



OCC President Angelica Suarez Earns National Honor

The Aspen Institute has named Orange Coast College as one of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) recognized Orange Coast College president Dr. Angelica Suarez as the recipient of its 2024 National President's Award – the first California community college president to be honored with this prestigious award. This award is the highest honor NASPA bestows on a college or university president or chancellor.

"I am honored and humbled to have been selected for the NASPA's National President's Award," said OCC President Angelica Suarez. "This recognition represents a life-long journey to positively impact students' lives through education, thus changing the trajectory of families for future generations. As we know, the heart of an institution is its students, and this award reaffirms our collective purpose to create an environment where every student can thrive."

Since Dr. Suarez began her presidency at OCC in 2019, she has emphasized a "Culture of Care," which set the foundation for revising the Educational Master Plan in 2021 and the development of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Plan in 2022.

In November 2023, Dr. Suarez received the regional NASPA President's Award.

NASPA's National President's Award is a special recognition given to a college or university president who has, over a sustained period, advanced the quality of student life on campus by supporting

student affairs staff and programs. The award will be presented at NASPA's Annual Conference in Seattle in March 2024.

OCC Closes Out 75th Anniversary in True Holiday Spirit

On Dec. 14, the OCC Foundation and President's Office co-hosted an annual holiday luncheon to celebrate the end of the semester and the closing of OCC's 75th anniversary. Employees gathered in OCC's College Center Ballrooms for a catered meal provided by the College's food services and culinary students.

Before the holiday luncheon, the preschoolers attending the Harry and Grace Steele Child Development Center on campus also treated employees to a performance. The children



Calendar

- Jan. 19 – LAZERDOME: Pink Floyd: The Wall, 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., OCC Planetarium
- Jan. 19 – Men's Basketball vs. Santa Ana, 5 p.m., OCC Gym
- Jan. 19 – Women's Basketball vs. Riverside, 7 p.m., OCC Gym
- Jan. 27 – Baseball: Memorial Cup, Game 2 vs. El Camino, Noon, Wendell Pickens Baseball Field - John Altobelli Park
- Jan. 29-March 21 – "Roger Whitridge: Order and Chaos" & "Monroe Isenberg: nowhere is here," Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion, Free admission
- Jan. 31 – Softball: Home Opener vs. Compton, 2 p.m., Softball Field
- Feb. 1 – Preview reception for "Roger Whitridge: Order and Chaos" & "Monroe Isenberg: nowhere is here," 4-6 p.m., Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion, Free admission
- Feb. 3 – Opening reception for "Roger Whitridge: Order and Chaos" & "Monroe Isenberg: nowhere is here," 1-4 p.m., Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion, Free admission



performed a medley of holiday classics.

Following the performance, the Classified Senate hosted a holiday cart parade. Departments across campus decorated carts in various themes, including the Grinch, Nightmare Before Christmas, and a classic Santa sleigh. The marketing and public relations department received top honors for their Santa sleigh-themed golf cart.



“Monroe Isenberg: nowhere is Here” summons light and sand, transforming banal, man-made materials into reflections on time, space, and the natural world. These sculptures emerge as futuristic monoliths. They are both foreign and familiar, questioning relationships with the interior space they inhabit and their outdoor origins: video projections and performances further connections to Nordic isles and changing environments.

Veterans Resource Center: Community, Connection, Camaraderie

Veterans beginning or returning to their education goals have a safe space with the Veterans Resource Center at Orange Coast College. Members of the military and their dependents have special considerations that need unique care, time, and expertise. They are often best served by others in that community who are fluent in fellow veterans’ shared nuanced language and experiences.

More than a room on a college campus providing pamphlets and brochures, the VRC is in Room 203 on the second floor of the Student Union.

Before visitors even walk through the doors, they are honored with the six military seals proudly displayed in the hallway. Opening the doors, they are greeted by “their” people - veteran student assistants with the knowledge of the unique experience of navigating the military as a student.

This designated location on campus welcomes the student veterans to use this safe space as their needs dictate: a lounge to socialize and grab a snack, a lab to look up resources or do homework, and a balcony where the VRC holds their monthly barbecue workshops offering grilled burgers and valuable information on the campus topic of the month.

“Veterans bring valuable experiences and insights to the campus that can enhance classroom discussions,” Student Success and Equity Specialist for Veterans Jonathan Jimenez said. “Having a veteran’s community on campus is important because it creates a better learning experience for students, staff, and faculty.”

The VRC works in tandem with Veterans Services, located on the first floor of Watson Hall, whose goal is to assist veterans in achieving their educational goals by acquiring and using their VA education benefits. For more information, visit the VRC website.



Two New Exhibits Opening at the Doyle Arts Pavilion Showcasing Faculty

The Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion will present two concurrent exhibits, “Roger Whitridge: Order and Chaos” and “Monroe



Isenberg: nowhere is here,” starting Jan. 29, each presented by OCC Visual and Performing Arts faculty. Both exhibits will host a preview reception on Thursday, Feb. 1, from 4-6 p.m., followed by an opening reception on Saturday, Feb. 3, from 1-4 p.m. with a short artist walkthrough at 1 p.m. Admission is free for all exhibits and gallery events.

“Roger Whitridge: Order and Chaos” is an ongoing painting series. Modern life is a digital tapestry of shifting realities, ideologies, and symbols colliding from the past and present. The paintings translate these absurd dualities throughout decades, growing more complicated through time and layered painting techniques. These symbols can be mass-consumed from film and television or emerge from the spiritual, esoteric, and philosophical.