



## Calendar

### DEC. 12 & 13

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

### DEC. 13 & 14

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

### DEC. 13

An Evening with Broadway, 7:30 p.m., Robert B. Moore Theatre

### DEC. 19-JAN. 1

Winter Break - Campus Closed

### JAN. 5

Winter 2026 Classes Begin



## Pirates Capture First-Ever State Title!

The Orange Coast College women's golf team overcame the wrath of Mother Nature, an elite field of golfers and a top-flight golf course to take first place overall at the 3C2A Women's Golf State Championship on Monday at the River Course at Alisal.

The championship, regularly scheduled as a two-day, 36-hole event, had to be shortened to just the opening 18 holes due to relentless rain that made the golf course unplayable.

The Pirates - women's golf champions for the first time in the history of Orange Coast College - won the title by way of a fifth-player card-off with a team score of 323, equaling the score set by Reedley College. Modesto Junior College finished one shot back of the Pirates and Tigers with a score of 324.

"As far as our girls were going into this event and knowing what the weather was supposed to be like...we came up here

prepared," OCC head coach Sean Collins said. "We've been a second-day team all season long, where we didn't come out strong early, but would come back the next day and end up winning our events. So this time, we really wanted to come out strong and they were prepared for the wind, they were prepared for the rain and they were prepared to win this tournament. Whether it was two rounds or one rounds... it didn't matter. We were prepared."

Day 2 saw 9:30 a.m. tee times delayed as an intense weather system made its way through the Solvang area. With talks of weather letting up a bit, every effort was made to resume play in some sort of fashion, but in the end, the course was deemed unplayable after three-plus days of rainfall. Once the tournament was stopped, another downpour ensued, confirming the right decision was made.

Rounding out the top team scores were College of the Canyons (344), Mt. San Antonio (352), Sierra (361), Santa Barbara (361), Napa (363) and Allan Hancock (368).

Low OCC golfer on Sunday, Sofia Ingle, earned the final All-State spot with her 6-over-par, 78. "I've been playing

competitive golf for nine years and to have something like this to share with friends that I've become so close to in such a short time, it means so much to me," Ingle said. "We know all of our hard work paid off."

The key to victory for the Pirates throughout this remarkable season has been the team's depth. From top to bottom, there have been golfers who have led the way, including Michelle Khin (opening-round 79), Sophie Thibodeau (82), Nalani Sam (84), Audrey Crinella (87) and Lilly Thurston (99). All of whom played pivotal roles in the team's success in 2025, going an incredible 27-1 this year heading into the postseason.

As for Collins and the OCC Pirates, history was made this weekend and the longtime coach couldn't be more proud of this team, a team that lost just once throughout the entire 2025 season on the way to an Orange Empire Conference championship, a first-ever Southern California Regional championship, and now, a 3C2A State Championship.

"This was a special group, that's for sure," Collins said. "They have the talent and the mindset that I would put up against some of my guy teams I've had in the past. They worked hard all year for this and I hope the lesson they take is that if you work hard and something great comes from that hard work, like a state title -- the first title in our school's history -- I hope it's something they'll remember for the rest of their lives. And for me to be the coach of all this ... it's really something special."

From a program that didn't exist for 10 years (2005-2014), Collins and the Pirates have been slowly working their way up. The 2022 Pirates made its way back to the State Championships for the first time since 1999 and after a fourth-place finish, the goals have risen to being the best program in the state.

The state championship is the 101st state championship in the history of Orange Coast College.

## OCC Awarded Nearly \$6 Million for Workforce Development & STEM Transfer Initiatives

Orange Coast College has been awarded nearly \$6 million as part of a multi-year investment from the Samueli Foundation, aimed at enhancing workforce development programs and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) transfer pathways. This funding supports OCC's mission to prepare students for high-demand careers and facilitate successful transitions from community colleges to four-year universities.



The investment will expand the existing workforce development initiatives and introduce new programs that focus on equipping students with critical job skills. By reinforcing its "career academy" model, OCC will enhance its Allied Health Academy and establish new trade and maritime academies. These programs are designed to raise awareness among students about diverse career opportunities while providing essential training for roles in vital industries, such as a healthcare and skilled trades.

"The Samueli Foundation's monumental investment in community colleges recognizes the vital role we play in uplifting communities and expanding opportunity through education," says Angelica L. Suarez, President of Orange Coast College. "This grant will enable Orange Coast College to strengthen a seamless STEM pipeline from high school to university, opening doors for future innovators. We are also proud to serve as a key partner in a four-institution regional partnership that amplifies our collective impact and builds stronger pathways for students to transfer and thrive in STEM fields. Together, we are advancing student success and the prosperity of our broader community."

In addition to workforce development, the Samueli Foundation's investment will bolster STEM transfer initiatives at OCC, empowering more students to transition successfully to four-year universities. As part of a collaborative effort involving community colleges in Orange County, this funding will focus on increasing the number of STEM students transferring to institutions such as Cal State Fullerton. By expanding access to research opportunities, mentorship, and internships, OCC aims to support students who may otherwise face financial barriers to completing their STEM degrees.

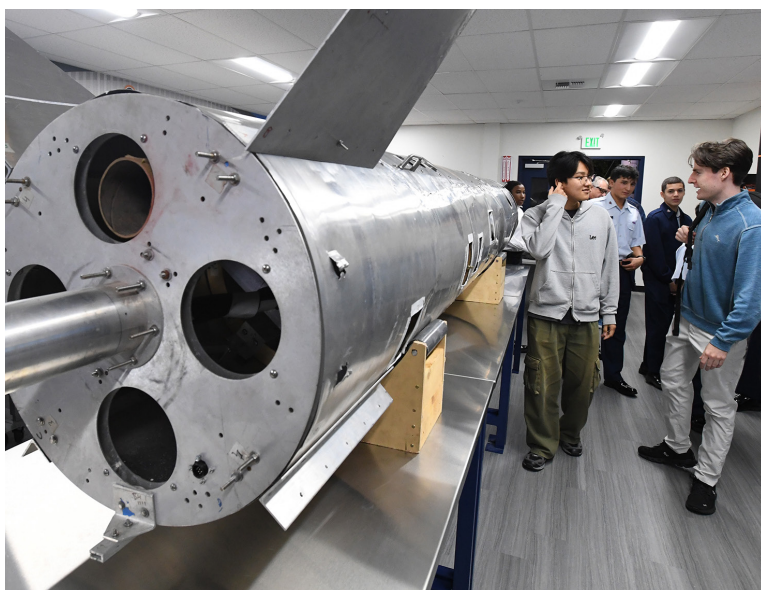
Orange Coast College has a rich history of supporting STEM student achievement through a STEM academy cohort program, on-campus student research program and dynamic learning spaces like the Planetarium, Chemistry Building and Aquaponics Lab. Orange Coast College will use the funding to launch its new STEM Accelerator program, which expands on proven, student-centered strategies, including



cohort-based STEM learning, intentional STEM support programming, a variety of experiential learning opportunities, expanded supports like Supplemental Instruction and faculty-led co-curricular activities, to improve success and build engagement in STEM as a career. This funding will provide expanded access to paid research opportunities, internships, peer mentoring, and STEM counseling to uplift STEM transfer and degree completion rates.

“Investing in STEM and broader educational attainment has always been a focus of the Samueli Foundation, given that math and engineering are at the heart of our founders’ personal stories of success. However, these investments broaden our historical approach and introduce a new set of essential partners. We have exceptional community colleges in Orange County—four of them have been recognized by the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program as among the top community colleges in the nation for student outcomes. These institutions are gateways to opportunity for diverse, often underserved students,” said Lindsey Spindle, president, Samueli Family Philanthropies. “By investing in colleges’ capacity and expanding student supports, we help strengthen pathways to high-demand, living-wage careers. We envision an Orange County where opportunity is more evenly distributed, allowing for even more young professionals to set roots and prosper here.”

The funding will not only enhance the educational infrastructure at Orange Coast College but also significantly impact the local economy by supporting the development of a knowledgeable workforce prepared to meet the needs of the industries in the region.



## Orange Coast College Unveils New Rocketry Science Program with Open House Event

Orange Coast College is excited to announce the launch of its innovative Rocketry Science program, a new addition to the Department of Aviation Sciences. The program, tentatively scheduled to offer formal courses in Fall 2026, focuses on providing students with hands-on experience in designing, constructing, testing, and launching both solid- and liquid-fueled rocket systems.

To kick off this new venture, OCC invited the community to the Rocketry Science Open House on December 2.

During the Open House, attendees had the opportunity to take guided tours of the Rocketry Science Laboratory and project workspaces, attend a presentation honoring visiting engineers from various Apollo missions, and view displays of student-built rocket hardware, including engines, recovery systems, and avionics modules.

The Rocketry Science program aims to bridge the gap between classroom theory and real-world aerospace practices, preparing students for careers in fields such as propulsion engineering, space flight operations, and aerospace manufacturing technology. The specialized curriculum includes courses in Solid Fuel Rocketry, Liquid Propulsion Systems, Rocket Design and Development, and a Capstone Flight Project.

The newly developed Rocketry Science Laboratory and classrooms at the Technology Annex will serve as a hub for propulsion testing, fabrication, and system integration, supporting instruction and fostering innovation in rocket design. The facility will not only benefit students but also contribute to faculty research, industry partnerships, and community outreach initiatives.

“We are thrilled to provide our students with a unique hands-on experience in rocketry and connect them with professionals in the field,” says Stanley Harriman, Aviation Sciences Program Coordinator and Professor. “This Open House is a wonderful opportunity for the community to explore the exciting world of aerospace education and innovation at OCC.”

## OCC Theatre Invites Families to Christmas Melodrama Dec. 5-14



Orange Coast College's Repertory Theatre Company will present "The Return of Peppermint Prince," an Old-Fashioned Christmas Melodrama and Ice Cream Social, from December 5 to 14 in the Drama Lab Theatre.

This family-friendly production invites audiences to boo the villain, cheer the hero and sing holiday songs. Guests will also enjoy a complimentary ice cream treat during intermission as part of this beloved OCC Theatre holiday tradition. This year's performance transports viewers to Sweetieville, where the evil villain, Simon Snodgrass D.D.S., attempts to ruin Christmas once more.

"The show is perfect for little ones and their families, and a very silly time will be had by all," says OCC Theatre Arts Department Co-Chair Cynthia Corley. "The show features songs, audience interaction, a Christmas carol sing-along, and even a children's joke contest. This production is an original work written for OCC and is directed and performed by students in our unique student-run theatre company."

Performances will take place on Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. matinees on Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets can be purchased for \$15 for general public, \$10 for students, senior citizens or military, and \$5 for children under 12. Tickets are sold online only at the OCC Tickets website.

Written by David Scaglione, "The Return of Peppermint Prince" promises to be a delightful holiday celebration filled with laughter, joy and community spirit. Guests can also look forward to a special visit from Santa Claus at the conclusion of each performance adding to the festive experience.

*Free parking is available in Lot C during performance times.*

## OCC's Giving Tuesday Raises \$274,500

More than \$250,000 was raised, with donations going to various programs supporting OCC students.

OCC's Foundation had \$86,500 in matching funds this year to support donors' efforts on Giving Tuesday. This year, first-time donors to the OCC Foundation were able to double their impact with a 1 to 1 match on their first gift of up to \$2,000. Additionally, all other gifts up to \$2,000 per person received a 50 cent to \$1 dollar match.



This was the tenth year that #GivingTuesday took place. The day 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.

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