



U.S. Dept. of Transportation Redesignates OCC Waterfront Campus a 2024 "Center of Excellence"

Orange Coast College has been named one of 32 Centers of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education (CoE) for 2024 by the United States Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration (MARAD). OCC is one of three institutions in California to receive this designation in 2024 and was one of MARAD's inaugural CoE in 2021.

"These programs continue to be the standard of excellence in maritime training and education," says OCC President Angelica Suarez. "The CoE redesignation recognizes OCC's tremendous value in preparing students for careers in the nation's vital maritime industry."

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

CoE designations assist the maritime industry in obtaining and maintaining the highest quality workforce. The designation recognizes and promotes support for post-secondary maritime training programs that prepare students for careers in the marine industry.

"We're looking forward to this continued partnership with MARAD," says OCC Waterfront Campus Manager Greg Wisener. "OCC's professional mariner program continues to grow and evolve with enhanced facilities to prepare students for successful private or commercial vessel operations careers."

OCC Celebrates Women's History Month

Orange Coast College will celebrate Women's History Month throughout March with planned events, which honors this year's National Women's History Alliance theme, "Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion."

At Coast, exceptional female leaders are breaking down barriers to success and trailblazing a path for future generations of leaders. This March, OCC will share their remarkable stories as spotlights on social media.

OCC's Women's History Month celebration will commence with CLEEO Project Presents: "A Cross-Cultural Journey of Tolerance, Acceptance, and Love" on March 5 from 5 until 7 p.m. in the CLEEO Project Center (GEC 109). It will be followed by Voices of Women: Open Mic on March 14 from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. in the Multicultural Center. The International Multicultural Committee will host the open mic in collaboration with the OCC Poetry Club. The campus community is invited to perform at the open mic.

Lastly, the Multicultural Center will host Teach-In: Feminism on Wednesday, March 20, from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. at the Multicultural Center.



Calendar

- Now-March 21 - "Roger Whitridge: Order and Chaos" & "Monroe Isenberg: nowhere is here," Mon.-Thurs., 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion. Free admission.
- March 5 - CLEEO Project Presents: "A Cross Cultural Journey of Tolerance, Acceptance, and Love," 5-7 p.m., CLEEO Project Center (GEC Room 109)
- March 9 - Women's Basketball: Southern California Regional Finals, 7 p.m.
- March 10 - Mesa Dance Festival, 7 p.m., Robert B Moore Theatre
- March 12-13 - Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour, 7 p.m., Robert B. Moore Theatre
- March 14 - WHM Event: Voices of Women: Open Mic, 5:30 p.m., Multicultural Center
- March 15-17 - "Born Yesterday," 7:30 p.m., Drama Lab Theatre
- March 20 - WHM Event: Feminism Teach-In, 5:30 p.m., Multicultural Center
- March 22 & 23 - "Born Yesterday," 7:30 p.m., Drama Lab Theatre
- March 22 - Swimming - Orange Empire Conference Meet, 9 a.m.
- March 23 - Women's Crew: Berg Cup, 7 a.m., Newport Harbor
- March 24 - Men's Crew: Newport Regatta, 7 a.m., Newport Harbor
- March 24 - "Born Yesterday," 2:30 p.m., Drama Lab Theatre
- April 4 - Pirate's Plank, 6:45 p.m., Robert B. Moore Theatre
- April 6 - OCC Night at Angels Stadium, 6:38 p.m.



OCC Launches MESA Program to Support Underserved STEM Students

Orange Coast College received a \$1.6 million grant from the state Chancellor's Office for the creation of a MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement) program.

Theresa De Los Santos, who has served as a classified professional at OCC in both Instruction and Student Services, was appointed OCC MESA Director on February 12. She will lead the implementation of the MESA program and develop programming to support student retention. By the Fall semester, De Los Santos hopes to have student cohorts who will have access to workshops, guided review sessions, and academic counseling, all with a STEM-centered focus in mind.

Historically, OCC supported STEM students through the OCC STEM Academy, but that program phased out at the end of 2023 as the Federal Title V grant ended. OCC's MESA program is different in that it zeroes in on providing support to STEM students from underserved and underrepresented students to eliminate equity gaps. To qualify for the MESA program, students must be calculus-based STEM majors, be first-generation, and have demonstrated financial need.

MESA students will have access to the MESA Center located in the C&L Building to support the growing MESA student community. The MESA Center will undergo renovations later this Spring semester to make it more welcoming and inviting for students. The OCC Foundation will fund the renovation.

OCC's MESA program will host an Open House on Tuesday, April 30, at 5 p.m. in conjunction with Discover OCC, an annual event that invites prospective students to campus to learn more about the College. Prospective students will have the opportunity to express interest in joining OCC's MESA program during the Open House.

OCC Umoja Hosted Civil Rights Icon Bettie Mae Fikes for Black History Month Celebration

Celebrated Civil Rights icon Bettie Mae Fikes shared her story on Feb. 14 with an eager Orange Coast College audience

of students, classified professionals, and faculty. As she moved seamlessly between spoken word and song, her buttery, graveled voice revealed a generation's complicated history and pain. "When I sing all these songs, I go back to all this history." She recounted her stories as a little girl living in a world where the grownups protected her from injustice to the seemingly overnight troubles that erupted during the 1960s civil rights movement in Selma, Alabama. "Montgomery to Selma - I wish you would have been there so you can feel what I'm talking about."

Dubbed "the voice of Selma," Fikes was a core member of the SNCC Freedom Singers and has performed on the stages of Carnegie Hall, the Newport Jazz Festival, and the Library of Congress. She is a recipient of the Long Walk to Freedom Award.



She has recently been inducted into the Smithsonian Institute's 'Museum of Tolerance' in an exhibition honoring women of the Civil Rights. Her speeches about diversity and civil rights are universal, timely, and transgenerational.

"Who would have thought?" Fikes said. "I traveled this country - People who didn't speak English understood these songs - touching someone's heart."

"Stories, Songs, and Reflections with Ms. Fikes" was one of the many 2024 Black History Month celebrations hosted by Umoja with the message "Honoring our past and embracing our now."

"We have a campus full of excited students, and we will continue to have these conversations. It is part of who we are every day," OCC President Anjelica Suarez said. "The takeaway is to learn your history because it informs our today and shapes our future."

ASOCC President Madison Harris Featured in CCC System Podcast

ASOCC President Madison Harris was a guest on the second episode of the California Community Colleges ICanGoToCollege.com (I CAN) campaign new podcast - EDUCATE. ELEVATE. The podcast debuted earlier this year and is geared toward inspiring Black and African American current and prospective students to embark on a transformative, affordable, high-quality educational journey that includes comprehensive support services such as financial aid, housing, flexible schedules, childcare, food pantries, transportation, and more.



Harris shared her experience as a Black student at Orange Coast College. She credits the College for providing her with the tools she needs to succeed and exposing her to many leadership opportunities. Harris also serves as the Region VIII Legislative Affairs Director for the Student Senate for California Community Colleges.

This Spring, Harris will transfer to a four-year university with the hope of attending law school to become a patent lawyer. She is thankful for student support programs like Umoja that allow students to be in the community.

EDUCATE. ELEVATE. It is part of an expansive campaign promoting how California's community colleges empower the next generation of Black leaders and difference-makers. The podcast is available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, iHeart, and Podbean.

OCC Partners with Anaheim Ducks for Annual First Flight Field Trip



Nearly 15,000 elementary school students made the field trip to the Honda Center for the annual Anaheim Ducks First Flight Field Trip, which introduces young students to the science of hockey. Anaheim Duck players practiced in front of the students and then put on a teaching clinic for this year's theme of "Build a Better Puck."

Orange Coast College was a proud event sponsor and created the student-designed pucks with their 3D printing machine. More than

120 "Build a Better Puck" designs were submitted, and OCC's Manufacturing Technology program brought three students' puck designs to life through 3D printing.

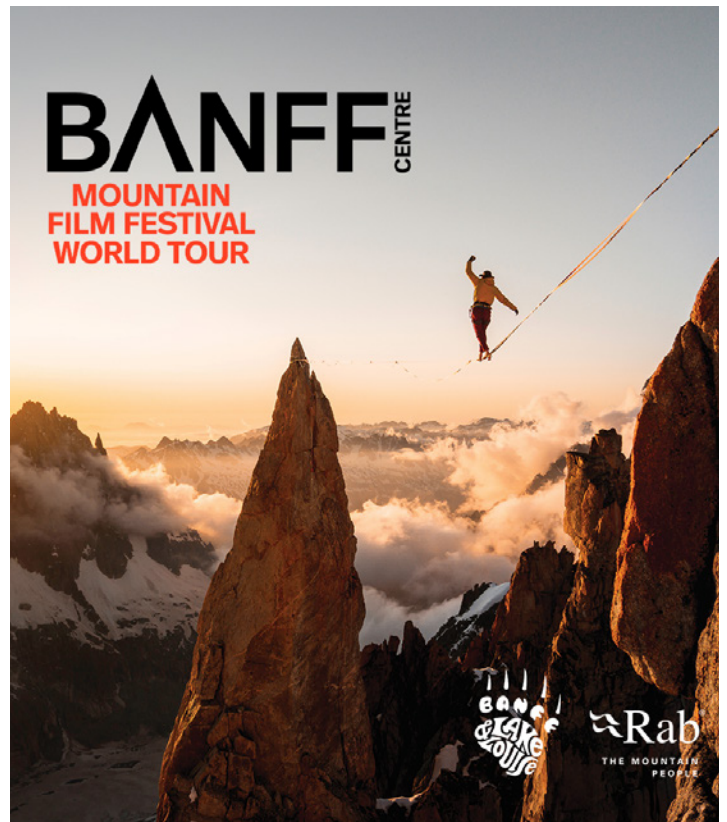
Banff Film Festival Returns to OCC March 12 & 13

The Orange Coast College Friends of the Library (FOTL) will host a Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour screening on March 12 and 13 in the Robert B. Moore Theatre. The event will begin at 7 p.m. and feature an international selection of films presenting various outdoor adventures and portraits, including climbing, mountain expeditions, remote cultures, and the world's last great wild places. Each night will offer a different selection of films.

The Banff Mountain Film Festival is a flagship program of the Banff Centre in Canada. The festival began more than 35 years ago as a one-day event featuring films about mountain climbing and has grown into a nine-day event with more than 840 screenings throughout the year.

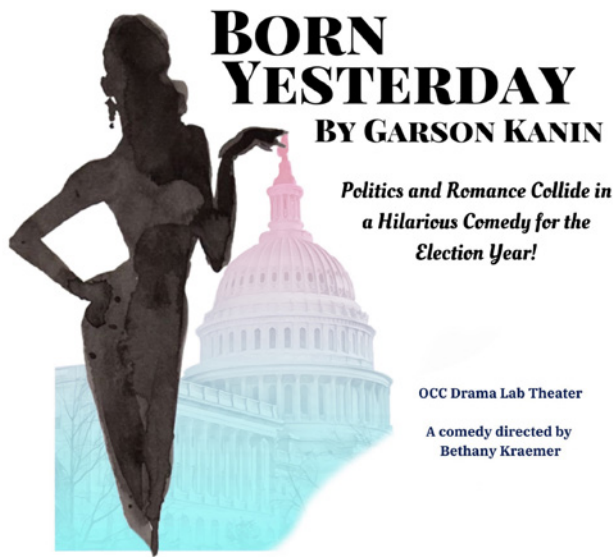
Advance tickets can be purchased for \$16 or \$20 on the screening day. Tickets for current OCC students with ID are only \$10. Tickets are only available to buy online now at OCC Tickets.

For general information, email cmorgan@occ.cccd.edu or call (714) 432-0202 x21058. Free parking will be available in Lots C and D near the Robert B. Moore Theatre. All proceeds will benefit OCC Friends of the Library.



OCC Theatre Department Presents "Born Yesterday" March 15-24

Orange Coast College's Theatre Department will stage "Born Yesterday," a faculty-directed mainstage production, from March 15 through 24 in the Drama Lab Theatre. Bethany Kraemer will direct the production.



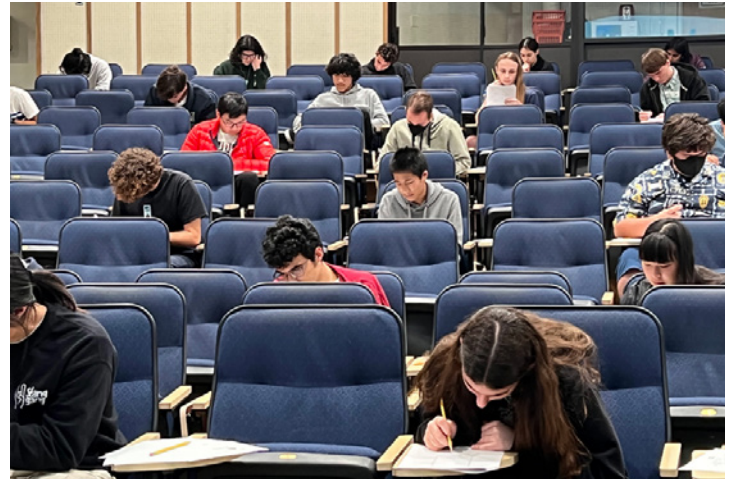
"Born Yesterday" is a play written by Garson Kanin that centers around American politics in this classic romantic comedy. Shady businessman Harry Brock heads to Washington with his ex-showgirl girlfriend Billie Dawn to shift the law to his side. Finding Billie's social skills and ignorance of politics an embarrassment, Brock hires a local writer to teach her some basics. Billie proves a quick study, and as she learns American history, her eyes are opened to how politics is played. It is a hilarious and timely send-up of politics and perceptions.

Advance tickets are available for \$12 for general admission and \$8 for students and seniors. Tickets at the door are \$15 for general admission and \$10 for students and seniors. All tickets must be purchased online at OCC Tickets.

OCC Hosts Annual Math Meet Competition for High School Students

Orange Coast College will host Math Meet, an annual mathematics competition for high school students, on March 15 at 3 p.m. in the Giles T. Brown Forum. This friendly competition allows high school students to demonstrate their math skills, win prizes, meet others who excel in the discipline, and learn about math and science programs at OCC.

Each high school enters a team of four members and an optional alternate (a fifth member). A faculty sponsor must



accompany each team. These are generic math questions based on various high school-level mathematics topics, including calculus. No calculators are allowed during the exam. There will be both individual and team winners.

Awards and prizes will be presented during a dinner immediately following the competition.



6th Annual Pirate's Plank Competition Set for April 4

The 6th annual Pirate's Plank business pitch competition will be held on April 4 at 6:45 p.m. in the Robert B. Moore Theatre. Pirate's Plank encourages OCC students to solve problems and inspires their entrepreneurial spirit. Like ABC's Shark Tank show, OCC students will present their business ideas to a panel of judges who are three local business leaders and owners.

The judges will listen to the presentation and ask questions regarding the product's viability in the marketplace. The judges will also offer advice on improving their solutions and presentations.

Two presenters will be selected as "Most Likely to Succeed" and "Most Innovative." The two winners will also receive a cash prize of \$700 each. The event is open to the public, and admission is free.