



“Our website consists of hundreds of pages and is very document heavy. The plan is to examine all the pages and documents to ensure essential information is relevant and presentable to our audience,” says Nguyen. “Performing this quality assurance of the content is an important step before migrating content to the new website. I’ll be working with all experts from each department on campus to migrate and train our employees; however, this task may take several months.”

The new website design will include an upgraded search engine, improved responsive design for mobile devices, and enhanced accessibility. In the future, OCC’s marketing team hopes to implement a shared College-wide chat that will allow the college community to speak with students and visitors online. The new website will be hosted

on a Content Management System called Cascade, and will be a large departure from Sharepoint, the current system.

OCC Website Redesign Set to Launch Sept. 7

Orange Coast College’s website will undergo a redesign that is scheduled to go live on Monday, Sept. 7. The redesign has been in the planning phase for more than a year, and is necessary in order to keep up with advances in Web design and accessibility. The last Web redesign project was in 2012 and a website refresh was completed in 2016.

“The new website should touch on the commonalities with our entire audience — students, employees, and the community. It should be inviting, informative, and concise so anyone can easily navigate the website and at the same time emphasize the excitement of a flourishing campus,” explains Web developer James Nguyen. “Importantly, our primary focus here is the students. For students, it’s essential to highlight the benefits of starting at Orange Coast College and the support services and transfer programs available, as well as partnerships with four-year colleges and universities.”

The website redesign project is being led by OCC’s Marketing and Public Relations department, and will be conducted in phases. Web pages set to be part of phase 1 of the redesign include OCC’s homepage, as well as Admissions, Academics, Services and Support, Community, Faculty and Staff, and Newsroom Web pages, among others.

Orange County Children’s Book Festival Goes Virtual in 2020

The show will go on for the Orange County Children’s Book Festival, which will move its 17th annual event from an “in-person” to a “virtual” book festival, starting Monday, Sept. 14.

The Virtual Orange County Children’s Book Festival will have two parts: the first is the “Story & Activity Time” featuring authors and illustrators sharing their work through 20-minute videos released daily beginning on Monday, Sept. 14 and wrapping up on Friday, Sept. 25.

On Saturday, Sept. 26 the Book Festival will present its “Red Carpet Time,” a two-session virtual event featuring a 90-minute morning session and a 90-minute afternoon session. Attendees won’t want to miss “Red Carpet Time,” which will include celebrities and notable, bestselling authors, such as New York Times bestselling author and top rated Wharton professor Adam Grant who will co-present with actress Kristen Bell.

“Over the past 16 years, the OC Children’s Book Festival has presented California families with engaging storytellers, talented authors and accomplished illustrators to enjoy,” says Festival organizer Pat Burns. “Although nothing can replace the experience of attending the Book Festival, the Virtual Orange County Children’s Book Festival promises an entertaining and inspiring virtual event. As always, it features celebrity headliners, popular authors, studio illustrators and wonderful storytellers. This virtual event anticipates to be exactly what the Book Festival audience will want to see.”

OCC’s Campus Goes Smoke Free Starting in Fall 2020

In an effort to create a healthy campus environment for all who visit, Orange Coast College has announced that it is now a 100 percent smoke- and tobacco-free campus.

The decision to transition to a smoke-free campus comes after many months of discussion and planning, with a Smoke/Tobacco-Free Task Force formed last year composed of representatives from all of the College’s constituency groups. However, the effort was led by students, who initially

conceived of the idea after learning that OCC had received an “F” rating on the California Youth Advocacy Network (CYAN) California College & University Smoke/Tobacco-Free Policy Report Card.

Students teamed up with health instructor Anna Hanlon to apply for a grant through the Truth Initiative, which OCC received. Hanlon and student representatives also partnered with OCC’s Office of Institutional Effectiveness to conduct a campus-wide survey, with results showing strong support for a transition to a smoke-free campus.

“The Associated Students of Orange Coast College (ASOCC) passed a resolution in Fall 2018 urging the College to adopt a 100 percent smoke and tobacco free campus,” explains Hanlon. “This was presented to the Academic Senate who endorsed with the caveat that an implementation task force would be created to operationalize what the policy change would mean, and this task force included four students. They collaborated for more than a year and a half to gain agreement among the College’s different constituency groups to move to smoke and tobacco free campus.”

A board policy and procedure was drafted and approved by all shared governance groups at OCC at the end of the Spring 2019 semester, and was given final approval by the Coast Community College District Board of Trustees on June 17, 2020.

The next steps in implementing the smoke-free policy include educating new students and providing assistance to students and employees who are interested in smoking cessation. “We are updating onboarding information for our incoming freshmen, new student housing occupants, and new employees,” says Hanlon. “We are also getting the word out to our campus with a public facing Web page and educational



programs that are being created to provide information on the new policy and cessation support available to smokers who want to quit.”

Additionally, OCC’s Student Health Center has hired a Smoking Cessation Specialist to oversee cessations efforts. “The SHC’s tobacco cessation program will help individuals who are interested in quitting smoking or vaping,” says Hanlon. “Participants can choose among seminars, classes, or individual counseling facilitated by our Tobacco Cessation Specialist. Sessions are free, confidential and open to all OCC students, staff and faculty.”

Pirates’ Cove Begins Food Distribution for Students in Need

OCC’s Pirates’ Cove, in collaboration with Second Harvest Food Bank, began distributing food boxes to food insecure students and their families on Aug. 13.

The weekly distributions will continue weekly, taking place on Thursday mornings from 9 a.m. until 10 a.m., with strict safety protocols that are meant to promote social distancing and limit contact. Students must make an appointment — either through the Pirates’ Cove website or on the OCC Cares website — in order to participate.



“We recognize the difficulties our students face while attending college and we want to make every effort to help and support them during these challenging times,” says Vice President of Student Services Dr. Madjid Niroumand. “Food insecurity is a reality for many of our students and it is imperative we do what we can to help our students. I appreciate OCC’s Student Services team and our community partners for their advocacy and support of this effort. Reaching out to all students to find ways to support them continues to be an absolute commitment of the College.”

OCC’s food distribution includes three types of food boxes: produce, dairy and protein. Students can receive one of each type of box per week for a total of three boxes. The Pirates’ Cove also provides information and resources on its website to connect students to food drives that are more convenient for them, either geographically or because of scheduling conflicts.

Virtual Onboarding Event Introduces Students to College Life

As OCC geared up for a fall semester that will take place mostly online, the College’s onboarding team organized a virtual Navigate OCC event that introduced or reacquainted students to Coast, gave them an opportunity to meet fellow students, and connected them to resources on campus.

More than 500 students signed up to participate in the four-day event, scheduled for Aug. 17-20. The workshops and information sessions will continue to be available to students for the duration of the Fall 2020 semester, with recordings of the LiveOnline presentations available in OCC’s learning management system, Canvas.

Navigate OCC included 26 different modules on Canvas, with each focused on an area of the College that students might need, such as Counseling, Registration Support, Health Services, Career/Major Exploration, Financial Aid, Student Life and more. A Zoom info desk also was available for students to drop-in and ask any questions all week long.

OCC’s First Virtual Fall Flex Day Focuses on Social Justice

Orange Coast College hosted its first ever virtual Fall Flex Day on Friday, Aug. 21, giving employees a chance to re-connect, share best practices and receive training. The theme for the annual day of professional development — “There’s No Place Like Home” — was selected last year as a nod to OCC’s new Student Housing facility, which was expected to open this summer. The theme took on new meaning in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, which made it necessary for OCC to transition most of its classes online, and for most employees to work from home.

“This definitely has been a year of defining moments,” said President Suarez in her virtual State of the College address to hundreds of employees. In her address, Dr. Suarez

conducted a year in review, discussed OCC's commitment to equity, inclusion and racial justice, and shared information about budget challenges ahead. The State of the College address is available for viewing at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3GuGHHkiMjQ>

This year's Fall Flex Day included 62 unique sessions led by faculty, staff and managers. Many sessions focused on topics related to racial and social justice, such as "There's No Place Like Home: deconstructing harmful assumptions about our students' home and family lives." Employees also had an opportunity to meet with their union representatives, receive software training, and meet with shared governance committees.

OCC Marketing and PR Publish 2020 Magazine

Orange Coast College's Marketing and Public Relations department has published the 2020 edition of the annual OCC Magazine, with this year's issue focused on the College's response to COVID-19.

Articles in the magazine cover a breadth of topics, such as how OCC provided support to its local community during the early days of the pandemic, as well as how instruction evolved as most classes at the College transitioned to an online format.

The magazine also highlights some outstanding students and employees at the College, such as recent graduate Austin Salcedo, who is transferring to Stanford, and Global Engagement Recruiter Kris Toribio, who was recognized this past summer by his peers nationwide for distinguished service.

"It goes without saying that OCC, like many colleges around the world, has had to pivot quickly in order to meet the challenges of COVID-19. At OCC, our students, faculty and staff have done a remarkable job of making the best of a challenging situation, and we wanted to tell those stories in our Magazine," says Director of Marketing and Public Relations Juan Gutierrez.

OCC Magazine is published annually during the early Fall semester. This is the fifth edition of the publication. To view a digital version of the Magazine, visit <http://occpubcity.orangecoastcollege.edu/occmag2020/>



TONY ALTABELLI RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD FOR PROFESSIONALISM DURING A TRAGEDY

During the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) weeklong announcement of the 2020 Special Awards, Orange Coast College's Tony Altobelli was recognized for his courage while performing under a most difficult situation as he was awarded the Bud Nangle Award.

The award, which has only been given to three other sports information professionals, is presented to a member of

CoSIDA or to an individual outside of CoSIDA who shows ethics, integrity and bravery under unusual or stressful situations while carrying out their job duties.

Altobelli is in his 14th year as Sports Information Director at Orange Coast College. He is a one-man office, handling all SID and game operation duties for 24 teams and is the longest-tenured sports information director in Coast's 72-year history. Prior to serving as the sports information



Tony Altobelli was awarded the Bud Nangle Award for performing under the most difficult situation after losing his brother, sister-in-law and niece in a helicopter crash on Jan. 26.

professionalism he displayed during those first two weeks especially were second to none. It was amazing."

While serving as the crisis communications spokesman and in the midst of the media crush, Tony also penned an emotional, poignant and humorous tribute to his brother entitled: Dear John ... Thank you ... Love, Toad.

Through it all, Tony did not halt his in-game SID duties, serving as the public address announcer, official scorer and scoreboard operator for each baseball game and at other OCC events, until the campus was closed on March 16 due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. Altobelli and the Orange Coast College community continue to daily face the aftermath of the crash and the loss of their head baseball coach in their new reality.

In early April, Altobelli was honored with the Brass Top Award from the California Community College Sports Information Association (CCCSIA), given to an SID at the community college level, or someone working closely with members of the CCCSIA, to recognize outstanding service and accomplishments. He served as President of the association from 2009-11.