



OCC Culinary Team Wins Western Regional Competition

Orange Coast College culinary arts students took first place at the 2024 American Culinary Federation's Western Regional Student Team Competition in Overland Park, Kansas on March 12.

OCC's Hot Food Team is the first team to compete for OCC since 2018. The competing five-member team consists of Team Captain Claire Arredondo, Blanca Granados, Morgan Downie, Genisis Mascareno, and Monique Robinson, with three additional support team members, including Joseph Serrato, Khoa To, and Frida Ramos-Nunez. Their team coach and culinary arts instructor, Chef April Thompson, is no stranger to ACF's Western Regional Student Team Competition, having competed in 2018 for OCC when they won their last regional title.

"OCC has a long tradition of success with the student hot food team competitions," said OCC culinary arts instructor Chef Davina Dunner. "We are so proud and excited for our students, who are continuing a legacy started in 1996."

The Hot Food Team worked closely with OCC's Horticulture Department and Marine Science Department to harvest tilapia and aquaponic lettuces used in their competition menu. Through this collaboration, they completed the sustainability loop by conscientiously preparing some food grown on campus. The partnership also allowed them to cater to a "campus" to table concept. The four-course winning menu highlighted techniques such as fish and poultry fabrication, Mouseline and country style forcemeats, Lavash rings, Shaped Tuille, and Entremet Cake layering.

"This accomplishment was truly a collaborative effort," says Dunner. "The team was supported by so many OCC faculty and staff, including alumni who guided them through the sharp learning curve of a culinary competition."

The team will travel to Phoenix in July to compete in the National Student Team Championships, facing off against four other regional teams. The last time the Pirates won the national title was in 2005.

Five OCC Honors Students Named Semifinalists for Prestigious National Scholarship



Five students from Orange Coast College have been selected as semifinalists for the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship.

OCC students who were named as semifinalists are John "Jack" D'Aiello, a mathematics major; Jose Juan "JJ" Paez, an architecture major; Maia Pham, an engineering major; Thu Phung, a mechanical engineering



Calendar

- April 3 – Voices of Women: Open Mic, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Multicultural Center
- April 4 – Pirate's Plank, 6:45 p.m., Robert B. Moore Theatre
- April 5 & 12 – Spring Plant Sale, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., OCC Horticulture
- April 6 – OCC Night at Angels Stadium, 6:38 p.m.
- April 8 – Solar Eclipse Viewing Event, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., OCC Planetarium
- April 10 – Men's Volleyball vs. Golden West, 6 p.m., Peterson Gym
- April 12 – Coast Colleague of the Year, 2 p.m., Student Union Multipurpose Room
- April 15 – Trans Visibility: Open Mic, Resource Fair & Closet, 11 a.m., Student Union Multipurpose Room
- April 16 – CLEEO "Voices & Visions of Si Se Puede," 5-8 p.m., College Center Ballroom
- April 16 & 17 – FOTL Spring Book Sale, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., OCC Library
- April 17 – Green Coast Day: Sustainable Fashion Show & Marketplace "Surf & Skate Revival," 1-4 p.m., Main Quad
- April 17 – Coast Musical Encounters, 7:30 p.m., Music Recital Hall: 102
- April 18-20 – Swimming: OEC Championship, 9:30 a.m. & 3:30 p.m., OCC Aquatic Pavilion
- April 22-May 2 – Mass Appeal, Mon.-Thur., 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion
- April 24 – Denim Day, Noon, Campus Photo in Main Quad
- April 24 – Music Faculty Recital, 7:30 p.m., Music Recital Hall, Room 102
- April 25 – Mass Appeal Reception, 4-7 p.m., Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion
- April 26 – Giles T. Brown Student Project & Research Symposium, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., College Center
- April 26 & 27 – Spring Dance Celebration, 7:30 p.m., Robert B. Moore Theatre
- May 1 – Piano Honors Recital, 7:30 p.m., Music Recital Hall, Room 102
- May 3-5 & May 10-12 – Rent, 7:30 p.m., Drama Lab Theatre

major; and Yongzi See, an economics and computer science major. The OCC students are five out of 92 California nominees and 459 national students selected as semifinalists for the 2024 Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. In 2023, two OCC students were chosen as semifinalists, and one OCC student won the national Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship in 2022.

"We are extremely proud of our student scholars' academic achievement, with all five semifinalists demonstrating success in our rigorous STEM programs," says OCC President Angelica Suarez. "OCC has a proven record of being a transfer leader, and we are excited to learn about their future transfer plans."

The Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship is a prestigious national award that supports high-achieving community college students as they transfer to top four-year institutions to complete their bachelor's degrees. Semifinalists are chosen from a pool of nearly 1,600 applications attending 194 community colleges in 37 states, Washington, DC, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

"All five of our student scholars selected for this honor are involved in either our OCC Honors Program or one of the 16 honor societies available here at OCC," says OCC Garrison Honors coordinator Teresa Scarbrough. "They have truly distinguished themselves for their academic aptitude."

The finalists for the Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship will be announced in May. Each selected scholar will receive financial support for up to three years, college planning services, ongoing advising, and the opportunity to connect with a community of fellow Cooke Scholars.

OCC Women's Basketball Earns Back-to-Back State Titles

The Orange Coast College women's basketball team won the California Community College Athletic Association (3C2A) women's basketball state championships with a 71-60 victory over Glendale Community College during the championship final in Walnut.

The team captured its second straight title, having won the state

championship in 2023. The victory gives OCC its second state championship under head coach Sammy Doucette. It's the third women's basketball state championship in school history and the 99th overall state championship in the 76-year history of the College.

Tournament MVP Bridgette McIntyre followed in the footsteps of her sister and last year's State Tourney MVP, Meghan McIntyre, scoring 18 points with four rebounds, three assists, and three steals for the Pirates, who ended the season on a 20-game win streak, their third 20-game victory run over the past two seasons.

In addition to her State Tourney MVP honors, McIntyre finished her OCC career with a staggering 120 made 3-pointers this season, shattering the previous record of 98 and even topping the men's single-season record of 111, set by former Pirate and current Irvine Valley College women's head coach, Jason Garey.

OCC's Student Health Center Adds 24/7 Mental Health Crisis Line

OCC's Student Health Center has expanded its mental health services for students by partnering with Protocol Services to provide 24/7 access to a crisis counselor.

Known as the OCC After Hours Crisis Line, students can call the Student Health Center at (714) 714-7715 and press 9 to be connected to a crisis counselor. This service is available to all current OCC students Monday through Friday from 5 p.m. until 9 a.m. and all day Saturday and Sunday. OCC students can also access this service on holidays and breaks.

"As mental health becomes increasingly recognized as a cornerstone of academic success, our commitment to providing



24/7 support reflects our dedication to nurturing not just the minds but the holistic well-being of our students," says Mental Health Services Director Larry Valentine. "With our new crisis line, we aim to offer an unwavering lifeline, ensuring no student feels alone in their darkest moments."

OCC's mental health services also include short-term and group therapy. Students have access to a team of pre-licensed Marriage and Family Therapy Associates and Trainees who work under the supervision of Licensed MFTs. Counseling sessions with licensed therapists are available to help students with academic pressure,



cultural adjustment, depression, stress, anxiety, and much more. Weekly group therapy is available for Self-Compassion and Connection, Understanding Trauma Through Creative Writing, and Student-Athletes.

"We recognize that the need for support knows no schedule," says Larry Valentine. "Providing 24/7 mental health support at Orange Coast College ensures that our students have a lifeline, fostering resilience and empowerment on their journey toward wellness."

Mental Health Services are available in person at the Student Health Center Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

OCC Planetarium to Host Partial Solar Eclipse Viewing Event April 8

The Orange Coast College Planetarium invites members of the public to experience a partial solar eclipse via the College's solar telescopes on Monday, April 8, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

During the viewing event, solar telescopes will be available for guests to observe the eclipse up close safely, and eclipse glasses will be available for purchase. During a solar eclipse, looking directly at the sun without specialized eye protection designed for solar viewing is never safe.

Faculty and students from OCC's Astronomy Department will be available to provide insights and answer any questions about this extraordinary celestial event.

"We are excited to welcome the public back to campus for another partial solar eclipse viewing event," says OCC Planetarium Manager Jessica Artinger. "The OCC Planetarium prides itself on being a community resource, and we will once again be able to showcase our fairly new telescope farm with 230 mm solar telescope, a rare resource for a community college to have."

OCC's event will take place in the OCC Planetarium, with solar telescopes in Lot E and the new telescope farm near the Planetarium. Guests are welcome to arrive as early as 10 a.m. to witness maximum coverage at approximately 11:12 a.m. Though guests will not be able to see the totality from OCC, they will have



the opportunity to observe a significant portion of the eclipse. The moon will cover approximately 57% of the sun's diameter, creating a remarkable sight in the sky.

Attendees will also experience a performance from OCC's Chamber Singers in the Planetarium Lobby at 12:15 p.m. Throughout the event, guests can view a shortened version of Totality! in the dome theater of the Planetarium. During the event, guests can participate in an opportunity drawing to support the Planetarium and its community programs. The event will conclude at 12:30 p.m.



OCC Horticulture Hosting Annual Spring Plant Sale April 5 & 12

Orange Coast College's Horticulture Department will host its annual Spring Plant Sale on April 5 and 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Plant enthusiasts and gardeners are invited to visit the Horticulture area's garden nursery on the first two Fridays of April to purchase plants produced by students of the Horticulture Program.

"It's full circle for the students," Horticulture Instructor and Lab Coordinator Joe Stead said. "They get ownership of the plants and see the seed out to the customer."

Local vendors donate plants to the program. Students propagate and tend to them throughout the semester until they are big enough to take home and sell to the community. The stellar selection includes edible plants such as tomatoes, peppers, strawberries, and cooking herbs, as well as other household greens and flowering selections that will be available at the sale.

"We're excited to showcase the high-quality plants our community knows us for," Horticulture Instructor Lori Pullman said. "We will be offering a wide variety of plants for shoppers and will be on hand to answer any customer questions and to offer advice."

The event is free to the public. All proceeds will go toward student scholarships and projects.



OCC's Coast Collective Celebrates First Anniversary with Student-Run Brand Showcase

OCC's Coast Collective will celebrate its first anniversary with an OCC student-run brand showcase on Wednesday, April 3, from noon to 2 p.m.

The Coast Collective, a permanent retail space on the first floor of the College Center, provides a platform for students in the OCC Fashion Program to showcase and sell their merchandise while developing entrepreneurial skills. New students are selected to display their merchandise in the Coast Collective every semester, with some student-run brands returning.

The anniversary event will include a raffle, small bites, and an opportunity for students to network with the campus community. The OCC students who display their brands at the Coast Collective will speak at noon about their brand and host a small raffle with their brand items.

This year, the Coast Collective added a management training program for OCC fashion students to gain retail experience. As a Coast Collective retail manager, OCC fashion students will learn visual merchandising, retail sales, customer service, scheduling, and being a key holder.

Plus, the Coast Collective has a section of the shop called the Swap Shop, where guests can buy gently used clothing. Shoppers can receive a \$5 voucher for any items donated to the Swap Shop.

The Coast Collective is open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

CLEEO Chronicles Vol. 2 Features Mariachi Performance & Art Exhibit

OCC's Counseling Latinos for Equity and Engagement (CLEEO) Project will present CLEEO Chronicles Vol. 2, "Voices and Visions of Sí Se Puede," on Tuesday, April 16, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the College Center Ballroom.

The event will kick off with an interview between OCC President Angelica Suarez and CLEEO Coordinator Eric Cuellar. They will discuss current topics related to the Chicana/o/x and Latina/o/x communities in American society and issues in higher education. The interview will be followed by a mariachi performance and an art exhibit.

OCC's CLEEO Project promotes Latinos access and success in higher education in an equitable and culturally supportive context. The program focuses on cross-cultural awareness and developing an educational pathway toward attaining associate's, bachelor's and post-graduate degrees.

CalWORKs Program Coordinator Vickie Hay Honored with Community Impact Award

In March, CalWORKs Program Coordinator Vickie Hay was honored as the recipient of Project Sufficiency's Community Impact Award. Hay is a former PSS board member and has been a personal advocate for many students in the PSS program.

This month, Hay will celebrate 25 years as the CalWORKs Program Coordinator at OCC.

