



## OCC Partners with OCHCA for COVID-19 Testing for Students, Employees

Orange Coast College has partnered with the Orange County Health Care Agency to offer priority COVID-19 testing for students and employees. The first test-run took place on Nov. 19, with students, faculty and staff granted access to a dedicated lane at the drive-up COVID-19 testing super site at the Costa Mesa Fairgrounds.

The health care agency's testing super site - located across the street from OCC's 164-acre campus - administers roughly 1,000 COVID-19 tests daily from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. Appointments for testing can be made online, and testing is free of charge, however participants must register beforehand and provide insurance information, if they have it. OCC students and employees are required to register and make an appointment, as well as show their student or employee IDs upon arrival.

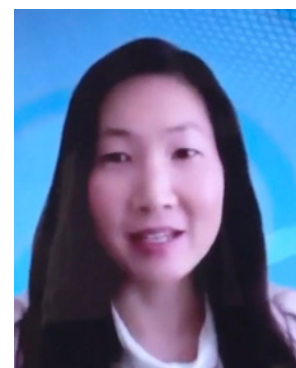
Test results are typically available via text or email within 2-3 days after the test is administered.

## OCC Counselor Recognized by Orange County Department of Education

Orange Coast College counselor Andrea Lane was one of four community college counselors recognized by the Orange County Department of Education at the 2020 Orange County Virtual Counselor Symposium held on Nov. 10.

More than 700 school counselors and education leaders attended the virtual event, the largest group to attend the Symposium in its history. This year's theme focused on nurturing student resilience, a reference to the unique challenges brought on by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

"The most rewarding part of my job is helping others. Being someone on campus that our students feel safe with, to







## Pirate's Plank Competition Takes Place on Zoom After Monthslong Delay

Orange Coast College's Pirate's Plank business pitch competition took place on Nov. 12 in an online format, giving students a chance to pitch their business ideas and compete for cash prizes in front of a panel of judges.

The competition was postponed from its original date of April 2 when OCC's campus closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As it became clear that campus would remain closed, business professor and organizer Mark Grooms made plans to move Pirates' Plank to an alternative format.

"We originally hoped to postpone the competition until campus re-opened, but we've made the best of things with an online competition instead. Student presenters, judges, family and friends were able to gather on Zoom along with some special guests," says Grooms. "It went really well! Students presented their business ideas, fielded questions from the judges, and heard critiques from the judges about their idea and presentation."

The Presenting Sponsor First Bank and the OCC Foundation provided financial support for the event, and this year's judges represented a broad spectrum of industries, including Peggy Fort, founder and CEO of California Marketing Concepts, Inc.; Tony Wong, co-founder and president of AirKentics, Inc.; and Clint Lawrence, founder, and CEO of JC Motors and Motorcycleshippers.

Two \$500 prizes were awarded for "Most Innovative Business Idea" and "Most Likely to Succeed." Due to the unusual nature of this year's event, the presenters who did not win one of the two top prizes will receive \$100 for their commitment and enthusiasm to the Pirate's Plank event.

Skye Meredith took home the prize for "Most Innovative Idea" for her "Comfort Kitchen" pitch - a dining experience in the comfort of your own home using THC and CBD infused foods that are handpicked by experts to fit a customer's health needs. Meredith also proposed that all extra proceeds go to providing the same treatments free of cost for cancer patients.

Business Economics major Michelle Weston won the prize for "Most Likely to Succeed" for her "Weston Automotive" concept - an App allowing customers to shop directly with participating auto dealerships' inventories.

Other student pitches included protective equipment for athletes that have or develop skin conditions and an outfit rental service in the fashion industry.

The checks and awards will be presented to Meredith and Weston by OCC President Angela Suarez and CTE Dean Lisa Knuppel on Dec. 11.

## Orange Coast College Earns First Place in Community College Sweepstakes

The Orange Coast College Speech and Debate team has been very busy, competing in multiple virtual tournaments over the past few months.

In late October, OCC's forensics superstars competed at Mt. San Antonio College's October Surprise Tournament held on Oct. 24-25. This synchronous tournament hosted 17 colleges throughout the Southern California region in a variety of individual and debate events.

After the completion of the Mt. San Antonio College tournament the team headed into the Norene Hokett Asynchronous tournament hosted by California Baptist University. This tournament was held over the week of Oct. 27-Nov. 1.

“The interesting aspect about online tournaments is that it allows our students even more flexibility to compete while still being able to participate in all their other daily activities,” explains Director of Forensics Sherana Polk.

The virtual tournaments also were a new experience for OCC students because it required them to record and submit their performances. Afterwards, their videos were evaluated by a variety of judges throughout the country. The experience was unique in that students were able to compete against competitors from schools they wouldn’t normally compete against at this point in the season, including in Illinois, Arkansas, and even Nebraska.

“It was a beneficial experience for our students to see so many diverse performances from across the country. This experience will help our students to develop stronger pieces. Moreover, the fact that our students are performing so well against students from across the country makes us feel very confident about what our state and national results may look like,” says the Director of Individual Events Shaw Davari.

## Veterans Services Creates Virtual Honor Wall, Plans Other Events for Veterans Day

Orange Coast College’s Student Equity program and Veteran’s Resource Center partnered to organize several events to recognize the military service of OCC’s students and their families and friends for Veterans Day.

Students, alumni and friends of OCC were invited to submit the names of the service members in their lives for an OCC Veterans “Roll Call” and commemoration event that took place on Nov. 10.

The OCC community also was encouraged to submit photos and written tributes for an online “Honor Wall” created to recognize the service and sacrifice of our nation’s military members. The Honor Wall can be viewed at <https://padlet.com/occequitylead/ed2nep2x6px3919a>

