



OCC Student Plans Cross-State Bicycle Ride to Raise Funds for CHOC Hospital

Orange Coast College chemistry major Bernardo Moreno Arteaga will join two friends on a bicycle ride from San Francisco to Costa Mesa in order to raise money for the CHOC Hospital Foundation this summer. The journey will commence on Aug. 10 and span more than 1,600 miles before concluding in Costa Mesa on Aug. 29. Moreno Arteaga plans to stop at foster homes and high schools along the way to share his experiences as a lifelong athlete.

“The project is not only a bike ride; our team has different backgrounds in sport,” he says. “I was a professional triathlete competing for Ecuador and [my friend and co-rider] Elliot was a professional swimmer racing for France, so we plan to make different stops during the Tour at foster care homes and high schools where we will talk to the children to transmit our experiences with sport, and how it has impacted positively our lives and the lives of the people close to us.”

Moreno Arteaga chose the CHOC Hospital Foundation as a benefactor of this fundraiser after volunteering at the hospital. “During my time as a volunteer in the hospital, I was shocked

to see the number of children with complicated diseases. I believe that everyone, no matter their race or socioeconomic status, must have the chance to live life at its fullest.”

This summer Moreno Arteaga is working as a medical researcher at the Cardiovascular Institute at Stanford University. He will return to OCC this fall to continue his studies, after which he plans to transfer into a four-year college and then go on to medical school. He plans to donate 100 percent of the funds he raises to the CHOC Foundation. “I think this is a way I can contribute to an important issue in my own different way.”

OCC Respiratory Care Program Recognized for High Credentialing Success

Orange Coast College’s Respiratory Care Program will be recognized on July 26 by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) for its credentialing success. The Distinguished RRT Credentialing Success Award will be presented at the CoARC Awards Ceremony in Palm Springs, and recognizes programs that meet or exceed criteria based on several accreditation metrics, including documented RRT (Registered Respiratory Therapist) credentialing success of 90 percent or above for the three reporting years 2018-2020.

In the state of California, graduates cannot obtain a license to practice Respiratory Care unless they have the RRT credential, and must take two separate credentialing exams in order to be licensed.

“I believe our program’s success in meeting the rigorous criteria set by the CoARC can be attributed to several factors: the positivity, strength, and professional depth of program faculty, the hard-working, motivated students, and our graduates who are prepared and confident in their knowledge and skills and eager to enter the professional workforce,” says Director of Respiratory Care Alison Riggio. “Our program’s success is also bolstered by the strong support of OCC and our amazing community clinical partners.”

OCC’s respiratory care program has longstanding ties to the local hospital community in Orange County, with many serving as clinical sites for Coast students earning their certificates and licenses to practice as respiratory care therapists. In March 2020, the College returned the support, by loaning several ventilators to Saddleback Memorial as the hospital experienced a shortage due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

OCC's Respiratory Care program is a two-year program that prepares students with the knowledge, skills and behaviors of respiratory care practice as performed by a Registered Respiratory Therapist. Students who complete the program are the healthcare professionals that evaluate, treat, and manage patients of all ages with respiratory illnesses and other cardiopulmonary disorders. One of the main responsibilities of OCC's respiratory care graduates in the care of the critically ill patient is management of the ventilator (breathing machine).

Orange Coast College Scores A+ on Smoke/Tobacco Free Report Card

Orange Coast College is a leader in smoke and tobacco-free policy according to the California Youth Advocacy Network, which released its 2022 College and University Smoke/Tobacco-Free Report Cards in late May. OCC received an A+ grade, outperforming a B average grade in CYAN's Region 8 which includes Orange County and parts of Los Angeles County.

"We are thrilled to receive the highest possible grade on CYAN's smoke and tobacco-free college report card," says OCC President Angelica Suarez. "We are especially proud of the student-led collaborative effort to transition OCC into a smoke and tobacco-free campus. This accomplishment demonstrates the critical role that participatory governance

plays in our College's mission of fostering a respectful, supportive and equitable campus climate."

OCC transitioned to a smoke-free campus in June 2020 after many months of discussion and planning by OCC's Smoke/Tobacco-Free Task Force, which was made up of representatives from all of the College's constituency groups. The effort was led by students, who were motivated to action after learning that OCC had received an "F" rating on CYAN's Smoke/Tobacco-Free Policy Report Card in 2018.

Students teamed up with Coast health instructor Anna Hanlon to apply for a grant through the Truth Initiative, which OCC received. Hanlon and student representatives also partnered with OCC's Office of Institutional Effectiveness to conduct a campus-wide survey, with results showing strong support for a transition to a smoke-free campus.

Funding from the Truth Initiative grant helped to fund the implementation of OCC's smoke-free policy, including educating new students and providing assistance to students and employees who are interested in quitting smoking. Additionally, OCC's Student Health Center hired a Smoking Cessation Specialist to oversee cessation efforts.

According to CYAN, studies show that smoke and tobacco-free policies are effective in preventing commercial tobacco use among young adults as well as helping individuals quit using commercial tobacco. The group writes: "Our hope is that this Report will help expedite the process of policy adoption at the community college and private campuses that are not already smoke and tobacco-free."

