

Among OCC grads, women beat men 2-1

By Tim Richard
staff writer

For several years, women students have been in a majority at Oakland Community College.

Now OCC is finding that its women graduates outnumber men by 2-1. And among ethnic minorities, women are enrolled at double the numbers of men.

"There are reasons why there are more women," OCC Chancellor R. Stephen Nicholson told the board of trustees.

"There are a lack of alternatives to move to a university. Women tend to have families and responsibilities. OCC may not be just among their (women's) choices. We may be the only choice," he said. On the other hand, men often transfer out within two years before receiving degrees.

THESE CONCLUSIONS popped out of a series of studies of enrollments, success patterns and demographics. They were conducted by Dr. Carlos Olivarez of the counseling staff.

The studies are part of Nicholson's efforts to track the high non-return rates at OCC and community colleges generally.

Olivarez said one significant, though preliminary, finding was the impact of a new program called AS-

SET — Assessment of Skills for Successful Entry and Transfer. Students are tested for math and communications skills, and their scores are used as a counseling tool for placement.

OCC's "retention rate" for students who had been through the ASSET program was 83 percent; for others, less than 54 percent.

MEN STILL predominated among students at OCC's Auburn Hills Campus, where high technology and many industrial programs are offered.

Elsewhere, however, OCC is a women's world. Items:

- Among degree recipients, women rose from 65 percent of the 1982-3 total to 67 percent last school year.
- Among one-year certificate recipients, women jumped from 56 percent in 1982-3 to nearly 72 percent last year.
- Among American Indians, women accounted for 70 percent of the admissions; among blacks, 66 percent; among Hispanics, 60 percent.
- Overall, women were 56.4 percent of OCC's student body; among whites, 58 percent. Only among Asians was there a 50-50 male-female breakdown.

Actually, Kimball produced only 2.2 percent of the OCC student body last year, followed by Pontiac Central at 2 percent. No other school produced as much as 2 percent.

THE NUMBER of degrees granted is continuing to rise (see chart) and last year topped the 2,000 mark.

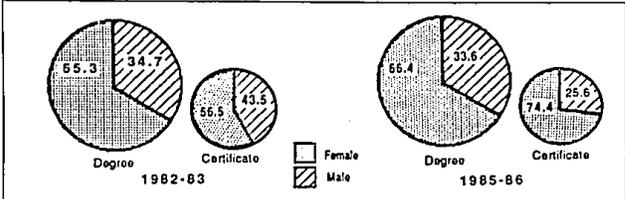
"We offer more certificates and degrees than Princeton," said Nicholson. "We should. We're bigger than Princeton."

One trend is an increased number of associates (two-year) degrees and fewer certificates (for one-year programs).

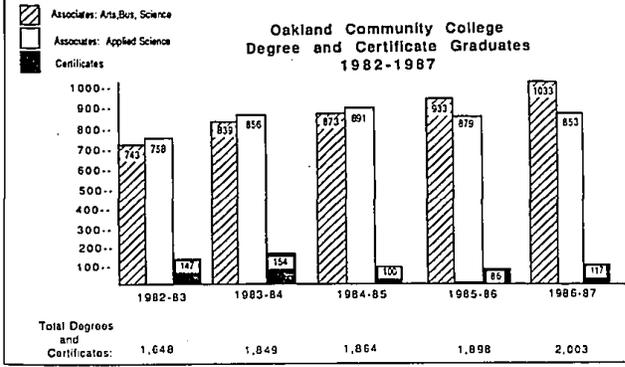
In addition, Nicholson told the board, 30 of 49 new jobs at OCC were filled with women workers, and 27 percent have been minorities.

"It would appear our record in affirmative action would look as if we are achieving our goals," he said.

THE 'TYPICAL' OCC student con-



Women outnumber men 2-1 at graduation time at OCC, though they're only 56 percent of the student body.



The graduation list at Oakland Community College topped 2,000 for the first time in the 1988-7 school year. Degrees in arts, sciences and business in the last two years exceeded degrees in applied science (vocational-technical).

DNR budget cuts threaten toxic cleanup

By Wayne Peal
staff writer

Future cleanup on toxic waste sites from Rochester Hills to Canton Township is threatened by proposed state budget cuts, an environmental advocacy group said.

State allocations for toxic waste cleanup programs could be cut by \$11.1 million for 1989, said a spokesman for the Public Interest Research Group in Michigan (PIRIGM). Cuts would be made from the Act 307 Fund, which directs state spending for waste site cleanup, the spokesman said.

"WE THINK this indicates clearly the need for other financing sources, including a public bond issue," said PIRIGM spokesman Andy Buchsbaum. "With new sites being discovered all the time, this is no time to reduce money for cleanup projects."

The \$11.1 million cut would jeopardize work on half the state-financed cleanup projects in the tri-county area, Buchsbaum said. Work wouldn't begin, or wouldn't be completed, on 28 Oakland County sites, including top priority state cleanup sites in Rochester Hills and Farmington Hills, according to a

PIRIGM report. The report also indicated cleanup work wouldn't occur on 25 Wayne County sites, including the Rouge River and a top priority landfill site in Canton Township.

A SPOKESWOMAN for the state Department of Management and Budget acknowledged discussion of the cut but said no decision had been made.

The DNR spokeswoman, however, said more than \$10 million remains from last year's allocation. That money could be budgeted toward 1989 cleanup projects, she added.

PIRIGM is less concerned about a potential cut involving the state's share of federal Superfund cleanup projects. Unused money from previous allocations could offset the proposed \$5.3 million cut, Buchsbaum said.

"From the state's point, I suppose it makes good fiscal sense, but we'd still like to see the projects continue," he said. Sites in Oakland County's Rose and Springfield townships are on the list for federal Superfund assistance. No sites in communities served by the Observer & Eccentric newspapers are on the Superfund list.

DNR list for Oakland

Here's a list of Oakland County toxic waste sites threatened by state budget cuts, according to PIRIGM. Not all sites are currently being cleaned. Names refer to state Department of Natural Resources' listings, not necessarily to the parties responsible for their pollution.

- DNR Group One:
- Rochester Hills — Cardinal Land Corp. & Veterans Landfill — ranks 113th on the state's 435 site top priority cleanup list for this year.
 - Rochester Hills — Sandfill Landfill No. 2, 201st on list.
 - Rochester Hills — Christianson

& Adams Road dumps, 204th on list.

• Farmington Hills — 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Road, 309th on list.

DNR Group Two sites:

- Rochester Hills — Kistington Development.
- Troy — Davis Manufacturing.
- Rochester Hills — Stan's Trucking.
- Rochester Hills — Avon Township, J and L.
- Rochester Hills — Sandfill Landfill No. 1.

All sites are contained among the DNR's 1,035 secondary priority sites for fiscal 1988.

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Michael R. Bridges, community services administrator of the company's metro region, said senior citi-

zens' organizations, professional associations and civic and community groups will find the talks useful. To request a speaker, contact Bridges at 549-5000, Ext. 216.

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