



Starfish Student Success Network

OCC Set to Launch Student Success Early Intervention Program in Fall 2021

Orange Coast College has officially launched a new software program called Starfish that will make it easier than ever to connect students with the resources they need to succeed in their coursework. Originally recommended by OCC's Guided Pathways implementation team, Starfish gives faculty the opportunity to identify problems early, and refer students to various student support services at the College

"This product is an early intervention system, so that faculty who are in the classroom can essentially raise a flag when there's a problem, or facilitate a referral to a service on campus," says Student Support Programs Project Coordinator Erin Fitzgerald.

The software, which fully integrates with OCC's existing student information system Banner and course management system Canvas, gives faculty the ability to not only flag issues early on, such as "low attendance" or "low score on early assignment," but also send "kudos" when a student is doing

well. Students also are able to self-identify their needs in Starfish, in order to connect with services they need.

"Students can raise their own hands in Starfish with sort of a broad 'I need help' request," says Fitzgerald. "This is a generic flag that directs them to OCC's Success Matters support team, who will subsequently reach out to the student and help connect them with various resources that are available to them, such as tutoring, financial aid, and counseling."

OCC offered Starfish training to all employees at its Fall Flex Day on Aug. 27. The four sessions focused on training faculty on how to fill out "progress surveys" at various points during the semester. These surveys help to create a full picture of a student's progress with the Starfish system.

"Everywhere a student's name appears in Starfish is a link. That link connects to a file that is a complete history of the student's progress in Starfish, making it easy for OCC's Success Matters team and faculty to measure and track the results of our outreach and intervention efforts," says Fitzgerald.

OCC completed a pilot program for Starfish over the summer, with positive feedback from faculty and students. That pilot program helped to inform the tone and design of the template that will be used in Starfish's progress surveys. The pilot

program also gave the College's recently formed Success Matters team a chance to practice before Starfish formally launched in the fall.

Many of the employees who make up the Success Matters team are those whose job changed due the COVID-19 pandemic, which temporarily closed much of campus. Classified staff who were in positions that could not be shifted online transitioned into student outreach and intervention roles on the Success Matters team. "Many of the staff who shifted gears and joined our Success Matters team have spoken to me about how much they enjoy the work," says Fitzgerald. "They really like connecting with students."

President Suarez Welcomes Employees Back to Campus with Sweet Treats

Classified employees and managers who returned to campus during the week of Aug. 2-6 were treated to "Welcome Back" festivities in the College's new dining facility, located in the College Center. Breakfast and coffee was served on Aug. 2 to kick off the week, and cookies and ice cream breaks were scheduled throughout the week. All employees on campus were invited to stop by and reconnect after more than 18 months of working from home.

OCC Planetarium Set to Host Immersive Dome Film Festival in October

Orange Coast College will host Dome Fest West on Oct. 9 and 10 in its Planetarium, which reopened its doors in early August. The two-day immersive film festival and conference features films that use 360-degree technology popularized by virtual reality and augmented reality productions.

OCC's Planetarium, with its 129-seat domed theater, is the perfect venue to view immersive media, which makes viewers feel as though they are immersed within a production. Dome Fest will include 33 films over the span of two days, and COVID-19 safety protocols, such as masks and distancing, will be enforced.

Dome Fest West is part of a co-op of international full dome festivals that includes the FullDome Festival in Germany, FullDome UK in the United Kingdom, and the Dome Under Festival in Melbourne, Australia. All four festivals will present a slate of films under a #BestOfEarth program that includes panel discussions featuring artists, VR and AR engineers and designers, planetarium experts, and more.

