



# JACK KENT COOKE

## FOUNDATION COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

### Thien Nguyen

#### OCC Student Thien Nguyen Selected as Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship Recipient

Orange Coast College transfer student Thien Nguyen was notified in early May that she was a recipient of the prestigious Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship for 2021. A total of 72 scholarship recipients were chosen by the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation from more than 1,300 applicants representing 370 community colleges across the United States.

The highly competitive national transfer scholarship provides selected students with up to \$40,000 a year to complete their bachelor's degrees, as well as additional funds for graduate school. Scholarship recipients are selected based on their academic ability and achievement, financial need, persistence, and leadership.

"OCC usually has a few finalists in any year when our students apply to the JKCF Scholarships, and we've had about a dozen actually win the awards," says Honors Program Coordinator Teresa Scarbrough. "Every one of our winners has been a Phi Theta Kappa member and most have been enrolled in our Honors Program as well."

Nguyen majored in biochemistry at OCC, and has been accepted to the University of California, Berkeley and UC Irvine. She is still waiting to hear if she has been accepted to UCLA. "Thien impressed me from the first moment we met. She's incredibly sharp, a risk-taker, and isn't afraid to speak up," says Scarbrough.

Nguyen, along with three classmates, participated in OCC's Giles T. Brown Research Symposium this spring, with a presentation titled "Factors

in Preventing ADHD in Offspring." Her faculty mentor was biology professor Chih Lew.

As a Jack Kent Cooke Scholar, Nguyen will have access to comprehensive educational advising to help guide her through the process of transitioning to a four-year college and preparing for her future career. She also will receive opportunities for internships, study abroad, and graduate school funding, as well as connection to a network of Cooke Scholars and Alumni.

"It's so exciting when our students win one of these huge awards," says Scarbrough. "Thien would not have been able to afford to go to a top UC without the JKCF support. Now she can afford to go where she wants, and if I don't miss my guess, she'll do OCC and JKCF proud!"

#### U.S. Dept. of Transportation Designates OCC Waterfront Campus 'Center of Excellence'

Orange Coast College has been named one of 27 Centers of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education (CoE) for 2021 by the United States Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration.

The announcement, made earlier this week, comes on the heels of OCC's announcement that its Newport Beach facility has been renamed The Orange Coast College Waterfront Campus.

"Orange Coast College's professional mariner and sailing programs have long been the standard of excellence in maritime training and education," says OCC President



Angelica Suarez.  
“This CoE designation formally recognizes the tremendous value OCC provides in preparing students for successful careers in the nation’s maritime industry.”

The Maritime Administration (MARAD) grants institutions that receive the CoE designation permission to identify themselves as recipients. Designees may state that MARAD has determined their institution and their maritime training programs meet the qualifying standards as stated in 46 US Code § 54102, approved by the U.S. Congress in 2018.

“This designation is a proud achievement for our students, faculty, and staff,” says John Weispfenning, Chancellor of the Coast Community College District. “It is an acknowledgement of a legacy of excellence that has stretched back for decades and transformed many lives.”

The CoE designation opens the door to MARAD entering into cooperative agreements with designated institutions to help advance recruitment of students and faculty, enhance facilities, award student credit for military service, and potentially receive assistance in the form of surplus equipment or temporary use of MARAD vessels.

“We’re looking forward to this new partnership with MARAD,” says OCC Waterfront Campus Director Sarah Hirsch. “The professional mariner program at Orange Coast College’s Waterfront Campus is in a growth phase with new facilities and technology coming on-line in July, and the visibility and support from this high-profile designation comes at the perfect time.”

Previously named the Intercollegiate Rowing and Sailing Base, OCC’s Newport Harbor facility is finishing construction on a significant expansion, including a \$22 million maritime training center connected to the harbor-side facility by a skyway bridge over Pacific Coast Highway. Construction is scheduled to be complete in Summer 2021.

“Orange Coast College is leading the way as a center of innovation and water safety for our community of marine trade and tourism,” said Jim Moreno, President of the Coast District Board of Trustees. “We in Orange County have long appreciated the excellence of the OCC Waterfront Campus, and we celebrate the campus’s national presence and reputation.”



## OCC Confers More Than 5,300 Degrees, Certificates at 73<sup>rd</sup> Commencement on May 28

Orange Coast College welcomed students and their families and friends for the school’s 73<sup>rd</sup> Commencement, which took place in a virtual format on Friday, May 28. More than 2,700 students were awarded some 5,300 degrees and certificates at this year’s ceremony on YouTube Live.

“Even though we are going through very challenging times, there was nothing that would stop us from celebrating your success today,” President Angelica Suarez told graduates in a pre-recorded message. “Please believe me when I say that you will always be ‘Forever Pirates.’”

OCC’s Class of 2021 is a diverse one: the youngest graduate is just 18 years old and the oldest is 76 years old. This year’s graduates also hail from all over the map, including 12 different states across the U.S. and 35 countries around the world.

More than 700 students participated in the YouTube ceremony by submitting personalized slides that include photographs, majors, and meaningful quote. Students and their families were also given a chance to celebrate on OCC’s Commencement “social wall” by using the hashtag #CoastGrad2021. All commencement activities, including the social wall and a link to the ceremony, can be found on the College’s Commencement website at [www.orangecoastcollege.edu/commencement](http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/commencement)

## Coast Students to Partner with Local Nonprofit to Build Homes for Earthquake Victims

Students enrolled in Orange Coast College's Architecture A158 BIM Project Integration course this summer will gain valuable hands-on experience while helping families half a world away who are still suffering more than 30 years after a devastating earthquake in Armenia.

In December 1988 the Spitak earthquake killed approximately 50,000 Armenians and left more than half a million without homes. Governments around the world quickly rallied to offer assistance to the battered USSR nation, which was in the middle of a freezing winter. Shipping containers filled with rescue equipment, food and water, and other aid items arrived in the country and were quickly repurposed into temporary housing units for families who had nowhere to go. Today, more than 4,000 families remain in these temporary housing containers (Domiks), including some 2,400 children.

OCC's architecture program has partnered with the Armenian Relief and Development Association (ARDA) as well as architecture firm Form Found Design, Walter P. Moore Engineering, and Piur Panels to provide a solution to the temporary housing crisis in Armenia. Utilizing OCC's FrameCAD Machine — which forms, punches, labels, and cuts custom, steel studs for rapid manufacturing of homes — students enrolled in the College's BIM Project Integration course this summer will work to create cost effective, efficient and dignified housing structures for Armenian families in need.

"This class will be structured more like a research seminar than a traditional community college class," says instructor Joseph Sarafian. "The class is built around the FrameCAD machine, but we will be teaching students how to use the software, and no prior experience is necessary. It's a great way for students to build their portfolios while gaining valuable skills."

Students will work in tandem with ARDA as their "client", as well as with the architecture and engineering firms. They will also have an opportunity to coordinate with a local architect in Armenia. "The students will develop the construction details for the home and begin construction of the prototype," says Sarafian. "The home will be manufactured and assembled locally in Los Angeles, then shipped in panels to Armenia."

Sarafian encourages students from technology majors to consider enrolling, including those in welding, robotics, and machine technology. "The skills students will learn in this class will help them build any future structure," he says.

ARDA eventually plans to purchase a FrameCAD Machine to have on-site in Armenia to mass-produce homes for a fraction of the time and cost typically expended in traditional methods. To learn more visit <http://ardausa.org>



## Orange Coast College Awards More Than \$500K in Scholarships at Virtual Honors Night

OCC hosted its 63rd annual Honors Night and Leadership Awards on May 26 via YouTube Live. The College awarded \$510,000 in scholarships to 447 students at the ceremony, which had a theme of "Endless Scholars" based on the iconic "Endless Summer" surf film. Additionally, more than 70 students received Leadership Awards recognizing their service to OCC and the local community.

"Tonight we are celebrating the many ways in which our students experience the excitement of knowledge, both in and out of the classroom," President Angelica Suarez told attendees. "This event also celebrates our extraordinary and generous scholarship donors, who freely provide the gift of further education to OCC students."

Theatre Arts instructor Tom Bruno served as the evening's Master of Ceremonies, guiding students and their families through the celebration which included vintage surf cars, appearances by faculty and staff dressed in Hawaiian-print apparel, and even a return of beloved puppet "Pedro the Pirate."

To view OCC's 63rd Commencement Ceremony visit [www.orangecoastcollege.edu/honorsnight](http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/honorsnight)



Starting June 8, the Orange County Health Department will begin offering both the Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccines every Tuesday at Orange Coast College. The mobile vaccine pod is located in the College's Ronnenberg Center for Environmental Sustainability (next to the OCC Recycling Center).



**SECOND  
HARVEST  
FOOD  
BANK**  
ORANGE COUNTY

## Second Harvest Food Bank Selected as OCC Community Partner of the Year

Orange Coast College named Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County as its “Community Partner of the Year” for 2020-2021.

Second Harvest was recognized at the College’s 73<sup>rd</sup> annual virtual Commencement ceremony on May 28.

OCC faculty and staff have worked together with Second Harvest for several years to distribute food and other basic needs to students through the food bank’s College Pantry Program. Over the past year, as the pandemic caused by COVID-19 forced the closure of OCC’s on-campus food pantry, the Pirates’ Cove, Second Harvest worked closely with the College to organize distribution of food boxes to students in need.

“For many years Second Harvest has been an integral partner in our efforts to address food insecurity and a lack of basic needs among our student population,” says OCC President Angelica Suarez. “In the past year, as the pandemic posed tremendous challenges for our students, Second Harvest worked diligently with us to continue to provide that support, distributing essential food supplies to our most vulnerable students each week.”

Food insecurity among college students is prevalent, with studies showing that on average, U.S. college students are three times more likely to experience food insecurity than the general population. Currently, Second Harvest provides food and basic needs support to 12 colleges and universities within Orange County.

“We started the College Pantry program when we saw more research being done about food insecurity on college campuses, and recognized students are a vulnerable and more at-risk population,” says Second Harvest Director of Programs and Services Ellie Dinh. “We’ve focused on creating a program model around compassionate service, and we push our partners to focus on that as well. For example: creating a name for the space that is not ‘food pantry,’ and making the space accessible and welcoming.”

Dinh, herself an alumni of Orange Coast College, immediately thought of OCC when she saw the data and first conceived of a specialized college program. “When we started the College

Pantry Program, I immediately thought ‘we have to get this at OCC,’” she says. She worked closely with OCC Nutrition and Dietetics Professor Beth Blake – who serves on the Second Harvest Nutrition Advisory Council – and OCC’s Student Equity Program Director Maricela Sandoval as the College made plans to expand its existing pantry with the opening of Pirates’ Cove.

Starting last summer, employees and volunteers with OCC’s Pirates’ Cove food pantry began distributing food boxes and other basic needs to students in a contactless “drive up” event that takes place weekly. Typically, the College serves approximately 100-150 students each week.

“It’s amazing that OCC has figured out a way to adapt and make it so that students are still able to access this resource. It’s great to see the College rally and figure out how to continue providing that service for their students,” says Dinh.

## OCC Marketing & PR Dept. Nabs Six State Public Relations Awards

Orange Coast College’s marketing and public relations department won six awards at the annual Community College Public Relations Organization (CCPRO) awards on April 30.

OCC took first place in the Flyer and Class Schedule categories; second place for College Website, Magazine, and Promotional Video - Short Format; and third place for its athletics banner in the Outdoor Media category.

“Our team works hard throughout the year to produce high quality, professional branding and marketing material for the College that reflects OCC’s reputation of excellence. This recognition from our colleagues across the state lets us know that we’re doing something right,” says Marketing and Public Relations Director Juan Gutierrez.

CCPRO is a statewide professional development and service organization that seeks to promote excellence in California’s community college public relations and related professions.

This year’s awards ceremony was held in a virtual format. To see the ceremony, visit <https://ccprocalifornia.org/>

