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OCC Counselor Eileen Tom Named Orange County Community College Counselor of the Year

The Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) has named Orange Coast College academic counselor Eileen Tom the Community College Counselor of the Year for 2021-2022. Tom, who has worked at Coast since 2008 and currently serves as chair of the counseling department, will be honored at the 2021 Virtual Orange County Counselor Symposium on Nov. 10.

In addition to being the assigned counselor for OCC's Transfer and Honors programs, Tom also serves on the College's Curriculum Committee and is the counseling liaison for OCC's STEM Academy. She is a leader within the counseling department, and has gone above and beyond during the past 18 months of the pandemic caused by COVID-19. "Because of Eileen's leadership during the pandemic, our counseling division was provided with much needed training on how to use Zoom, Cranium Café and Ring Central phone counseling in a remote, virtual environment.," says OCC Dean of Counseling

Renee De Long. "She is to be commended for her commitment to our students and we are delighted that she is being honored as the Orange County Counselor of the Year."

The theme for this year's Symposium will be "Reconnecting, Resetting and Restoring" and will focus on promoting excellence, equity, and access for all learners. This theme resonates with Tom, who was the first member of her family to attend college at OCC. "It wasn't easy to navigate, and I spent six years struggling to support myself and paying my way through college working as a food server and at a group home for abused kids. Along the way, the outstanding professors I had at OCC helped ignite a passion for education," she says. "Returning to work at the college that started me on my journey is a point of great pride."

Tom is grateful to be recognized by the OCDE as this year's community college counselor of the year. "I am grateful and deeply appreciative to be valued for the work I care so deeply about," she says. "I'm thankful to work with such amazing educators who inspire me and the students they impact every day."

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OCC Student Published in National Literary Journal, Named International Poet Laureate

Orange Coast College student Federico De Palma is among 28 Phi Theta Kappa members who will be published in the honor society's 2021 issue of Nota Bene, a literary journal that showcases outstanding writing of community college students.

De Palma also has been recognized as one of six "exemplary entries" and in addition to receiving a \$1,000 scholarship, he has been named PTK's International Poet Laureate for a poem titled "Immigrant's Song."

A recent graduate of OCC with an Associate's degree, De Palma transferred to University of California, Irvine this fall, however he has continued to take classes at Coast for his own personal



PHI THETA KAPPA
HONOR SOCIETY

interest. He has been a member of OCC's PTK chapter since 2019, and currently is majoring in Spanish with a minor in education. "I received an email from Teresa Scarbrough, [OCC's PTK] chapter coordinator, with the info about Nota Bene," says De Palma. "I intend to use this scholarship to pay [for] my studies, specifically to buy books and materials for my courses."

Phi Theta Kappa is the premier honor society recognizing the academic achievements of students at associate degree-granting colleges, and helps them grow as scholars and leaders. The honor society is made up of more than 3.5 million members and nearly 1,300 chapters in 10 countries. OCC's PTK chapter was recently recognized as one of the best in the world.

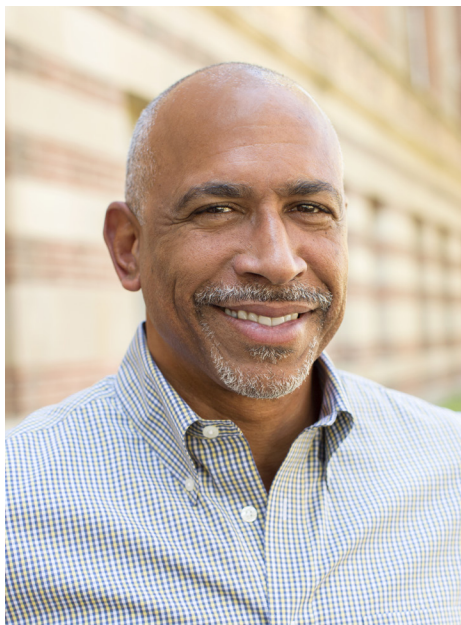
De Palma recognizes the value that his membership in PTK has provided. "Education is not only studying, but also socializing, learning from experience, and challenging yourself to new things," he says. "Honors societies open the doors to that and much more."

More than 440 entries were submitted to the 2021 Nota Bene competition, which is judged by current and retired college faculty and staff from across the country. A digital issue of the literary journal will be available on www.ptk.org this winter.

Dr. Pedro Noguera Invited to Speak at Orange Coast College's CLEEO 11.0 Summit

Orange Coast College's Counseling Latinos for Equity and Engagement project invited Dr. Pedro Noguera to speak at its 11.0 virtual Summit, scheduled on Oct. 20. His talk, titled "Equity and Deeper Learning at Community Colleges" took place live on Zoom.

Noguera is the Dean of the Rossier School of Education at University of Southern California, and is the holder of the Emery Stoops and Joyce King Stoops Dean's Chair in Education. "The CLEEO Summit Guest Speaker series invites prominent scholars that are recognized nationally and globally as innovators and



leaders in their respective fields of expertise," explains CLEEO Project Coordinator and OCC Counselor Eric Cuellar. "Dr. Noguera is a member of the National Academy of Education and an expert on educational policy and equity. He was a first-generation student of higher education from an immigrant family that valued education, and his dedication to education led him to become a well-respected and honored university professor at Harvard, NYU, Columbia, UC Berkeley, and UCLA before becoming the Dean of the USC Rossier School of Education."

A sociologist, Noguera's research focuses on the ways in which schools are influenced by social and economic conditions, as well as by demographic trends in local, regional and global contexts. He is the author, co-author and editor of 13 books. His most recent books are *The Crisis of Connection: Roots, Consequences and Solutions* with Niobe Way, Carol Gilligan and Alisha Ali (New York University Press, 2018) and *Race, Equity and Education: Sixty Years From Brown* with Jill Pierce and Roey Ahram (Springer, 2015).

OCC's CLEEO Project has a commitment to promote Latin@ access and success in higher education in an equitable and culturally supportive environment. The CLEEO Project's focus is on developing an educational pathway for college students with an emphasis on the successful development of life skills and the attainment of Associate and Bachelor degrees and beyond toward a Post-Graduate education. The CLEEO 11.0 Summit is supported by OCC's International Multicultural Committee as well as the College's Student Equity program.

OCC Marketing Specialist Andrea Rangno Recognized by Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce

Orange Coast College Public Information Specialist Andrea Rangno was recognized for "Exemplary Leadership Within the Hispanic Community" at an event on Oct. 6 organized by the Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce.

Members of the Chamber gathered with local city officials at Cafe Sevilla in Costa Mesa to recognize Latinos who are making a difference in the local community. Rangno was the guest of city councilwoman Andrea Marr, who stated "I really wanted to select someone from Orange Coast College, since OCC is such an integral part of our community. As I made calls to people at the College, the same name kept coming up."

Rangno has worked in OCC's Marketing and Public relations office for the past seven years. She is the immediate past president of the College's Classified Senate, and currently sits on OCC's International and Multicultural Committee. In 2018, she received OCC's Friend of the Students award and was an Outstanding Coast Colleague of Year nominee in 2019-2020.

The Oct. 6 event was part of the City's Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations, and included a musical performance by

Mariachi Juvenil Herencia Michoacana. Additional honorees included Chamber President and Chief Executive Carla Valenzuela, El Metate Market, Patti Bonilla of El Toro Bravo and Johnny Rojas, a newly appointed planning commissioner and chapter president of the Veterans Assn. of Real Estate Professionals.



OCC Waterfront Campus to Collaborate with Training Resources Maritime Institute on Courses for Mariners

Training Resources Maritime Institute (“TRLMI”) of San Diego, Calif. and Orange Coast College’s Waterfront Campus announced on Oct. 14 that they will be collaborating to offer professional mariner training at the new OCC Professional Mariner Training Center in Newport Beach.

According to Dave Abrams, CEO of TRLMI, “OCC has built a first-class facility for mariners in Orange County, and we are thrilled to help them deliver an expanded range of USCG certified courses to support the local maritime community.” TRLMI will provide curriculum and certified instructors to teach a range of courses at the new OCC Mariner Training Center starting in January 2022.

Sarah Hirsch, Director of the new Maritime Center added “We have been working with the team at TRLMI to support some of our current course offerings, so it seemed natural to partner with them to expand our training opportunities for local mariners. TRLMI has an outstanding reputation in the maritime community.”

Training Resources Limited, Inc, DBA Maritime Institute (“TRLMI”) is the largest privately held provider of maritime training in the Western United States. The company’s main campus in San Diego is an 18,000-square-foot facility with 14 classrooms, bridge and engine room simulators, and many “hands-on” training aids. TRLMI has over 80 approved US Coast Guard and US Navy courses to provide certifications in deck, engineering, weapons and safety requirements. For more information, please visit www.TRLMI.com

