



Calendar

- Thursday, April 7 - Our Coast, Our Future, The Drought, 1-2 p.m., Zoom
- Friday, April 8 - Spring Plant Sale, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., OCC Horticulture Gardens
- Friday, April 22 - Giles T. Brown Research Symposium, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., OCC College Center
- Tuesday, April 26 - OCC Friends of the Library Book Sale, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., OCC Library
- Wednesday, April 27 - OCC Friends of the Library Book Sale, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., OCC Library
- **SAVE THE DATE:** May 3-12, 2022 Mass Appeal Student Juried Exhibition, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. OCC Doyle Arts Pavilion

Orange Coast College Selected to Host 5-Week 'NASA On Campus' Experience

Orange Coast College has been selected to participate in a five-week course "NASA On Campus Experience" hosted by the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars (NCAS). The national program gives community college students a chance to learn about NASA research and missions in a free five-week online course. The deadline to apply is April 6.

Students who successfully complete the NASA On Campus online course will be invited to a four-day, on-campus engineering design and robotics competition at OCC. The competition will offer a hands-on, collaborative engineering experience and connect students with NASA experts.

"Students will form teams and establish fictional companies interested in Mars exploration," explains OCC STEM Center director Dr. Erik Bender. "Each team is responsible for developing and testing a prototype rover, forming a company infrastructure, managing a budget, and developing communications and outreach. The event includes briefings by NASA subject matter experts, information on how to apply for NASA internships, and tours of labs at universities such as UCI and USC. One lucky student from this experience will receive a NASA internship."

OCC has previously partnered with NASA through a program in collaboration with the California Space Grant Consortium (CaSGC). Through that program students at Coast have

designed and built a Mars rovers, and presented their projects to NASA engineers for feedback. "We've had great success with this program, and because of this we were invited to participate in NCAS," says Bender.

NCAS is exclusively open to students attending two-year colleges, has no minimum GPA requirement and all majors are welcome. Dr. Bender and Astronomy Professor Dr. Jerome Fang hosted two information sessions in March for students who are interested in applying.

"Students who attend community colleges like OCC don't necessarily have many of the opportunities afforded to students that attend a regular four-year university," says Bender. "NCAS On Campus opens doors for community college students who want to explore options and careers with NASA and other STEM-related professions. It provides our students with a valuable enrichment opportunity that will have a lasting impact on their education."

NCAS is funded by the Minority University Research and Education Program (MUREP). MUREP is committed to engaging underrepresented and underserved students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) with authentic learning experiences to sustain a diverse workforce. To learn more visit <https://go.nasa.gov/ncas-campus>



Orange Coast College Invites Community to Celebrate 3rd Anniversary with Open House Event

Orange Coast College's Planetarium invited the community to join in the celebration of its third anniversary since opening its doors in 2019 at an Open House event on March 19. Guests were able to take part in fun family friendly activities including free Planetarium exhibits, science exhibits, demonstrations of rovers, rockets and drones, and special workshops with OCC alumni and fashion icon Paul Frank. The first 100 attendees received a free Paul Frank designer button.

"We are really excited to be back open so we can offer regular public shows covering new Earth science and astronomy topics," said Planetarium Director Scott Mitchell. "We're going to start with the opening of our first major exhibit (meteorites), and a whole new slate of public events like monthly telescope nights, the Space Out relaxation hour, and our kids STEM events. Later this year we're looking at starting an invited speaker series where we get educators and industry professionals to come talk about interesting developments in their fields."

The anniversary event was free of charge (with the exception of an additional fee for the Paul Frank workshop) and was co-sponsored by the Vanguard Vista STEM grant program.

President's Office Hosts "Herstory" Leadership Panel in Honor of Women's History Month

OCC President Angelica Suarez invited several women leaders from the College and the Coast District to take part in a leadership panel on March 22 titled "Women in Leadership: Herstory."

The panel, which took place virtually via Zoom, included Vice President of Instruction Michelle Grimes Hillman, Vice Chancellor of Educational Services and Technology Andreea Serban, CDMA president Shannon Quihuiz, OCC Classified Senate President Jasmine Nguyen, and OCC Director of Financial Aid Tanisha Bradfield. The event was co-hosted by Student Equity Manager Maricela Sandoval.

"The path paved by Pirate women of yesterday is well traveled today by our exceptional female classified professionals, faculty, administrators and students, who are breaking down barriers to success and creating a more inclusive and equitable campus environment," said President Suarez. "These panelists share their unique path to leadership, and inspire us as we continue our mission of advancing a college community that exemplifies excellence, equity and inclusion in service of students."

Pirates Hang “14” on Lasers on “14” Day

On the day that Orange Coast College and Irvine Valley College honored the opening of John Altobelli Park with both teams wearing No. 14, the Pirates topped the Lasers with a 14-run, 14-hit performance in a 14-4 win.

With several hundred people in attendance – including OCC President Angelica Suarez, California Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris, Costa Mesa Mayor John Stephens, and several media outlets – the Pirates (12-7, 2-1 in the Orange Empire Conference) put up a win on a day they just didn’t want to lose.

Following a pregame ceremony honoring the former 27-year Pirate skipper, Coast came out swinging and scored 11 runs over the first four innings and never looked back.

“It’s what Alto talked about for seven years,” OCC head coach Nate Johnson said. “He would talk about how many times 22 would pop up with Jordan Watanabe. And with this number, I knew as soon as it happened. Fourteen pops up all the time, and what better game for 14 to pop up?”

OCC Celebrates Student Union Ribbon Cutting

Orange Coast College officially dedicated its new Student Union with a ribbon cutting ceremony on March 17.

The ceremony opened with statements from OCC Director of Marketing and Public Relations Juan Gutierrez, President Angelica Suarez, Dean of Students Derek Vergara, Coast Community College Chancellor John Weispfenning and Orange County Board of Supervisor Katrina Foley, among other guests.

Several speakers noted that the dedication ceremony took place exactly two years since OCC closed its doors in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, emphasizing the significance of the College welcoming students back to campus this spring. “Having this ceremony on the two-year anniversary of the school going remote, it says to our students, ‘welcome home, we missed you,’” President Suarez said.

At just over 40,000 square feet, the Student Union gives all students at Coast a place to gather, study and connect with one another. The building is home to the Associated Students of Orange Coast College, as well as the Veterans Resource Center, Dean of Students, and Student Outreach.

“The student union will provide a physical location for that reconnection of students and will allow them to be more engaged in their education and create new friendships,” said Chancellor Weispfenning. “It’s a new day for Orange Coast College. We’re coming out of something completely unforeseen and this really signifies that we’re back.”

The Student Union will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday during the Spring 2022 semester, but College officials hope to increase those hours as life returns to normalcy on campus.

