



Orange Coast College
**ACCOMPLISHMENTS
AND ACCOLADES**
2022-2023



ORANGE
COAST
COLLEGE

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"The story of Orange Coast College over the past 75 years is a story of success and transformation, creating a place that inspires students to dream, learn, and thrive. It is an honor to serve an institution alongside enthusiastic and caring faculty, classified professionals, and administrators whose commitment to student success is unwavering. It serves the needs of the next generation of students at Coast."

Angelica Suarez, Ed.D.
President, Orange Coast College

SUMMARY

This year Orange Coast College celebrated its Diamond Anniversary with 75 years of providing educational excellence to its students and community. Through responsive student support services, quality academic programs, and extraordinary facilities, the story of OCC is one of transforming lives and creating a place that inspires students to dream, learn and thrive.

Orange Coast College students remain the catalysts for academic accolades and accomplishments for the College. The Coast Report student newspaper and the OCC Forensics team continued their dominance in competition while Phi Theta Kappa Honor's program maintained its impressive run of scholar nominees.

Orange Coast College's physical campus continues to change intentionally, supporting our vision of transforming lives through education and representing a commitment to building innovative, state-of-the-art facilities for the next generation of students at Coast. Such is the case with our new Chemistry building, currently under construction and slated for completion in Spring 2025.

The College continues to respond to the needs of a dynamic on-campus and online student community through technological enhancements, innovative services, and robust academic programs. For example, the OCC Pirates' Cove (food pantry) was relocated to a more accessible and expanded space to accommodate the increased student demand battling food insecurity. This year, the college launched the Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) program, fostering creativity and curiosity for students to explore the world of STEM.

The year, the college highlighted numerous stories about our students and program successes, from dance students performing at the American College Dance Association's 2023 National College Dance Festival to a plethora of championships and awards—Pirates women's basketball, men's volleyball, the forensics team, and the Coast Report student newspaper. OCC finished the year with the 75th commencement exercises, conferring more than 3,800 certificates and degrees to OCC students.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACCOLADES (by unit)

STUDENT SUCCESS

- International student Bernardo Moreno-Artega rode his bike 2,000 miles across California in August of 2022 to raise \$2,000 for the Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) hospital.
- International and Phi Theta Kappa students Bernardo Moreno-Arteaga and Asumi Yamamoto were named out of 450 students nationwide this Spring as Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship nominees.
- The OCC Forensics team won the California Community College Forensics Association's 2023 State Championship tournament in March. The team won by an impressive 70 points over the other 19 competitors from schools across the state.
- The OCC Forensics team won its 13th national championship in April at the Phi Rho Pi National Championship Tournament. This was their first National win since 2018.
- OCC's student newspaper, The Coast Report, brought home 14 awards during the 2022 Fall Southern California Regional Conference of the Journalism Association of Community Colleges at Cal State Fullerton.
- The Coast Report's website finished 10th among two-year schools in the Associated Collegiate Press (ACP) Best in Show News Website category. Over 30 two-year colleges from across the U.S. were represented at the event, and Coast Report was one of nine California-based two-year schools that finished in the top ten in the category.

- OCC students Carissa Pagan and Juan Gerardo Gonzalez Reyes, were chosen for a competitive nine-week summer internship with the social media company Snapchat. OCC is the only Orange County college to have students accepted into the Snap Academies.
- Pirate's Plank, OCC's Spring business competition, where students present mock design ideas for evaluation by a panel of judges named Ian Hansberger, winner of the Most Innovative Business Idea. Jane Rovner won the Most Likely to Succeed award.
- Nancy Estrada, OCC's 2023 Commencement Student Speaker, gave a speech entitled "A Life-Changing Second." Estrada was successful in her goal to walk alongside her son Adam amid his health concerns as they graduated together.
- OCC photography student Jose Wantland was named runner-up for Ilford Photo's international student photographer of 2022-23 for his work with a deconstructed Hasselblad camera.
- Ashley Ambriz was part of the second-place Team at the Interior Design Association (IIDA) Southern California Chapter's Student Design Charrette for their work on "Colors of Community."
- Astronomy student, Trevor Weiss, presented his research at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research in Wisconsin.
- The OCC Honors Program had multiple achievements, including students achieving Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) honors and students being admitted to UCI, Stanford, and Columbia, among other prestigious universities. Jesse Parrott was named 2022 PTK New Century Workforce Scholar by the Association of Community College Trustees, on October 29, 2022, in NYC. The OCC Alpha Kappa Chapter hosted the 2022 AGS Fall Statewide Conference in December 2022. PTK received a Five-Star chapter status in 2023, maintained for five consecutive years, and was awarded the Nevada/California Regional Hallmark Award " -Honors in Action."

RETENTION & SUPPORT

- Navigate OCC returned to an in-person event this year. This student orientation is essential for future pirates to encourage connection, community, confidence, and support.
- OCC's Career Launch, Mentor Collective, launched as a workshop series for students with opportunities for student support and skill builders to set them up for success through the Career and Technical Education area.
- OCC ranked third in California and seventh in the nation in enrollment of international students at a community college, according to the 2022 Open Doors Report published by the Institute of International Education.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & ACCESSIBILITY

- In June, an OCC application for Culturally Responsive Pedagogy & Practices Innovative Best Practices Grant was awarded \$299,986 for 2023-2025.
- OCC launched its Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Committee with a quad- chair model consisting of faculty, classified professional, manager, and student representatives.
- OCC alum Sylvia Mendez spoke at OCC on their history with the landmark school desegregation case Mendez et.al v. Westminster through the College's Multicultural Center.
- Janice Munemitsu spoke at OCC's Multicultural Center about her family's experience with racial discrimination in Orange County during the 1940s and how it inspired her to write about gratitude in her book "The Kindness of Color."
- Black History Month kicked off with a celebration by the cultural organization African Soul International as they showcased song and dance traditions.
- The LGBTQIA+ Resource Fair provided opportunities for queer students at OCC with community resources, vendors, and on-campus support.
- The OCC CLEEO program hosted Los Angeles Homeboy Industries founder, Father Greg Boyle, to speak on his work with gang members and his message to "treat gang members as human beings."
- The Extended Opportunity Programs & Services (EOPS) and Cooperative Agencies & Resources for Education (CARE) programs partnered with the Community Action Partnership of Orange County to host a diaper dash event for residents of Costa Mesa and beyond.

- OCC's Disabled Students Program and Services officially changed its name to the "Accessibility Resource Center" to better convey the area's mission.
- OCC's STEM program received the 2023 Inspiring Programs in STEM Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine. The Inspiring Programs in STEM Award honors colleges and universities that encourage and assist students from underrepresented groups to enter the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS & OUTREACH

- OCC and the Orange County Transportation Authority partnered to provide unlimited, free bus rides for students on all OC Bus local fixed routes starting in the fall 2022 semester.
- The College held an Expression & Reflection for Hope and Justice event in early February in the Quad. This was a time for the OCC community to share their thoughts, feelings, and hopes about incidents of violence, including the mass shootings in Monterey Park, the death of Tyre Nichols, and the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.
- The OCC Multicultural Center held a listening and expression session in October regarding the heightened concern about Iranian freedom protests following the death of Mahsa Amini.
- In early January, OCC's food pantry, Pirates'Cove, relocated to its new spot behind the campus bookstore, providing more space for resources and accessibility for students.
- Alum Dr. Brian Alters returned to OCC as the keynote speaker of Green Coast Day. The Science Hall, where he spoke in the same space where he took his mentor Professor Tom Garrison's Marine Sciences course as his first college class 48 years ago.
- The College celebrated Green Coast Day in conjunction with Earth Day by hosting an array of events focused on preserving Earth's resources and innovations of sustainability in partnership with the Garrison Honors Center, The Coast Report, OCC Fashion, the Sustainability Committee, and the OCC Community Planetarium.
- The Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim hosted "Orange Coast College Night" in May for the OCC community as part of the 75th-anniversary celebration.
- Over 5,000 people attended the Orange County Children's Book Festival at OCC as it returned to in-person attendance in 2022.
- The annual Spring Plant Sale was presented in early April by the OCC Horticulture department to the community, selling various plants from student projects, both grown from seed and propagated from local vendor donations. All proceeds from the event go back into the department to support student projects and scholarships and fund and replace supplies.
- The Technology Division, in partnership with the Career and Technical Education Division, held its first Technology and Industry Careers Showcase in May. OCC and local high school students were introduced to area employers, CTE programs, and industry panels and workshops.
- The American Welding Society (AWS) for Long Beach and Orange County held its annual student meeting in the OCC Skills Center for industry representatives, employers, and area schools.
- OCC's STEM program and the University of California, Irvine (UCI) CalTeach program partnered to provide UCI cross-enrollment courses. The UCI CalTeach program is a 4- year integrated math and science bachelor's degree and single-subject teaching credential program.
- STEM program was also awarded the CCAST - Community College Access to STEM Teaching partnership grant award this year to expand the program.
- The OCC Math Department hosted its Math Meet on campus for the first time since 2019. Over 15 high schools from across the state competed for prizes.
- OCC hosted NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars (NCAS) through a grant from NASA in partnership with UCSD in August. The event used NASA's unique expertise, research, facilities, and other resources to engage students in authentic and experiential learning.
- The OCC Friends of the Library book sale returned for fall and spring. Funds from the sale are distributed to Library resources and Friends of the Library, which also sponsors student scholarships.
- OCC partnered with Kaiser Permanente and Abound Food Care for a volunteer event in August to address food insecurity in the community. The group made and packaged ready-to-eat meals using recovered food and were given a tour of OCC's new state-of- the-art facilities and the College's Pirates 'Cove food pantry.

PERFORMING ARTS

- OCC's Symphony hosted a concert in November to show support for Ukraine titled "Dear Ukraine: Music for Heritage and Peace."
- The Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion presented the installation "For some memory or some land," curated by Dakota Noot, a faculty member at OCC. Student and alumni artists wove their history into each piece celebrating Chicana heritage by focusing on the triumphs and traumas of the Chicana experience through abstract sculptures, paintings, and photographs.
- OCC's Film and Television Department and the OCC Film Club hosted a Film Festival celebration for students and their families. This was the first annual on-campus showcase in the last 20 years that promoted the work of the Film and Television students and the Immersive Media students from the 2022-23 school year.
- In collaboration with the Huntington Beach High School Academy for Performing Arts, OCC's Visual and Performing Arts division launched its first dual enrollment program in Fall 2022. Throughout the academic year, the high school students had an opportunity to enroll in ballet and jazz dance classes.
- OCC Wind Ensemble shared its spring concert 'Indigenous Music, Jazz!'. This community band includes members in the group for 15 years or more.
- In celebration of Women's History Month, Linda White held a fundraising event in March. Donations made through the event benefited programs at the Doyle, which encourages student engagement through the arts.
- Ann Phong, a Vietnamese American artist, shared her immigrant experience and thoughts on the ever-changing world in her show at the Doyle.
- Out of 47 works from four-year and community college dance programs, the OCC Dance piece "Strategy" was selected as one of the top 10 participating in the regional American College Dance Festival, Baja region.

ATHLETICS

- For the second year in a row, OCC's men's volleyball team has returned to the top of the mountain as the Pirates upset top-seeded Long Beach City in five sets to retain the state crown at the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA) Men's Volleyball State Championships on Saturday at El Camino College.
- OCC's women's basketball capped off a successful season by besting Butte College in the championship final of the California Community College Athletic Association Women's Basketball State Championships.
- The OCC Men's and Women's swim teams competed in the CCCAA Swim & Dive State Championships. Tatsuki Inoue was State Champion in 200 Backstroke, Giselle Quinonez was crowned State Champion in the 1,650 Freestyle, and Ethan Smith became State Champion in 50 Freestyle, 100 butterfly, and 200 butterfly,
- The men's swim/dive team -- led by State Swimmer of the Year Ethan Smith -- wrapped up an incredible 2023 season with a state runner-up finish at the California Community College Athletic Association Swimming/Diving State Championships.
- OCC set a state-meet-record performance in the 400-meter medley relay. Pirates swim foursome of Tatsuki Inoue, Matthew Simpson, Ethan Smith, and Mason Parker, who set the state meet record with an incredible time of 3 minutes, 17.4 seconds.
- Athletes of the Year went to Ethan Smith for his work on the Men's Swim & Dive team and Meghan McIntyre for her Women's Basketball team role.
- OCC came in third place for the NATYCAA Cup, the all-sports championship for California community colleges for 2022 - 2023.
- The women's crew team captured first place in the Women's Novice 8 race for the first time at the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championships.
- OCC athletics won the T. Mark Johnson Supremacy Award for the Orange Empire Conference. The award is given to the year's most outstanding conference athletic program.
- OCC secured seven conference champions (women's water polo, tennis, basketball, beach volleyball, swim; men's volleyball, and swim)
- Over 200 OCC student-athletes were able to transfer to four-year institutions.

- The women's tennis team came home with impressive hardware as the Pirates earned the team points title at the Ojai Invitational.

FOUNDATION

- OCC's Airline Pilot Training Program received a grant of \$425,000 from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous to renovate the Technology Annex and help create an Airline Pilot Training Center.
- The OCC Foundation awarded over \$660,000 in scholarships at the college's 65th Annual Honors Night this past May.
- The OCC Photography Program received a grant of \$58,000 from the Isidore & Penny Myers Foundation. Newport residents George & Marlen Chomo donated their 92' motor yacht, "Sveti Nikola," to the college's Marine Programs.
- The OCC Advancement program supported various college programs with gifts (cash, in-kind, directed scholarships) totaling \$7,723,516, representing 3,421 gifts.
- The Foundation received a new grant from the Samueli Foundation for the College's Integrative Health Coach Certificate Program for approximately \$700,000.
- The Foundation successfully led a fundraising campaign for the naming of the new OCC Professional Mariners Training Center to the Avery Professional Mariners Training Center, with the goal of \$5 million in funding that will be used to support students in the maritime industry experiencing financial challenges.
- The Foundation implemented a successful Giving Tuesday Campaign surpassing the previous year's total (over \$200,000 and 275 unique gifts).

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

- OCC's former Literature & Language Building was demolished in early December to make room for a new state-of-the-art Chemistry Building.
- The Coast Collective opened its doors to a new co-lab space on the first floor of the College Center. This space was designed to provide a platform for students in the OCC Fashion Program to showcase and sell their merchandise while developing entrepreneurial skills.
- The OCC Technology Annex, home of the Aviation Science Program, underwent a remodel of five instructional rooms, including new furniture and a new flight simulator.
- Horticulture's Greenhouse is undergoing a transition into a second Aquaponics Facility and will host their Greenhouse production class to focus on crops grown using alternative methods.
- The OCC telescope farm was completed, adding eight telescope mounts to the designated area connected to the Planetarium. This upgrade enhances the capacity for classroom and public telescope viewing.
- In April, OCC held an emergency preparedness information session panel to bring safety awareness to the college community.

RESEARCH, INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

- A team of OCC research students presented their work and received an honorable mention at the Chambliss Astronomy Achievement Student Award competition for undergraduate students at the virtual 240th American Astronomical Society (AAS) meeting.
- OCC's Architecture program partnered with the UC Irvine School of Engineering to participate in the Orange County Sustainability Decathlon (OCSD). In this competition, 18 university teams will design and build sustainable houses for California. They are making the structure in the outdoor Architecture Lab behind OCC's Technology Center.
- OCC Respiratory Care program was recognized with a Distinguished Registered Respiratory Therapist Credentialing Success Award by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC). This award recognizes the OCC program's success in achieving at least 90% RRT Credentialing Success.
- OCC's Seventh Annual Giles T. Brown Student Project and Research Symposium returned to allow students to present their research projects.

- The OCC Marine Science program was awarded a Cisco Certified Internetwork Expert (CCIE) Institutional Grant. These funds are given to support the development of an international education program.
- The College was awarded a Math Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) program grant under the direction of the Math and Sciences Division.

EMPLOYEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS & ACCOLADES

- In April, the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR) awarded OCC's marketing and public relations department a Gold Paragon Award. It was honored in the E-Newsletter category for its 2021 OCC Magazine. OCC also received eight Community Colleges Public Relations Organization (CCPRO) awards for creative work produced during the academic year: four gold, six silver, and two bronze.
- Director of Public Relations and Marketing Juan Gutierrez received the CCPRO All Pro Award in April for outstanding work and service as a California Community College communicator.
- OCC President Angelica Suarez threw out the game's first pitch at OCC's Angels Night against the Minnesota Twins as part of the college's 75th Anniversary Celebration.
- OCC Professor of Biology Kelli Elliott has been named 2024 Teacher of the Year by the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE).
- OCC Dean of Students Derek Vergara received the Community College Professional Award for 2022 from the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Region VI.
- The College hosted its annual Outstanding Coast Colleague of the Year Awards and the Spring Retiree Recognition Ceremony. Among the honored were six retirees from the spring semester and "Part-Time Faculty Member of the Year," English Instructor Nina Barrios; "Classified Professional of the Year," Early Childhood Lab Coordinator Kourtney Jones; and "Manager of the Year," Early Childhood Lab Manager & Interim Director of Childcare Services Rochelle Santacruz.
- Kristoffer Toribio, Manager of International Admissions and Recruitment for the Global Engagement Center, was named President of the International Association for College Admissions Counseling (ACAC). Toribio is the first representative from a community college to hold this position and the first Asian-Pacific Islander.
- Phuong Tran, Student Services Specialist in the Global Engagement Center, was crowned Mrs. Vietnam Global in 2022.
- Assistant Professor of Business Diane Drown was chosen as an author on the Today Show's Jenna Bush Hager's book club for her debut novel, "Black Candle Women." She was an answer on Jeopardy: I'll take Reading with Jenna Bush Hager for \$400. "Can't believe I had my photo on Jeopardy (hey, #KenJennings!) in a category with literary legends."
- Campus Safety officers Tim Winer, Tony Bryant, Joe Garcia, and Maintenance and Operations specialist Pilo Jimenez were honored for their efforts in responding and saving an individual's life on campus.

COLLEGE ACCOLADES

- In January, OCC kicked off a year-long celebration for its 75th anniversary with many events that engaged the college's internal and external community.
- The Dennis Kelly Aquarium celebrated its 50th anniversary by opening its doors to the public for a free community event at the end of April.
- OCC celebrated its 65th Annual Honor's Night: "Diamonds are a Pirate's Best Friend" in May, awarding over \$640,000 in scholarships. Honors Night is a long-standing tradition that recognizes the community of OCC learners and educators that leave a lasting legacy.
- The College capped off its 2023 spring semester by celebrating its Diamond Anniversary commencement at the OC Fairgrounds. More than 3,800 associate degrees and certificates of achievement were conferred to 1,800 graduates at the commencement ceremony.



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