



Calendar

Now-Nov. 25

"Bad Marks," Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion

Now-Nov. 25

"The Ballad of Discard and Decay: Stephanie Sherwood," Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion

OCT. 23

OCC Horticulture Marigold Sale, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Horticulture Gardens

OCT. 24 & 25

OCC Swap Meet Trunk or Treat, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Parking Lot H

Nov. 6-8

She Kills Monsters, 7:30 p.m., Drama Lab Theatre

Nov. 6

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

Nov. 10

Veterans Day Celebration, Noon-2 p.m., College Center Ballrooms

Nov. 13 & 14

She Kills Monsters, 7:30 p.m., Drama Lab Theatre

Nov. 15

She Kills Monsters, 2:30 p.m., Drama Lab Theatre

Nov. 15

OCC Wind Ensemble: Lands Near & Far, 3 p.m., Robert B. Moore Theatre

Nov. 17

Italy Imagined, 7:30 p.m., Robert B. Moore Theatre



OCC Horticulture Announces Fourth Annual Marigold Sale Ahead of Día de Muertos

Orange Coast College's Horticulture Department will host its fourth annual Marigold Sale on Friday, October 23, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. The sale is held in anticipation of 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. In addition to the marigolds, the department will also sell small cactus and succulents, as well as lettuces grown in the Aquaponics Lab.

During the event, an ofrenda will be displayed 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.

The event is free and open to public. Marigolds will be sold in one-gallon pots for \$7 each. All proceeds generated from the sale will go toward student scholarships and projects.

Orange Coast College Receives \$3 Million Federal Grant to Boost Career Pathways & Workforce Development

Orange Coast College has been awarded a highly competitive, five-year, \$3 million grant through the U.S. Department of Education's Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP), a highly competitive federal initiative that supports colleges serving low-income and academically underserved students. Running from October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2031, this five-year grant will enable OCC to advance student success, expand



workforce development programs and foster innovative partnerships with local employers.

The SIP grant helps colleges build institutional capacity and become more self-sufficient by strengthening academic quality, institutional management, and fiscal stability.

With this grant, OCC will work on the Opportunity, Capacity, Competitiveness - Strengthening Workforce Programs for Long-Term Fiscal Sustainability project to create a Center for Innovation and Workforce Development, which will serve as a hub for workforce planning, employer engagement, career services, and experiential learning. Additionally, this grant will also strengthen career education programs through employer-faculty partnerships and launch an Advanced Transportation pathway connecting students to careers in maritime, aviation, aerospace, and transportation industries.

"This program is a major investment in the future of our students as well as the economic growth of our region," says Orange Coast College President Angelica Suarez. "When we bring together faculty, employers, and other business partners, we can develop programs that reflect the needs of an ever-changing workforce, giving students direct routes from the classroom to viable, family-wage-earning jobs. The Center for Innovation and Workforce Development will increase this relationship while placing OCC at the forefront of developing and expanding emerging and high-demand sectors of employment."

With the Advanced Transportation pathway, OCC will be better positioned to meet the needs of our region's vast transportation and logistics network, including the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, major airports, maritime operations, and a substantial aerospace industry. These industries increasingly require skilled workers with expertise in advanced technologies, transportation systems, manufacturing, and logistics.

By improving access to career services, work-based learning, and clearly defined educational pathways, OCC aims to help more students complete certificates and degrees and successfully enter high-demand, well-paying careers. Over the five-year grant period, OCC plans to

develop or redesign at least seven high-impact workforce pathways, review at least 75 percent of its Career Education programs using a new workforce-aligned evaluation framework and increase student completions in redesigned pathways by 25 percent.

The grant will also support professional development opportunities for faculty, strengthen employer partnerships, and establish sustainable processes for evaluating and improving workforce programs beyond the grant period.

OCC Students Premiere Films 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 Oct. 17 at Triangle Square Cinemas in Costa Mesa.

The annual showcase, known as "OCC Shorts," featured short films produced entirely by OCC film and television students. This marked the 23rd year that OCC participated in the Newport Beach Film Festival, where it was the first college to present films. OCC was one of seven colleges and universities represented this year.

"We are extremely excited and proud of our student selections this year," says Film and TV Professor Erik Forssell. "We'll be celebrating fifteen unique short films created over the past year – a fun and diverse mix. It's truly special and a real thrill to see student work showcased for an enthusiastic public audience."

The Film and TV Department supports students' creative endeavors by providing access to state-of-the-art equipment, including 6K cameras, studio spaces, a TV studio, as well as lighting, sound gear, and editing labs and suites.

Fifteen 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, ranging from 2 to 15 minutes in length, include titles such as "Alpha Calf," "1980 WHO: Toy Making Magic," "Shoot Your Shot," "Okay, Die.," "Interviewing a Star," "King of the Court," "OC Punk Shit," "Flower Street," "Playing With Fire," "Así Somos," "Moneyshot," "Mr. Sticks is Back in Town!," "Santa Claus Gives You A Million Dollars In Heaven" and "Prisms and Light." The directors of these films are John Prichard, Steve Metz, Amir Esteban Toumi, Ashley Paola Celaya, Deni Silva, Marissa Van Malderen, Isaak Askenaze, Morgan Ramos, Vanessa Yvette Reyes, Asher Twardowski, Isa Gallegos, Jordan Pieter Bourges, Kai Bixby, Stuart Scranton, Tanner Lee Shelton, Chelsea Emery and Peter Wada.

"The Film & TV Department greatly appreciates the Festival for its continued support of our filmmakers," says Forssell. "Thank you to our Collegiate Programmer, Laura Weinreich, and to NBFF! See you at the movies!"

Orange Coast College Welcomed Thousands to Orange County Children's Book Festival



Orange Coast College welcomed the community to join in celebrating the 22nd annual Orange County Children's Book Festival on Sunday, September 20. 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, train rides, bounce house, and photo opportunities with popular sci-fi characters.

This year's festival featured 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.

Attendees were also able to meet 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," also joined the festivities. Popular digital creator KidTime StoryTime, known for the beloved YouTube channel, connected with fans and shared favorite stories live at the event.

Orange Coast College Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month



Orange Coast College, a designated Hispanic-Serving Institution, celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month by bringing together the campus community to celebrate, learn about, and appreciate Hispanic and Latine cultures. The series of planned events provided a space to amplify Latine voices and foster a deeper understanding of their rich heritage.

National Hispanic Heritage Month runs from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 and celebrates the cultures and contributions of Hispanic and Latine communities. OCC's celebration began with a Counseling for Latinos for Equity and Engagement (CLEEO) Project event, titled "Arte, Cultura, Labor, Sabor, & Amor 3." The event featured a culinary tasting of traditional foods and a presentation of their cultural significance by acclaimed chefs.

The CLEEO Project also hosted "Pepe Serna: Life is Art" Documentary Screening and Talk. Pepe Serna was in attendance to discuss his career as an actor in Hollywood and the significance of his Chicano heritage.

Hispanic Heritage Month festivities continued with the Latine Heritage Celebration on Wednesday, Oct. 7. This vibrant event featured music, delicious treats and engaging cultural activities, including a musical performance, lotería and paper flower making. Attendees enjoyed pan dulce, mini tamales, agua fresca and more.

The Student Equity and Pirates' Promise Office hosted the second annual Lunchtería on Tuesday, Oct. 13. Attendees enjoyed delicious food, fun activities, and a few exciting rounds of lotería for a chance to win prizes.

OCC Hosts Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration



Last month, Orange Coast College hosted a Mid-Autumn Festival celebration featuring delectable mooncake and tea tasting, paper lantern decorating, 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.

Orange Coast College Recognized in OC Register's Best of Orange County 2026

Orange Coast College was voted one of the top three community colleges in Orange County Register's Best of Orange County 2026 balloting. Placing second in the category, Orange Coast College shares this achievement with Saddleback College and Fullerton College.



OCC offers more than 135 academic and career programs, including one of the country's largest public nautical programs, located at the College's Waterfront Campus in Newport Beach.

OCC Hospitality Travel & Tourism Careers Showcase Connects OCC Students with Local Industry Employers

On October 1, the Career Center and OCC CTE faculty collaborated to host Orange County's leading employers in hospitality, travel and tourism at the third HTT Careers Showcase event. OCC students from diverse CTE programs such as Culinary Arts, Food & Beverage

Management, Hospitality and Travel participated in networking with human resources professionals from local industry employer partners. Attendees could pose for professional headshots they can use in LinkedIn profiles and other job and internship applications.

The event had strong attendance and community engagement, bringing vital information and professional networking opportunities to OCC students to help them find and launch their careers in the dynamic and booming hospitality industry that drives and thrives in Orange County.



Book Lovers Invited to OCC Friends of Library Fall Book Sale Oct. 27 & 28



The Orange Coast College Friends of the Library will host their annual Fall Book Sale on Tuesday, October 27, and Wednesday, October 28, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

The book sale will include a variety of used books ranging from bestsellers to romance, mysteries, science, art, history, and computers. Most books are priced starting at \$1.

The event will conclude with a "\$2-a-bag" deal during the last two hours of the sale on Wednesday, October 28, from 1 until 3 p.m.

Friends of the Library (FOTL) members and OCC students can enjoy a pre-sale exclusive from 9 to 10 a.m. on Tuesday, October 27. Those interested in becoming a FOTL member can complete a FOTL Membership Application before the book sale to take advantage of the one-hour pre-sale exclusive.

The book sale will be held in the Library Lecture Room (Room 112), near the front entrance.

The event is free to the general public. Attendees can park in Lot E and purchase a parking permit online through Passport Parking. Visit OCC's Friends of the Library website for more information.