



NEW JERSEY

Association of State Colleges and Universities

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QuickTakes!

Kean Ocean Celebrates 10 Years of a Successful Academic Partnership

September 27, 2016

Kean Ocean, the Kean University-Ocean County College partnership that is a model of higher education affordability, accessibility and cooperation in New Jersey, just turned 10 years old. More than 100 people – including Ocean County Freeholder members, Toms River Township Council members, faculty, students and staff affiliated with both Kean University and Ocean County College – turned out to celebrate a decade of success during a special anniversary event September 22, 2016 at Ocean County College (OCC) in Toms River, NJ.

Speakers included Dr. Dawood Farahi, Kean University president; Dr. John H. Larson, Ocean County College president; and Dr. Stephen A. Kubow, acting associate vice president at Kean Ocean.

“Accessible, quality higher education is our mission, and that’s what we do here at Kean Ocean. We will be here for years to come, offering a quality education unsurpassed anywhere else,” said Dr. Farahi.

Kean Ocean, with more than 1,500 students, is the only public institution of higher education offering four-year degrees in Ocean County. Students completing their associate’s degree at OCC can continue on with their study for a Kean bachelor’s degree with Kean courses offered on the OCC campus.

“The alliance between OCC and Kean ... has been a study in forward-thinking and cooperation,” said Dr. Larson.

Over the past decade, Kean Ocean has grown from 11 to 33 degree completion programs, seven master’s degree programs, one PhD program in Nursing Educational Leadership and online options through Kean Online.

“Kean Ocean stands as a successful re-imagining of higher education,” said Ada Morell, chair of the Kean University Board of Trustees. “We built an institution that expands educational opportunities in Ocean County and South Jersey, while keeping the cost of higher education down.”

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Students attend classes in the Gateway Building, which opened in 2013 on the OCC campus.

“The costs of a college education keep escalating, but the value of a college education in today’s world cannot be underestimated,” said Robert Schiele, vice president of Student Organization for Kean Ocean. “I searched for the right fit for me, and I did not have to look far. Right here in Ocean County, I found my pathway to a college degree.”

For more information about Kean Ocean, visit www.kean.edu/keanocean.

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9-27-16