

ORANGE COAST COLLEGE  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
2018~2019



ORANGE  
COAST  
COLLEGE

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Dear Friends,

**W**elcome to the 2018-2019 edition of the Orange Coast College Annual Report. As I approach eight month mark of my tenure as President, I am reminded how quickly time passes when you're having fun! Over these past months, I have been welcomed enthusiastically by OCC's campus community, as well as our extended community of supporters and friends of the College (see story, page 18). I feel proud to serve as the 11th president of OCC, and humbled to be at the helm at a time of transformational change on campus.

This year, OCC will complete three major construction projects that will change the face of our campus, and put us further along on a path to modernizing our facilities to meet the needs of our students. On page 7, you can see the progress of OCC's new College Center and Student Union project. This two-building facility will serve as a central hub on campus, housing many of OCC's student services as well as our dining facility, instructional culinary and hospitality labs and classrooms, and offices for our student government. You can also read about the College's new Aquatics Complex on page 8, which is scheduled to open this summer. The Aquatics Complex will not only benefit our local community by providing a state-of-the-art swim facility with a competition-sized pool, it will also double as an adaptive kinesiology space, offering fitness opportunities and resources to adaptive kinesiology students.

However, the biggest change set to take place this year at OCC is without a doubt the transition to being a 24-hour, residential campus, with the opening of our new student housing complex, The Harbour at OCC (see story, page 4). Scheduled to open its doors to students in August, The Harbour is the first on-campus housing facility at a community college in Southern California. Originally conceived as a solution to a housing shortfall that has been a barrier for many OCC students, The Harbour will prioritize housing for the College's most vulnerable students, including veterans, former foster youth, and homeless students. To that end, the OCC Foundation has started a Housing Trust Fund that will support students who are most in need of affordable housing (see story, page 6).

Finally, I want to share with you that right as we were preparing to send this publication to print, OCC suffered a tremendous loss with the death of Head Baseball Coach John Altobelli, his wife Keri, and their daughter, Alyssa on Jan. 26 (see story, page 14). We knew that we could not send out the Annual Report without including the story of John, and the impact he had, not just on our College, but in the lives of the thousands of students he taught and coached during his 28 years at OCC. "Coach Alto" embodied many of the traits that we cherish at Coast — he was hardworking, he put students first, and he believed, wholeheartedly, in the promise of community colleges, and the power they have to better the lives of students. He will be missed terribly by all who knew and loved him at OCC, and I hope that you will keep his family and friends in your thoughts as they navigate a new reality without their loved ones.

In gratitude,



Dr. Angélica Suarez





## OUR MISSION

Orange Coast College serves the educational needs of our diverse local and global community. The college empowers students to achieve their educational goals by providing high quality and innovative programs and services leading to academic degrees, college transfers, certificates in career and technical education, basic skills, and workforce development to enable lifelong learning.

The College promotes student learning and development through fostering a respectful, supportive, participatory, and equitable campus climate of student engagement and academic inquiry.



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# MESSAGE FROM BILL WOOD/ DOUG BENNETT

Dear Friends of Orange Coast College:

Since 1985, the Orange Coast College Foundation has built a legacy of providing support for programs and projects that benefit OCC students. We are particularly grateful to the generous donors acknowledged in this report.

Their gifts — totaling just over \$100 million during the past 35 years — have funded numerous College projects and activities.

The highlight of 2019 was the grand opening of the Orange Coast College Community Planetarium. The Planetarium project was initiated by the OCC Foundation Board of Directors in 2008 and led by OCC President Emeritus David Grant. It is a one-of-a-kind learning destination that serves the campus and the Orange County community, both through college-level courses and field trips for elementary school students. More than \$3 million in private gifts to support the project and programming in the facility was raised by the OCC Foundation.

This year also saw the groundbreaking for the new Orange Coast College Professional Mariner Training Center at the College's maritime campus on Pacific Coast Highway in Newport Beach. The foundation provided initial funding and advocacy for the project.

In 2018 we were saddened to hear of the passing of Elizabeth "Betty" Steele, a remarkable friend of Orange Coast College. Betty and her husband, the late Richard Steele, through their personal philanthropy and that of the Harry & Grace Steele Foundation provided more than \$5 million in gifts and grants in support of the students of Orange Coast College. Their support benefited the Harry & Grace Steele Children's Center, the School of Sailing & Seamanship and the renovation of the Robert B. Moore Theatre.

As we look ahead to 2020, we will celebrate the opening of the new OCC Aquatic Center, the new Student Union and Student Life Buildings, and the opening of The Harbour @ OCC Student Housing Complex.

We hope that you enjoy reading about these new and exciting developments at Orange Coast College, many of which are made possible by the support of our many generous donors and their gifts that benefit the students at OCC.

Sincerely,



C. William "Bill" Wood  
Chair, Orange Coast College Foundation



Doug Bennett  
Executive Director, Orange Coast College Foundation



# CAMPUS COMMUNITY WELCOMES PRESIDENT SUAREZ WITH PLANETARIUM RECEPTION

In late October, Orange Coast College and the Coast Community College District invited local community partners, donors and elected officials to campus for a welcome reception for OCC's new president, Dr. Angélica Suarez, who began her tenure during Summer 2019. The reception, which took place on the patio of the College's recently opened Planetarium, gave the community a chance to meet President Suarez and hear about her journey from first-generation community college student to president of one of California's largest community colleges (see story, page 3).

"This is a historic moment for me and my family. I am the eldest of six kids, I am an immigrant, I am a first-generation college student, and I am a community college student. The journey that got me here represents the promise of community colleges, and the impact that they have in changing the lives of students," President Suarez said in a speech to attendees.

Coast students, faculty and staff also were on hand to show support for President Suarez, who acknowledged the important role that employees play in helping create an atmosphere on campus where students can thrive.

"As we create the next chapter of Orange Coast College, I am proud to lead this stellar institution, [building] upon the major successes that we have had



supporting students, and continuing to help students thrive and excel," she said. "I'm looking forward to working with all of you to get that done."

# PRESIDENT'S BIOGRAPHY: A CAREER FOCUSED ON EQUITY, COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION

An educational leader for more than 30 years who is committed to the transformational power of the community colleges, Dr. Angélica Suarez serves as the 11th President of Orange Coast College. She oversees Orange County's largest community college, which has been serving students since 1947. With a student population of more than 20,000, OCC provides exemplary programs leading to associate's degrees and certificates in more than 130 career programs. OCC is a leader in transfers to four-year institutions, a designated "Military Friendly Institution," a qualifying Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) and boasts the only community college sailing and seamanship program in the state.

Before accepting the presidency at OCC in 2019, Dr. Suarez served as the Vice President for Student Affairs for the Southwestern Community College District. In this role, she was responsible for the leadership of the District's student support services and programs serving approximately 20,000 students each semester in five locations. Additional administrative experience includes serving Southwestern College as Acting Superintendent/President; Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs; and Academic Dean for the Higher Education Centers in Otay Mesa and San Ysidro. While working for City Colleges of Chicago, she served as Academic Dean at Wright College. Dr. Suarez has held faculty positions in counseling at Wright College and Southwestern College.

Dr. Suarez is recognized as a collaborative leader focused on creating accessible and equitable pathways to higher education for all students. As past-president of the California Community Colleges Chief Student Services Officers organization, she has championed statewide reform focused on the implementation of innovative, responsive and equitable student success initiatives designed to close student educational achievement gaps. As chair of the San Diego and Imperial Counties Chief Student Services Officers, she led efforts to strengthen the pathway for students to local transfer universities.



At Southwestern College, her steadfast commitment to increasing access for all students resulted in the design of intentional pathways for students through support services inside and outside of the classroom, such as a First Year Experience Program, HSI/Title V's Doorways to the Future program, and the Student Veterans Resource Center. True to this commitment, she led efforts to build two new comprehensive education centers in the communities of Otay Mesa and San Ysidro.

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 collective community college experience has provided her with multiple perspectives as a former student, classified staff member, faculty member, and administrator. 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 California State University at Long Beach, and an associate's degree from East Los Angeles College.



# A PLACE TO CALL HOME...

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Orange County's population is growing at a faster rate than housing is being built, with a projected shortfall of more than 100,000 units by 2040.

As the needs of our diverse student population continue to grow, Orange Coast College is committed to doing its part to provide the next generation of students with the housing resources they need to succeed.

OCC's housing will provide affordable and accessible housing for students from all walks of life, including veterans, foster youth, single parents, international students, athletes, and more. On-campus student housing will allow students at Coast to actively engage in meaningful ways with the campus and local community, and will serve as a key economic driver in the region for years to come.

## *"A Way of Life"*

When Orange Coast College first opened its doors in 1948, barracks buildings dotted throughout campus were a reminder of what had once been the Santa Ana Army Air Base – several of these barracks would serve as the College's student housing for more than a decade.

Back then, for \$30 a month, students were given a furnished room, communal bathrooms, and two meals a day. OCC served as the social epicenter of the unincorporated area that would eventually become Costa Mesa, and weekend football games often featured packed stands and a dance afterward. As one ex-resident commented the year before he left OCC: "The dorms are a way of life, not just a place to live."

## STUDENT INTEREST IN HOUSING

83%

CA Resident

93%

Out of State

87%

International

84%

Renting

84%

Living with Family

*Based on Brailsford & Dunlavey's survey of students conducted between November 1 and November 17, 2013*



### *OCC Student Housing - Coming Fall 2020*

Students who live in OCC's Student Dormitories will have an opportunity to stay plugged in to the campus in ways that will contribute to their academic and personal success. The facility will be academically focused with tutoring and co-curricular education available, as well as convenient amenities such as study rooms, kitchens, laundry, community rooms, and more. Professional staff will be on hand 24/7 to provide guidance and academic support.

### *Housing Facts*

- 304,000 gross square feet
- 800+ beds
- 17 Resident Advisors
- On-site parking for 600 cars
- Bike parking for 200 within the building
- Access to state-of-the-art OCC Fitness Complex
- Within walking distance of restaurants and stores



# FOUNDATION BOARD STARTS HOUSING TRUST FUND, RECEIVES \$100K DONATION TO LAUNCH

Orange Coast College's Foundation Board voted in September to create a Housing Trust Fund to provide housing for at-risk and vulnerable students in the College's housing facility, The Harbour at OCC, which is scheduled to open in Fall 2020. Board member Mary-Lynn Bergman Rallis kicked off fundraising for the trust by donating \$100,000.

"Ours is a complex and constantly changing world, one I believe needs more compassion and more kindness extended to certain at-risk student populations" wrote Bergman-Rallis in a letter announcing her donation. "I say BRAVO to the enlightened OCC students, faculty, staff and administrators whose dedicated, determined efforts have addressed this fundamental need of our students, thus offering them not only the opportunity to survive and thrive, but further, to succeed!"

Newport Beach resident Bergman-Rallis is a longtime supporter of OCC's Foundation, serving as a board member for the past 22 years. She was instrumental in fundraising efforts for the College's Planetarium, and the Planetarium's Bergman-Rallis Theatre is named in her honor.

Currently, more than 80 percent of the students who participate in OCC's Guardian Scholars program — which provides resources for former foster youth — identify as being housing insecure (see story, page 31). Ultimately, the goal of the Foundation Board is to raise enough money to create an endowment, which will guarantee that beds are available each year for the College's most vulnerable students.



# STUDENT UNION & COLLEGE CENTER

Construction is nearly complete on OCC's Student Union and College Center project, scheduled to open in Fall 2020. The 119,000-square-foot College Center will house OCC's administrative offices, Bursar's office, dining facilities, and hospitality program classroom and lab space on three levels. The College Center also will include a 8,000 square-foot ballroom with capacity for more than 1,100 people, which will be available to rent for private events.

OCC's Student Union building will serve as the new home for the College's Associated Students office, Veteran's Resource Center, Scholarship Office, and College Outreach team. At just over 40,000 square feet, the Student Union will provide more space for each of these programs to expand and serve more students.



PLAY VIDEO

# KINESIOLOGY/AQUATICS

OCC's new Kinesiology and Athletics facility is nearly complete, and the state-of-the-art facility is expected to take the College's competitive aquatics programs to another level. With a planned soft opening of Summer 2020, the facility will include a 65-metre competition-sized pool, a smaller therapy pool for Adaptive Kinesiology programming, exercise and classroom space, and office space for OCC's coaching staff.

The outdoor pool area also will include a large shade structure, making the facility a prime destination for competitive swim programs.



# LANGUAGE ARTS AND SOCIAL BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Orange Coast College broke ground on a new Language Arts and Social Behavioral Sciences building in early December. The building — funded through Measure M, a \$698 million bond measure that voters approved in 2012 — is the second phase of a multi-building complex planned as part of OCC’s Vision 2020 facilities master plan. Phase 1 included the Math, Business and Computing Center, which opened in 2015.

The three-story, 95,000-square-foot project was designed by by tBP Architecture firm, and will include classrooms, office space, conference rooms, a newsroom, and indoor/outdoor labs for geography and anthropology courses. Additional programs of study that will be housed in the building include English, psychology, communications, world languages, journalism, English as a Second Language (ESL), and economics.



# MARITIME TRAINING CENTER

Representatives from Orange Coast College gathered in late September to break ground on a new Maritime Training Center, located across Pacific Coast Highway from the OCC's Sailing and Rowing Base on Newport Harbor.

The two-story, 12,000-square-foot project is the result of more than 15 years of planning by the Coast Community College District. The Center will be built above ground-level parking and connected to OCC's harbor-side facility by a skyway bridge over PCH. The \$22 million project is funded by the local Measure M school bond, passed by voters in 2012.

Once construction is complete in Fall 2021, the building will be the new home for OCC's growing Professional Mariner Program, which is dedicated to students who are pursuing careers in boating and maritime-related fields. Beyond classrooms, the facility will include a state-of-the-art laboratory space, a full mission bridge simulator, a radar training room, conference room, and a student lounge.





# VISION 2030:

Vice President of  
Administrative  
Services Rich  
Pagel talks about  
OCC's physical  
transformation  
over the past two  
decades, and what  
comes next

**Q** *The last two decades at Orange Coast College have been a time of incredible transformation. Tell us a little bit about the vision for the College, in terms of construction. What have we achieved since we began planning this massive modernization of OCC's campus, and what are we hoping to achieve going forward?*

**A:** The past twenty years have been very exciting and I've had the great fortune of being part of the outstanding teams that have led the effort to go from a vision, to planning, to construction, to — now — a living campus. Over these past two decades, our leaders, planners, architects, construction management firms, and dedicated Coast District employees have been focused on a campus that serves our students and community. We have progressed through two facilities master plans, and currently, we are updating our Vision 2030 facilities master plan. We have passed two general obligation bonds [Measure C and M], brought in millions of dollars from state resources, and last summer we issued tax exempt bonds to fund OCC's student housing project, The Harbour. What a ride!

OCC's vision goes back to the founding of the College and its focus on students, with a mantra of "how does

it benefit students?" The College also has had a strong planning culture, with facilities master plans going back to 1947 and with each facilities master plan building on another.

When I arrived at the Coast District 20 years ago, OCC's leadership was visionary and built on a culture of planing and visioning documents. In 2004 we were faced with aged infrastructure — old buildings — but we had a vision of a campus with modern, world-class educational facilities. That's not to say the campus wasn't beautiful and well maintained, but it was worn out and many structures needed to be replaced.

With the community's support and the passage of Measure C, the campus was able to begin moving forward with its master planning efforts. Measure C replaced the 50-year-old infrastructure of utilities, some going back to the days when OCC's campus was the Santa Ana Army Air Base! That infrastructure project was painful but it provided the utility backbone for the campus we see today. Over the past two decades we have seen projects such as Watson Hall's Enrollment Center, the OCC Library, and renovations of the Lewis Center, music and drama lab, gym and football stadium, in addition to campus-wide classroom renovations.

We also built the Fitness Complex, softball and soccer fields, the Arts Pavilion, a Starbucks, the Allied Health, Consumer Science, Biology Complex of buildings, and improved our PCH Maritime campus with a new sea wall, classrooms, and support areas. At this time, OCC also began the planning for the first Measure M project, the Math, Business and Computing Center building.

But the College never stops evolving and planning — that’s the great thing about OCC! After 2010 we asked ourselves: What about a new student center? Can we build a planetarium? Can we build a new aquatic center? How about solar panels and a new recycling center? What about student housing? Through many committee meetings and the participation of all of the different shared governance groups on campus, we created the Vision 2020 facilities master plan.

Right now, we have the most construction on our campus that has ever occurred in our history. In 2020 we will see a new student center, a new kinesiology facility with a competition-sized pool, and student housing with 800-plus beds. In 2021, we will open our new Social Sciences and Language Arts building, which will be located on the north side of campus next to the recently built Math, Business and Computing Center. At our maritime campus, we are building state-of-the-art classrooms, additional parking, and a bridge that crosses Pacific Coast Highway.

As this new decade begins, the campus will continue its Vision 2030 facilities master plan efforts. Again, Vision 2030 will be built on past vision and plans, and will explore new possibilities. The mantra is still as important as it ever was: “How does it benefit students?”

**Q** *That all sounds very exciting! But, let’s talk a little bit about sustainability. OCC has been a leader in sustainability for many years, and we recently received a Leadership Award from the U.S. Green Building Council for green building practices (see story, page 28). How has that impacted our vision for campus, and what opportunities do you see ahead for promoting sustainability at OCC?*

**A:** Yes, we have received many awards and have been recognized at a national level for our commitment to sustainable practices. And that goes all the way back to our Recycling Center, which was established in 1970 following a campus visit with environmental activist Ralph Nader. Sustainability has been a part of OCC’s vision for a long time, and it’s in

our DNA, but we have so much more to do. I believe we are in the midst of an environmental crises, and we need to change the way we teach, learn, and live in order to do our part to address climate change.

At OCC, our largest carbon footprint is transportation. How do our students get to and from school? The majority of students drive a car by themselves and we definitely are having discussions about how to encourage alternative modes of transportation, such as carpools, public transit, and active transportation like bikes, skateboards and walking.

Another area of concern is our paper consumption — we want our community to get in the habit of asking ‘do we need to print out a paper document or would an electronic document serve the same purpose?’ Reducing our printing needs by going to a digital format has the added benefit of cost savings, as well, so we win on two fronts: lower cost and lower carbon footprint.

Looking ahead, my hope is with so many students living on campus OCC will have an opportunity to educate them about sustainability in a way that might change their lives. We can do that by being a good role model and by finding ways to encourage a change in their behavior, such as making it easy for students to use alternative, environmentally friendly modes of transportation, or improving recycling efforts and being conscious of our everyday decisions.

**Q** *Let’s shift to student housing. It seems like transitioning into a residential campus has the potential to really change the culture of Orange Coast College. Can you share why that decision was made, and how you think it’s going to benefit students in the long run?*

**A:** Many people don’t realize that OCC started out as a residential campus, with men’s barracks left over from when our campus was part of the Santa Ana Army Air Base; those barracks were used as dorm facilities until about 1960. So, student housing has always been a vision for the College. Now, as California grapples with rising housing costs and our students struggle to find affordable options, we’re hoping to alleviate that by offering student housing.

There’s also a student success component to housing, because there are so many connections made within resident halls. We’re hoping to see cohorts of students that collaborate on education and build learning communities. Research on these types of residential

learning cohorts has shown that they help keep students in class, keep them in school, and keep them motivated to be with their classmates.

A serious effort toward student housing started in 2010 and was a core component of OCC's Vision 2020 facilities master plan. We knew that Measure M and our General Fund resources could not support a housing effort, so we started to review public-private partnerships. We found a terrific company, Scion Group, and they have been able to bring this housing project together with a planned opening date of Fall 2020. This is tremendous progress toward helping our students access housing ... just think, a student at Coast will be able to live and learn with a group of fellow students who all have the same objective of success.



and my hat goes off to the many individuals who helped bring it to fruition.

**Q** *One final question: I've heard you mention shared governance, and task forces and committees. Talk to me a little bit about why it's so important to have these big decisions about OCC's building footprint made using a participatory model, and by engaging its stakeholders and community.*

**A:** I'm just a strong believer in participatory governance, and I think that's one of our strengths at OCC. The more people that we have around a particular topic, the better ideas that are going to come out of that, and the more our community's going to engage with that project.

**Q** *This area has some outstanding swim programs, both at the high school and college levels, including our own men's and women's swim teams, who last year won their second straight swim championship and third state championship in four years. Now we are building a state-of-the-art swim complex, complete with a 65-meter, competition-size pool. Do you see OCC's new swim facility being a boon for the community?*

**A:** That's what our hope is. When we went out and looked at all the pools in our local area, we really wanted to focus on a pool that was going to be exceptional, that was going to be a destination location for tournaments and more. We have so many great swimmers that come out of Southern California, so I really see a bright future for the program.

What makes our facility unique, however, is the way that we are bringing Adaptive Physical Education into the mix, with a second pool that will be customized to meet the needs of our students with disabilities. The facility's location will also serve as a bridge between the sports fields and our Fitness Complex, located on the far north part of campus, and we were able to add kinesiology offices and coaches offices as well. It's a great project

Having all of your stakeholders be part of the decision-making process is so important on any college campus; ours, particularly, because we have a group of individuals on this campus that want to participate. They want to see Orange Coast College thrive, they care deeply about the students, and having those opportunities for people to engage and to be part of the process and part of the decisions and the planning, it's key. It's key, and it leads into good administration of our College.

Currently, we are in the middle of planning sessions for OCC's Vision 2030 facilities master plan. Again, I'm so encouraged to see the participation of many individual across the campus in these planning efforts, which will be showcased in the coming months with campus and community engagement sessions.

We have made remarkable progress over the past 20 years, and that would not have been possible without the collaboration of OCC's visionary leaders and our outstanding campus community. I would encourage all to be part of our future and please attend the Vision 2030 planning sessions offered to the community this spring.



# A SHATTERING LOSS: ORANGE COAST COLLEGE MOURNS THE DEATH OF HEAD BASEBALL COACH JOHN ALTOBELLI AND FAMILY

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As employees, student athletes and friends of the College arrived at OCC's Wendell Pickens field on the afternoon of Jan. 26, the silence was deafening. Media outlets were reporting that NBA legend Kobe Bryant had died in a helicopter crash hours earlier, and assistant coaches Tim Matz and Nate Johnson knew that Pirates Head Baseball Coach John Altobelli had also been a passenger, along with his wife, Keri, and 13-year-old daughter Alyssa. As word spread, more and more people trickled onto campus, instinctively gathering on the field, a place that "Coach Alto" had made into a home-away-from-home over the course of his 28 years at Coast. Friends and colleagues wore expressions of shock and devastation, and players sat against the outfield backstop and wept.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that John Altobelli was a giant in the world of collegiate baseball. In his 27 seasons as head baseball coach at OCC, Altobelli led the Pirates to numerous conference and state championships, racking up more than 700 wins during his career — only the 16th coach in the California Community College Athletics Association's history to reach that milestone. Altobelli also earned himself some lofty company in 2019, guiding his Pirate ballclub to the CCCAA State Championship in May and becoming just the fifth coach in the history of California Community College baseball to win four or more state championships.

The 2019 Pirates set a school record for wins in a single season (39) and OCC won the Orange Empire

Conference for the third straight year, last accomplished at Coast when Mike Mayne's Pirates won three straight conference crowns from 1980-82. In 2019, Altobelli was honored by the American Baseball Coaches Association as an ABCA/Diamond National Coach of the Year, a testament to his incredible work ethic and passion for the game.

The Pirates' baseball leader also played a central role in fundraising efforts to help make much-needed upgrades to OCC's Wendell Pickens Field. The changes included a full scoreboard, new sound system, snack stand, bathrooms, improved batting cages and bullpens as well as a state-of-the-art AstroTurf™ playing surface.

But Altobelli was much, much more than his winning record or his fundraising success. He was known on campus for his mentorship of student athletes, guiding players toward scholarships and transfer to four-year universities and, in some cases, professional careers. "It's hard to put into words what this loss means to the college and the athletics department," OCC Athletics Director Jason Kehler says. "John was a tremendous coach and an even better friend. Beyond that, he was an amazing mentor to all of the students and athletes that he taught and coached. He treated them all like family and his impact will live on forever."

### *A Moving Tribute*

Amidst the sadness and shock in the hours following Altobelli's death, another sentiment began to take hold: resolve. OCC baseball players made the decision to move forward with the Pirates' season opener against Southwestern College on Tuesday, Jan. 28 in order to honor Coach Alto, whose determination and drive in the face of adversity were legendary, both on and off campus.

Thousands of people poured into OCC's baseball park that sunny afternoon, creating a shrine of flowers around Coach Altobelli's number 14 jersey and photographs of his family. Players wore t-shirts emblazoned with the number 14, and patches stitched with the words "Forever a Pirate" were distributed to spectators. A sign hung at the entrance reminding visitors that the field was, in every sense, "The House That Alto Built," and, in a show of solidarity, the Costa Mesa Fire Department hung a large American flag in front of the baseball park's entrance using a large fire engine ladder.

"Today is Alto's favorite day, opening day. He loved opening day," said Johnson during the tribute. "On opening day he was always here early, but today I beat him to the field. And, it's going to be the only time that I ever do." Johnson, an assistant coach under Coach Altobelli for seven years, has been named acting head coach for the 2020 season.

John Altobelli is survived by his son, JJ, and daughter, Lexi. The Orange Coast College Foundation has established the Altobelli Family Memorial Fund to support John Altobelli's surviving children. So far, the fund has raised more than \$60,000.

For more information and to make a contribution please visit [www.orangecoastcollege.edu/altomemorialfund](http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/altomemorialfund)

# DEAR JOHN... THANK YOU...

LOVE, TOAD

For many at OCC, losing a member of the "Pirate Family" has been devastating. However, for OCC Sports Information Director, Tony Altobelli, the loss is unimaginable. Tony and John have worked together at OCC for the past 14 years. We are printing an abbreviated version of a letter that Tony wrote to his "big brother" John on Jan. 27. To read the full version, visit [www.occpirateathletics.com](http://www.occpirateathletics.com)

*Dear John,*

*Well this definitely isn't the story I thought I'd be writing 24 hours before our baseball season opener. I thought this would be a proper way to respond to you after you wrote me a letter when you were at college in Houston and you thanked me for driving across the country with you. The fact I'm talking about it now should tell you what that letter meant to me. Thirty-five years later, here's my return letter. Better late than never, right?*

*I've got a few "thank you's" of my own that I've been meaning to tell you over the years, but unfortunately, I never got around to telling you. So ... this will have to do, I guess. First and foremost ...*

***THANK YOU** for being my big brother. For most of my young life, you were there, setting the pace that I had to try and keep up with. To say that bar you set was rather high is putting it mildly, but I guess I needed to have that type of example so in the event I came within a country mile of that expectation, I'd be well ahead of the rest of those around me growing up.*

***THANK YOU** for letting me be the annoying little brother and allowing me to join you on most of your older brother adventures. I'm sure*

*Mom and Dad had something to do with that (“take your brother, John ...”), but I never felt like the third wheel with you on your teenage beach dates or “in the way” when you were hanging with your high school baseball friends.*

**THANK YOU** for the sports contests in the front yard. I know I wasn’t much of a competition being eight years younger than you, but I still enjoyed just hanging with my big brother, shooting hoops, playing whiffle ball, playing catch in the street, throwing the frisbee around, shagging fly balls in the outfield while Dad threw you batting practice. So many simple activities still resonate in my head and those are some of my favorite memories.

**THANK YOU** for helping me reach my maximum in baseball. Again ... WE ALL AREN’T JOHN ... so following him through the baseball ranks in my baseball-crazed family was like a kazoo player following the Beatles, but I did the best I could. You helped me get better with hours of time in the batting cages and hitting countless ground balls. Little did I know those habits would become lifelong for you.

**THANK YOU** for NOT being perfect. Contrary to popular belief, the mighty “Alto” had some flaws and as his younger brother, I got to witness them all. Never ashamed to make mistakes, you always owned up to them (well ... 99% of the time) and without you even knowing it, you were showing me what it was like to be an adult and to accept responsibility for your actions.

**THANK YOU** for sharing your baseball team with me. The term “Pirate Family” is a term that is used up and down the athletics department, but with the baseball team, it’s really emphasized and success is shared with everyone involved with the program. If there’s a state championship, you always made sure I got a ring. Every year, there always seemed to be some type of Pirate baseball swag that made its way to my office without any request or expectation.

*My favorite moment in my 14 years of doing this for a living occurred last year when I was able to introduce you as the winning coach at the State Final Four. To me, that was both of us at our absolute best, doing what we loved and it was a moment we got to share. Hearing later from Keri that it meant something to you to hear my voice made it even more special for me. The fact that this will be our final moment on a baseball field absolutely breaks my heart, but also makes me happy beyond belief.*

*Well, brother, I’ll wrap this up, but not before telling you that I love you and I already miss you. Take care of Keri and Alyssa and we will keep a good eye on everything and everyone down here for you. And, as long as I’m around here, you can make sure I’ll do my best to keep your spirit alive for everyone to understand and follow around here.*

*You left a lasting impact on thousands of kids and you left a mark in the collegiate baseball world that will never be forgotten. You made a difference, John — what more can anyone ask for?*

**THANK YOU** for keeping the bar high, John. Give Mom a hug for me.

Love,  
Toad



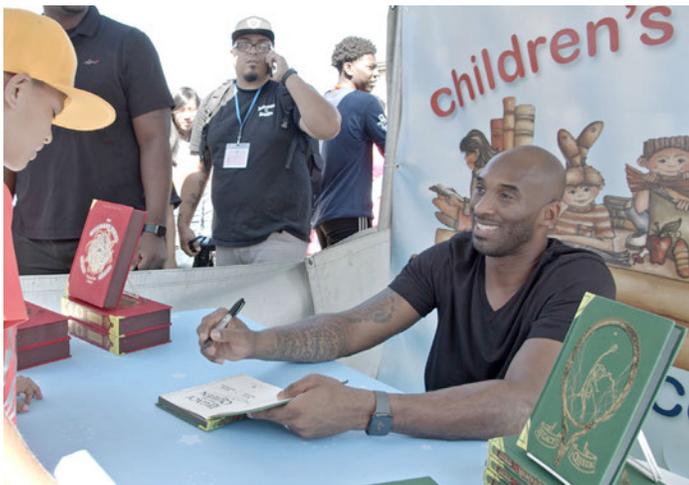
# 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL OC CHILDREN’S BOOK FESTIVAL BROUGHT AUTHORS, ARTISTS AND NBA LEGEND TO COAST

On Oct. 6, Orange Coast College once again partnered with the Orange County Children’s Book Festival to host the organization’s annual event, which brings thousands of children and adults to campus to celebrate the joy of reading and the wonders of the imagination. This is the 16th year that OCC has hosted the Book Festival on its campus, with the area around the College’s newly built Planetarium transformed with multiple stages and exhibitions.

The featured speaker was late five-time NBA champion and two-time Olympic Gold medalist Kobe Bryant, who promoted his book “Legacy and the Queen.” Bryant — who passed away tragically in a helicopter crash in January — held a book signing in OCC’s Faculty House, signing approximately 200 books before he was accompanied by the Coast men’s basketball team to the festival’s main stage for an interview with English Professor Chris Evans.

Other notable public figures who were in attendance included reality television star Elena Gant, promoting her new book “Rox & Pax” and noted astrophysicist David A. Aguilar, who was featured on the S.T.E.A.M. stage to share his experience working for NASA’s New Horizons Mission special media team on the historic Pluto Flyby mission. Animal and Nature stage sponsor, San Diego Zoo, brought a cheetah named Ruuxa on stage, accompanied by trainers and his dog companions, Raina and Rae.

Admission and parking for the Book Festival are always free, and exhibitors and vendors include PBS SoCal, Lakeshore Learning, Orange County Department of Education, and Sophia’s Kitchen.



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| Raoqi Dulman                    | Dennis Gedestad              | Nicole Hillestad      | Robert Katz           | Spencer Lewis          | Arnold Mendoza              |
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| Sean Edwards                    | Negah Gheysar                | Daddy Ho              | Robert & Linda Keller | John & Majorie Lightle | Chris Merritt               |
| Don Eide                        | Cindy Gibbons                | Denise Hobbensiefken  | Jan Kelley            | Dennis Lin             | Robert Michael              |
| Lisa Elliot                     | Scott Gibson                 | Michael Holland       | Tina Kellogg          | Kathleen Lockridge     | Bruce Michaels              |
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| Christopher Erblich             | Laurel Goffe                 | Hester holyz          | William Kerr          | Ashlynn Lopez          | Darlene Lopez               |
| Travis Erwin                    | Luis Gonzales                | Theresa Homan-Jacobs  | Carl Kesgen           | John Lopez             | John Lopez                  |
| Carlos Espada                   | Joshua Gonzalez              | Fred Honebein         | Stacey Ketcham        | Debbi Lopez            | Debbi Lopez                 |
| Rebecca Esparza                 | Joshua Gonzalez              | Steven Honeywell      | Sangeeta Khetarpal    | Cheryl Lopez           | Cheryl Lopez                |
| Sergio Espinoza                 | Pam Gonzalez                 | Ericka Humphrey       | Neda Khodai           | Fernando Lopez         | Fernando Lopez              |
| Gioconda Estrada                | Jeff Goodwin                 | Ingrid Humphrey       | Valerie Kiefer        | John Lord              | John Lord                   |
| Lenny Evans                     | Vicki Graney                 | Paula Humphrey        | Kevin Kiernan         | Donna Losoya           | Donna Losoya                |
| Jodie Evans                     | Chris & Maggie Greco         | Aleks Hunt            | Isabel Killeen        | Thomas Loucks          | Thomas Loucks               |
| Joe Ewens                       | Ronald Green                 | Tim Hurley            | Jill Kimbrough        | Max Love               | Max Love                    |
| Chris Ewer                      | Marvis Green                 | Chris Hurtado         | Mae Kiriaze           | Andy Lukman            | Andy Lukman                 |
| Regina Fagan                    | Rob & Lindy Grishkoff        | Bryn Hutchinson       | Virginia Komenda      | Christian Lutich       | Christian Lutich            |
| Brian Fagan                     | MaryAnn Groark               | Lisa Huyck            | Glen Konishi          | Cuong Ly               | Cuong Ly                    |
| Mark Fagan                      | Lucy Groetsch                | Lois Ichiki           | Henry Koppelman       | R&all & Hannah Mabie   | R&all & Hannah Mabie        |
| Helen Falkner                   | Jodi Grumet                  | Kenji Ignacio         | Victoria Koppelman    | Danielle Macias        | Danielle Macias             |
| The Family                      | Gina Gruwell                 | Karen Indeglia        | Daren Kortsen         | Cody Madrid            | Cody Madrid                 |
| Tanner Family                   | Keri Guevara                 | Sirena Irwin          | Lynne Kouser          | Brian Maguire          | Brian Maguire               |
| Jerry Farcone                   | Denice Gustin-Plaza          | Darryl Isaac          | Maureen Kraemer       | Julie Majors           | Julie Majors                |
| Cynthia Fenison                 | Monica Gutierrez             | Yasushi Iseda         | Sally Krebs           | Didith Mallott         | Didith Mallott              |
| Tamara Figlar                   | Mindy Haber                  | Daniel Ishimar        | Jessica Kroenert      | Joe Malone             | Joe Malone                  |
|                                 | Michael Hall                 | Donate It             | Bette Krueger         | Buddy Malone           | Buddy Malone                |
|                                 | Robert Hall                  | Mike Ivey             | Jessica Ku            | Florian Manier         | Florian Manier              |
|                                 | Edward & Martha              |                       | Veit Kugel            |                        |                             |

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| Elizabeth Muise             | Everette Phillips            | Dan Rosenstein          | Shannon Spencer         | Steve Tina             | Stephen & Yuriko Warner |
| Denise Mulvey               | Debra Phoenix                | John Rosenzweig         | Gloriana Spicer         | Lisa Toma              | Brenda Warner           |
| Juan Munoz                  | Peter Phung                  | Tere Ross               | Kara Spivey             | Joe Tompkins           | Tamara Warren           |
| Julie Munson                | Alfredo Piazza               | Andy Rost               | Scott Sporrer           | Muffin Top             | Paul Watkins            |
| Mikayla Murphy              | Ray Pineira                  | Mimi Rothman            | D.& S. Sterrett         | Guy Torelli            | Gale Weatherford        |
| Rolland & Sharon Murray     | Sarah Pirie                  | Uwe Rotschedl           | Kris Stewart            | Zoya Toth              | Agnes Weaver            |
| Russell Musarra             | John Polikolsky              | Christian Rotschedl     | Bruce Stocker           | Amour Toura-Gaba       | Ann Weber               |
| Kay Nadeau                  | Jimmy Ponce                  | Barry Rotter            | Chuck Stoddard          | J.R. Towle             | Russ Webster            |
| Marilyn Nagle               | Juana ponce                  | Ed Runyon               | Craig Stout             | Stephanie Townson      | Glenn & Susan Welch     |
| Eileen Napolitano           | Javier Ponce                 | Brad Ryhlick            | Sandra Strauss          | Ira Trachter           | Don Wetherell           |
| Scott Nathan                | Darryl Porter                | Cynthia S               | Ken Streit              | Kevin Trang            | Teri Whiffen            |
| Yoshie Negishi              | Angle Portillo               | Mark Sackin             | Donald Strenk           | Louis Trinh            | Chris Whipple           |
| Isabelle Nguyen             | Amo Portillo                 | Mark Salerno            | John Strickland         | Wesley Turnbow         | Randy Whitacre          |
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| Michelle Nunez              | Damian Quintana              | Linda Schemmerling      | Treak Tasker            | Ro Verdeja             | Tiffany Wolfe           |
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|                             | Karen Root                   | Rosa Solorzano          |                         |                        |                         |
|                             | Cirina Rose                  | Denise Spangler         |                         |                        |                         |

This list includes gifts of over \$50 made to the Orange Coast College Foundation between July 1, 2018 and December 31, 2019. Every effort has been to insure the accuracy of this list. We apologize for any names inadvertently omitted. If you have any questions about this list or would like information on making a gift to support OCC students please contact:

Doug Bennett, Executive Director  
Orange Coast College Foundation  
2701 Fairview Road  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626  
(714) 432-5126  
dbennett@cccd.edu

# OCC FOUNDATION/ FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Total gifts and pledges to the Orange Coast College Foundation for the 2018–2019 Fiscal Year were \$3,524,511. Cash gifts totaled \$1,840,066 and gifts of boats and equipment were valued at \$1,684,445.

The value of the Foundation’s endowment stood at \$23,317,904 as of June 30, 2019 and the total assets of the

OCC Foundation are now valued over \$31.6 million.

Endowment assets are managed by Northern Trust Bank and for the year ending December 31, 2019 the fund earned 19.08% net of fees. Since inception in 2012 the fund has earned 7.1% net of fees.

## ASSETS



## LIABILITIES





# MICHAEL RECYCLE: OCC'S SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR LEADS THE CHARGE ON ZERO WASTE

**M**ike Carey likes to tell people that if he does his job well enough, one day Orange Coast College's Recycling Center will go out of business. It's not something you'd expect to hear from someone who has spent most of his life working to build the Recycling Center into the valued community resource that it is today. However, as OCC's Environmental Sustainability Coordinator, Mike lives and breathes his calling. "I always say that it's not a huge success story out here. OCC's Recycling Center is almost a museum of failed design," he explains. "Everything [in our yard] is an artifact of failed design because it's now part of the waste stream whether it's recycled or not."

A look around the Recycling Center emphasizes Mike's point: the Center processes approximately 60,000 aluminum cans per day, 20 tons of glass bottles per week, and more than 1,000 tons of paper per year. The demand for more space and resources resulted in a

brand new facility that opened in 2017, offering not just more parking but also the ability to host classes and tours that are focused on sustainable practices. "What we hope to do is open people's minds and ideas. There are so many different components of sustainability, whether it be energy, water, waste, purchasing, social equity, transportation, or food systems," Mike says.

Construction for the new Recycling Center was meticulously planned with green building practices in mind. Solar panels provide electricity, solar tubes provide lighting, carpet tiles are made from recycled plastic bottles, and the building itself is oriented for northern exposure, ensuring maximum daylighting and cooling. Landscaping is drought tolerant and an underground stormwater retention pool collects all runoff from the entire site. Planter beds are tucked around the Ronnenberg Center for Sustainability classrooms, located behind the Center. Students from OCC's horticulture program use the planter beds to grow vegetables that

they donate to the College's food pantry, and the excess goes to animals at the Santa Ana Zoo.

All of these practices and more led to OCC's Recycling Center earlier this year becoming the first facility in the world to achieve LEED Gold certification, Sustainable SITES Initiative (SITES) v2 certification, and TRUE Zero Waste certification. Even more impressive? The rigorous application process for all three certifications was led by the Associated Students of Orange Coast College, who financially support and benefit from the Recycling Center, as well as student interns working for the Center. "We brought students along and got them involved in the process of doing the points, and the credits, and the submissions," Mike says. "It provides our students with valuable experience that they can add to their portfolio, their resume, their LinkedIn, and their transcripts, that says 'we were involved in this project and this was the outcome.'"

Empowering student interns to be ambassadors for sustainability also brings Mike's story at OCC full circle: he started working at the Recycling Center 35 years ago as a student intern. "Just as I was finishing my education, the director of the program left and I was asked to be the Recycling Coordinator on an interim basis until they found somebody else. Either it's me or they're still looking," Mike says with a smile.

## LEADERS IN SUSTAINABILITY

Earlier this year, U.S. Green Building Council President and CEO Mahesh Ramanujam traveled to OCC from Washington D.C. to recognize the College's achievement of triple certification of LEED, SITES and TRUE Zero Waste. During his visit, Ramanujam was impressed by what he saw as he toured campus. "He kind of pulled me aside as we were doing the tour and asked 'all of these things that you're doing at the College ... are these things that you're doing to get the

certifications? Or, are these things that you guys just do?' I said, 'No, these are just the things that we do. It's who we are,'" Mike says.

A few months later, Mike received word that USGBC had named Orange Coast College a 2019 Leadership Award recipient. He traveled to Atlanta in late November to receive the award at a Leadership Awards Ceremony during the Greenbuild International Conference and Expo, featuring keynote speaker President Barack Obama.

OCC was recognized alongside 19 organizations and individuals — including Microsoft Corporation and the Colgate-Palmolive Company — who are using green building and sustainable practices to improve quality of life for those around them. "Our Leadership

*"I like singing the song of Orange Coast College. I'm super proud of this institution, I spent the better part of my life here."*



Award recipients remind us that taking action — big or small — has the power to change lives and promote a higher living standard for us all," said Ramanujam in a statement following the announcement.

Mike was invited to speak on two panels, one led by Ramanujam and the other focused on sustainability

on college campuses that he co-presented with a representative from U.C. Berkeley. The Greenbuild conference also gave him a chance to reconnect with sustainability focused colleagues from all around the country, a cohort known for sharing best practices and inspiring innovation. Those connections have led to opportunities for Mike to share OCC's values with other colleges and universities, as well as with corporate counterparts from large companies like Toyota and Disney. "I like singing the song of Orange Coast College. I'm super proud of this institution, I spent the better part of my life here," he says.

Being OCC's resident sustainability expert also makes Mike a beacon of change in his local community, where he serves as the Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Costa Mesa Sanitary District, and was recently named a recipient of the city's Art of Sustainability Award to be presented at the Mayor's Celebration in the spring.

There's little doubt that Mike has earned his nickname "Michael Recycle" and made OCC a leader in sustainability, not just in the College's local community but nationwide. But don't expect him to take much credit for his inspiring work — in fact, Mike finds his inspiration closer to home, citing President Emeritus and Coast Community College Trustee Dave Grant and OCC



Vice President of Administrative Services Rich Pagel as two of his mentors.

"Dave Grant... he gets it. He inspires me just because of his dedication to the campus, and the [Coast Community College] District and the students in particular," says Mike. "In his office he has a sign that says 'How does it benefit students?' Framing everything that you're doing in that way is an inspiration."

As for Rich Pagel, Mike says that he walks the walk when it comes to sustainability: "He just does the right thing. He's constantly on a path to do a lot of the things that we talk about, but in a low-key way. For example, students see him riding his bike to work, wearing a suit; he doesn't even own a car. It makes me proud when I go to the California Higher Education Sustainability Conference and a vice president is there. Every single time on the way back from these conferences he asks 'Okay what's your takeaway? What can we do to implement that on our campus?'"

Mike's larger point is well-taken: it took a village to make OCC into a leader in sustainability, with many working behind the scenes to bring green practices to campus.

"I'm super fortunate that this program has the support that we do," Mike says. "There have been a lot of great leaders [at OCC] who have just said 'Yeah, go for it. Try it.' Nobody says, 'No.'"

## GOT RECYCLING?

OCC's Recycling Center is open seven days a week, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. (donations only on Sundays). The center accepts aluminum cans, plastic bottles with codes 1, 2 and 4, glass food and beverage containers, all types of paper, reusable clothing, E-waste, household batteries and fluorescent light bulbs. The center does NOT accept auto or marine batteries, furniture, used motor oil, tires, chemicals, paint, or any other form of hazardous waste.

Follow OCC's Recycling Center on Facebook @occrecyclingcenter or on Instagram @occrecycling for news and announcements.



**OCC RECYCLING CENTER**

# FOSTER YOUTH FIND A “FAMILY” AT ORANGE COAST COLLEGE



Last year, when Orange Coast College’s Guardian Scholars program conducted a survey of the students they serve — students who typically have been a part of the foster care or juvenile justice systems — to gauge how well they are meeting their needs, all 40 respondents used the same word to describe what the Guardian Scholars program means to them: *Family*

“They said [it] again and again,” says program coordinator Gabrielle Ridley. “Guardian Scholars is my family.”

For students who have experienced the trauma of disruption in their family life, it’s no small thing to find a community in which they feel they belong. It can mean the difference between succeeding in school and dropping out.

## *History*

When it was first started in 2001, the Guardian Scholars program at OCC was a trailblazer, the first of its kind at a community college and, later, the prototype for countless similar programs at colleges and universities across the county, including 70 Guardian Scholars programs to date.

It all started with a \$25,000 donation from the former CEO and Chairman of the Perrier Group of America Inc. “Originally, Guardian Scholars was the vision of a man named Ron Davis, who saw a need, and so he made a financial donation to OCC and to Cal State Fullerton,” explains Ridley. “He said, ‘This money is for foster youth students who are pursuing their higher education. Please use it as you see fit.’”

With such a broad mandate, the program started out very informally. OCC Foundation Director Doug Bennett and administrative assistant Rene Kinn managed the funds, awarding tuition and book scholarships to aged-out foster youth who enrolled in classes at Coast. “Over the years, [Doug and Rene] sort of became like a surrogate mom and dad to many of [these students], and it became obvious what the need was; the students needed more than just financial support, they needed more comprehensive support,” says Ridley.

Part-time staff was hired to serve as a point of contact and provide that support, funded through grants and private donations, until 2015 when OCC applied to participate in the California Community College State Chancellor’s office Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Educational Support (CAFYES) program, which provides

categorical funding for foster youth support services. The funding through CAFYES enabled OCC's Guardian Scholars program to hire a full-time academic counselor and a second full-time specialist.

Today, OCC's program serves between 100 and 120 students each academic year, offering support for everything from academics, to housing, to mental health and wellness. Staff also offer life coaching, teaching students how to manage their finances, build healthy relationships, find employment and develop a cultural identity in the absence of a traditional family structure.

### *Building a Community*

More than anything, the Guardian Scholars program at Coast offers former foster youth a chance to build a community, not just with staff but with one another. "We always have our one to three big goals for the year that we're working on, and community is always a big one," says Ridley. "We start by putting on events where our scholars can engage with each other. We do a new student orientation for all new incoming students as a mini-bridge to college life, but we also start the community-building there. We plan games and activities for them to get to know each other, sending the message that 'these are your people, this is your team.' All of our new incoming scholars get a Guardian Scholars backpack, and they'll see each other on campus and say, 'Oh, I didn't know you were a scholar,' because they recognize the backpack."

The program's offices — located in OCC's student services hub Watson Hall — provide a warm and welcoming respite for students away from a hectic campus life. "We've got snacks, breakfast and lunch ... because we know most of our students identify as being food and housing insecure, so we take care of that," says Ridley. "We've got school supplies they can grab, coffee in the morning, the computers and also printing, and then just the study and hangout space."

As OCC's Guardian Scholars program prepares to embark on its 19th year of existence, an opportunity to

address one of the biggest challenges for the students it serves has arisen. Last fall, the Orange Coast College Foundation Board kicked off its next big fundraising venture — a housing trust that will provide scholarships for Guardian Scholars to live in the College's new student housing facility, The Harbour. So far, the trust has raised \$100,000 to be used for vulnerable student populations, including student veterans, single parents, and former foster youth (see story, page 6).

### *Housing Trust*

According to Ridley, more than 80 percent of the students in OCC's Guardian Scholars program are food and housing insecure, and this lack of basic needs can have a negative effect on academic success.

Always intended as a resource for vulnerable student populations, The Harbour can provide a safe space for students who need it most. However, special considerations and more fundraising are needed to make that dream a reality. "The apartment that we're hoping to fund is the four-unit suite, where each unit is a separate bedroom, as opposed to the most economical suite where there are two people sharing a room," says Ridley. "Nighttime is hard for folks who've been impacted by trauma, and so we do want them to have that level of privacy. What that means is that, ballpark, we're looking to fundraise \$350,000 a year just for housing."

Ridley also sees housing scholarships as a way to teach former foster youth important lessons about budgeting that they might not have picked up during their upbringing, and which can set them up for success later in life. "What happens a lot when a housing program is fully funded is, when the funding ends a student can end up homeless, because they're not in the habit of paying rent and budgeting," she says. "Our hope is that our Guardian Scholars students can pay rent on a sliding scale that increases over time until they're paying, maybe not the full rent amount, but something that's going to get them in the habit of being able to rent an apartment on their own when they're no longer residing in on-campus housing."

*"Our scholars are changing the world. They're changing their stories and they're changing the stories for the future generations that come after them."*

Other special considerations that are being worked out in planning housing scholarships is special lease schedules (most students will need a 10-month lease, while Guardian Scholars will need housing year-round), meal planning, onboarding and specialized case management training for housing staff, such as trauma informed care training.

While OCC is still in the process of hammering out the details for housing scholarships in anticipation of The Harbour's opening in Fall 2020, one thing is clear: this Guardian Scholars program has come a long way.

"The national rate of college graduation for students impacted by foster care is three to five percent. Our graduation rate is 20 percent," says Ridley. "For the last three years we've had 10, 14, 16 graduates. Many of them go on to transfer to four-year universities. We just had a whole batch who were graduating with their master's degrees."

"Our scholars are changing the world. They're changing their stories and they're changing the stories for the generations that come after them."

## ORANGE COAST COLLEGE



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# TO INFINITY & BEYOND!

## DACEY NGUYEN REPRESENTS OCC AT NASA, SHARES HER DREAM OF A CAREER IN SPACE EXPLORATION

**T**wenty-year-old Dacey Nguyen is a perfect example of why it's not where you start on your journey that matters, but where you finish. Considering her ambitious goal of someday being an astrophysicist, it's hard to imagine Nguyen as the type of student who didn't take advanced placement classes in high school.

"I actually didn't take any [A.P. classes]," says Nguyen. "But I knew I wanted to do something with astronomy and astrophysics. I knew that I wasn't going to make it anywhere huge that I wanted to go, so I applied straight to [Orange Coast College] and nowhere else."

It's a good thing fate led her to OCC first. It only took one class at Coast for her to confirm that space was the right destination for her.

"I took physics my junior year of high school and I wasn't the best at it, but I enjoyed it enough to where I wanted to combine it with my love of space!" says Nguyen. "So, the whole astrophysics dream took off from there. When I took Astronomy 100 with Jerome Fang at OCC, I realized I was really on the right path of where I wanted to go."

As Nguyen spent more time at OCC, her love for space and astrophysics grew. So much that NASA saw her potential, drive and ambition. They invited her to receive in-person training as the OCC representative at the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars (NCAS) 2019 event. The four-day training, which took place in

October, is an educational experience for community college students who are interested in exploring STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) related careers. She and her team got to work directly with a NASA team member.

"Each team had a mentor. The mentor was actually an employee from NASA because they

know what it's like to be working there so they gave us hands-on advice," says Nguyen.

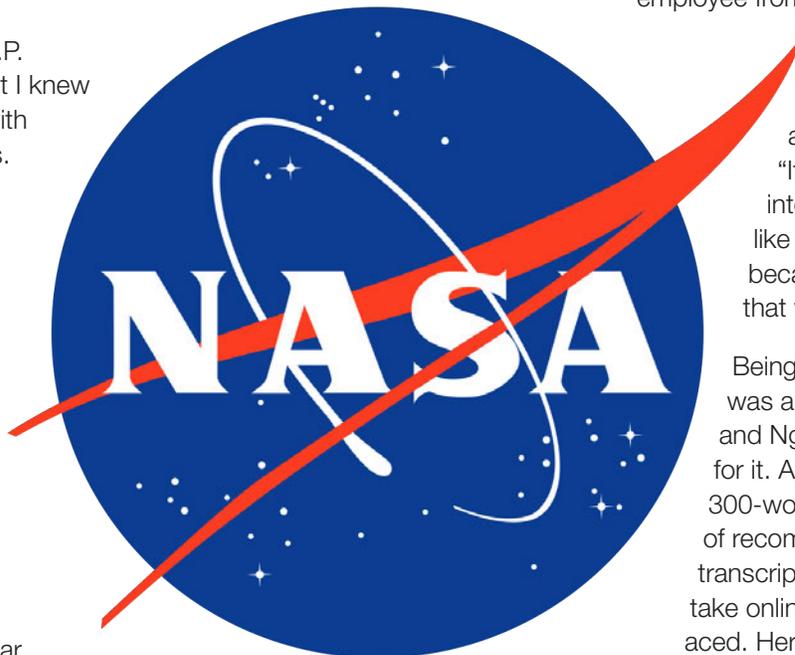
"It just gave all of us eyes into what the company is like and working for NASA because, for a lot of us, that was our end goal."

Being selected for NCAS was a big accomplishment and Nguyen had to work for it. After submitting two 300-word essays, two letters of recommendation and transcripts, she was required to take online courses, which she aced. Her excellent grades and

supplemental material qualified her for the

in-person training at NASA Armstrong in Edwards, Calif. The training allowed her to take on a project as if she was contracted by NASA, and Nguyen was the project manager for her group of 10 people, which she said was a rewarding experience.

"Each team created their own [theoretical] company. Our goal and objective was to get a contract from NASA to build a model rover," says Nguyen. "We built LEGO 3D models of rovers and they were functioning — we had to program them. We participated in competitions with the rovers."



Nguyen loves to share her passion for STEM with others, and this past year she founded the Orange Coast College chapter for the Society of Women in Space Exploration (SWISE).

“I thought about how, because I attend a community college, we don’t get the same opportunities and programs like [students at] bigger universities,” says Nguyen. “In order to provide other students with these resources and special opportunities, I started a new chapter of SWISE at OCC to make sure that other girls who are in the same circumstances as me will be offered resources to be able to succeed.”

OCC doesn’t offer a degree in astrophysics, so Nguyen has had to get creative with her approach to preparing for a career in the STEM industry. She’s majoring in astronomy with the intent to transfer. Her ultimate goal is to transfer to UCLA where she can officially become an astrophysics major. Going to UCLA would allow her to take a path that has already been paved by former OCC student, Jessica Artinger, who helped the university launch a satellite cube in September 2018 as an astrophysicist major. Recently Nguyen got to meet Artinger and learn from her experience.

“She came to one of our SWISE meetings and she talked a little about her satellite program at UCLA ... she brought in a 3D model of the cube satellite and she gave us tips and pointers and basically said, ‘because we are women we are at a disadvantage, but it’s also an advantage because they want to hear your voice now,’” says Nguyen. “Women need to step up and support one another in the space industry and just STEM in general.”

Nguyen credits OCC for allowing her to have the tools to pursue a career as an astrophysicist.

“This past semester I was very fortunate to have support from both faculty and my friends to start up [SWISE] ... OCC has allowed me to hone into my own career and future plans,” she says. “There are so many classes offered and opportunities given here. As a community college, I think that’s so great because a lot of us come from different financial backgrounds and different family situations. It’s such a wide spectrum but there’s something for everyone here, and there’s help if you need it. I think that’s what is so great about OCC.”



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## FAMILY OF UNDERGROUND PUNK ROCK ICON KIM SHATTUCK ESTABLISHES SCHOLARSHIP IN HER MEMORY

When Kim Shattuck began her journey as a student at Orange Coast College in the early 1980s, she was studying photography, not music. It wasn't until she was presented with an opportunity to be part of all-female garage rock band, The Pandoras, that she quickly taught herself to play the bass.

Shattuck — who grew up in Orange County and passed away in October at age 56 after a two-year battle with ALS — became a culture and underground punk rock icon, eventually starting her own band, The Muffs, and releasing six albums over the span of two decades. In 2013 she toured with alternative rock band the Pixies and two years later staged a reunion of the Pandoras. In her final years, Shattuck helped produce the Muff's last album, "No Holiday," which was released shortly after her death.

Among The Muff's most popular songs is a remake of "Kids in America" featured on the soundtrack of the 1995 cult-classic "Clueless." Shattuck, who served as the lead singer and songwriter for the group, was well-known for writing tongue-in-cheek lyrics that reflected real life, such as the song "Blonder and Blonder," referencing an ongoing feud with Hole frontwoman Courtney Love.

While her success in the music industry eventually took her to Hollywood and all over the world, Shattuck visited home often, and was never shy about her Orange County roots. "A lot of people look down on people who come from the suburbs," she said in a Los Angeles Times interview in 1999. "They think you can't create art out of that. But art is in the person ... I have my own brand of angst."

Shattuck was well-loved in the music community, with many in the industry expressing their heartbreak and condolences after her death. When news of her passing broke, iconic Sunset Strip venue The Roxy said it best on their marquee: "Kim Shattuck Forever."

A scholarship in Kim Shattuck's memory has been established by her family through the Orange Coast College Foundation.



## Legacy

*Are you interested in supporting Orange Coast College's mission but feel overwhelmed by the thought of writing another check or relinquishing your assets today? A simple, flexible and versatile way to make a gift is to include OCC in your will or living trust, known as a charitable bequest. By including a bequest to the Orange Coast College Foundation in your will or living trust, you will be leaving a lasting legacy that will benefit Coast students for years to come. For information on how to include the OCC Foundation in your will or trust please contact Doug Bennett, at (714) 432-5126 or [dbennett@cccd.edu](mailto:dbennett@cccd.edu), or visit our website at <https://orangeoastcollege.plannedgiving.org>*

# IT TAKES A VILLAGE: KYRE ADAMS FINDS SUCCESS THROUGH SUPPORT OUTSIDE OF FOOTBALL

**F**or Kyre Adams it has always been football or bust. Dreams of playing football at the highest levels motivated him to make the journey to Orange Coast College from Baltimore, Maryland in the Spring of 2016 following a successful prep career at Old Mill (MD) High School, and before he turned 18 years old.

"I was getting some early looks at four-year schools, but because of my testing, it wasn't going all that well," Adams says. "I didn't know too much about junior college football in California, so I looked up some schools and contacted Orange Coast. From there, I decided to make the move across the country. I was 17 years old, 160 pounds and skinny, and I was basically moving myself out to California. My mom tried to help, but it wasn't easy."

In Adams' mind, football was all that mattered. However, because of that single-minded focus, he excelled on the field ... but struggled off of it. As a freshman, Adams earned a spot on the team and played in four games as a defensive back, earning 11 tackles (seven solo). Off of the field, Adams struggled in the classroom and by the time his sophomore season was ready to begin, he was ineligible to play due to poor grades.

While it might sound like a kid simply neglecting his schoolwork, there was more to it for Adams. He was 18 years old and 3,000 miles from home. With little to no financial help, he had to not only put in his time and

effort on the football field, but also work hard in the classroom as well as work 8-10 hours a day (sometimes nights) to support himself with out-of-state tuition, bills and life in general.

"The Spring of 2017 was my lowest point through all of this," he says. "I was not able to play because of my grades ... I was working 6-10 hours a day at a moving company and trying to



get my grades up by taking one to two classes, but I was racking up out-of-state tuition debt and I just didn't have the right mindset."

In addition to his struggles in California, Adams' life in Maryland was about to take a drastic turn for the absolute worst — the loss of two family members. His step-sister, Mia Gavin, died in the Spring of 2017 due to sickle-cell anemia and just a few months later, one of Kyre's older brothers, Dantae Simmons, was shot and killed.

For Adams, these obstacles began to feel overwhelming. When asked to rate his mindset on a scale of 1-10 (with 10 being a move back to Baltimore), Adams says "I was at a 9.5."

"My mom was trying her best to help from across the country, but she was struggling as well, all by herself," Adams said. "I was just trying to have enough money to eat and pay rent, and I was also growing so my clothes began to not fit. During spring practice was the first time I really felt like calling it quits and going back to Baltimore."

New OCC head football coach Bubba Gonzalez saw Adams struggling, and he and his coaching staff knew they needed to help. "Kyre completely embodies the 'JUCO struggle' when it comes to trying to be a student-athlete and having to support yourself as well," Gonzalez said. "I think he came to California with nearly JUST the clothes on his back."

Coach Gonzalez began to reach out to various coaches and OCC staff to brainstorm ideas to help Kyre and get him the assistance he needed. But as important as having help and support is, for Adams, it was a matter of accepting the help and putting time and effort into restoring his life and football career. "With all of the things that were happening [in my life], my head just wasn't in the right place," Adams said. "I didn't think it was possible for me to get to where I needed to get to."

In 2018, things began to turn around for Adams. He was trying to improve his grades and he re-dedicated himself to the game and focused on improving his situation. But life wasn't done

teaching Adams about adversity. In the spring of 2018, the 19-year-old blew out his knee, stopping his forward momentum to return to the football field. In addition, Adams' hard work in the classroom improved his grades, but not to the point of becoming eligible, further hindering his hopes and dreams.

"I never thought I was going to get back to the game again," Adams said. "I would call my mom every day for advice and guidance. I was trying to figure out how to get my life back in order and I was still grieving over the loss of my brother and step-sister. I needed help."

It was only once Adams got to that level of hopelessness that the path back to his goals and dreams could begin. He knew he needed help to make this happen and he needed to not only seek out this help, but he also had to believe and trust the people who were trying to help ... something that's not always easy to do.

## THE LONG ROAD BACK

Adams was stopped on all fronts ... physically, academically, spiritually, and financially. He was across the country from his family and there didn't seem to be a positive outlook anywhere in his future. It was time for his "Pirate Family" to step in and help Adams along his path to success.

Some of the tools Adams was able to utilize, both on and off the athletic field, include:

- The OCC PRESS Program ... a service that helps with tutoring and maintaining a solid educational pathway.
- Student Equity program, offering a guarantee of fair treatment, access, opportunity, and advancement for all students, while working to identify and address barriers that stand in the way of student success.
- Athletic Training and Sports Medicine, helping athletes overcome injuries and assisting on returning the athlete back to competition.
- Pirates Cove: A pantry and resources hub available to assist students facing food insecurity and in need of other basic needs.

In addition to these services, student athletes at OCC are lucky to have access to employees who simply care about each and every student that comes through the

door, and who genuinely want to help and support these young people (see sidebar).

After two long years of struggle, sacrifice, pain, doubt and hopelessness, Kyre Adams overcame it all and began to see the light at the end of the long, dark tunnel. "Once we were able to provide some support, Kyre really came around," Gonzalez says. "He took the help and he soared. His grades improved and he's been a leader for us, on and off the field.

"Sometimes kids at this level just have too much to face. Now, Kyre has the foundation to succeed and he's focused on his dream of playing at the four-year level. He's been able to not only stay eligible, but he's excelling in school now. This young man has carried, and is still carrying, a heavy burden and he's always here with a smile on his face. He loves being here and not many ADULTS, let alone a teenage kid, can overcome what Kyre has had to endure over the past few years."

Back on the field as a defensive back and return specialist for the Pirates, Adams played in all five games for the Pirates in Fall 2019 and had 12 returns for 225 total yards. On defense, he was fourth on the team in tackles with 46 (29 solo). But in the grand scheme of things, the numbers on the field do not come close to the success Adams has created for himself off of the field. With a little help from those in the OCC family, Adams is now flourishing and the sky is the limit for his future.

"I'm still looking for that right fit for me as far as a career goes," Adams said. "I'd love to become an entrepreneur and be able to give back to OCC as well as my community in Baltimore. I want to be an example for others. Everything is possible in life and I don't want people to struggle the way I did."

“

### *Jamaal Lee - Men's Basketball Assistant Coach, Athletic Mentoring Specialist - Student Equity*

"When I first met Kyre he had a story ... what I saw in him paralleled my own experiences as a kid who wanted to do things the right way but did not know how to go about it because it was hard to trust people. I knew I could make a difference in a way no one else could. I enjoyed watching him start to take ownership in his actions and holding himself to a higher standard of accountability and taking his sport habits and start to apply them to everything else in his life. I cannot wait to attend Kyre's graduation and watch him walk across that stage knowing what he went through to get there! OCC is a place that opened up huge doors for me, and I am extremely proud to pay it forward."

### *Ashley Rippeon - Athletic & Compliance Specialist*

"I always tell athletes that I am not here to judge their situation and circumstances, that we are only here to support them through what's next. Kyre was one of the first student-athletes [I've worked with] to really lean in and trust those words. At the end of Summer 2017 he came in after a tough few months and I knew he was ready to accept more help. This young man deserved more — he was capable, articulate, driven, and more than ready to jump into a plan we created to surround him with all the right people. His whole body/mind changed that semester. He was standing tall, smiling all the time, and checking in beaming with excitement that he knew he was turning things around. He is inspiring."

### *Audrey Crouse - former PRESS Program Coordinator*

"Kyre has demonstrated an incredible amount of perseverance, persistence and dedication in the two years I have known him. He has remained loyal to his goals, to his team, and to the people that have and continue to support him along his journey. He changed his mindset from 'I can't' to 'I will' and he has not allowed any obstacle to stand in the way of making progress toward his goals."

### *Chaz Kekipi - Athletic Trainer*

"Kyre and I have been down a pretty long road together. Kyre was determined to return from the injury he sustained in Spring 2017. He promised to take time off to let it heal but unfortunately it didn't work out. That didn't keep him from attempting a return literally every single day. Kyre's determination to make a return to the field was fierce; so much had been taken from him over the course of three years that he would not relent. Fall 2019 was the first time Kyre and I both felt good going into a season. Kyre has matured into a great young leader and my hope is that he can use what he has learned here at OCC to better the people around him."

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# SAMUELI FOUNDATION FUNDS 'FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND' INTEGRATIVE HEALTH COACH PROGRAM AT OCC

This spring, Orange Coast College will launch an Integrative Health Coach certificate program, the first of its kind at a community college in California. The program — funded by a generous donation from Susan and Henry Samuelli via the Samuelli Foundation — is simply one cog in a larger movement that aims to change the face of healthcare in Orange County, and serve as a model nationwide.

The Samuelis are well-known for their commitment to revolutionizing the way in which healthcare is delivered, most recently by donating \$200 million to the University of California, Irvine to establish the Susan and Henry Samuelli College of Health Sciences, the first university-based health sciences program to incorporate integrative health research, teaching and patient care into its curriculum.

The integrative movement blends traditional medical treatment with alternative and complementary therapies, such as healthy eating, naturopathic medicine, acupuncture, yoga and more. In this approach, patients and providers are partners in wellness, and treatment plans are tailored to meet the specific needs of each patient.

Changing a deeply ingrained model of healthcare delivery is a tall order, and much like integrative medicine calls for a holistic, comprehensive approach to patient care, its implementation requires the same. That means starting at a grassroots level, or the first point of contact between patients and their health providers.

“The idea of an integrative health coach is a critical component to helping the average person navigate their health and wellness needs,” says Gerald Solomon, Executive Director of the Samuelli Foundation. “For those individuals who may not know or may be fearful of the very complex and difficult healthcare system, we needed to identify a missing link. An integrative health coach serves as not just

a navigator, but someone who can be a guide and a mentor with skill and knowledge, to be able to help the average person make decisions.”

OCC’s distinguished and well-established School of Allied Health made the College the perfect partner for the Samuelis’ vision. “When we were talking about giving a huge gift to UCI, we knew that health coaches would be such a big part of integrative medicine, because we’ve seen how well they work with clinics and other places that use integrative medicine. But they were hiring people off the streets and training them, with no certificate and no standardization. It made no sense to me,” says Susan Samuelli. “I love Orange Coast College. It’s the perfect place for this [program] because [the College] already has similar certificate programs.”

## *Building A Program*

Last year, a team of OCC faculty and administrators from programs in public health, nutrition and medical assisting partnered with Integrative Health Coach



program coordinator Sharyn Konick to develop the curriculum for the cutting-edge program. However, since the program is the first of its kind, there was no blueprint to follow.

“We really were building the plane and flying it at the same time,” Konick says.

Aside from helping to standardize training in an emerging profession, the program aims to teach students how to conduct motivational interviewing, a crucial component of integrative health coaching. “A big part of the curriculum is focused on motivational interviewing — helping people learn how to change in an empowering way,” says Konick. “We also teach our students how to help patients set and reach goals, and stay on track.”

The program will have two tracks: a two-year degree track that aligns closely with other Allied Health programs at Coast, sharing many of the same prerequisites in addition to upper-level courses in motivational interviewing and different health modalities.

The other track will be a shorter certificate that can be an addendum to another degree or serve as additional training for those already working in the medical field.

“We’ll be looking at how we are getting students in[to the program], and whether or not they are coming and staying for the full degree, or if they are working and then coming back for more training,” says Konick.

Once they complete the program, graduates will be well-positioned to work in health clinics in Orange County and beyond, partnering with doctors and nurses to provide a valuable link between patients and their healthcare providers. This is a service that can often get lost in the traditional model of healthcare, with doctors and nurses limited by time constraints and heavy caseloads.

“What’s happening in our system is that too many healthcare providers are too far removed from the

support services that they envisioned they would be providing,” says Solomon. “They need to rely on someone who is educated and informed, and that’s what this credentialing program at OCC does.”

### *Affordable and Accessible Care*

Integrative healthcare is not a new concept — many hospitals and research institutions across the country have opened integrative health centers over the past

25 years which are aimed at supplementing traditional care with complementary and alternative medicine. However, integrative healthcare remains a resource that is largely utilized by wealthy patients, even though many low-income communities struggle with healthcare epidemics that alternative medicine has been shown to successfully combat, such as chronic illnesses like diabetes, heart disease, obesity, and more. Additionally, these illnesses can often keep people in poverty, by exacerbating problems like homelessness and addiction.

Placing integrative health coaches in health clinics across

Orange County can change that trajectory, offering affordable and accessible health and wellness resources to the communities that need them most.

“What we’re seeing now is that smaller, community-based clinics and nonprofits are really open to this idea,” says Konick. “The great thing about motivational interviewing and health coaching is that you can see results in two to three sessions. So for a short-term model, it can be a fantastic resource.”

For Susan Samuelli, this accessibility lies at the root of her and her husband’s philanthropy, and their hope to make a real difference in the world, starting with fixing a failing healthcare system.

“I would love to see health coaches in every clinic so that doctors and nurses can do what they do best,” she says. “I would love to see integrative medicine offered to everyone, not just people who can afford it.”



# ORANGE COAST COLLEGE ALUMNI & FRIENDS

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Gabriel Caliendo – who both studied and taught in OCC's culinary arts program – is a founding partner in Lazy Dog Restaurant and Bar, which opened its first location in Huntington Beach in 2003. Caliendo is the creative mind behind Lazy Dog's menu, featuring a fresh take on traditional comfort foods. He often invites OCC culinary students to visit him in his research and development kitchen, and offers advice to aspiring chefs.

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