



OCC Marks Undocumented Student Action Week with Virtual Webinars, Ally Training

During Undocumented Student Action Week (USAW) on Oct. 19-23, employees at Orange Coast College were given opportunities to meaningfully participate in several ways.

Faculty, classified staff and managers were invited to attend one of many webinars offered throughout the week by the California Community Colleges, which partners with several organizations to jointly lead the week of advocacy. Webinar topics ranged from outreach to equity to financial aid, and gave employees a chance to learn more about the ways in which they can support OCC's undocumented students.

The College also offered UndocuAlly Training on Oct. 23, with the targeted training giving more than 20 employees a chance to have in-depth discussion about how to best serve as allies for undocumented students at Coast.

Employees were invited to show their support by updating their Zoom background for USAW, subscribe to OCC's UndocuScholars newsletter, and consider making a donation to OCC's Foundation to support the \$505 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) renewal cost for undocumented students.

"Currently, there are approximately 70,000 undocumented students enrolled at California's community colleges who are protected by DACA, including several hundred students at OCC," President Angelica Suarez wrote in a message to campus. "These students — often referred to as Dreamers — are our friends, classmates, students and campus leaders, and they enrich our community by their strength of spirit and determination to better their lives, and the lives of their families, through education. I am proud of our College's

commitment to ensuring that all students feel welcomed and safe at OCC, regardless of their immigration status."

2019 Symposium Winner Reflects on His Experience

Bodhi Edwards only has one regret regarding his participation in last year's Giles T. Brown Student Project and Research Symposium: "In retrospect, I absolutely hate myself for not entering into this research symposium sooner," he says.

Edwards — who has since transferred to California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo where he is majoring in mechanical engineering — was named the "First Author - Grand Winner" for his research on surfboard tail designs. He received a \$1,500 prize to go with the title.

For Edwards, surfboard design is a family endeavor - his father has shaped surfboards as a hobby for more than 40 years, and as a shop assistant, the younger Edwards often watched with fascination as his father turned a blank mold into a sleek surfboard. As he got older and began attending college, Edwards began to apply what he was learning in his science and technology classes to improve further on those designs.



"I began applying my gained engineering knowledge of 3D modeling, loading, buoyancy, friction, and turbulence to start making my own comparisons as to why the ideas my father claimed would actually work," Edwards explains. "Essentially, I wanted to place facts and physics behind this otherwise untabulated knowledge that could either prove or disprove my dad's (and many other shapers') knowledge of surfboard shaping."

After years of encouragement from OCC Engineering Professor Dr. Angelo Esposito, Edwards finally made the decision to

participate in the College's annual Research Symposium, which gives students a chance to present their research to the rest of campus and compete for cash prizes (and bragging rights!) He chose Esposito to be his mentor, and tapped Architecture Professor Steve Fuchs and OCC Makerspace Coordinator Gareth Hill to help him build prototypes of his surfboard tails.

Looking back, Edwards is grateful to have been given the chance to compete in the annual event, which took place mere days before Orange Coast College's campus was closed and most classes were moved online due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. "I was astonished by how many people I found who were interested in this topic," he says. "The thing I enjoyed most was chatting with the judges and viewers about the project, and providing details into the aspects that interested each of them most."

This year's Giles T. Brown Student Project and Research Symposium is set to take place online on March 19, 2021, and students have until the end of this month (Oct. 30, 2020) to fill out an Intent to Submit form.



Banff Film Festival Returns to OCC in October in Online Format

The Orange Coast College Friends of the Library (FOTL) hosted the online Banff Mountain Film Festival through the month of October, with proceeds benefiting the non-profit group. This year's event was held online and, as with in-person events from years past, featured an international selection of films that presented a wide range of outdoor adventures and portraits, including climbing, mountain expeditions, remote cultures and the world's last great wild places.

Tickets were available for three exciting World Tour programs - Blue, Red & Green - until October 24 via an affiliate link that was specific to OCC's FOTL. "We had an opportunity to earn a percentage of all ticket sales through this URL," says Coast Library Carl Morgan. "This was a wonderful way to support our Friends of the Library!"

"We hope that everyone enjoyed this new way to experience the Banff Film Festival," says Morgan. "We have truly appreciated the continued support over the years for the Banff World Tour at OCC and our Friends of the Library."



OCC Speech & Debate Team Earns Third Place in Community College Sweepstakes

The Orange Coast College Speech and Debate team competed in the El Camino Crossman Virtual Tournament, which took place on Oct. 16-18. Although competing online is a new venture for OCC's championship forensics program, the Pirates rose to the occasion, placing third overall in a larger-than-normal field of competitors.

"Typically, tournaments at the beginning of the competitive season tend to be smaller events where only local schools attend," explains Director of Forensics Sherana Polk. "But one of the intriguing aspects about competing during a pandemic is that schools no longer need to travel in order to compete. Therefore, the Crossman tournament this year was quite larger than expected."

Thirty-six schools from all over the country attended the virtual competition, with 280 entries spanning individual and debate events.

"OCC's coaching staff is very impressed with our students' performance this past weekend," says Polk. "Not only have our students had to learn how to compete in these events while on Zoom; but they also have had to deal with obtaining the necessary equipment and learning how to be their own IT specialists. Even with these challenges, our team showed that we would not let the pandemic get in the way of our success."

For a full list of winners and individual categories, visit OCC's Newsroom at www.orangecoastcollege.edu/news