



Calendar

Now-Nov. 20

"Split Ends," Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion

Now-Nov. 20

"Within the Chaparral," Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion

Nov. 6

Veterans Day Event, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Main Quad & Student Union 101

Nov. 6 & 7

Fall Dance Concert, 7:30 p.m.,
Robert B. Moore Theatre

Nov. 7

Skylark Speaker Series - JoAnn M. Dickinson,
6 p.m., OCC Planetarium

Nov. 7-9

"Inherit the Wind," 7:30 p.m., Drama Lab Theatre

Nov. 14 & 15

"Inherit the Wind," 7:30 p.m., Drama Lab Theatre

Nov. 15

Fall Choral-Vocal Showcase, 7:30 p.m.,
Robert B. Moore Theatre

Nov. 16

Holst and Vaughan Williams, 3 p.m.,
Robert B. Moore Theatre

Nov. 25

Joyful Pops, 7:30 p.m., Music Recital Hall (Music 102)

DEC. 2

Giving Tuesday

DEC. 2

Rocketry Science Open House, 5 p.m., Technology
Annex, Technology 185

DEC. 5 & 6

Holiday Ceramic Sale, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Art Center,
Room 113

DEC. 5 & 6

**An Old-Fashioned Christmas Melodrama & Ice
Cream Social,** 7 p.m., Drama Lab Theatre

DEC. 6 & 7

**An Old-Fashioned Christmas Melodrama & Ice
Cream Social,** 2:30 p.m., Drama Lab Theatre

DEC. 7

Fall 2025 Guitar Showcase Featuring AcroStrum,
3 p.m., Robert B. Moore Theatre

DEC. 8

Commercial Music Concert, 7:30 p.m.,
Robert B. Moore Theatre



Orange Coast College Alumnus Chief Dan Stefano Honored with Statewide Alumni Award

Orange Coast College alumnus Chief Dan Stefano has been named a recipient of the 2025 California Community College Distinguished Alumni Award by the Community College League of California. This esteemed statewide honor recognizes former community college students who have achieved outstanding success in their chosen fields while demonstrating exceptional service to their communities.

"This is an incredibly humbling honor on so many levels," said Chief Dan Stefano. "Orange Coast College played a crucial role in my personal and professional journey, both academically and athletically (football). It served as a vital launching pad for my career in service and my graduate studies at CSULB and USC. My approach has always been guided by a team and family environment, with faith at the core. This recognition is truly about those who have been a valued part of my journey through each chapter along the way. It reflects the shared mission of OCC and

all community colleges to open doors, uplift students, and help them discover what's possible."

Chief Stefano was jointly nominated by Orange Coast College and Santa Ana College, both of which played pivotal roles in shaping his educational journey. He earned his Associate Degree in General Education from Orange Coast College, which provided the foundation for his continued studies, and later completed his Associate Degree in Fire Technology and graduated from the Fire Academy at Santa Ana College. Now serving as

Fire Chief for the City of Costa Mesa, Chief Stefano embodies the values of humility, leadership, and service that define the community college experience. His professional journey reflects the power of community college education to shape transformative leaders whose impact extends far beyond the classroom.

With an impressive career spanning more than three decades, Chief Stefano has served in every rank of the fire service – from reserve firefighter to Fire Chief – and has earned distinction as one of the most respected leaders in public safety in California. He has served as President of the California Fire Chiefs Association, the Orange County Fire Chiefs Association, and the League of California Cities Fire Chiefs Department. He is among only 32 individuals in California history to earn the Certified Fire Chief designation.

"As an alumnus, Dan continues to be a shining example of leadership and service – a true asset to the community whose commitment uplifts others and reflects the very best of what it means to give back with purpose and heart," says OCC Foundation Board Chair Jeff Hyder.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Chief Stefano's dedication to education and mentorship has been a defining feature of his legacy. He serves on Orange Coast College Foundation Board of Directors, furthering illustrating his dedication to shaping future generations.

"Chief Stefano's story is a testament to the transformational impact of a community college education," says Dr. Angelica L. Suarez, President of Orange Coast College.

Chief Stefano will be formally honored at the 2025 Annual Convention of the Community College League of California on Friday, November 21, 2025, at the Hyatt Regency Orange County in Garden Grove. To learn more about the Distinguished Alumni Awards, visit the CCLC website.

Orange Coast College Student Filmmakers Shine 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 (NBFF) on October 19 at Triangle Cinemas in Costa Mesa.

The annual showcase, known as "OCC Shorts," features short films produced entirely by OCC film and television students. This marks the 22nd year that OCC has participated in the

Newport Beach Film Festival, where it was the first college to present films. This year, six colleges and universities were represented, including OCC.

"I am very proud of the wide-ranging shorts and their diverse subjects," says Film and TV Professor Erik Forssell. "This year's selections seem to be 'longer' short films, and there was a higher completion on project rate than normal."

To support their creative endeavors, the Film and TV Department provides students with state-of-the-art equipment, 6K cameras, studio spaces and the TV studio. Students also have access to lighting, sound gear, and editing labs and suites.

Twelve 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 range in length from 3 to 25 minutes and include titles such as "The Mentor," "Intrepid Ink," "Polar Minds," "Bea's Shell," "No Sound but the Sea," "Downtime," "N.E.E.T.," "Dark Spaces," "Champagne Problems," "Ch. 03," "Imagine That," and "Witness." The directors of these films are Weston Swadling, Shannon Boler, Elijah Aceves, Chris Mungecho, Hugh Foster, Tanner Shelton, Alex Morper, Ellen Asquith, Avery Beck, Hannah Martin, Eddie Iniestra, and Luke Blackburn.



"For our first time this year, NBFF has allowed OCC to have two short program blocks as opposed to the standard one," explains Forssell. "I think that is special and speaks to our long-standing relationship between OCC and NBFF."

OCC Horticulture Gears Up for Marigold Sale Just in Time for Día de Muertos



Orange Coast College's Horticulture Department hosted its third annual Marigold Sale on the last two Fridays in October. The event led up to Día de Muertos, a cherished holiday dedicated to honoring and remembering loved ones who have passed away.

The Horticulture Department at OCC is renowned for its annual plant sales, typically held each semester. For this marigold sale, the department had face painting and an ofrenda to honor loved ones who have passed on.



Día de Muertos, celebrated annually on November 1 and 2, holds cultural significance throughout Mexico and Latin America. The marigold flower, known as cempasúchil, is traditionally used to decorate ofrendas (altars), providing a vibrant tribute to those who have departed.

OCC Theatre Dept. Stages Production of 'Inherit the Wind' Starting Nov. 7

The Orange Coast College Theatre Department will present its upcoming production of the classic American drama "Inherit the Wind" at the Drama Lab Theatre this November. This faculty-directed mainstage production, part of the OCC Theatre for Social Justice series, promises to captivate audiences with its thought-provoking themes and compelling storytelling.

Directed by Wyn Moreno, performances will be held from Nov. 7-16, with shows scheduled for Friday through Sunday at 7:30 p.m. The final performance on Sunday, Nov. 16, will be a matinee at 2:30 p.m.

Written by Jerome Lawrence and R.E. Lee, "Inherit the Wind" is a play inspired by the real-life Scopes Trial of 1925, in which a teacher named John Thomas Scopes was prosecuted for teaching evolution. As a media circus descends upon a small American town, two of the largest figures of their time engage in a battle of wits and wills to ensure that justice is served, in the process charting the course of education for generations. This powerful courtroom drama has become an international phenomenon and was later adapted into an Oscar-nominated film.

"This play may be set in another time, but its questions are the ones we're still asking today, about truth, education, and who gets to decide what we believe," says Director and OCC Theatre Arts Instructor Wyn Moreno. "It's a story that holds up a mirror to America right now."

Tickets are available online only at OCC Tickets. General admission is \$15, while tickets for students and seniors are available for \$10.

OCC Marketing & PR Department Wins 14 Regional NCMPR Awards

Orange Coast College's Marketing and Public Relations Department won 14 Medallion Awards at the National Council of Marketing and Public Relations District 6 annual conference and awards ceremony held on October 23 in Las Vegas Nevada.

The Medallion Awards recognize outstanding communication achievement at community and technical colleges throughout the U.S. OCC is part of the NCMPR's District 6, which includes Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Utah, and areas around Guam.



Coast received three gold, eight silver, and three bronze awards for creative work produced during the 2024-2025 academic year. The College was recognized for excellence in graphic design, internal communications, social media, photography and writing.

OCC won gold awards for the 2024 OCC Magazine, the 2025 Sailing and Seamanship Schedule, and the College's internal newsletter, "Coast to Coast."

Additionally, OCC nabbed silver awards for the 2024 OCC Foundation Annual Report, OCC Career Guide, the OCC Planetarium Grand Re-Opening Flyer, Foundation Thank You Cards, the OCC Instagram account, a photo of the Softball Champions, the Grad Fair Banner, and an article in the OCC Magazine titled "Power Up: Pete the Pirate Gets Pixelated."

The College also took home three bronze awards in the "Flyer," "Brochure" and "E-Publications" categories for its Sponsor-A-Chair brochure, Financial Aid Awareness Resource Flyer and the OCC Career Guide.

"I'm incredibly proud of our marketing and communications team for earning 14 Medallion Awards from NCMPR District 6," says OCC Marketing and Public Relations Director Juan Gutierrez. "These honors represent the creativity, collaboration, and heart that go into sharing the Orange Coast College story. Every campaign, photo, and publication reflect our commitment to celebrating our students, faculty, and community – and it's an amazing to see that work recognized."

OCC Participating in Giving Tuesday this Holiday Season

The Orange Coast College Foundation is participating in this year's Giving Tuesday on December 2. This will mark the tenth year that the College participates in Giving Tuesday.

Giving Tuesday is an international effort to inspire personal philanthropy and charitable giving during the holiday season.

Largely fueled by social media, the event takes place on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving and widely recognized retail events like Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Giving Tuesday kicks off the charitable season, when many people participate in end-of-year giving.

Last Chance to View Two New Exhibitions at the Doyle Arts Pavilion

The Doyle Arts Pavilion unveiled two concurrent exhibitions, "Split Ends" and "Within the Chaparral." Both exhibitions will be on display at The Doyle until Nov. 20. Admission is free for all exhibitions.

"Split Ends" is a boldly woven, multi-generational fiber art exhibition that captures current threads in transformation and disruption. The gallery morphs into a space for play—where thread, burlap, yarn, fabric, and unexpected found elements are transmuted into stretched and sculptural narratives that challenge convention. The title "Split Ends" is both a pun and poetic marker: the splitting of fibers, the fraying of lineage, the stretching of generational threads into surprising new forms. Whether within the frame or outside of it, the show highlights the bonds across Southern California artists in the medium.

"Within the Chaparral" features recent work by artist Juan Gomez. Gomez is an alumnus of Orange Coast College (2006) and maintains strong ties to the region: from his studio in Santa Ana to curation and community-building. The assemblage sculptures and installations of Gomez draw reference to his cultural roots, transforming recognizable objects (like zip-ties and playing cards) into weathered forms that appear like organs and plants. For the Frank M. Doyle's Arts Pavilion's Project Gallery, Gomez's installation evolves the white walls into a living space open to age.

Learn more about the exhibitions at the Doyle Arts Pavilion website.

