



OCC Welcomes President Angelica Suarez

Coast faculty and staff gathered on July 1 to welcome their new leader, OCC President Angelica Suarez. The morning reception offered employees a chance to meet President Suarez in an informal setting, and an opportunity for Dr. Suarez to offer her first remarks as president. After greeting everyone and thanking them for the warm welcome, Dr. Suarez shared that she's already beginning to encounter Coast alumni since moving to the area. She reported that while chatting with an employee at a local gym, she mentioned she'd be working at OCC, to which the student happily replied "you know, OCC is one of the best colleges" and "that's a really good job."

A Haka and a Blessing

President Suarez also was on hand to greet a visiting group of lifeguard trainees from New Zealand on July 11. The teenage trainees were visiting the area as part of an exchange program between the Piha and Tairua Surf Lifesaving Clubs and the City of Huntington Beach Junior Lifeguard program, and stopped by the OCC Planetarium to catch a show. After President Suarez welcomed the group (and encouraged them to attend OCC through its international program!) the students gave a traditional Maori blessing for the building, and performed a ceremonial Haka



Cookies and Questions

Preschoolers from OCC's Harry and Grace Steele Children's Center visited with President Suarez on July 10. After presenting her with cookies and handmade cards, the children sang songs welcoming Dr. Suarez to campus. Afterward, the children had an impromptu question and answer session with OCC's newest president; they asked if she cooked and if so, what is her favorite food? "I told them it was spaghetti and yes, I cook," President Suarez reports.

OCC's Accreditation Re-Affirmed for Seven Years

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) has reaffirmed Orange Coast College's accreditation for seven years in a notification letter received on June 28.

Earlier this spring, the regional accrediting agency that evaluates community colleges in California sent a peer review team to visit all three campuses of the Coast Community College District, in addition to OCC's School of Sailing and Seamanship in Newport Beach. In its meeting on June 5-7, ACCJC took action to affirm OCC's accreditation through 2026.

"This is great news for our students" said Interim OCC President Kevin Ballinger. "The Commission has reaffirmed that Orange Coast College continues to be in compliance with accreditation eligibility requirements, which guarantees our students will continue to receive the excellent education that Coast provides."

In addition to the reaffirmation of accreditation, the Commission also recognized OCC for three exemplary performance areas for:

1. Close collaboration of faculty, administration and classified staff... resulting in exemplary planning processes.
2. Commitment to a comprehensive professional development program for all employee groups.
3. Fostering an environment where innovation is encouraged ... and where exemplary programs and services reflect a sustained commitment to innovation and improvement.

OCC Recycling Center First Building in U.S. to Achieve Triple Certification

The Orange Coast College Recycling Center is taking sustainability initiatives to a new level by becoming the first facility in the United States to achieve LEED Gold certification, Sustainable SITES Initiative (SITES) v2 certification in California, and TRUE Zero Waste certification. This unprecedented milestone pays homage to OCC's commitment to sustainable practices on and off campus.

The Recycling Center will be recognized for this achievement on Monday, July 22 at 10 a.m. with an award presented U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and Green Business Certification Inc. (GCBI) CEO Mahesh Ramanujam.

Developed by the USGBC, LEED is the most widely used green building program in the world. The SITES rating system evaluates the sustainable performance of landscapes and the TRUE Zero Waste rating system enables facilities to define, pursue and achieve their zero waste goals.

OCC Planetarium Commemorates 1969 Moon Landing with Immersive Documentary

Orange Coast College's Planetarium is commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 launch and moon landing with a three-month showing of "CAPCOM GO! The Apollo Story," an immersive historical documentary that tells the story of what it took to put the first human on the moon.

The Planetarium currently is showing the documentary in its 125-seat immersive theater each weekend until Sept. 29. CAPCOM GO! is recommended

for ages eight and up, and tickets can be purchased at www.occtickets.com at a cost of \$6 for adults and \$5 for kids. OCC students with a student ID can watch the show for free.

The Apollo moon landing took place on July 20, 1969. Neil Armstrong became the first person to walk on the moon on July 21, 1969.



Navigate OCC Event Aims to Show New Students the Ins and Outs of Campus

OCC will welcome new students to campus on Tuesday, Aug. 20 at a Navigate OCC event that includes tours, workshop sessions, a resource fair, giveaways and more.

The College is expecting nearly 1,000 students at the event, many of whom qualify for freshman priority registration. Parents and guardians are also welcome at the event.

The idea behind Navigate OCC is to introduce students to campus facilities, resources and programs of study prior to the start of school on Aug. 26. All students and parents/guardians in attendance will be provided with lunch.