

Duly Noted

// OCC Accomplishments & Accolades • 2020-2021

Orange Coast College

experienced a year unlike any other in its 73-year history, with nearly all of its classes taking place in an online format and the vast majority of staff, faculty and administrators working virtually for the 2020-2021 academic year. Faced with the unprecedented challenges and uncertainties brought on by the COVID-19 global pandemic, the OCC community demonstrated resilience and strength, finding ways to stay connected, accomplish educational and professional goals, and provide support for vulnerable student populations.

In the fall, Orange Coast College announced its decision to become a 100 percent smoke- and tobacco-free campus, with three employees who worked on the effort receiving a special commendation from the Orange County Health Care Agency's Tobacco and Vape Free OC Coalition. Also in the fall, several events that are traditionally held on campus and in-person were successfully transitioned to a virtual format, including the Orange County Children's Book Festival, Navigate OCC first year orientation, career and transfer fairs, and multicultural celebrations such as Dia De Los Muertos and Veterans Day festivities.

Orange Coast College's on-campus student housing facility, The Harbour, opened its doors in late September, with a limited number of students arriving with their families to become the first on-campus residents in more than 50 years. In an effort to provide holistic and comprehensive support for students struggling due to the pandemic, OCC's food pantry, the Pirates' Cove, partnered with Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County to organize a drive-up food distribution for students experiencing food insecurity. As the Fall 2020 semester came to a close, OCC welcomed its new permanent Vice President of Instruction, Michelle Grimes-Hillman.

With a new year came hopeful optimism spurred by the development and distribution of a highly effective vaccine for COVID-19. In January, the College's Athletics program began to prepare for a shortened spring season for all sports teams, with the OCC Student Health Center offering weekly COVID testing for all athletes. As the Spring 2021 semester got under way, OCC planned several virtual events aimed at highlighting and celebrating a diverse campus community, such as Black History Month, Women's History Month, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and Pride Month. In the late Spring, Coast awarded more than \$500,000 in scholarships at a virtual honors night celebration, and more than

5,300 degrees and certificates at its 73rd Commencement Ceremony, which took place in a virtual format live on YouTube.

OCC's physical campus underwent a transformation throughout the 2020-2021 school year, with construction of many new buildings wrapping up or nearing completion, including a new College Center, Student Union, Language Arts and Social Science Complex, Adaptive Kinesiology and Aquatics Pavilion and Waterfront Campus Maritime Training facility. OCC staff, faculty and administrators are diligently working to prepare campus for a phased return to campus, beginning in Fall 2021.



Although the 2020-2021 school year was unlike any other year experienced at OCC, our campus community demonstrated remarkable resilience, compassion, and optimism, finding ways to stay connected, accomplish educational and professional goals, and provide support for students through a lens of equity and inclusion.



STUDENT RETENTION, SUPPORT & SUCCESS

OCC Speech and Debate Team Take Third Place

The Orange Coast College Speech and Debate team competed in the El Camino Crossman Virtual Tournament in mid-October, taking third place in a larger-than-normal field of competitors.

OCC Speech and Debate Team Compete at Two Separate Tournaments

The Orange Coast College Speech and Debate team competed at two separate tournaments in early October, taking first place in Community College Sweepstakes at the Norene Hokett Invitational.

Coast Report Receives Seven Awards

Orange Coast College's student-run newspaper, the Coast Report, received seven awards at the Journalism Association of Community Colleges Fall 2020 Virtual Conference in early November.

21st Annual UCI Community College Honors Research Conference

Fourteen students from Orange Coast College presented talks and demonstrations at the 21st Annual UCI Community College Honors Research Conference in late March.

Coast Report Recognized at Both the State and National Levels

The Coast Report was recognized at both the state and national levels at the Spring National College Media Convention in March, including placing ninth in the nation for 2020 election coverage out of more than 100 two- and four-year schools.

Prestigious Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship

Orange Coast College transfer student Thien Nguyen was notified in early May that she is a recipient of the prestigious Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship for 2021.

2021 Judith Hendler Design Competition

Fashion students from Coast were among several local community college students recognized at the 2021 Judith Hendler Design Competition, in partnership with the Huntington Beach Art Center.

OCC Awards More Than 5,000 Degrees and Certificates

OCC awarded more than 5,000 degrees and certificates at its 73rd annual Commencement Ceremony, which took place live on YouTube on May 28.

OCC Men's Volleyball Team

Seven members of the Orange Coast College men's volleyball team announced they will be taking their academic and athletic talents to the Division I level at four-year universities in Fall 2021.

Virtual Navigate OCC

As OCC geared up for a fall semester that took place mostly online, the College's onboarding team organized a virtual Navigate OCC event that introduced or reacquainted students to Coast, gave them an opportunity to meet fellow students, and connected them to resources on campus.

Aviation Pilot Training to International Students

In late fall, the Aviation Science Department at OCC was approved by the Department of Homeland Security to offer aviation pilot training to international students with an F-1 visa.

Welcome Weeks Virtual Support Hub

The College hosted a Welcome Weeks Virtual Support Hub during the opening weeks of the Spring 2021 semester.

Pathways to Career Fair

OCC's inaugural Pathways to Career Fair kicked off in mid-April, giving students a chance to meet with professors to explore majors, and employers to explore career paths.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

OCC's Pirates' Cove Food Pantry

OCC's Pirates' Cove food pantry, in collaboration with Second Harvest Food Bank, began distributing food boxes to students and their families in the late summer of 2020. On average, the College distributed food to 100-150 students each week.

First Ever Virtual Fall Flex Day

Orange Coast College hosted its first ever virtual Fall Flex Day for employees on Aug. 21, with programming centered around social justice.

Equity and Inclusion

Dr. Dawn Person led two workshops on equity and inclusion in November, giving employees a chance to learn more about the subjects.

10 Scholarships Annually to Students

Orange Coast College's Counseling Latinos for Equity and Engagement (CLEEO) Project formed a partnership with First Choice Bank in early 2021 to provide 10 scholarships annually to students at the College.

“Reel Hip Hop” Guided Pathways Workshop Series

OCC Umoja and the Associated Students of Orange Coast College teamed up in May to create a “Reel Hip Hop” Guided Pathways workshop series, giving students an opportunity to gain networking experience with working professionals in the entertainment industry.

Holiday Food Distribution

In November, OCC's food pantry The Pirates Cove invited students to sign up for a holiday food distribution.

Black and African American Student Success Week

Orange Coast College joined community colleges across the state to host Black Student Success Week from April 26 to 30, an event dedicated to Black and African American student success at California community colleges.

OpenStax Institutional Partnership Program at Rice University

In July, Orange Coast College was one of 12 schools selected to participate in the 2021-2022 OpenStax Institutional Partnership program at Rice University. As a participant in the network's first-year program, OCC will work to actively build and execute a strategy that will encourage greater use of free, flexible textbooks among its faculty and students.

Virtual Altar for “Dia de Los Muertos”

OCC's Student Equity program created a virtual altar for “Dia de Los Muertos” to give students and employees a chance to share photos and memories of loved ones who have passed.

Virtual Wall of Honor

OCC's Student Equity program created a Virtual Wall of Honor where students, faculty and staff could share photos and memories of service members for Veterans Day.

Black History Month

Several events were planned in February in honor of Black History Month, co-sponsored by OCC's EOPS/Umoja, Equity office, International Multicultural Committee and Multicultural Center.

“Empowered Women Empowering Women”

OCC’s Global Engagement Center, Multicultural Center, and Student Life and Student Equity programs co-sponsored a month-long leadership series titled “Empowered Women Empowering Women” in honor of Women’s History Month in March.

“ULAMA: The Mesoamerican Ballgame.”

OCC’s CLEEO Project hosted Dr. Manuel Aguilar-Moreno of Cal State University, Los Angeles for a virtual guest lecture in March titled “ULAMA: The Mesoamerican Ballgame.”

“Father” of Chicano Film and Theater Luis Valdez

OCC’s CLEEO Projects invited the “Father” of Chicano film and theater Luis Valdez to give a presentation as part of the CLEEO Summit 10.0 in April. Valdez is best known for his play “Zoot Suits” and the 1987 classic film “La Bamba.”

COMMUNITY RELATIONS & OUTREACH

OCC Magazine

Orange Coast College's Marketing and Public Relations department published the 2020 edition of the annual OCC Magazine in August, with the 2020 issue focused on the College's response to COVID-19.

Orange County Children's Book Festival

The show went on for the Orange County Children's Book Festival, which moved its 17th annual event from an "in-person" to a "virtual" Book Festival in mid-September.

Redesigned Website

OCC launched a redesigned website in early September, with a new modern look featuring increased accessibility and new features.

Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County

Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County was selected as Orange Coast College's Community Partner of the year for 2020-2021, in recognition of the organization's work to help distribute food boxes to students in need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2021 Banff Mountain Film Festival

Orange Coast College's Friends of the Library (FOTL) hosted the online 2021 Banff Mountain Film Festival in the spring, with proceeds benefiting the non-profit group.

PERFORMING ARTS

“ALMOST PRESIDENTIAL”

Following the 2020 U.S. Presidential election on Nov. 3, a film connected to Orange Coast College’s Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion’s exhibit “ALMOST PRESIDENTIAL” debuted, looking at vice presidents and failed presidential candidates.

Free Holiday Musical Experience

OCC’s music department students and faculty put together a free holiday musical experience to celebrate the end of the semester, and bring joy to all during a challenging season.

OCC’s Symphony Orchestra Debuted its First-Ever Virtual Concert

Orange Coast College’s Symphony Orchestra debuted its first-ever virtual concert via Facebook Live on Feb. 20.

Mass Appeal 2021 Juried Student Exhibition

To promote safety and social distancing due to COVID-19 Orange Coast College's annual Mass Appeal 2021 Juried Student Exhibition was once again held in a virtual format on Instagram

“A MidZoomer Night’s Dream”

Orange Coast College's student theatre company, the OCC Rep, presented a virtual adaptation of Shakespeare's beloved comedy, “A MidZoomer Night's Dream,” directed by Professor Tom Bruno.

Student Dance Concert

Dance students at Coast filmed a re-staging of an iconic work of Mexican modern dance choreographer José Limón for their annual Student Dance Concert in late May.

ATHLETICS

Coach John Altobelli

On the one-year anniversary of OCC head baseball coach John Altobelli's death in a helicopter crash that also took the lives of his wife and young daughter, the College reflected on the legacy he left behind with an online memorial tribute on YouTube and a virtual memorial wall.

2021 Orange Empire Conference Swim Championships

The Orange Coast College women's and men's swim teams posted solid times throughout the 2021 Orange Empire Conference Swim Championships, placing second and third respectively.

Men's Volleyball and Women's Tennis Teams Went Undefeated in the 2021 Season

Both the Orange Coast College men's volleyball and women's tennis teams went undefeated in the 2021 season.

Orange Empire Conference Crown for the Fourth Consecutive Season

The Orange Coast College baseball team made the most of their 2021 opportunities and successfully defended its Orange Empire Conference crown for the fourth consecutive season.

Gold Medals

With a combined 25 individual and relay conference gold medals between the two squads, the Orange Coast College men's and women's track teams captured the team title at the OEC Championships in May.

FOUNDATION

225-Million-Year-Old Petrified Wood Log

The Orange Coast College Foundation and Horticulture department added another 225-million-year-old petrified wood log to the College's collection in September, bringing the number of fossilized logs on campus to four.

2020 Giving Tuesday Campaign

The Orange Coast College Foundation raised \$158,295 during its 2020 Giving Tuesday Campaign.

More than \$500,000 in Scholarships

The College's Scholarship Office handed out more than \$500,000 in scholarships at the 2021 OCC Honor's Night, which took place virtually in late March.

Recognized by Share Our Selves Community Health Center

The Orange Coast College Foundation was recognized by Share Our Selves Community Health Center in Costa Mesa for its continuous support of graduating high school seniors who attend the center's programs.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

100 Percent Smoke- and Tobacco-Free Campus

In an effort to create a healthy campus environment for all who visit, Orange Coast College announced that it will be a 100 percent smoke- and tobacco-free campus starting in Fall 2020.

COVID Tests to Students and Employees

OCC partnered with the Orange County Health Care Agency in November to offer COVID tests to students and employees. Coast students, faculty and staff were given access to a dedicated lane at the drive-up testing super site located at the Costa Mesa Fairgrounds. OCC participated in the White House Covid19 College Vaccination Challenge.

Raising Public Awareness About Sexual Assault

OCC participated in several events during April aimed at raising public awareness about sexual assault and educating the campus community about how to prevent sexual violence.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

OCC's New College Center and Student Union

Construction of OCC's new College Center and Student Union was completed in July 2020, adding more than 150,000 square feet to OCC's facilities footprint, including classrooms, meeting and conference space, offices, a student dining facility, and more.

Kinesiology and Athletics Complex

OCC's Kinesiology and Athletics complex opened in July 2020. The state-of-the-art facility houses a competition-size pool, adaptive pool, training and recovery facilities, and administrative offices.

The Harbour

The Harbour at OCC officially opened its doors in September with students and their families arriving on move-in day to become the first on-campus residents in more than 50 years.

Large Solar Panels

In February, Orange Coast College moved one step closer to becoming an energy independent college campus with the installation of several new large solar panels in the Adams parking lot. The panels provide 2.7 megawatts of power to OCC's 164-acre campus, in addition to the 1 megawatt of power already provided by existing solar panels.

OCC Waterfront Campus

In early April, the Coast Community College District Board of Trustees approved a new name for the OCC's Newport Beach facilities: the Orange Coast College Waterfront Campus.

OCC Recycling Center Reopened

The OCC Recycling Center reopened its doors on May 4 after nearly a yearlong closure due to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Named One of 27 Centers of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education

In May, Orange Coast College was 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.

RESEARCH, INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

OCC Received \$81,605

Orange Coast College received \$81,605 in January, the second payment of a five-year project being led by UC Irvine Professor of Education Rachel Baker and funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

5th Annual Giles T. Brown Research Symposium

Organizers, students and their mentors met online to share their research projects, exhibits and pre-recorded performances at the 5th Annual Giles T. Brown Research Symposium at Orange Coast College in March. A total of nine students received a monetary award for their presentations, to help fund future research.

Pirates' Plank Business Pitch Competition

Orange Coast College's Pirates' Plank business pitch competition took place in November in an online format, giving students a chance to pitch their business ideas to a panel of judges to compete for cash prizes.

EMPLOYEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS & ACCOLADES

Tobacco and Vape Free

Three OCC employees received a special commendation from the Orange County Health Care Agency's Tobacco and Vape Free OC Coalition in late September, acknowledging their contributions to making OCC a smoke- and tobacco-free campus.

15 Awards at the National Council of Marketing and Public Relations

The OCC marketing and public relations department won 15 awards at the National Council of Marketing and Public Relations District 6 2020 Medallion Awards in October.

OCC Counselor Andrea Lane

Orange Coast College counselor Andrea Lane was one of four community college counselors recognized by the Orange County Department of Education at the 2020 Orange County Virtual Counselor Symposium in November.

Three Awards at the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) Virtual Paragon Awards

Orange Coast College's marketing and public relations department won three awards at the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) Virtual Paragon Awards in March.

OCC Photography Professor Richard Kraft

Orange Coast College photography professor Richard Kraft was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for film/video in April. Kraft is the only full-time community college professor to be awarded the prestigious fellowship in 2021.

Six Awards at the Annual Community College Public Relations Organization (CCPRO) Awards

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

Lecturer of the Year Award

OCC Physics Professor Dr. Arnold Guerra was nominated for the Lecturer of the Year award through the University of California, Irvine's "Celebration of Teaching" awards.

OCC's Assistant Director of the Global Engagement Center Kris Toribio

OCC's Assistant Director of the Global Engagement Center Kris Toribio became the first community-college representative, the first Filipino-American, Asian and Pacific Islander to ever serve as president of the International Association for College Admissions Counseling.

COLLEGE ACCOLADES

Best Community Colleges in the United States

In September, Orange Coast College was ranked #10 in a list compiled by WalletHub of best community colleges in the United States in 2020. OCC also ranked #3 among California Community Colleges on the same list.

Highest Number of Combined UC/CSU Transfers

In Fall 2020, Orange Coast College once again pulled ahead of the pack in Orange County with the highest number of combined UC/CSU transfers.

Champion of Learning Award for 2020

The Association for Talent Development awarded Orange Coast College the Champion of Learning Award for 2020.

“Top 100 Chapters”

OCC’s Phi Theta Kappa chapter was recognized at the organization’s annual convention in April as being one of the “Top 100 Chapters” among nearly 1,300 chapters internationally.



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