p.m. - IN PERSON

Emmy Award winner John Leguizamo talks about his passion for education, his struggles against racism and poverty, the characters he's encountered and the lessons he's learned.

Photo Credit: Timothy Greenfield



SHARE YOUR LEGACY STORY ...



Do you have a personal memory from OCC history?
A story to inspire our community? We want to hear from you!
Send us your article or photo and we may feature your story in
an upcoming newsletter. Send email to Foundation@ocean.edu

DOWN

1. Freedom or ability to make use of something
2. Not conducted or maintained for the purpose of gain
4. Loyalty
5. A person who makes a gift or bequest
6. A good chance for advancement or progress
7. The grounds and buildings of a college or university
9. Schooling

ACROSS

3. Desired results
8. Extending of services or assistance
10. To receive an academic degree or diploma



SUPPORT THE OCC FOUNDATION ...



Contributions to the Ocean County College Foundation help our students today and in the future. Your support makes a tremendous difference.
To donate, call 732-255-0492 or visit our website at go.ocean.edu/foundation

