



Calendar

- **Now-Nov. 21** – “The Pleasure of My Company,” Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion
- **Now-Nov. 21** – “Adrienne Devine: Amalgamation - The Art,” Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion
- **Oct. 1-31** – LGBTQIA+ History Month
- **Oct. 2** – Health and Wellness event sponsored by CalOptima Health, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Main Quad
- **Oct. 3** – Aviation Science Open House, 5 p.m., Technology Annex
- **Oct. 4** – Community Science Night, 5 p.m., Planetarium & surrounding buildings
- **Oct. 5** – OCC Symphony presents “A Halloween Haunt,” 7:30 p.m., Robert B Moore Theatre
- **Oct. 8** – CLEEO Project Summit 17.0 “Unseen/Lo Que No Se Ve” Film Screening, 5-7 p.m., CLEEO Project Center, GEC 109
- **Oct. 9** – Paletas with the President, Noon-1 p.m., Main Quad
- **Oct. 14-18** – Undocumented Student Action Week
- **Oct. 15** – CLEEO Project Summit 17.0 Mariachi Presentation, 6-7:30 p.m., Multicultural Center
- **Oct. 17** – Great ShakeOut, 10:17 a.m., the District and all campuses will participate in a coordinated effort to evacuate all district and campus buildings to designated evacuation zones
- **Oct. 18-20** – OCC Repertory Theatre production of “Dracula: Sabbat,” 7:30 p.m., Drama Lab Studio
- **Oct. 22 & 23** – Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Library
- **Oct. 24 & 25** – Faculty Dance Concert, 7:30 p.m., Robert B. Moore Theatre

OCC’s 25th Annual Community Science Night Returns Oct. 4

Orange Coast College will welcome thousands of elementary and middle school students to campus for the 25th annual Community Science Night on Friday, October 4, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Science Night is a signature event for OCC, with faculty showing off their programs with interactive, hands-on experiments and experiences. Participating departments include chemistry, marine science, astronomy, geology, engineering, health science, biology, and many more. Activities will be available in nine buildings and various outdoor spaces.

“We want to welcome our community families to experience a night of fun, educational, and science-focused activities and experiences.” says OCC Interim Dean of Math and Sciences Tyler Boogar. “We can’t wait for you to join us!”

Attendees are invited to explore the OCC campus, including the Dennis Kelly Aquarium, Planetarium, and Horticulture Gardens. Popular and unique activities include the touch tank at the Aquarium and tours of the Aquaponics Lab. Additionally, OCC’s Telescope Farm will have several telescopes available for visitors to gaze at the night sky.

The event is free to the general public and attendees will receive a free hot dog while supplies last.



Orange Coast College Welcomed Hundreds to Orange County Children’s Book Festival

Orange Coast College welcomed the community to join in celebrating the 21st annual Orange County Children’s Book Festival on Sunday, September 22.

Guests participated in fun, family-friendly activities such as storytelling, conversations with the featured authors, book signings, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) activity area, face painting, train rides, bounce house, and photo opportunities with popular sci-fi characters.

The OCCBF’s 2024 special guest authors included cartoonist and teacher Gene Luen Yang, #1 New York Times-bestselling author of middle-grade novels Jasmine Warga, Newbery Medal-winning author Cynthia Kadohata, and actress and producer Austin Highsmith Garces.

Harry Shum Jr. and Shelby Rabara were a last minute addition to the lineup of main stage authors. During the event, they read their book “Martee Dares to Dance” and held a book signing.

Orange Coast College Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

Orange Coast College, a Hispanic-Serving Institution, will celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by bringing together the campus community to celebrate and learn about Hispanic and Latinx culture and provide a space to amplify Latinx voices through a series of planned events.

National Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs from Sept. 15-Oct. 15, celebrates the cultures and contributions of Hispanic and Latinx people. The celebration at OCC started with a kick-off event on Monday, Sept. 16 in the Multicultural Center.

OCC’s Counseling for Latinos for Equity and Engagement (CLEEO) Project will host its 17th annual summit in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month. The first presentation, titled “Toward Our Liberation & Healing: The Role of a Chicana Indigenous Psychology,” will be led by Dr. Manuel X. Zamarripa on Tuesday, Sept. 24, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the CLEEO Project Center, GEC 109.

CLEEO Project’s Summit 17.0 will continue with a presentation by Dr. Manuel Vargas, professor of philosophy at UC San Diego. His presentation titled “The Living Legacy of Mexican Philosophy” will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 1, from 11:10 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. in the CLEEO Project Center, GEC 109.

Hispanic Heritage Month celebration activities will conclude with "Paletas with the President" on Wednesday, October 9, from noon to 1 p.m. in the Main Quad.



OCC Hosts Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration

Last month, Orange Coast College hosted a Mid-Autumn Festival celebration featuring delectable mooncake and tea tasting, intricate origami crafting, and an exciting lion dance performance. The Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as the Moon Festival, is a harvest festival celebrated in Chinese culture. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about the festival's folklore and how mooncakes are made.

OCC Symphony Presents Medley of Popular Halloween Music

The Orange Coast College Symphony will present "A Halloween Haunt" featuring spooky symphonic music for its annual fall showcase on Saturday, October 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the Robert B. Moore Theatre.

OCC Symphony Conductor Dr. Mathew Ward will lead musicians in the program complete with Halloween favorites, beginning with "Masquerade Suite: Waltz"

written by Aram Khachaturian. The popular piece has been described as spooky, haunting, dark and Halloweeny.

Next, the symphony will perform "Danse macabre" and the "Carnival of the Animals" written by French composer Camille Saint-Saens. The program will conclude with works by Modest Mussorgsky, including "Night on Bald Mountain."

"Even if people don't know the pieces by name, the program is just exciting music everyone is familiar with either from Disney's Fantasia or candy commercials and is worth experiencing in person," says Dr. Mathew Ward.

The OCC Symphony is composed of OCC students and community members.

Tickets are available for purchase online at OCC Tickets for \$10 for OCC students and \$15 for general admission. Parking is available in Lots C and D near the Robert B. Moore Theatre.



OCC's Aviation Science Program Unveils Renovated Space

OCC's Aviation Science program will host an open house on Thursday, Oct. 3, from 5 to 7 p.m. in Technology Annex. The open house will include an industry panel, slated to start at 6 p.m., flight simulator demos, UAV display and program discussion, and information about the SIU B.S. in Aviation Management transfer program. Light appetizers and refreshments will be served.

Recently, the Technology Annex, where the Aviation Science program is housed, underwent a major renovation to make it more inviting and welcoming to students, including new wall graphics that immerse students in an engaging, learning environment.

The Aviation Science Open House is open to the public.



OCC Celebrates LGBTQIA+ History Month

Orange Coast College joins the celebration of the history and achievements of the LGBTQIA+ community for National LGBTQIA+ History Month. Various events are scheduled throughout the month for students to find community and connect in safe and inclusive spaces.

LGBTQIA+ History Month at OCC kicked off today with a Queerstory Month Resource Fair at the OCC Main Quad hosted by Pride Scholars. Free lunch and tarot readings were provided, in addition to on- and off-campus LGBTQIA+ resources.

A complete listing of events is available on the Pride Scholars website.

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 will receive 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 benefitting 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.

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.

