# Orange Coast College UPDATE

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# OCC Flex Day Focus on Sustainability, Budget Challenges

Orange Coast College held its Spring Flex Day on Thursday, Feb. 20, with a focus on sustainability and discussions around ongoing budget challenges throughout the District. The day's activities included more than 100 unique sessions and/or workshops, with presenters addressing topics such as Title IX training, planning for retirement, and emergency management training.

A large general session discussing a sustainable budget also was planned and led by President Angelica Suarez and Dr. Rich Pagel, as well as leaders from different governance groups on campus. The discussion focused on declining enrollment, budget challenges, and a recently announced hiring freeze and early retirement incentive.

Organizers planned a "Sustainability Fair" with 25 booths, three service activities and six repeating talks. The Sustainability Fair also included 14 outside community partners who came to campus to promote sustainable practices, such as Lime, a micro-mobility company that rents electric scooters as public transportation. Another way that sustainability was emphasized at this Flex Day was in the way that lunch was provided for the more than 600 employees who attended; all meals were locally made from recovered food, with a focus on minimizing non-compostable and non-recyclable trash.

In total, nearly 3,000 seats were registered for the day's events. Attendance at Flex Day is required for all full-time faculty and classes are not held. However efforts are also made to include all employee constituencies, with reimbursement for part-time faculty available and most offices on campus closing for the day in order to make the day accessible for classified employees.

OCC's Fall Flex Day is scheduled for Aug. 21, 2020, and will have a theme of "There's No Place Like Home," a reference to the College opening student housing on campus.



# Calendar

- March 5 Baseball vs Golden West Wendell Pickens Field, 2 p.m.
- March 6 Softball vs Fullerton Softball Complex, 2 p.m.
- March 6 Giles T. Brown Research Symposium Planetarium, 9:30 a.m. until 1:15 p.m.
- March 10 Spring
   Transfer Fair
   Library Quad, 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.
- March 10 Holi Festival of Colors Main Quad, 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.
- March 10 Baseball vs Irvine Valley Wendell Pickens Field, 2 p.m.
- March 11 Game of Life OCC Planetarium, 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.
- March 11 Softball vs Cypress Softball Complex, 2:30 p.m.
- March 13-15, 20 & 21 —
  'Wilderness' by OCC Theatre
  Drama Lab Theatre, 7:30 p.m.
- March 17 Banff Film Festival Robert B. Moore Theatre, 7 p.m.
- March 22 'Wilderness' by OCC TheatreDrama Lab Theatre, 2:30 p.m.





#### Senior Day Brings Students from More than 30 High Schools, 12 Districts to OCC

Orange Coast College welcomed thousands of high school students to campus on Tuesday, March 3 for its annual Senior Day outreach event. Students came to campus from more than 30 local high schools representing 12 school districts, including Newport-Mesa, Anaheim Union, Garden Grove, Santa Ana and San Bernardino.

Students were able to tour 17 different programs on campus, as well as gather information about the resources available to them, including financial aid, student housing, tutoring, priority registration and more. Application and online orientation workshops were offered and a student club fair was held in the College's Library Quad.

All students in attendance received a free t-shirt and lunch, and vendors like PepsiCo and Hubert's Lemonade were on campus to sample their products.

Results from student surveys of the event show a positive response, with many students responding "yes" to "I am now definitely going to OCC" and "I am now considering OCC."

This is the 37th year that OCC has hosted its Senior Day event, which is the largest recruitment and outreach event of the year.

#### Multicultural Center, Student Equity Will Celebrate Hindi 'Festival of Color' March 10

OCC's Multicultural Center and Student Equity Program will co-host an event celebrating the Holi Festival of Colors on Tuesday, March 10 in the College's Main Quad from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

This is the first time that OCC will host an event celebrating the ancient Hindi tradition, which is one of the most revered and celebrated holidays in Hindi communities all over the world. The festival itself signals the arrival of spring, and is seen as a day for making amends and showing love and joy to all those you meet.



OCC's Holi Festival will

include traditional Indian music and dance, and free henna art courtesy of Our Indian Culture, a local organization that helps plan cultural events. OCC's event also will feature a "color throw," during which those in attendance will be doused in colored powder or liquid in every hue of the rainbow.

For more information contact Gladys Calderon at gcalderon9@occ.cccd.edu

# OCC President Angelica Suarez Named Orange County Hispanic Woman of the Year

he League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) -Santa Ana Council #147 recognized Orange Coast College president, Dr. Angelica Suarez, as one of its 2020 Hispanic Women of the Year awardees on Feb. 22.

Dr. Suarez was recognized alongside nine other women of Hispanic descent whose accomplishments and meaningful voluntary contributions to their overall communities make them positive role



models for a younger generation of leaders. The cornerstone of the LULAC national and local organization is education, and all proceeds from the awards banquet will go toward continued support of students in need of financial assistance with their post-secondary education costs.

Joining Dr. Suarez for the dinner and award ceremony were Coast Community College Trustee Jim Moreno, OCC Vice President of Administrative Services Rich Pagel, and Vice President of Student Services Madjid Niroumand. OCC's Academic, Classified and ASOCC presidents also were guests of Dr. Suarez at the event.

OCC's 11th president is the second woman and the first Latina to hold the position. Dr. Suarez' personal narrative as an immigrant and first-generation college student connects her very directly to the shared experiences of California community college students. Her educational background includes a doctoral degree in educational leadership and policy studies from Loyola University Chicago, a master's degree in counseling psychology from California State University at Long Beach, a bachelor's degree in psychology from CSULB, and an associate's degree from East Los Angeles College.

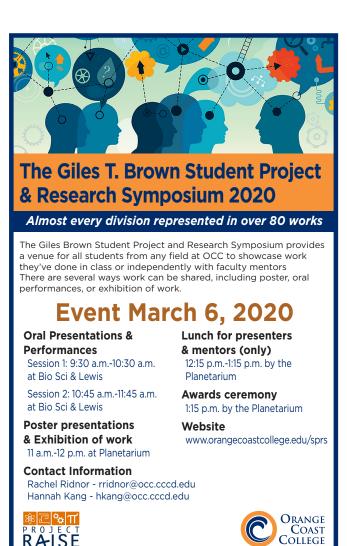
LULAC advances the economic development, educational advancement, public policy outcomes, housing opportunities, health awareness and general civil rights protection of Latinos in the United States and Puerto Rico through communitybased programs and services through more than 700 local LULAC councils nationwide.

#### 4th Annual Giles T. Brown Research Symposium Set for Friday, March 6

range Coast College is hosting its 4th Annual Giles T. Brown Student Project and Research Symposium on Friday, March 6 in the College's Planetarium. The Symposium will give students a chance to present the work they do inside or outside the classroom, and aims to highlight many different disciplines on campus in a single event.

Students will present their work in one of three ways: Oral Presentation, Poster Presentation or Exhibition of Work, Lunch will be provided at the Planetarium for all presenters and their mentors, followed by an award ceremony.

The top prize is a First Author award of \$1,000, with \$500 for a subcategory win and \$100 for runner-up awards. Subcategories include oral presentation with original research. oral presentation with project or literature review, poster presentations, and projects, technology and creative works.



College

### OCC Speech Earns 5th Place at PSCFA Spring Championship Tournament

Orange Coast College's Speech, Debate and Theater team competed against more than 300 of their peers representing 30 schools at the Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensics Association Spring Championship Tournament at Palomar Community College on Feb. 22 and 23.

The Pirates brought home a respectable 5th place result in one of the biggest local tournaments of the year. "The competition was no joke this year," said OCC Speech Coach Hannah Haghighat "But we are proud of how our students represented the school."

Speech and Debate Director Sherana Polk isn't dwelling on the results of this tournament, and is instead looking forward to the busy months ahead. "We are done competing locally, and now it's time to start focusing on our next big fish: the California State Championship in Fresno next month. Our squad proved this weekend that they are ready for the challenge."

In addition to the PSCFA competition, the forensics community honored a handful of students who excelled in Speech and Debate while maintaining a 3.75 or above grade point average with the coveted PSCFA Scholar Award. Five students on OCC's team met this standard.

#### Pirates Stay Hot; Win Seventh Straight

The Orange Coast College baseball team picked up its seventh straight win with a 9-4 victory over College of the Canyons on Feb. 29 at Wendell Pickens Field.

Heading into Orange Empire Conference play on March 3 at Golden West, the Pirates (9-6) were playing their best baseball of the season. After falling behind 4-0 in the top of the first, Coast not only pounded out 13 hits and nine runs, but the Pirate bullpen shut down one of the best offenses in the state for the rest of the game.

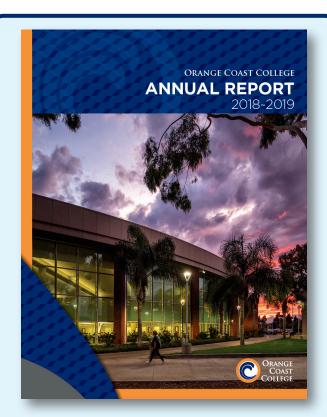
First out of the Pirates' 'pen was Jack Noble, who silenced the Cougars (3-11-1) for 5 1/3 innings, allowing just two hits with two walks and four strikeouts. Teammate Jake Lopez followed with two scoreless innings with a hit and two Ks before Kelly Austin closed things out with a scoreless ninth inning, fanning two as well.

After scoring a run in the bottom of the first, OCC grabbed the lead in the bottom of the third with a four-run frame. A pair of one-out walks was followed with a single to left off the bat of Cary Arbolida, loading the bases. Justin Brodt moved everyone

up with a run-scoring grounder to second to make it 4-2. Chase Hanson stepped up and lined a single to right to score two runs and tie the game at 4. Hanson finished the afternoon going 3-for-4 with a run scored and two RBI. Nolan Funke got Hanson to third with a single to right and Matt Maloney (2-for-4, one run, two RBI) scored Hanson with a two-out single to center, putting Coast up for good.

From there, the Pirates added a run in the fifth on an RBI-infield single by Jared Schatz (2-for-3, two runs, one RBI) before plating three more runs in the bottom of the sixth. A pair of run-scoring grounders by Funke and Maloney were followed with an RBI-single to right by Logan Jackson (2-for-3, one RBI).

OCC's next home game will be Game 2 of its three-game series with the Rustlers on Thursday, March 5 beginning at 2 p.m.



has published an Annual Report for 2018-2019. In addition to recognizing the many community partners and donors who support the College, OCC's Annual Report features a variety of stories focused on topics such as sustainability, STEM programs, Guardian Scholars, and new construction on campus. You can view the Annual Report at

www.occpublicity.orangecoastcollege.edu/annualreport-18-19/