



Calendar

SEPT. 9

Pirate Involvement Fair, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Main Quad

SEPT. 11-13

Theatre Nouveau, 7:30 p.m., Drama Lab Studio Theatre, Free admission, Mature audiences

SEPT. 20

OC Children's Book Festival, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., OCC Campus

SEPT. 23

Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour, 7 p.m., Robert B. Moore Theatre

OCT. 9

Community Science Night, 5-8 p.m., Planetarium & surrounding buildings

OCT. 15

Great ShakeOut, 10:15 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. 16-18

Murder Runs in the Family, 7:30 p.m., Drama Lab Theatre



Navigate OCC Welcomes New Students to Campus



The Future Pirate Center recently hosted Navigate OCC, welcoming nearly 1,200 first-time students to campus on Wednesday, August 19. This annual event helps new Pirates transition smoothly into college life and prepares them for the upcoming fall semester. Throughout the day, students had the opportunity to explore the campus, connect with peers, engage with faculty, discover

campus resources, and take care of important tasks before classes began.

Several departments and programs participated, including the Career Center, EOPS, Counseling, Financial Aid, Student Equity, and many other departments and academic programs. The event concluded with lunch provided by TK Burgers and refreshing Pirate Pops, offering a cool treat after a warm, sunny SoCal day.

OCC Theatre Department Announces 2026-27 Season Featuring Nine Productions



Orange Coast College's Theatre Department has released its 2026-27 season, presenting a dynamic lineup of nine productions, including faculty- and student-directed shows.

The 2026-27 season opens with "Theatre Nouveau," the first show from the OCC Repertory (The REP), the College's student-run theatre company. The REP's student-directed productions provide students with invaluable hands-on experience in directing, acting, writing and stage management. Six REP productions are scheduled in the Drama Lab Studio Theatre, with most performances offering free admission, except for the beloved holiday production, "An Old Fashioned Christmas Melodrama and Ice Cream Social." This annual children's show is rethemed each year. This year's melodrama is "One of Santa's Reindeer is Missing!," which will include a children's joke contest, a singalong, and, of course, ice cream.

The first faculty-directed mainstage production, "She Kills Monsters," opens in early November under the direction of Bethany Kraemer. This energetic dramatic comedy, featuring Dungeons & Dragons players, fantastical creatures and '90s pop culture references, offers a heartfelt homage to love, family and the inner geek or warrior in everyone.

Rounding out the faculty-directed mainstage productions for the spring are "Little Shop of Horrors" and Shakespeare's "King Lear." Under Rick Golson's direction, "Little Shop of Horrors," brings the iconic Broadway musical to life, following Seymour Krelborn, a Skid Row florist's assistant whose discovery of a mysterious plant leads to unexpected consequences. Peter Uribe directs "King Lear," Shakespeare's classic tragedy of power, ambition, betrayal and family ties. These faculty-directed shows, led by experienced theatre professionals and educators, offer students the opportunity to hone their craft across contemporary, musical and classical theatre.

Tickets for paid productions are available online only at the OCC Tickets website. Free parking is provided for all performances.

Fall Flex Day Kicks Off Start of Academic Year

Orange Coast College's Fall 2026 Flex Day was a success, boasting over 65 sessions, including workshops, Poster Sessions, Lunch & Learn opportunities, and Flex-on-Demand Modules. Hundreds of employees were in attendance.

This year's Fall Flex Day was held on Aug. 21, the Friday before school began for the Fall 2026 semester and was centered around the theme of "Charting New Waters: Belonging in the Age of AI." Flex Day sessions were held from 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Session topics included "Listening First: What OCC Students Taught Us About AI, Rules and Learning,"

"Develop and Maintain Human Interaction through Tech in the Classroom," and "New Horizons: Google AI for Teaching & Learning – Gemini and Gemini Notebook at OCC."



Roger Lloyd, Director of the Customized Training Institute for Artificial Intelligence at Rancho Santiago Community College District, was the keynote speaker for the event. With more than a decade of experience in artificial intelligence, Roger shared practical insights into how AI is shaping education and the workplace. His keynote offered insights into how AI tools can be used thoughtfully and ethically while still maintaining commitment to academic excellence, equity, and student success.

Banff Mountain Film Festival Returns to Orange Coast College Sept. 23



The Orange Coast College Friends of the Library (FOTL) will host a screening of the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour on Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 7 p.m. in the Robert B. Moore Theatre. This year's event features a brand-new selection of films from around the globe, showcasing breathtaking outdoor adventures, climbing, mountain expeditions, remote cultures, and the world's last great wild places.

The Banff Mountain Film Festival, flagship program of the Banff Centre in Canada, began 50 years ago as a one-day event featuring films about mountain climbing. Today, it has grown into a nine-day event, with its World Tour reaching more than 45 countries on 7 continents.

Advance tickets can be purchased for \$17, or \$20 at the door. Current OCC students can purchase tickets for just \$10 with a valid student ID. Advance tickets can be purchased online at OCC Tickets.

For more information, please contact cmorgan@occ.cccd.edu or call (714) 432-0202 x21058. All proceeds will benefit OCC Friends of the Library.

Orange County Children's Book Festival Returns to Costa Mesa on Sept. 20

The Orange County Children's Book Festival will return to Orange Coast College on Sunday, September 20, 2026, welcoming families from across Southern California for a day celebrating children's literature, creativity, and community engagement.



This year's festival features an exciting lineup of guests, including Rachel Ignatofsky, a New York Times bestselling author and illustrator best known for her acclaimed book "Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World." Ignatofsky will give a special presentation inside the OCC Planetarium Dome at 11 a.m., offering an inspiring glimpse into her creative process and work.

Attendees can also look forward to meeting Melissa Villaseñor, the multi-talented author, comedian, and artist behind "Cat and Lola: School Picture Day." Jesus Trejo, a comedian, writer, and author of "Mamá's Magnificent Dancing Plantitas" and "Papá's Magical Water-Jug Clock," will also join the festivities. Popular digital creator KidTime

StoryTime, known for the beloved YouTube channel, will connect with fans and share favorite stories live at the event.

The festival, free and open to the public, invites families to enjoy a day packed with engaging activities, live readings, and opportunities to meet beloved authors and illustrators. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

As one of the largest children's literary events in the region, the festival will span the entire Orange Coast College campus, boasting more than 100 authors, illustrators, exhibitors, bookstores, and literacy organizations. Activities and attractions will stretch from the Main Quad to the Planetarium, ensuring something for every young reader and their family.

Since its founding in 2004, the Orange County Children's Book Festival has been a cherished tradition, inspiring a love of reading in young people while uniting families, educators, authors, and community partners for a day dedicated to children's books and literacy.

Presented by Orange Coast College and the Orange Coast College Foundation, this free community festival promises books, stories, entertainment, and hands-on activities for all ages, making it a can't-miss event for the community.

Festival highlights include book signings, read-alouds, and on-stage interviews, where visitors can meet their favorite authors and illustrators or discover new ones. Attendees can browse new books for every stage of young readers, from early learners to teens. Special guests and crowd-favorite characters will be available for photos and interactions throughout the day. The festival will also feature live entertainment, performances, and interactive exhibitor booths. Families can ride the train, play on inflatable attractions, and participate in a variety of family-friendly activities. A range of local food trucks will offer delicious bites and refreshments for purchase. Visitors are also encouraged to explore the Orange Coast College Planetarium, where Rachel Ignatofsky's special presentation will take place.

Orange Coast College Inspires Future Innovators at Annual Community Science Night

Orange Coast College will welcome thousands of elementary and middle school students to campus for the 27th annual Community Science Night on Friday, October 9, from 5 to 8 p.m. Attendees can look forward to an action-packed evening filled with exploration, discovery and hands-on STEM learning.



As one of OCC's most anticipated community traditions, Science Night features faculty showcasing their academic programs through interactive, hands-on experiments and experiences. Participating departments include chemistry, marine science, astronomy, geology, engineering, health science, biology, and many more. Activities will take place across nine campus buildings and various outdoor spaces.

"Science Night is an exciting opportunity for everyone in the community to experience science first-hand," says OCC Dean of Math and Sciences Heather Dy. "We hope you'll join us and explore the wonders of the night sky, microorganisms under the microscope, our rocketry program, and many more hands-on activities."

Throughout the evening, attendees can explore the OCC campus, including the Dennis Kelly Aquarium, Planetarium, and Horticulture Gardens. Popular and unique activities include the touch tank at the Aquarium, tours of the Aquaponics Lab, planetarium shows, an excavation and artifact exhibit, robotics demonstration, fun engineering activities, and the ever-popular volcano demonstration. Additionally, OCC's Telescope Farm will have several telescopes available for visitors to gaze at the night sky, weather permitting.

Generously supported by the Jennie V Foundation, the event is free to the general public and attendees will receive a complimentary hot dog and chips while supplies last. For more information, visit the Community Science Night website.

SOY Teens Visit Waterfront Campus for a Week of Sailing



Students from the Save Our Youth (SOY) Center in Costa Mesa visited the Waterfront Campus in late July for a week-long sailing program. Guided by instructors from the School of Sailing and Seamanship, these young participants learned to sail in the scenic Newport Harbor. This hands-on opportunity equipped students with a unique skill set they might not have otherwise experienced.

The students embraced learning the fundamentals of sailing through a blend of classroom lessons and practical experience on the water. By week's end, they had gained confidence, developed new skills, and were able to rig and de-rig sailboats independently. OCC and SOY have proudly partnered for over 25 years to provide opportunities like this.