



OCC Earns Eight-Year Accreditation Reaffirmation

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) has reaffirmed Orange Coast College for the full eight-year cycle, the maximum term granted by the Commission. The reaffirmation confirms that OCC meets ACCJC's high standards for academic quality, student support, institutional effectiveness, and continuous improvement.

Orange Coast College received reaffirmation, with ACCJC acknowledging OCC's exemplary performance through a commendation for its strong institutional planning processes and effective use of disaggregated data to advance student success.

Orange Coast College President Dr. Angelica Suarez said, "Accreditation is a college-wide effort, and this reaffirmation is a testament to the quality of our academic programs, student support services, institutional effectiveness, and commitment to continuous improvement."

Accreditation is a rigorous, peer-reviewed process that includes institutional self-evaluation, evidence-based review, and site visits conducted by teams of higher education professionals. Across OCC, faculty, classified professionals, managers, and administrators worked collaboratively to demonstrate the college's institutional quality and effectiveness.

Coast Crew Teams Bring Home National Titles, Podium Finishes

Orange Coast College's Men's and Women's Crew teams capped off an extraordinary 2026 season with national championships, medal-winning performances, and top finishes at the American Collegiate Rowing Association (ACRA) National Championships in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, further cementing OCC's reputation as one of the nation's premier collegiate rowing programs.

The Men's Crew delivered one of the finest seasons in program history. OCC's 2nd Freshman/Novice 8+ captured the ACRA National Championship, earning a gold medal, while the Varsity 8+ claimed the program's first-ever ACRA national bronze medal, finishing ahead of 28 collegiate crews. Remarkably, seven of the nine members of the Varsity 8+ boat were freshmen, underscoring the program's bright future. The Pirates' performances propelled OCC to a fourth-place overall national team finish.

The Women's Crew also enjoyed a historic championship regatta. OCC's Novice 4+ captured the ACRA National Championship, bringing home a gold medal after an outstanding performance on the national stage. The Pirates also recorded the program's best-ever finishes in eight-person boats at the ACRA Championships, demonstrating the continued growth and competitiveness of the women's

program. Throughout the season, the team earned victories at major regattas and continued its tradition of preparing student-athletes for successful transfers to NCAA rowing programs.

OCC Culinary Students Earn National Recognition



Orange Coast College Culinary Arts students showcased their talent, professionalism, and teamwork on the national stage this summer, earning a Silver Medal and a fourth-place overall finish at the American Culinary Federation (ACF) National Conference and Student Team Competition.

The impressive result reflects not only the team's culinary skill but also the strength of OCC's nationally recognized Culinary Arts program, which continues to prepare students for successful careers in one of the world's most dynamic industries.

For the 10 student competitors, however, the experience extended far beyond the competition kitchen.

Over six days, students immersed themselves in every aspect of the culinary profession while attending the ACF National Conference. They observed premier events including the Freedom Chefs Challenge, Chef of the Year, Pastry Chef of the Year, and the Knowledge Bowl competition. They also explored the conference's industry expo, connecting with food producers, equipment manufacturers, technology companies, growers, uniform suppliers, and culinary professionals from across the country.

Students participated in educational seminars covering a wide range of culinary topics, including pasta making, entremets, sustainable farming, and salmon smoking, while building relationships with fellow culinary students during networking events and the national student mixer.

Orange Coast College has long been recognized as one of the nation's premier culinary programs, and national competitions such as the ACF Student Team Competition provide students with opportunities that extend far beyond the classroom. By competing against the country's top collegiate culinary teams, students gain real-world experience, strengthen their technical and leadership skills, and develop the confidence needed to succeed in an increasingly competitive industry.

OCC Rocketry Visits Mohave Desert to Launch

Students and faculty from OCC's new Rocketry Science program successfully performed a cold-flow test of its new LR-1 Block 2 liquid rocket in May in the Mojave Desert. The rocket, designated LR-1.2.05, is one of 6 of its class currently in residence at OCC's new Rocket Lab, and was designed and built in collaboration with the Friends of Amateur Rocketry. Located within R-2508 airspace in the Mojave Desert of California, the Friends of Amateur Rocketry test site hosts rocket test campaigns from groups across the world.

The rocket was originally scheduled to fly, but abnormally high winds and dry weather conditions forced a switch to a backup cold flow campaign. Students from the ENGR A199 course and the CAARL rocket club will return to the site over the summer to conduct a series of static and flight test campaigns.



A cold flow test exercises the vehicle's cryogenic propulsion system. After loading and pressurizing the liquid oxygen, operators remotely command the vehicle from inside the protected control room. This test allowed OCC to validate the functionality of the propulsion systems at temperatures approaching 100 Kelvin, and pressures as high as 28 bar.

The planned static and flight tests will further validate the rocket's 2 kN LOX-Alcohol motor, as well as its onboard telemetry and parachute recovery systems. Alongside other tests of "Halfcat" style liquid rockets and various student projects and experiments, the Rocketry Science program is expected to keep busy over the summer.