

OCC

magazine

2025 EDITION

OCC is
TRANSFER LEADER
in Orange County

STEM student
Abner Molina
accepted to MIT



**ORANGE
COAST
COLLEGE**



Commencement



Orange Coast College's 77th commencement exercises featured pomp, and joyous celebration. The event marked the culmination of the mission of Orange Coast College to foster student success and achievement.

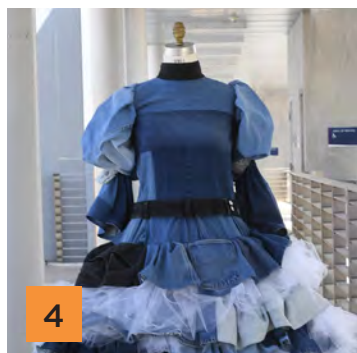


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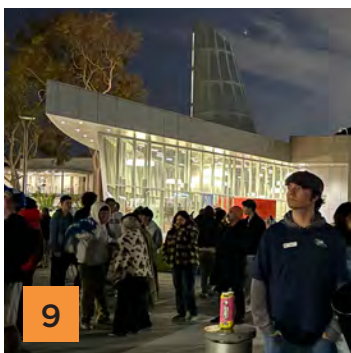


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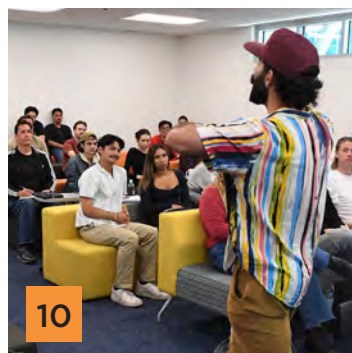
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Orange Coast College, founded in 1947, is one of the nation's top transfer schools. With a student population of 22,000, OCC provides exemplary programs leading to associate degrees and certificates in more than 150 career programs. As a multicultural and multinational institution, OCC is a qualifying Hispanic Serving Institution and an Asian American Native American and Pacific Islander Serving Institution, and serves more than 800 international students representing more than 65 countries. The College's 164-acre campus is located in the heart of Costa Mesa, just minutes from Southern California's beautiful beaches. For complete details about OCC, visit www.orangecoastcollege.edu

COVER

Pictured on the cover is Abner Molina, who has been accepted to MIT.

Dear Orange Coast College colleagues and friends,

It is my pleasure to share the 2025 edition of the OCC Magazine, celebrating the stories, achievements, and milestones that define our college community.

This year, we recognize 50 years of culinary excellence at the Captain's Table — our hallmark of hands-on learning and hospitality. Sustainability also takes the spotlight through our Fashion Department's annual showcase, where students transformed upcycled materials into innovative designs that advocate for a greener future.

Spring 2025 marked the opening of our new Chemistry Building, a 43,786-square-foot space that reaffirms our commitment to cutting-edge STEM education. That same curiosity led a midnight crowd to the OCC Planetarium to witness a rare "Blood Moon" eclipse.

Our students continue to thrive across disciplines. OCC's Speech, Theater, and Debate Team captured a national title, while our Dance Department graced the national stage, both earning well-deserved acclaim.

Our alumni and donors also inspire us. A transformational \$9.44 million gift from an OCC alumnus is creating new opportunities for aspiring artists for generations to come. Meanwhile, students like Abner Molina, now headed to MIT, and Nand Javia, a former international student now at Harvard, exemplify the heights OCC students can reach.

We continue expanding access and a culture of care, partnering with Spectrum Sailing to host a sailing camp for autistic youth at our Waterfront Campus in Newport Beach. And in athletics, Head Coach Jodie Legaspi-Kiaha is leading OCC Softball to new success, while former Pirate David Morgan has earned a spot with the San Diego Padres.

These stories reflect our shared commitment to excellence, innovation, and opportunity.

We are thrilled to share these stories with you.

Sincerely,



Angelica L. Suarez, Ph.D.



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MISSION STATEMENT

Orange Coast College serves the educational needs of a diverse local and global community. The College empowers students to achieve their goals by providing high quality, culturally responsive, and innovative programs and services through pathways leading to degrees, transfers, certificates, foundational skills, workforce development, and lifelong learning. The College promotes student development, learning, and equitable outcomes by fostering a respectful, inclusive, caring, and participatory campus climate of student engagement and academic inquiry.

FOLLOW US





CAPTAIN'S TABLE MARKS 50 YEARS OF CULINARY EXCELLENCE

From instructional kitchen to polished dining lab: how OCC's student-run restaurant has evolved and enriched Orange County for five decades

When Orange Coast College opened its culinary doors to the community half a century ago, no one could have predicted the impact that its student-run restaurant would make — not only on aspiring chefs, but on diners across Orange County. This year marks the 50th anniversary of Captain's Table, a modest training ground that has grown into

one of Southern California's most beloved casual-upscale eateries, all run by students in OCC's Culinary Arts, and Food and Beverage Management programs.

FIFTY YEARS OF GROWTH

Created in the mid-1970s, Captain's Table began as a simple instructional kitchen where students could learn the basics. Over five decades, it has transformed — through student creativity, faculty leadership, and a community eager to support experiential education. What started as a small classroom experiment is now a polished, reservation-only restaurant with a full professional dining room, elaborate menus, and rotating regional cuisines.

A significant milestone came only three years ago when the program moved into a brand-new dining room inside the newly constructed College Center building. Though its first year was stalled during

A Golden Legacy



COVID, the revamp has resulted in a modern, inviting space equipped with indoor and balcony seating — perfect for classic and contemporary service styles alike.

Captain's Table stays fresh not through nostalgia, but by design. Each fall semester features banquet-style service, where students execute a three-course American regional cuisine menu presented like a wedding reception — designed to teach pacing, consistency, and large-group coordination. Spring semesters spotlight à la minute service — a fast-paced, restaurant-style experience specializing in global foods, where the dishes are prepared to order, creating an interactive dining experience for both students and the community.

Meanwhile, Tuesday buffets in mid-semester offer another learning opportunity. Under advanced garde manger instruction, students craft cold and hot hors d'oeuvres, charcuterie, salads and more,

serving them via skillful buffet presentations. Past buffet themes have included Hawaiian, high tea, Latin flavors, Coastal fare, and Scandinavian cuisine, which illustrates the breadth of knowledge being passed on each year.

LEARNING, EARNING, LEAVING A LEGACY

Much of this progress is thanks to the College's investment in real-world facilities and technology. The opening of a new College Center building in 2020 added 11 state-of-the-art kitchens — complete with modern combi-steam ovens, pastry labs, and hot-cold stations — replacing decades-old equipment and aligning OCC with professional standards. These upgraded labs feed directly into Captain's Table, giving students hands-on experience in managing every stage of service in a fully functional restaurant.

"The students go from cooking in their experimental lab to actual paying customers. There's a lot of pressure and it can be intimidating," says culinary arts instructor Ali Flecky, who is supporting the dinner service class in the kitchen.

This foundation propels OCC's culinary teams into high-level competitions too. For 25 years, OCC has held its own in American Culinary Federation contests — most notably winning the California Western Regional Championship in hot food and clinching one national title. But Captain's Table remains the heartbeat of their practical training.

Reservations fill quickly — both spring and fall seatings sell out on OpenTable within hours. Diners pay modestly — \$25 for Thursday formal dinner and \$20 for Tuesday buffet lunches — earning real revenue that supports classroom travel and field trips to high-end restaurants.

Within its half-century, the program has served countless students, from high school grads to adult learners, to those returning to change careers.

FIFTY YEARS STRONG—AND STILL GROWING

Fifty years on, Captain's Table is no longer just a college project — it's an institution in its own right. It showcases student skill, fosters teamwork, and gives the campus a community face. But most importantly, it stands as a proving ground — one where theory, technique, and creativity come together under real pressure, real guests, and real deadlines.

As OCC looks toward the next fifty years, its recipe remains the same: teach through doing, invest in spaces that support ambition, and keep students — and their guests — at the center of everything. From a small kitchen in the 1970s to a modern dining room with balcony views today, Captain's Table remains a testament to the transformative power of hands-on education and culinary passion.

SUSTAINABILITY TAKES CENTER STAGE



OCC FASHION'S ANNUAL EVENT PROMOTES SUSTAINABILITY AND UPCYCLED GARMENTS

Piles of old denim jeans, distressed t-shirts, and tattered jackets are just some of the items Orange Coast College fashion students have transformed from textile trash into fashionable garments. Each year, the OCC Fashion Department hosts a fashion event and marketplace in collaboration with Green Coast Day to promote sustainability and environmental awareness. While the theme changes annually, the core message remains the same: sustainability is both fashionable and essential.

Now in its third year, the event has expanded to include a key partnership with the Salvation Army, which provided end-of-life clothing for students to use in their garment creations showcased during the event. "Partnering with the Salvation Army allows us to demonstrate the intersection of art, fashion, and sustainability," says Michelle Craner, a faculty member of the OCC Fashion Department. "We are proud to showcase the innovative work of our students while addressing the urgent need for more sustainable practices in the fashion industry."

This event is brought to life by students from Craner's Media, Events, and Promotions class. They handle logistics, event preparation, publicity, and marketing, in partnership with key stakeholders across campus. More than just a fashion showcase, this event highlights the practices in place at OCC Fashion that prepare the next generation of fashion leaders to make a significant and positive impact on the world of fashion and sustainability.

OCC Fashion has not only raised awareness about ethical fashion

and sustainability but has also been at the forefront of embedding sustainable practices into its academic curriculum. For nearly

"We are proud to showcase the innovative work of our students while addressing the urgent need for more sustainable practices in the fashion industry."

a decade, the College has offered the Apparel Industry Sustainability Certificate of Specialization, which focuses on sustainability in the apparel industry. This

program emphasizes responsible business practices, environmental sustainability, responsible decision-making, social impacts, and more. Over the course of three classes, students examine current topics, concepts, trends, and rules that are driving the sustainability and responsible business movement, developing the skills needed to compete in the global fashion industry. This program can be completed in just two semesters.

"Students learn about environmental, social and cultural impacts of the fashion industry, and they explore innovations and solutions to mitigate these impacts," explains Laura Bonnell, OCC fashion instructor.

Partnerships and connections are crucial in advancing these initiatives. The Apparel Industry Sustainability certificate was developed thanks to advocacy of fashion instructors Lauren Becker, Michelle Craner and Derek Sabori, a former OCC Foundation board member and sustainability consultant for Volcom. The planning for the curriculum began in 2017 with the first courses offered in Fall 2018.

Students in the certificate program gain real-world experience in sustainability through internships at various companies. Field trips to brands focused on sustainable fashion are scheduled, and industry speakers are invited to lecture.

Additionally, students develop the Green Guide, a digital and physical magazine that shares their learning experiences throughout the program.

When students first hear the statistics, they can be quite alarming. According to Bonnell, the textile industry contributes 4 to 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions, and about 35% of the plastics in our oceans come from microfibers shed by the apparel industry, highlighting the significant impact of fashion on sustainability.

For OCC fashion merchandising student Jasmin Santos, it was shocking to learn that a clothing item is typically worn only seven times before being discarded.

"After taking the sustainability class, I did understand how important it is to make sure that we are careful of how we dispose of our garments," said Santos. "It taught me to be more thoughtful about my purchases. I often buy second-hand now."

Upon learning about the sustainability fashion showcase and scholarship opportunity, Santos decided to enter a project into the fashion design category instead of the fashion merchandising category to challenge herself.

She took advantage of the large quantity of denim donated by the Salvation Army to create a standout piece. Inspired by quinceañeras and her Mexican American culture, she transformed the denim into a voluminous gown. It took her one week to complete, and she used over 20 pairs of jeans to craft her one-of-a-kind garment. Santos was one of six students who won a scholarship for their entry into the showcase.

"As a fashion student, I'm very grateful for how the fashion instructors continue to encourage students and continue to encourage me, whether that's through reaching out or just keeping more of a positive outlook, especially when it comes to sustainability."

ORANGE COAST COLLEGE UNVEILS *State-of-the-Art* CHEMISTRY BUILDING

The 43,786-square-foot, two-story building opened its doors to students in Spring 2025

CHEMISTRY IS A CRITICAL MAJOR THAT HAS BEEN FOUNDATIONAL AT OCC SINCE THE COLLEGE WELCOMED ITS FIRST CLASS OF 515 DAYTIME STUDENTS IN 1948.

Orange Coast College students now have a brand-new, state-of-the-art facility to complete their chemistry coursework, with the completion of the Chemistry Building. This long-awaited \$46 million building project, funded by Measure M and completed in late 2024, is the latest addition to OCC's 164-acre campus.

"This journey began about 13 years ago," said OCC President Angelica Suarez, referencing the Coast Community College District Board of Trustees approving Orange Coast College's Vision 2020 Facilities Master Plan Project in 2015.

This plan, formed in 2009, included a new Chemistry Building as part of a \$698 million building boom on campus generated by the passage of Measure M. Even before that, an expanded, remodeled Chemistry Building was included in the 2005 OCC Master Plan, at a projected cost of \$7.1 million, but funds ran out.

A VISION REALIZED

The Chemistry Building project started to take shape nearly two years ago when OCC broke ground on the new facility, demolishing the outdated Virgil D. Sessions Literature & Languages

building from 1976 to make way for this new addition to campus.

Constructed by C.W. Driver Companies and designed by tBP/Architecture, the 43,786-square-foot building was developed in response to a surge in STEM enrollment and to deliver enhanced educational opportunities. Campus leaders, faculty, students, and community members gathered on February 20 for the ribbon-cutting ceremony and enjoyed light refreshments while touring the labs. This building marked the final facility at OCC using Measure M funds and is the College's ninth structure built since 2015.

MEETING DEMAND

Beyond aesthetics and amenities, the Chemistry Building addresses urgent academic needs. Since the previous building opened 45 years ago, the Chemistry Department has nearly doubled in size in terms of student enrollment and class offerings. This growth meant that the department had outgrown its existing space, particularly in the laboratory. Thankfully, the new Chemistry Building expands lab capacity by over 60% compared to the previous facility, ensuring students have hands-on access essential for careers in various STEM fields.

CHEMISTRY

Chemistry is a critical major that has been foundational at OCC since the College welcomed its first class of 515 daytime students in 1948. OCC recognizes the importance of chemistry education for many majors and certificates beyond the discipline itself.

"Chemistry is the fourth largest department at the College, and as such plays a vital role in our campus life," says Vice President of Instruction Tara Giblin. "I'm grateful for our faculty and staff when it came to countless hours in programming the building and making sure every detail is perfect."

The facility showcases modern instructional technology and infrastructure and features exterior circulation and advanced HVAC systems. With its modern collaboration spaces, safety, flexibility, and immersive learning, the Chemistry Building stands as a model of 21st-century academic infrastructure. It proves that the right environment can spark curiosity, ignite innovation, and transform educational outcomes.

"The building has been carefully designed and built to support the future of chemistry education here at OCC for years to come," says Giblin. "Students are going to have the best chemistry experience possible."



TAKE A LOOK INSIDE

INTERACTIVE PERIODIC TABLE OF ELEMENTS

This illuminated display features individual cabinets for each element, showcasing the name, symbol, and a sample of the element (no radioactive materials). The cabinets contain a fascinating array of high-grade element samples, minerals, ores, and artifacts. Most of these samples are linked to Orange Coast College and its geographical location. For example, the cabinet for sodium includes rock salt from Guerrero Negro, a location where marine science students visit during their annual grey whale field trip.

Faculty and student presenters have the ability to showcase individual elements or groups of elements using an iPad. Above the display, there will be a touchscreen that visitors can use to access short videos about each element, providing an easy way to learn more about their properties.

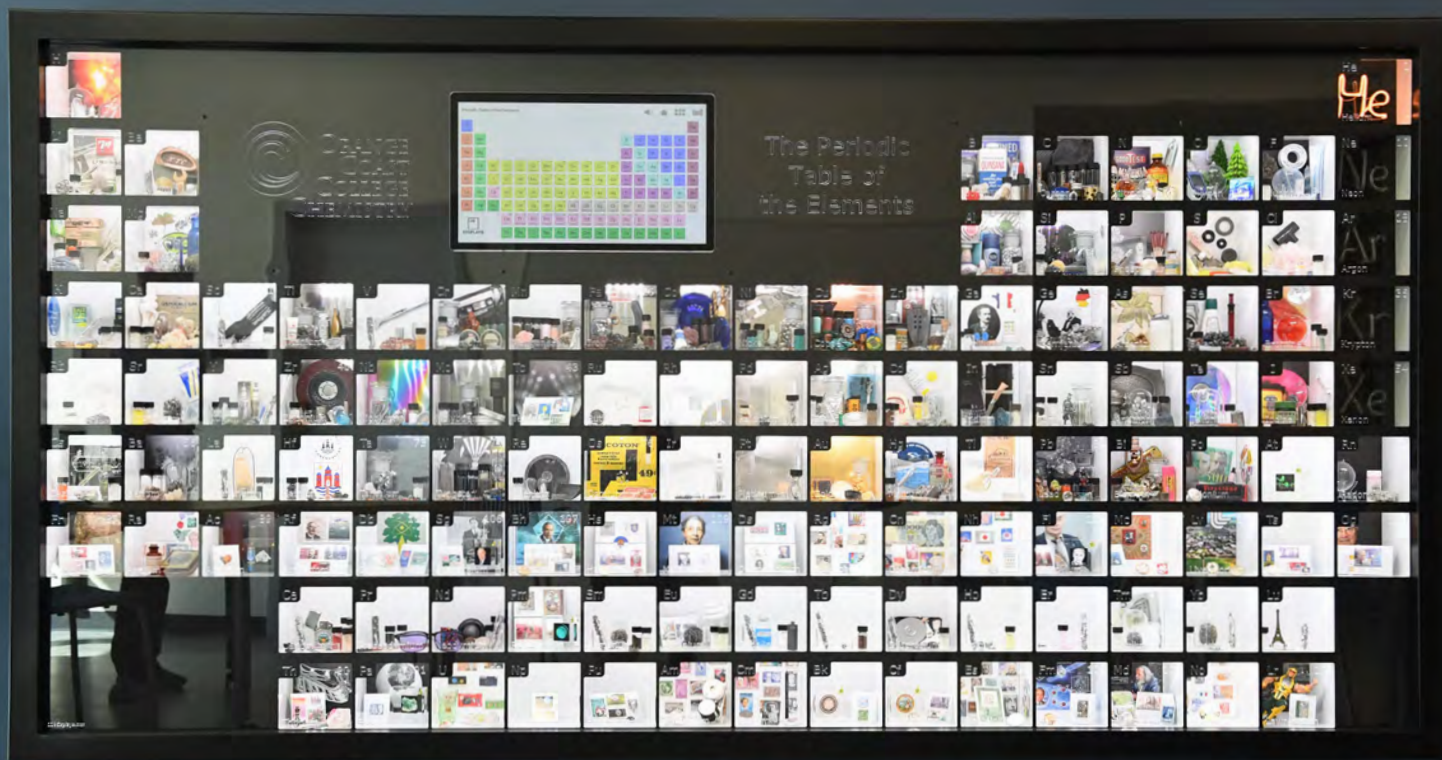
An anonymous donor generously funded OCC's periodic table of elements display.

LABS

The Chemistry Building is equipped with nine labs each outfitted with individual student workstations and scalable capacity to support larger classes. These spaces cater to chemistry majors, allied health students, and those preparing for transfer to four-year universities.

LECTURE HALLS & FACULTY OFFICES

Lecture halls and faculty offices are designed to resonate with contemporary pedagogical approaches, integrated with updated media and HVAC systems for optimized acoustics and comfort.



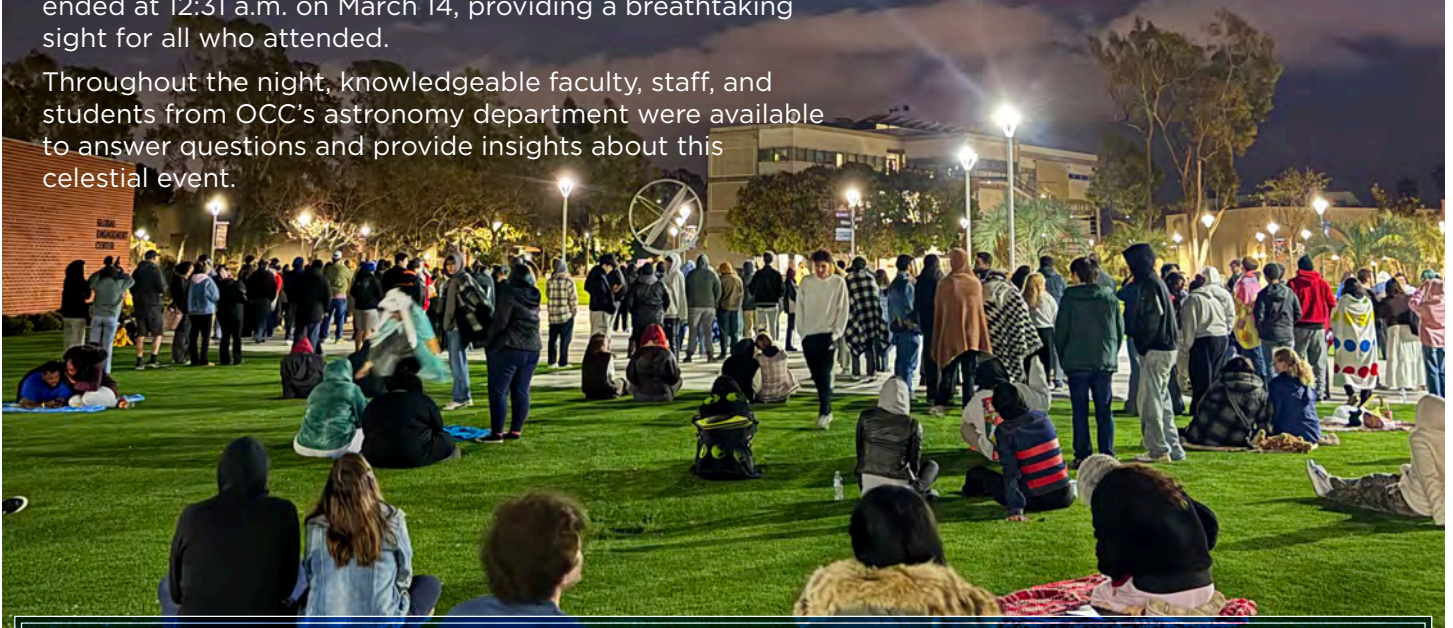
'BLOOD MOON' LUNAR ECLIPSE BRINGS MIDNIGHT CROWD TO OCC PLANETARIUM

The Orange Coast College Planetarium invited members of the public to experience a total lunar eclipse via the College's telescopes on March 13.

Also known as the "blood moon" eclipse, this lunar eclipse was visible across the United States. The moon was totally eclipsed for roughly 67 minutes, according to the Farmer's Almanac.

During the OCC Planetarium's viewing event, telescopes were available at the Planetarium's Telescope Farm, allowing guests to get an up-close view of the Moon as it passed through Earth's shadow, transforming into a deep red during totality. The full eclipse started at 11:26 p.m. and ended at 12:31 a.m. on March 14, providing a breathtaking sight for all who attended.

Throughout the night, knowledgeable faculty, staff, and students from OCC's astronomy department were available to answer questions and provide insights about this celestial event.



VISIT GALAXIES NEAR AND FAR AT ORANGE COAST COLLEGE'S PLANETARIUM

In addition to providing space for college-level courses, the Planetarium is accessible to the local community with shows, lectures, and K-12 field trips throughout the year.

Take in a show in the state-of-the-art, 125-seat dome theater, or witness the rotation of the Earth with Orange County's first Foucault Pendulum. Weather buffs won't want to miss the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Science on a Sphere exhibit, capable of showing weather patterns on Earth in real-time.

The OCC Planetarium is open on select weekdays and weekends. Visit the OCC Planetarium for times and show schedules.

www.orangecoastcollege.edu/planetarium

FINDING COMMUNITY, CONFIDENCE, AND A VOICE

OCC Speech, Debate, and Theater Team Capture National Title

In a small classroom at Orange Coast College, a diverse group of students gathered, equipped with notebooks and a fervent desire to improve their communication skills. Among them sat Christian Delgado, a young man who had previously flunked out of Cal State Fullerton and Irvine Valley College while pursuing a mechanical engineering degree. Facing the crossroads of another potential academic failure, Delgado opted for a fresh start. This time, he enrolled in communications classes at OCC.



A pivotal meeting with a counselor encouraged him to explore a different path — one that would redirect his future. “You should try communications,” the counselor suggested, unknowingly sparking a transformation that would change Delgado’s life. After a few weeks, his interpersonal communications professor urged him to learn about the award-winning OCC Speech, Debate, and Theater Team.

Delgado attended the introductory meeting, where he would discover not just a team, but a community. “They are so, so, so smart, and I felt so dumb,” he reflected. “But it was really cool because they didn’t make me feel dumb. Instead, they inspired me to strive for their level of education and become not only a better speaker but a better human.”

Delgado’s experience is not unique; many team



members found their way to the group by chance. Some were looking for extra credit, while others were encouraged by friends, yet they all shared a common experience: discovering a supportive and welcoming community after that first meeting.

Deja Jones, another team member, vividly recalls her initial impression of the team. “I was really sold by the community,” she explained. “They emphasize work ethic and their ethos of hard work and kindness. It’s just a cool room filled with amazing people.”

OCC’s Speech, Debate, and Theater Team competes in various tournaments throughout the academic year, including key events like regional, state, and national tournaments. At the start of the fall semester, team members begin intense preparation for the regional competition.

The selection process for the competitive 14-member team is meticulous. Coaches evaluate each individual’s skill and dedication, often relying on a unique tool called the Wall of Practice. This floor-to-ceiling mirror allows students to document their practice times, fostering a sense of accountability. The more hours spent honing their speeches, the greater the chances of making the competition team.



"It wasn't just about winning; it was the overall experience with my team," said Nikam. "The bonding, the laughter, and the moments we had while supporting each other meant a lot. It was more than just a tournament; it was about finding a community."

HEADING TO NATIONALS

After a successful state championship, the OCC team set their sights on the 2025 Phi Rho Pi National Tournament held in Norfolk, Virginia. Competing against over 50 schools for a mere two Gold Sweepstakes Awards, the OCC team achieved remarkable success by winning this prestigious honor.

"These students committed themselves to a goal: engage in critical thought, speak truth to power, and become the best in the nation," said Head Coach Shauhin Davari, beaming with pride. "I couldn't be prouder of their dedication to finding and amplifying their voices."

CULTIVATING COMMUNITY

The new Literature and Languages, Social and Behavioral Sciences Building provides the team a dedicated practice space known as the Squad Room. This area, equipped with the Wall of Practice and the coaches' offices, often buzzes with activity as members gather to share lunch, provide feedback, or rehearse.

Returning members often take on a mentorship role, coaching newcomers. Returning team member Nataly Arzate did just that by coaching team member Grace Choo, who ended up receiving a gold at nationals for dramatic interpretation — her first event.

"I think what really helps is understanding that our wins aren't just individual victories; they belong to the entire team," Arzate explained. "You're willing to dedicate your time to help others because when they win, it reflects on all of us."

Building this supportive community proved crucial for international student Dron Nikam. Navigating the complexities of American culture while mastering his speech skills not only improved his communication, but also cultivated critical thinking abilities. The first-year computer science student believes the friendships and experiences he gained far surpassed any medals earned.



The team returned from nationals with an impressive haul of 31 medals, including 15 golds, 3 silvers, and 13 bronzes. Eight OCC students came home with gold medals. Delgado notably excelled, finishing the tournament with two golds and a silver — claiming gold in Dramatic Interpretation and Impromptu Speaking, and a silver in IPDA.

Inspired by this success, Delgado aims to become a communications professor, hoping to guide others along the transformative path he experienced. "Just like how they changed my life, I'd like to continue that tradition," says Delgado.

OCC DANCERS NATIONAL STAGE

PERFORM ON THE

Heading to the nation's capital to perform on a national stage was likely not on many Orange Coast College students' bingo cards this year. But for nine OCC student dancers, this became a reality in May 2025 when they performed at the American College Dance Association (ACDA)'s 2025 National College Dance Festival, showcasing a work choreographed by Coast part-time dance instructor Zachary Groenewold.

Out of 443 works that were adjudicated at 11 regional conferences that spring, Groenewold's work, "Law of the Jungle," was chosen — along with two others — to represent the Baja region at the National Festival in Washington, D.C. This national festival occurs only every two years, and OCC was fortunate to be invited to perform in 2023 with guest artist work. However, for this year's festival, OCC had the honor of performing on the national stage with a faculty choreographed piece. Groenewold's work was also chosen for the National Festival in 2018. Because of COVID-19, there had not been a festival again until 2023.

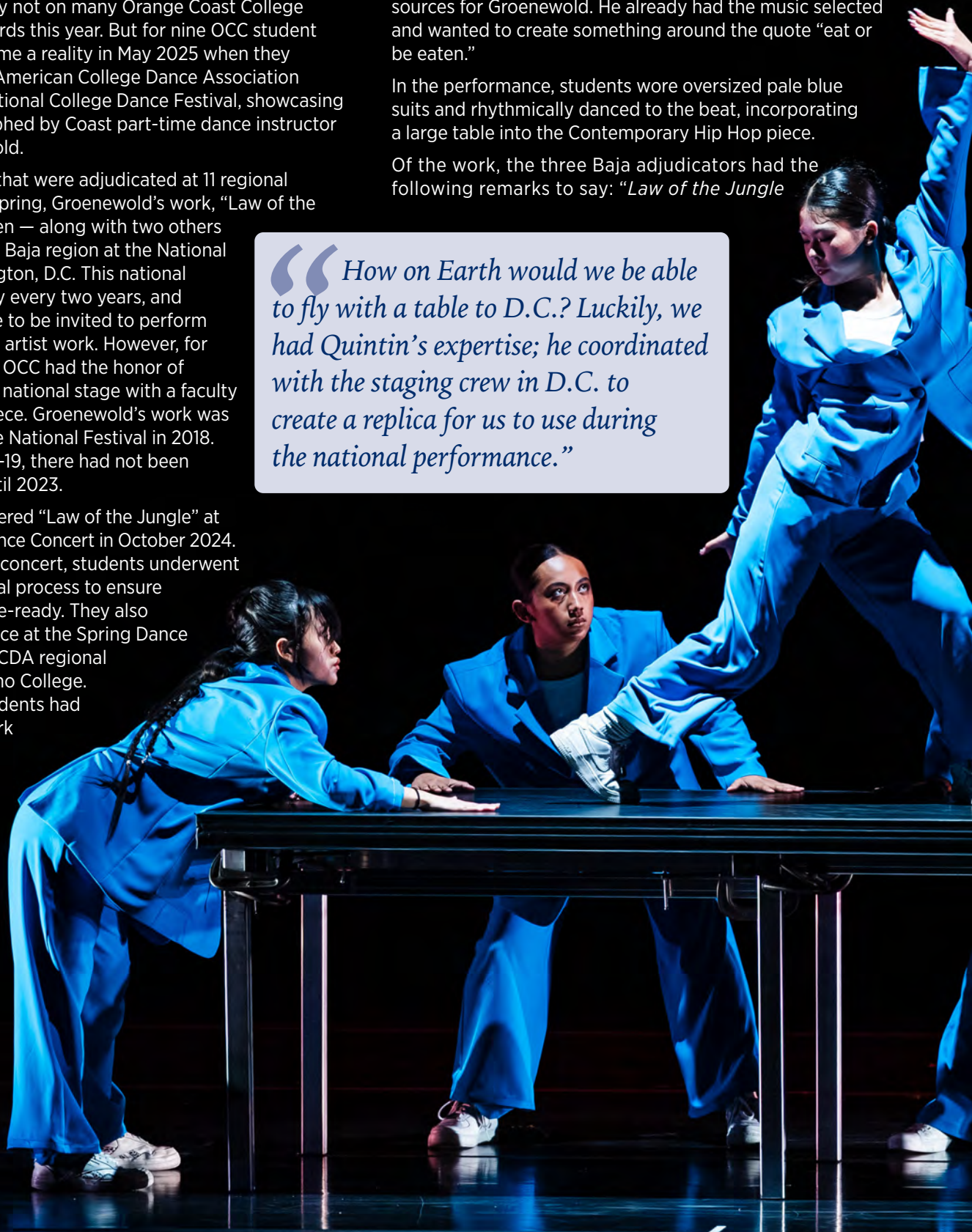
Groenewold premiered "Law of the Jungle" at the Fall Faculty Dance Concert in October 2024. To prepare for the concert, students underwent a rigorous rehearsal process to ensure the work was stage-ready. They also performed this piece at the Spring Dance Concert and the ACDA regional festival at El Camino College. Thankfully, the students had performed the work several times prior to their national performance, especially since they only had two weeks to prepare for Washington, DC. The OCC Dance Department was informed in late April about the recognition and opportunity to perform nationally, with the festival set for early May.

The inspiration for "Law of the Jungle" came from various sources for Groenewold. He already had the music selected and wanted to create something around the quote "eat or be eaten."

In the performance, students wore oversized pale blue suits and rhythmically danced to the beat, incorporating a large table into the Contemporary Hip Hop piece.

Of the work, the three Baja adjudicators had the following remarks to say: "Law of the Jungle

“How on Earth would we be able to fly with a table to D.C.? Luckily, we had Quintin's expertise; he coordinated with the staging crew in D.C. to create a replica for us to use during the national performance.”



is a gorgeous ensemble work that is bold, unapologetic, danced with precision and abandon.”

The central element of the dance, a large platform that the dancers use to climb over and dance on and around, was crafted by Quintin Powell, the College’s Theater Technical Specialist, who also serves as the lighting designer and technical director for all OCC dance performances.

“When we learned that our students would be performing in Washington, D.C., I immediately thought about the set piece,” says OCC Dance Department Chair Rachel Berman.

“How on Earth would we be able to fly with a table to D.C.? Luckily, we had Quintin’s expertise; he coordinated with the staging crew in D.C. to create a replica for us to use during the national performance.”

Not only did the students get to perform on a national stage, but they also had the opportunity to participate in dance classes and explore the nation’s capital.

“It is such an honor to be selected, and such an invaluable experience for the students to be able to perform on a national stage,” says Groenewold.



Photo by: Dan Hopkinson



OCC DANCE FACULTY MEMBER HONORED WITH CHOREOGRAPHY AWARD

Orange Coast College part-time faculty dance instructor Zachary Groenewold was selected as the First Runner-Up at the Palm Desert Choreography Festival 2024. He was one of nine choreographers who presented their work on November 10 after submissions from over 100 applicants.

Groenewold entered the festival with his 2023 piece, “we’re only as sick as our secrets,” which he choreographed for OCC students as part of last year’s annual Fall Faculty Dance Concert. This was his first time applying to the festival.

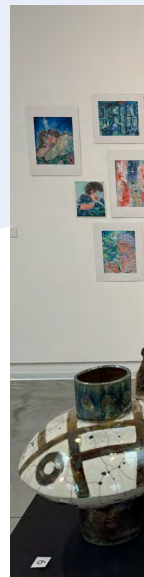
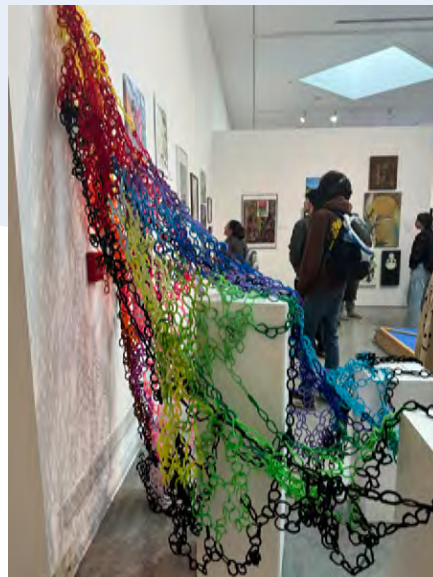
“Zach is what I tell my choreography students is a ‘smart’ choreographer,” says OCC dance department chair Rachel Berman. “He intuitively knows how to move bodies around in space and constantly comes up with innovative ideas and concepts. This work was also submitted for adjudication at the American College Dance Association’s 2024 Baja conference and was selected for their culminating gala performance. We are so lucky to have him on faculty.”

The Palm Desert Festival, which has taken place at the gorgeous McCallum Theatre since 1998, serves as a dynamic live platform for dancemakers and dancers to showcase their work. Original dances in various styles are performed by professional and pre-professional groups from across the nation, with winners (and prize money) announced at the conclusion of each performance.

“It was an amazing weekend watching our students shine on a professional stage and for Zach to be honored!” says Berman.

Groenewold’s “Law of the Jungle” was selected for this year’s Palm Desert Choreography Festival, and the same nine OCC students will take to the McCallum stage on November 10.

TRANSFORMATIONAL \$9.44 MILLION AN ENDOWMENT TO SUPPORT OCC arts students



Alumnus Pays It Forward for Future Generations of Artists

An anonymous alumni donor with a personal passion for art and arts education is ensuring that Orange Coast College's Visual & Performing Arts students can realize their creative potential for years to come.

In late 2024, this generous individual made a transformative gift of \$9.44 million to the Orange Coast College Foundation to establish the OCC Endowment for the Arts. The Endowment will provide annual funding in perpetuity to support

scholarships and student grants to fund their creative projects and activities.

"The OCC community is deeply grateful for this visionary and generous investment in our students and their creative potential," says OCC Foundation President Jeff Hyder, who helped to facilitate the donor's gift intentions through numerous meetings and communications. "He wanted OCC students to have access to anything they needed to follow their dream in the arts. That's very rare."

The OCC Endowment for the Arts will provide generous annual funding to Visual & Performing Arts students studying Art, Photography, Film/TV, Digital

OCC ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS SUPPORT



▶ Student-Led Creative Projects and Events

Enrolled students can apply online for funding to support activities they seek to pursue including art materials and supplies, performances, exhibitions, and residencies.

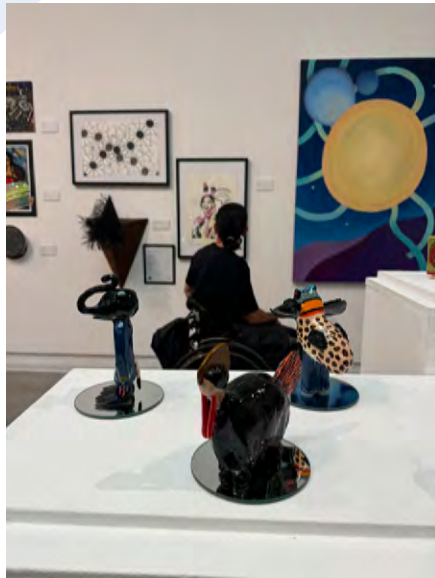
▶ Artist Promise Scholarships

This fall, the first 200 students to pick a major in the Visual & Performing Arts Division can receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

▶ Achievement Awards

Awards of \$5,000 or more will be available to students who are looking to continue their artistic development after OCC, either at a four-year university or through another artistic pathway.

ON GIFT ESTABLISHES Students IN PERPETUITY



Media and Design, Music, Dance and Theatre Arts in three ways:

- Student-Led creative projects and activities
- Artist Promise scholarships for new arts majors
- Achievement Awards for arts students to continue their creative studies

“This is an incredible and lasting opportunity for students who may have thought college — and a career in the arts — was out of reach,” says Dean of Visual and Performing Arts Larissa Nazarenko. “This Endowment will ease students’ financial burden and send a clear message: your creativity matters, and we believe in your future.”

“This investment in our arts students offers an extraordinary opportunity for us to advance our vision of being the standard of excellence in transforming lives through education,” says OCC President Angelica Suarez. “Like so many of our alumni, this donor’s own personal experience as an OCC student has played a part in their decision to pay it forward, and we deeply appreciate their partnership.”

The gift to establish the OCC Endowment for the Arts is the largest gift received by the OCC Foundation, and the fourth largest to any community college in California.

Philanthropy
at OCC



Since its founding in 1985, the Orange Coast College Foundation has worked with hundreds of donors and community partners to help Orange Coast College fulfill its educational mission, and help students succeed.

As this philanthropic spirit continues to grow, so too does the impact on our students’ college experience, their academic success, and the college campus itself.

Donors can direct philanthropic gifts to make an impact in many ways including:

- ▶ Scholarships
- ▶ Academic experiences such as travel abroad and student experiences
- ▶ Classroom technology, equipment, and other campus improvements
- ▶ Teaching and faculty support
- ▶ Athletics, Arts, and other team activities
- ▶ Community programs such as The Planetarium, Children’s Book Festival, and Science Night

An investment in community college education not only supports students’ success during their time on campus, but also their future success in transferring to four-year universities, developing our workforce, and enriching our community.

We invite you to join our growing family of OCC supporters.

To discuss how you can get involved, please contact the Orange Coast College Foundation:

Patricia Falzon

Executive Director

714-432-5126 • pfalzon@cccd.edu



ORANGE COAST COLLEGE RECEIVES SUSTAINABILITY AWARD FOR CAMPUS TO TABLE PROJECT



Orange Coast College received the Excellence in Energy and Sustainability – Faculty/Student Initiative Award from the California Community Colleges Board of Governors during the November Board of Governors’ meeting.

OCC was recognized for its multidisciplinary collaboration among marine science, horticulture and culinary arts. This effort aimed to introduce advanced agricultural techniques and led to the creation of the Aquaponics Lab and the Campus to Table Project.

“We are honored to receive this Sustainability Award from the CCC Board of Governors, reflecting the dedication and innovative spirit of our college community,” says OCC President Angelica Suarez. “Coast’s reputation as a leader in sustainability and climate action is built on our commitment to multidisciplinary collaboration and innovation that is

evidenced through our rich traditions such as Green Coast Day. This award is not just a recognition of our efforts—it underscores our leadership in tackling some of the most pressing environmental challenges.”

In 2020, OCC horticulture faculty and staff began considering upgrades to train students in sustainable agriculture techniques; simultaneously, the marine science program sought to teach students how to use aquaculture skills to promote sustainability. These interests merged to create the Aquaponics Lab, one of the most visible sustainability projects at OCC, which opened in early 2022. Aquaponics combines aquaculture (raising fish) and hydroponics (growing plants in water), creating a sustainable cycle to grow lettuce and tilapia.

At the Aquaponics Lab, marine science and horticulture students work together to produce 300

heads of lettuce with just one bucket of water each day. Culinary arts students then use the produce at Captain's Table, OCC's student-run, casual-upscale restaurant. Additionally, the harvested produce is distributed to Pirates' Cove, OCC's on-campus food pantry, helping to address food insecurity among Coast students. Last year, OCC's Hot Food Team won regional and national recognition through the American Culinary Federation competitions for their "campus to table" menu, which included tilapia and greens sourced from the Aquaponics Lab.

Established in 2012, the Board of Governors Energy and Sustainability Awards are divided into four categories: Excellence in Energy and Sustainability – Climate Action Leadership; Excellence in Energy and Sustainability – Sustainability Champion;

Excellence in Energy and Sustainability – Innovative Project; and Excellence in Energy and Sustainability – Faculty/Student Initiatives.

The Excellence in Energy and Sustainability – Faculty/Student Initiatives award recognizes faculty and students who have excelled in developing sustainability initiatives for their college. The criteria for this award includes the creation of an innovative initiative that institutionalizes sustainability by integrating the initiative into campus operations and student learning or curriculum, engages the community in implementing the initiative, and has measurable results to demonstrate success. Faculty and student collaboration in the creation and implementation of sustainability plans are also eligible for this award.

OCC'S SYLVIA MENDEZ RECEIVES NATIONAL 2025 OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD

Orange Coast College alumna Sylvia Mendez has been awarded the 2025 Outstanding Alumni Award from the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). This prestigious national award represents the highest recognition for community college alumni, and Mendez is one of only three people nationwide chosen to receive the honor this year.

"We celebrate Sylvia Mendez, a remarkable champion for civil rights and education, whose legacy continues to inspire us all," says OCC President Suarez. "Her unwavering commitment to justice and quality education embodies the values we hold dear at Orange Coast College."

Mendez was a key figure in the landmark Mendez et al. v. Westminster case, which challenged racial segregation in California schools and marked a significant milestone in the civil rights movement. Her incredible legacy continues to impact education, as her story is now included in California's public school curriculum through Assembly Bill 1805, ensuring that future generations learn about the ongoing fight for justice in their communities.

Today, Mendez continues to share her story and discuss civil rights. She continues the legacy left by her parents by fighting for quality education and encouraging students to stay in school. She retired as a nurse after working more than thirty years in the field.

Among her many accolades, Mendez received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States, awarded by President Barack Obama in 2011. Last year, Mendez was inducted into both the Orange Coast College Alumni Hall of Fame and the Orange County Hall of Fame. Furthermore, OCC unveiled a plaque in her honor within the Consumer and Health Sciences Division, the very academic field where she began her journey.



Mendez earned an associate degree in nursing from Orange Coast College in 1964 and a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from California State University, Los Angeles.

The Outstanding Alumni Awards, a tradition since 1982, honors individuals who attended community college and are making outstanding contributions in their chosen fields of endeavor at national or international levels. OCC President Suarez accepted the award on Sylvia's behalf at the AACC Annual Convention in Nashville on April 16.

STUDENT AFFAIRS LEADER SELECTED FOR NASPA'S 2025 PILLAR OF THE PROFESSION AWARD



Orange Coast College Dean of Students Dr. Derek Vergara has been named a 2025 National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Pillar of the Profession, one of 20 individuals nationwide selected for the honor. Dr. Vergara received the award at the 2025 NASPA Annual Conference.

Dr. Vergara has been at OCC since 2013 and has served in various roles, including dean of Title IX and student relations. He developed Title IX protocols during his tenure to ensure students can safely report and receive care and support resources. Additionally, Dr. Vergara was instrumental in the planning and development of the Student Union complex and on-campus student housing, working to ensure that the spaces fostered social interaction and built community.

"I have observed with pride and admiration the transformative work that Dr. Vergara has accomplished," says OCC President Angelica Suarez. "Dr. Vergara has consistently fostered an environment that is equity-minded, socially just,

and inclusive for both students and employees. We are fortunate to have him as a crucial member of the Student Services leadership team."

A member of NASPA since 1987, Dr. Vergara credits the organization with benefiting his development as a student affairs professional. He has served on numerous committees and on the NASPA Region VI advisory board for various years. In 2022, Dr. Vergara received the NASPA Region VI Community College Professional Award.

"Orange Coast College's commitment to student success is exemplary," says Coast Community College District Chancellor Whitney Yamamura. "OCC's Dean of Students Dr. Derek Vergara is pivotal in shaping a supportive and inclusive campus environment."

The NASPA Foundation recognizes outstanding student affairs and higher education community members through the Pillars of the Profession award, one of the foundation's highest honors. The award is given by its members and supporters to recognize colleagues who have made outstanding contributions to the field of higher education and NASPA.

According to the NASPA Foundation, the Pillar of the Profession award honors members of the profession who:

- Have provided significant service to NASPA through regional and national leadership roles within the association; and
- Have created a lasting impact on the institutions/organizations at which they have worked, leaving a legacy of extraordinary service recognized by a cross-section of institutional/organizational stakeholders; and/or
- Have demonstrated sustained, lifetime professional distinction in student affairs and/or higher education.

Dr. Vergara has taught courses at the University of La Verne, Citrus College, Azusa Pacific University, and Brandman University's doctoral program in education. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in social sciences from Azusa Pacific University and a doctorate in education, emphasizing organizational leadership at the University of La Verne.

OCC SHORTS SCREENED AT NEWPORT BEACH FILM FESTIVAL

Orange Coast College student filmmakers saw their work displayed on the big screen as part of the Newport Beach Film Festival on October 20 at Regal Edwards Big Newport in Newport Beach.

The annual showcase, known as “OCC Shorts,” features short films produced entirely by OCC film and television students. This marks the 21st year that OCC has participated in the Newport Beach Film Festival, where it was the first college to present films. This year, five colleges were represented.

“The Film & TV Department is proud of our student filmmakers and our longstanding relationship with the Festival,” said Film and TV Department Chair Erik Forssell.

Ten short films created by OCC student filmmakers were selected to be part of OCC Shorts. The entries were chosen by a committee of film instructors, who narrowed down the finalists among dozens of hopefuls looking to snag the highly coveted spots.

The student films varied in length from 2 to 19 minutes and included titles such as “A Genuine



Mistake,” “Help,” “Howl,” “JUSTICE KNOWS NO MERCY,” “Sumatra Women,” “Planetary Petrol,” “My Favorite Rebound,” “Nugget,” “Take Me to Jail, Please?” and “The Fish.” The directors of these films are Calvin Nguyen, Luke Blackburn, Bishop Rhone, Tanner Shelton, Lux Shoo, Liam Crist, Kammy O'Brien, Steven Ramos, and Avery Beck.

TRAVEL OCC DEBUTS ON TRAVEL TUESDAY



Get ready to embark on your next group travel adventure with Travel OCC, Orange Coast College's on-campus, student-run travel agency. Travel OCC officially launched during a grand opening event on December 3, inside the College Center.

The grand opening coincided with Travel Tuesday — a national shopping event that offers consumers greater access to travel deals. The event included a welcome ceremony and an open house. Attendees had the chance to explore the new space and gain exclusive access to Travel OCC's first travel deals.

“We are thrilled to see Travel OCC come to fruition,” says Travel OCC Director Katherine Collette. “Travel

OCC is so unique because we collaborate with students, faculty, staff, and alumni to create and curate trips. Anything a full-service travel agency would do, we do it.”

Travel OCC will be staffed entirely by student interns from the Hospitality, Travel, and Tourism program, providing them with the necessary internship hours to complete their program without having to leave campus. The student interns will gain hands-on experience in running a full-service travel agency.

Revenue generated by Travel OCC will be reinvested into the program, funding scholarships, course materials, and other resources that directly benefit students.

Travel OCC will primarily focus on group travel, prioritizing affordability and experience-based travel for students.

“We’re creating group trips that cater to student travel — at a good price point, featuring interesting destinations, and often local,” says Collette. “Some of our travel deals won’t require a passport, allowing students from different programs to come together for unique travel experiences.”

ORANGE COAST COLLEGE PREPARES THOUSANDS OF WILDFIRE RELIEF MEALS



In response to the devastating wildfires in Los Angeles, Orange Coast College partnered with Abound Food Care to prepare thousands of relief meals for those affected.

When Steve Gostin, OCC's General Manager of Instructional Food Services, received a call from Abound Food Care to prepare hot, nutritious meals for those affected by the wildfires, the timing could not have been better.

The College Center Dining was closed for two weeks in preparation for the start of the spring semester, which allowed the Instructional Food Services team to redirect their efforts to support this important cause.

The team, along with the Culinary Arts and Food and Beverage Management programs, prepared

600 wildfire relief meals intended to be both hot and nutritious, all made from scratch.

Ingredients for these meals were generously donated by Sysco Foods LA, OCC's main food services vendor, as well as Fresh Point Produce and Penjoyan Produce, totaling over \$8,000 worth of ingredients.

In addition, they prepared, froze and stored an extra 5,000 bulk meals to ensure that nutritious options were readily available as the situation evolved.

"We are pleased to give back and help the community with hot, nutritious meals during this state crisis," says Gostin. "We couldn't have done this without the support from our partnerships."

OCC CULINARY TEAM WINS WESTERN REGIONAL COMPETITION

Orange Coast College culinary arts students won the 2025 American Culinary Federation's Western Regional Student Team Competition in Las Vegas, Nevada on March 15. By earning the highest point value, OCC's Hot Food Team will represent the western region in the national championship.

The American Culinary Federation is the largest professional chef organization in North America. This year, OCC's competing five-member team consisted of Nykolos Peppers, Blanca Granados, Josias Rodriguez, Georgia Williams, and Khoa To.

"OCC has a long tradition of success with the student hot food team competitions," said OCC



culinary arts instructor Chef Davina Dunner. “We are so proud and excited for our students, who are continuing a legacy started in 1996.

For the competition, the Hot Food Team was tasked with creating a four-course menu showcasing regional flavors and ingredients. They worked closely with OCC’s Horticulture Department and Marine Science Department to harvest tilapia and aquaponic lettuces used in their competition dishes. The winning four-course menu highlighted ingredients such as mezcal brined tilapia, hibiscus tamarind coulis, and roasted game hen. The students had 90 minutes to cook and 20 minutes

to serve the four courses to a panel of four judges, all while working within constraints of 6 burners, 1 convection oven, 1 conventional oven, and 4 electrical outlets.

“This accomplishment was truly a collaborative effort,” says Dunner. “The team received support from numerous OCC faculty and staff, including alumni who guided them through the sharp learning curve of a culinary competition.”

The team will travel to Las Vegas in July to compete in the National Student Team Championships, facing off against four other regional teams. The last time the Pirates won the national title was in 2005.

OCC MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS EARNS THREE NATIONAL AWARDS



Orange Coast College’s Marketing and Public Relations Department received three 2024 Paragon Awards from the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR) at the national conference in New Orleans. The conference also concluded a year-long celebration of NCMPR’s 50th anniversary, which was founded in 1974.

OCC took home the top prize for its Pirate Athletics video, which was entered in the “Video Shorts” category. The College also received two silver awards for its Coast skateboard and a social media post highlighting the student-built house.

The 2024 Paragon Awards drew 1,570 entries from 205 colleges across the country and were judged by 59 marketing and public relations professionals. OCC earned the highest number of Paragon Awards among California’s community colleges.

“It’s an incredible honor to be recognized by the NCMPR with Paragon Awards,” says OCC Marketing and Public Relations Director Juan Gutierrez. “These awards reflect our entire communications team’s creativity, collaboration, and dedication. At the heart of our work is a deep commitment to telling the powerful stories of our students, faculty, and community—and it’s gratifying to see that work celebrated on a national stage.”

NCMPR’s prestigious Paragon Awards recognize outstanding design, strategy, and communication achievements at community and technical colleges. It’s the only national competition that honors excellence exclusively among two-year colleges’ marketing and public relations professionals.

Visit OCC Newsroom for latest news stories from Orange Coast College.

www.orangecoastcollege.edu/news

A portrait of Abner Molina, a young man with dark, wavy hair, wearing a dark blue hoodie. He is smiling slightly and looking directly at the camera. The background is a blurred indoor setting, possibly a library or study area, with bookshelves and warm lighting.

OCC STUDENT Abner Molina ADMITTED TO MIT

Orange Coast College honors student Abner Molina has been accepted into the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Abner is among nearly two dozen transfer students admitted to MIT this year, where the transfer acceptance rate is exceptionally low, generally hovering around 1-3%.

A lifelong dream of attending MIT led Abner to enroll at OCC after his initial application to the institution during high school was unsuccessful. He chose OCC specifically for its recognized engineering program and has thrived within its academic community.

During his first semester in Fall 2022, Abner enrolled in the Honors Program, which he credits with significantly contributing to his academic success.

"Participating in the Honors Program was incredibly beneficial for me," says Abner. "I initially thought it would simply mean more homework, but in reality, the classes explored the course material in much greater depth. For instance, in my calculus math classes, we not only learned about limits but also how to prove what a limit is."

"The professors here are very open to networking and providing opportunities," explains Abner. "Both Dr. Esposito and Dr. Guerra were excellent mentors who encouraged me to pursue research."

Abner's journey has not been without challenges. In his second year at OCC, he experienced severe chest pain and was hospitalized where tests revealed a tumor the size of his heart. After a biopsy confirmed the tumor was cancerous, Abner faced the daunting prospect of chemotherapy treatment with a 50% chance of survival. Despite his health

struggles, MIT remained a constant source of inspiration for him, and he dedicated his time during recovery to prepare for the SAT.

Fortune smiled upon Abner as he responded positively to chemotherapy and was able to have the tumor

successfully removed. He returned to OCC in 2024 to continue his education, where he was actively involved in research opportunities thanks to his supportive professors.

"The professors here are very open to networking and providing opportunities," explains Abner. "Both Dr. Esposito and Dr. Guerra were excellent mentors who encouraged me to pursue research."

Throughout his time at OCC, Abner took advantage of every opportunity afforded to him by participating

ORANGE COAST COLLEGE HAS A **PROVEN** TRACK RECORD OF GETTING STUDENTS TO THE **NEXT LEVEL.**

As the #1 community college in Orange County for combined UC and CSU transfers — as well as transfers to prestigious private universities like USC and Pepperdine — OCC is the smart choice for students looking to move on to a four-year university.

At Coast, students have access to exclusive guaranteed transfer agreements and priority consideration with several colleges and universities, including UC Irvine, UC Santa Barbara, UCLA, Loyola Marymount, Chapman University, Arizona State University, and more.

Fall 2023 (2023-2024 Academic Year) CSU and UC Total Transfers in Orange County

| Rank | Community College | CSU Transfers | UC Transfers | Total Transfers |
|-----------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|
| #1 | Orange Coast College | 1001 | 479 | 1480 |

in the Giles T. Brown Student Project and Research Symposium and Pirate's Plank, where he pitched a business solution called Talyko to assist his mother's business with invoicing.

As he prepared to graduate this semester, Abner secured permanent memberships in the newly established computer science honor society, Iota Xi, as well as Phi Theta Kappa. At MIT, Abner will

be focusing on Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and continue to pursue his entrepreneurship ambitions.

"I still want to continue down the path of creating tools for businesses," says Abner. "I became passionate about it during my time building Talyko. I really like the entrepreneurship route."





FROM ORANGE COAST COLLEGE TO HARVARD

FORMER INTERNATIONAL STUDENT NAND JAVIA LENDS IT FORWARD

When Nand Javia first arrived at Orange Coast College in 2018, he hadn't even heard of community colleges. Rejected from his dream school, Harvard University, and with no backup plan in place, the international student from India typed "best community colleges in California" into Google and sent out a few applications. OCC responded quickly and upon researching the College, he stumbled upon the OCC YouTube channel, which showcased the palm tree-lined quad, proximity to the beach, and vibrant campus life. It was enough to make him pack his bags and take a chance on the unknown.

FINDING DIRECTION AT OCC

At OCC, Nand found something he hadn't anticipated: freedom to explore. He joined the tennis team, student government, worked part-time, and dabbled in classes ranging from physics to psychology. "I don't think

it was possible at other universities," he reflected. "Logistically, it was just much easier to plan and do all of these things together."

But the heart of his OCC experience wasn't just in what he did — it was who he met. Professors like Lee Gordon saw his potential early on, nominating him for the Global Citizen Honors Award. Staff like Kris Toribio connected him with nonprofit leaders, eventually leading to the full-ride scholarship that changed his trajectory. Most importantly, OCC introduced him to a robust international student community that helped him feel at home in a new country.

"My roommates were from all different countries," he said. "Today, I know people in more than 50 countries because I went to classes with them here."

LESSONS BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Without family nearby, Nand poured himself into campus life — but it came at a cost. Eventually, he had to make a difficult decision to step down from his leadership role in student government.

“You need to prioritize yourself,” a mentor told him—advice that stayed with him and became a guiding principle in the years that followed.

That philosophy helped him focus on one goal: transferring with a full scholarship. It wasn’t common — most international students were expected to pay hefty tuition at four-year universities. But Nand was undeterred. He volunteered with a nonprofit supporting Nepali students, and his commitment eventually caught the eye of a well-connected education counselor. One email later, Nand secured a full scholarship to Texas Christian University.

“Some people travel to run away from something,” he said. “I travel to discover new things. OCC was my first discovery — and it changed everything.”

TURNING EXPERIENCE INTO OPPORTUNITY

At TCU, Nand studied business and worked in the admissions office, helping fellow international students secure their own scholarships. “It started as a joke,” he recalled, encouraging friends to apply. “But then they got the scholarships, and it became a pathway.”

He formalized that pathway through his startup, Scholaroid, which has since helped more than 150 students secure full scholarships. His YouTube channel grew, featuring advice and real talk about navigating U.S. education as an international student. His influence began to reach far beyond campus borders.

OCC AS THE CATALYST

Now preparing to enter Harvard University’s Graduate School of Education, Nand credits OCC with giving him the foundation to dream big, work hard, and give back.

“OCC taught me how to recognize opportunities, how to say yes, but also how to prioritize,” he said. “And when those opportunities didn’t exist, I learned how to create my own.”

OCC was also where Nand first saw the full arc of the student journey. Working at the Global

Engagement Center, he supported students from their first inquiry to final transfer. “It showed me that this is an industry where you can actually see the impact of your work,” he said.

It’s a lesson that continues to drive him forward. Whether through motivational speaking or educational entrepreneurship, Nand

remains committed to helping others — especially those from underserved backgrounds — take their first global step.

“Some people travel to run away from something,” he said. “I travel to discover new things. OCC was my first discovery — and it changed everything.”



New LEADERSHIP take

Tara Giblin



VICE PRESIDENT OF INSTRUCTION

The Coast Community College District Board of Trustees approved Dr. Tara Giblin as the new Vice President of Instruction at Orange Coast College. Dr. Giblin was selected after an extensive nationwide search and began her new role on July 22, 2024. She has served as Acting Vice President of Instruction

since January 2024.

With over 20 years of experience in research, teaching, and administration, Dr. Giblin has dedicated her career to serving students in higher education through excellence in teaching and providing enriching experiences beyond the classroom.

Since 2014, Dr. Giblin has served as the Dean of Mathematics and Sciences at Orange Coast College. In this role, she has provided exceptional leadership that has significantly expanded student support in STEM fields, such as securing a Title V USDE Hispanic Serving Institutions grant (STEM Academy), establishing a Math, Engineering, and Science Achievement program, supporting the development of the OCC Planetarium, and implementing the OCC Community Science Night. Other notable accomplishments include being named Manager of the Year in 2017 and becoming an American Council on Education Fellow in 2018. She co-founded the OCC Student Project and Research Symposium and was Acting Vice President of Instruction in late 2018 and early 2019.

"My time at OCC has been rewarding because of the shared dedication of our faculty, classified professionals, and my fellow managers," says Dr. Tara Giblin. "We come together daily to ensure students have the best educational experience possible. I am honored to continue my professional journey as the Vice President of Instruction at OCC."

Patricia Falzon



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE ADVANCEMENT

The Coast Community College District Board of Trustees approved Patricia Falzon as the new Executive Director of College Advancement at its meeting on February 19, 2025. Falzon was selected following an extensive search and began in her new role on March 3. She replaces Doug Bennett,

who retired in December 2024.

With over two decades of experience working in the Orange County community, Falzon is returning to the OC after serving as Executive Director of Principal Giving for Queen's University in Ontario, Canada since 2020, where she led the university's principal gifts program, securing an impressive \$303 million through gifts ranging from \$5 million to \$100 million since 2020.

Prior to her role at Queen's University, Falzon led fundraising and community engagement initiatives as a Senior Director of Development with California State University, Fullerton and University of California, Irvine. She has also served as an advancement leader at South Coast Repertory in Costa Mesa and the Orange County Museum of Art in Newport Beach.

"Orange Coast College has long been a cornerstone of our vibrant local community and one of California's leading community colleges," says Falzon. "I am deeply honored to join this thriving campus community and look forward to collaborating with my campus colleagues, the OCC Foundation Board, as well as with supporters and alumni to advance OCC's legacy of student achievement and community enrichment."

the HELM at OCC

Heather Dy



DEAN OF MATH & SCIENCES

Orange Coast College welcomes Dr. Heather Dy as its new Dean of the Math and Sciences Division. She replaces Dr. Tara Giblin, who now serves as the College's Vice President of Instruction.

Dr. Dy joins OCC from Long Beach City College, where she served as a professor and held

numerous leadership roles, including faculty professional development coordinator, guided pathways coordinator, and department head. During her tenure, she was the 2022 award recipient for Inspiring Women of LBCC.

Dr. Dy will be at the helm of a robust division at OCC that includes the College's astronomy, biological sciences, chemistry, environmental science and ecology, geology, horticulture, marine science, mathematics, natural sciences, and physics programs. The Math Center, MESA, and the OCC Planetarium are also under her purview.

"I am honored to join the Math and Science faculty and staff at Orange Coast College," says Dr. Dy. "I was drawn to OCC because of their state-of-the-art programs and outstanding faculty and staff. I look forward to continuing the student-centered work that OCC is known for."

Jessica Artinger



PLANETARIUM DIRECTOR

After an extensive search, Orange Coast College is pleased to announce the appointment of Jessica Artinger as the new Director of the OCC Planetarium. Artinger has been serving in a temporary capacity leading programming at the Planetarium since the summer of 2023.

With valuable experience from the space industry, including her role as fabrication lead for the UCLA ELFIN CubeSat Mission, Artinger is well-equipped to oversee the integration of educational initiatives with community-based education and entertainment at the Planetarium. Her responsibilities will include developing and scheduling core educational programs, presentations, and events aimed at increasing public and campus engagement.

Artinger has been a passionate advocate for the OCC Planetarium for over a decade. In 2015, she voiced her support for the Planetarium's construction before the Board of Trustees. An accomplished alumna of OCC's Physics and Astronomy departments, she held various leadership roles while a student, including President of the Astronomy Club, President of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Vice Chair of the Advocacy Committee, a branch of ASOCC. She is also a Garrison Honors Fellow, a Hites Scholar, recipient of the David Grant Prize, and was named the 2016 Sharon K. Donoff Student Leader of the Year.

"My roots at OCC and the Planetarium run deep, and I'm truly honored to continue leading this incredible space," says Artinger. "It's a place where people of all ages can come to imagine new possibilities, explore the universe, and be inspired by the wonders of science. I'm excited to keep building on that mission and expanding access to science education in our community."

Setting Sail

TOWARD NEW HORIZONS

OCC Waterfront Campus Partners with Spectrum Sailing to Host Autistic Sailing Camp

Nestled along the glittering coast of Newport Beach, the OCC Waterfront Campus, with its state-of-the-art marine facilities and tranquil harbor views, became the setting for a unique summer camp experience — one that was more than just about learning to sail. For a group of young people on the autism spectrum, it was a chance to engage with the ocean, build self-confidence, and navigate new challenges both on and off the water.

Spectrum Sailing, a nonprofit that focuses on bringing sailing experiences to autistic individuals, organized a one-of-a-kind sailing camp designed for neurodiverse youth. Hosted at the OCC Waterfront Campus, the camp became a sanctuary for participants to not only hone their sailing skills but to also discover a sense of accomplishment and camaraderie in a supportive, understanding environment.

The OCC Waterfront Campus is known for its modern, accessible amenities, including spacious docks, classrooms, and easy access to the harbor, making it an ideal location for any sailing program. It was the perfect setting for a camp that aimed to merge adventure with therapeutic learning. For many campers, the experience wasn't just about

mastering the intricacies of sailing — it was about mastering their own self-doubt and discovering their potential.

Sailing can be inherently challenging, requiring both physical skill and mental focus. For the campers, many of whom face heightened sensory sensitivities or difficulty with social communication, learning these skills in a conventional setting might have been overwhelming. But the Waterfront Campus provided a structured yet flexible environment where



participants could thrive at their own pace.

“These kids don’t get these kinds of victories. They’re not the kids with 100 trophies in their room or 50 camp shirts in their drawer because they’ve been to a million programs,” Spectrum Sailing founder Scott Herman said. “These kids are not yacht club kids who happen to have autism. So for these kids, some of them have never put on a life jacket, never been on a boat. For them to have an opportunity to do something no one in their family can do and be successful at it, it’s a huge boost to their self-esteem.”

The camp is intentionally small, allowing for a highly individualized experience. Campers spent their days on the water, learning how to rig boats, read wind patterns, and navigate the harbor’s gentle waves. In addition to technical skills, they were also encouraged to work as a team.

“We’re always looking at ways to engage the youth,” says OCC Waterfront Campus Director Justin Dion. “I think sailing sometimes has a bit of a reputation for being kind of a rich guy’s activity or a rich guy’s sport. We want to spread the message that sailing is for everyone.”

The camp may have ended, but the lessons learned at the OCC Waterfront Campus will remain. For these young individuals, the experience will serve as a reminder that they, too, can sail toward new horizons — both on the water and in life.

JUSTIN DION SELECTED AS DIRECTOR OF OCC WATERFRONT CAMPUS



Orange Coast College is pleased to welcome Justin Dion as the new Director of the Waterfront Campus.

Dion joined OCC from the East Coast, bringing valuable experience as a maritime professional on United States Navy and government cargo vessels. Licensed as a U.S. Coast Guard Master 1600 GRT and Second Mate

Unlimited, he brings practical experience from the maritime industry.

“It is an honor to be named the next Director of the OCC Waterfront Campus,” says Dion. “My maritime career has afforded me lifelong friends, unmatched professional development, and the opportunity to sail worldwide alongside dedicated maritime professionals. I am excited to move my maritime career ashore and contribute to the continued success of OCC’s maritime programs.”

For over eight years, Dion served as a Surface Warfare Officer in the U.S. Navy, where he held positions as the Strike Warfare Officer on USS Howard (DDG 83), Navigator on USS Forrest Sherman (DDG 98) and as a case manager for the Navy Wounded Warrior program. Following his active duty service, he began sailing as a civilian mariner for Crowley Maritime Corporation, where he worked as 3rd Officer on board USNS Stockham (T-AK-3017).



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STANDARD OF **EXCELLENCE**

OCC Softball Head Coach
Jodie Legaspi-Kiaha
Elevates Softball Program



OCC SOFTBALL ADVANCES TO STATE FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 1993



For the first time in 32 years, the Orange Coast College softball team earned a trip to the big dance after topping Fullerton College in the Southern California Super Regional Playoffs at the OCC Softball Stadium.

With the win, the top-seeded Pirates (32-7) advanced to the 3C2A Softball State Championships at West Valley College for their first state tournament appearance since the 1993 season.

OCC sophomore standout Jasmyn Morales showed the defending state-champion Hornets (19-23) and all in attendance why she was named the

2025 Orange Empire Conference's Most Valuable Player, going 3-for-5, with two home runs, three runs scored and six RBI, including the game-winning, three-run HR that broke a 6-6 tie in the top of the seventh.

"It means a lot to me for us to get there (to the state tournament) and it takes a whole team to get there," Morales said after the game, fighting back tears. "I couldn't have done it without all my girls on this team, our coaching staff, our parents... everyone believed in us, so our mentality was to do it of them and to do it for us. Show them what OCC is about."

As a former standout player at UCLA, Jodie Legaspi-Kiaha understands what it takes to be elite. With a decorated athletic career at UCLA, she won an NCAA Championship as a freshman in 2004 and a Pac-10 title in 2006. Her name appears twice on the UCLA career charts, as she is tied for seventh all-time in walks and eighth in home runs.

Now, she is working to establish the same standard of excellence at Orange Coast College. Legaspi-Kiaha inherited a program that did not have a full-time head coach until 2016, when she was hired full-time to steward the program. Before that, she had worked in a part-time capacity, and served as a part-time faculty member in 2009 and 2010.

"I fell in love with the college before I fell in love with the softball program here," says Legaspi-Kiaha. "I saw this as an opportunity to be able to get opportunities for women who might not have had them right out of high school. We're in Orange County, which is a hotbed for some of the most elite softball in the country. I felt like this was a place that was still untapped, and I wanted to be a part of something new."

Her experience at UCLA laid the groundwork for building a competitive program. After graduating from UCLA, Legaspi-Kiaha remained on for an additional year as an undergraduate assistant coach, learning the intricacies of building a Division 1 team from the inside. Additionally, from 2010 until 2014, she also served as an Assistant Coach and then Director of Operations at UCLA before returning to OCC in 2014.

"I was introduced to the coaching side of things during my senior year when Kelly Perez, the assistant coach at the time, was promoted to head coach. I got to be involved in office conversations, strategy discussions, pitch calling, and more," explains Legaspi-Kiaha. "They provided me with invaluable

experience there, and I was hooked. I realized coaching was the next best thing to playing."

When she began to assemble her coaching staff at OCC, Legaspi-Kiaha reached out to her UCLA network, knowing they would have a deep understanding of the game. Elise Laws, the recruiting coordinator and assistant coach, was Legaspi-Kiaha's bat girl during her playing years at UCLA, while Kimo Flores, another assistant coach, has been a colleague for over 20 years and is a well-known as a clinician and instructor in the area.

"I have assembled a staff that understands the game at a high level, just like I do," notes Legaspi-Kiaha.

Her philosophy is deeply rooted in her understanding

of the game and an excellence mindset. She prioritizes her players and is always available to support them. Since she started, several standout athletes have emerged under her guidance.

"I run a tight ship, but I genuinely care about my players," says Legaspi-Kiaha. "I want to instill some of that Division 1 flair in them to prepare them for challenges. I don't expect perfection; I expect them to respond. If they fail, I want them to respond positively, show up the next day, put in the work, and meet challenges head-on. That's how I want them to approach life. It begins with having the right mindset, and that's a key part of what I aim to develop in them."

Last year, her team reached the regional playoffs, concluding a successful season with 27 wins. This year, the momentum continued as the team advanced to the state playoffs for the first time since 1993.

"This squad has moxie and understands how to compete to win," says Legaspi-Kiaha. "They show up with a purpose every day and play as a cohesive unit."

"This squad has moxie and understands how to compete to win," says Legaspi-Kiaha. "They show up with a purpose every day and play as a cohesive unit."



MIKE THO

REMEMBERING FORMER PIRATE COACH, MIKE THORNTON

Mike Thornton – longtime Hall of Fame Orange Coast College women's basketball coach and beloved figure throughout California Community College women's basketball – passed away on June 22 due to complications brought on by Alzheimer's Disease. He was 77 years old.

"Mike was a legend, not just here at Orange Coast College, but throughout all of women's basketball throughout the state."

OCC Athletics Director Jason Kehler, said. "Mike helped put women's basketball on the map at OCC and his impact at Coast went far beyond the wins and losses. Our hearts go out to Mike's family, his former players and assistant coaches. Forever a Pirate."

Thornton guided Coast to a 584-333 record and 23 postseason appearances over his 29-year Pirate coaching career (1989-2018). The list of amazing seasons is almost too many to mention in this story, but if there is a word that best describes Thornton and his teams it is consistency. Year in and year out, you could count on the Pirates to be at or near the top of the Orange Empire Conference standings and that is a testament to the hard work and dedication Mike put into his program.

"I first met Mike Thornton when he asked me to announce his games when he was hired at OCC in 1989," longtime OCC Foundation Director, Doug Bennett, said of Thornton. "I had only seen two OCC women's basketball games, but I immediately said yes. That was the beginning of a long friendship. There were many exciting wins and achievements mixed in with a few tough losses. Although it is great to celebrate and remember the wins, what I remember most about Mike was how much he cared about his own kids – Brian, Keith and Kelsey. He was always talking about their achievements and how much he was committed to the young women in his program. While OCC had quite a few players who went on to four-year success, Mike enjoyed

helping all of his student-athletes prepare for the next level regardless of whether or not they were a star or the last player on the bench."

Thornton's legacy was forever cemented by the California Community College Women's Basketball

Coaches Association (CCCWBCA) when they inducted Mike into their Hall of Fame in 2019. Four years later, Thornton was inducted into the Orange Coast College Athletics Hall of Fame.

"Mike was a legend, not just here at Orange Coast College, but throughout all of women's basketball throughout the state."

Among his many accomplishments during his time as the Pirates' head coach included:

- 23 postseason appearances in 29 years
- Two 30-win seasons
- Nine 25-win seasons
- 15 seasons with 20-or-more wins
- 23 seasons above .500
- 2002-03 CCCAA State Champions
- Three Final-Four appearances
- Five Elite-Eight appearances
- 16 All-State players
- More than 80 players continued their basketball careers at the four-year level
- Fifth-most wins in CCCAA Women's Basketball history
- One of only 13 head coaches with 500-or-more wins

"I never had the opportunity to play for coach Thornton, but my recruiting visit to OCC is definitely one I'll never forget," current OCC women's basketball coach, Sammy Doucette said. "Mike and I ended up building a relationship that lasted throughout the years. So much so that he advocated pretty hard for me to replace him when he retired. I am forever grateful to him for his belief in

THORNTON



me to follow in his footsteps. He laid the foundation at OCC and his legacy will always be remembered. It's truly inspiring how many lives he touched and the amount of people he brought together. He will be missed, but never forgotten."

Thornton began his coaching career at Santa Ana High School in 1970, where he was the varsity boys head coach for the Saints from 1973 to 1975. In 1975, Thornton moved to Marina High School, where he served as Steve Popovich's No. 1 assistant with the boys program until 1977. In 1980, Thornton was named the head girls' coach at Marina, where he won 147 games before coming to OCC in 1989. He did double duty coaching both the boys and girls from 1980 through 1987. He finished his last two years at Marina coaching only the girls' team in 1988 and '89.

After building one of the stronger girls' programs in Orange County at Marina HS, he left to take over as the head coach at OCC in 1989 and remained the head coach for the Pirates before retiring in the 2017-18 season. In his first year, he turned an 8-18 squad from the previous year into a 26-6 squad and the tradition of a consistent winning women's basketball program at OCC began.

"Coach Thornton was a great coach, and an even better man," former OCC player and current Santa Ana College women's basketball head coach, Flo Luppiani, said. "He was more than a coach to all of us. He was a leader, a mentor. Playing at OCC went further than just winning games. He built a program that focused on the people in it. I remember Coach always saying, 'When you become older and go on with your life, you will not remember the scores of the games, but you will remember the relationships you made.' That is very evident in the fact that after 30 years of playing together at Coast, many of us are still very close friends. Personally, he has been a staple in my life, and took the time to always help me as I moved through my coaching career."

More than 80 players who played for Thornton continued their basketball careers at four-year colleges and university across the country at schools such as UCLA, UCI, Cal State Fullerton, UNLV, the University of New Orleans, St. Mary's, Concordia University, Northern Colorado, Mercer and Cal State Bakersfield. An additional 80-plus student-athletes transferred to four-year colleges and universities but did not play basketball.

Thornton is survived by his wife, Dianne, his two sons, Brian and Keith, his daughter Kelsey, stepchildren Lisa Orosco Jette, Karla Orosco, Janine Orosco, Anthony Orosco, one grandchild and seven step-grandchildren.



Former **PIRATE** earns call-up to San Diego **PADRES**



While his pitching craft was never worked on as a member of the Orange Coast College baseball team, Pirate infielder-turned-pitcher David Morgan knows his new job title as Major League Baseball Pitcher would not have happened without his tenure at OCC.

After changing his skill set from hitting, fielding and baserunning over to pitching, Morgan has skyrocketed his way through the minor league baseball ranks and he was promoted from Double-A baseball to the Major Leagues for the San Diego Padres.

“When I got the phone call, I was on the road in Amarillo, Texas in my hotel room,” Morgan said of his call-up. “My manager Luke Montz called me and I assumed I was getting called up to Triple A. When he started talking, I immediately heard the tone in his voice and I could tell he was going to tell me something pretty special. When he told me I was going to the big leagues, I kind of blacked out. Knowing that I was going to get to go back home to San Diego and play at the stadium I grew up going to for the team I grew up a fan of, was more than just the dream for me.”

Playing for Coast for the 2019 state championship team and the 2021 Orange Empire Conference championship team (the 2020 season was canceled and no state playoffs in 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic), Morgan earned his spot on the field for basically everything EXCEPT for pitching.

“When he was at OCC, he played third base and

shortstop for us, but for three years I asked him to throw a bullpen,” OCC’s then-assistant coach (now head coach) Nate Johnson said of Morgan. “You could see his arm talent just playing catch or throwing the ball over to first. He had a cannon. For two years he said ‘no’ to a bullpen and his third year he threw one, but there weren’t many strikes so that was the end of his pitching career at OCC.”

Longtime OCC Sports Information Director, Tony Altobelli, had a similar story on Morgan. “I would watch him throw the baseball across the infield and you can tell that it was a next-level arm,” Altobelli said. “I remember before a game during batting practice I went up to David and asked him if he’d ever consider pitching for us. He smiled and said, ‘Toad, I might kill somebody if I tried to pitch.’ That was pretty much the end of that conversation.”

After a very successful career at Coast that saw Morgan bat .297 with 92 hits, 12 HR, 72 RBI and 71 runs scored, he moved on to Hope International University, where he added “pitcher” to his baseball resume. As an everyday starting infielder and a part-time reliever, the Padres saw his potential and signed him as a free agent after the 2022 MLB Draft.

This year, while playing for San Antonio at the Double-A level, Morgan was putting up incredible numbers throughout the early part of the season. In just 8 2/3 innings of work, Morgan had walked just one batter, while striking out 19, opening the eyes of the big league club, who promoted him after an injury opened up a spot on the Padres roster.



“The effect that **OCC** had on me **was life changing.**”

“David texted me Sunday morning at around 9 a.m. and told me he got the call up,” Johnson said. “Obviously I was super pumped for him. It’s always special when one of our guys makes it to the big leagues. I’m proud of David. Proud of the way he accepted and worked at his new role. To go from throwing minimal innings in college to the big leagues in just three years proves how he went about his business and worked at being the best pitcher he could be. Can’t wait to see how he continues to grow throughout his baseball career.”

While Morgan’s career has seen him make his travels throughout the country, it was his time at OCC which helped pave the way to his ultimate dream. Morgan’s first year with the Pirates saw him play a huge role on OCC’s state championship team in 2019, which happened to be the final year for longtime head coach John Altobelli, who died in January, 2020 in a helicopter crash involving Kobe Bryant and eight other people, including his wife Keri, and daughter, Alyssa.

“The effect that OCC had on me was life changing,” Morgan said. “All these years later, I still think about my time there almost every day and how grateful I am to have played for ‘Alto’ who was and still is one of the greatest people I’ve been blessed to play for. My time there was a rollercoaster. I was going through a lot mentally and when I showed up there, I had no idea the potential I had in this game. The whole coaching staff there helped me believe in myself and told me from day one that I had a very special talent that they don’t see often. I remember being the only freshman

in that every day starting line up and Alto pushing me no matter how well I was doing, to be a leader and be a selfless teammate. My favorite memory of being there had to be winning the state championship in 2019 and getting a state championship ring. That team was very special and I learned a lot about how to compete because of those guys. I remember hitting a two-out double in the 7th to put us in the lead in the championship game and looking in the dugout at my teammates going crazy. Alto didn’t show much emotion but I remember seeing him at the end of the dugout and he was fired up.”

“All my memories of playing for Alto always lead me back to how amazing of a person he was. He taught me so much and is truly still the biggest reason I work as hard as I do. I still say the quote in my head every day to myself that he would tell us ... ‘Make today the most important day of your life’ and I have lived by that ever since the first day he said that. I wouldn’t be where I am today if it weren’t for all the things he did for me. He put me on the radar to be seen by MLB organizations and gave me the courage to push through all of my failures along my journey to get to the big leagues. The craziest part about my call-up to the bigs, I decided to wear number 22 this year which was a special number for Alto, and the locker I was in for that road series, was locker #14. Every time I see that number, I ask myself if I’ve made him proud, and I think getting called up and being in front of that locker answered my question. I know he’s up there smiling... and probably very confused that I’m a pitcher now. But somehow it all makes sense.”

Explore Coast

Did you know you don't have to be a student to enjoy what Orange Coast College offers? From engaging art and science exhibits to entertainment and culinary experiences, OCC has something for everyone! Please take a moment to check out some of the attractions at OCC that are open to the public.



1. SEE THE STARS

Visit a galaxy far, far away at OCC's Planetarium! Catch a show in the Planetarium's state-of-the-art immersion theatre, or witness the Earth's rotation with OCC's Foucault Pendulum, the only one of its kind in Orange County! You can find OCC's Planetarium in the "Science Quad" near OCC's Library and parking lot E.

www.orangecoastcollege.edu/occpplanetarium

2. BARGAIN HUNT

As one of the best deals in town, OCC's Swap Meet is a hidden gem in Orange County. To find your way there, go to the northern corner of Orange Coast College's campus, just off Adams and Fairview, on any Saturday or Sunday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

www.orangecoastcollege.edu/swapmeet



3. CATCH A PERFORMANCE

Music, dance, and theater lovers will find their fix at OCC's Robert B. Moore Theatre or Drama Lab Studios. OCC's theatre program offers multiple performances each academic year. The Moore Theatre is located on the corner of Fairview and Merrimac Way, near parking lot C.

www.orangecoastcollege.edu/onstage

4. BRANCH OUT

OCC's not-so-secret Horticulture Garden is truly a wonder to behold. Plant enthusiasts will delight in seeing a wide variety of native and exotic plants in a beautiful and serene garden space that offers plenty of shady spots for relaxing. Visitors can also stop by the Aquaponics Lab to learn how OCC is producing 300 heads of lettuce with only 2 gallons of water a day, saving roughly 90% of water in the process. Find the gardens on the northwest side of campus, near the Adams parking lot.

www.orangecoastcollege.edu/horticulture

5. GET YOUR COFFEE FIX

If you can't function without your morning cup of brew, then you're in luck – there's a Starbucks Coffee shop located conveniently on campus! OCC's on-campus Starbucks is located adjacent to the OCC Library, near parking lot D.

www.orangecoastcollege.edu/occstarbucks

6. DIVE UNDERWATER

As one of the largest and most diverse student-run public aquariums in the country, OCC's Dennis Kelly Aquarium showcases learning in action. Here, students care for a wide variety of tropical corals, local sea stars, and many beautiful fish species.

www.orangecoastcollege.edu/aquarium

7. APPRECIATE ART

From airplanes made entirely of cardboard to installations of shattered glass representing the cosmos, OCC's Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion ("The Doyle") invites visitors to stretch their curious minds and to embrace new and different ideas, people and places. Find The Doyle next to OCC's Starbucks, near parking lot D.

www.orangecoastcollege.edu/doylearts

8. GRAB A BITE

Gourmet Foodie Alert! OCC's Captain's Table offers a four-course gourmet dining experience for a fraction of the cost of fine-dining restaurants. The Captain's Table is a learning lab staffed by OCC's culinary and hospitality students, with servings for dinner on select Thursdays during the academic school year. Reservations fill up fast, so make yours at the beginning of each semester by calling (714) 432-5876, ext. 22.

www.orangecoastcollege.edu/thecaptainstable

9. CELEBRATE THE CHAMPS

The championship tradition of OCC athletics has been etched by past athletes and carried on by future athletes. With over 100 state and national championships, OCC continues its journey towards its eighth decade; the Pirate athletic program is bigger and better than ever. Catch a game and cheer the Pirates on to victory!

www.occpirateathletics.com



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The Orange Coast College Alumni & Friends Association connects alumni to the College, to the community and to one another. The best part? It's easy to join! You are eligible to join the Alumni and Friends if you ever took a single class at OCC. Membership is a great way to keep in touch with OCC and fellow Pirates. Alumni Association members not only receive great resources, they also support current students through the annual Alumni and Friends Scholarship.

Annual memberships are FREE! Once you sign up you will start to receive exclusive Alumni & Friends benefits, including access to OCC's brand new computer lab, Library privileges, invitations to special events on campus, discounted movie tickets, and access to OCC's Career Center.

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