



“More and more the photography program is relying ‘one-time funds’ to purchase and repair equipment, and this leads to a kind of boom or bust situation. An endowment like this can provide our students with year-in and year-out consistency,” says Gillissen.

Jeff Goss is a professional photographer who graduated from the Brooks School of Photography and has worked as a staff photographer for Getty Images since 1988. On a recent visit to OCC, Goss was able to see how much a donation could benefit the education of photography students. “Jeff simply was looking to give back to the medium that has given him

so much over the years,” explains Gillissen. “He felt what better way to give back then to help the next generation of photographers.”

OCC Photography Program Receives \$450,000 to Establish Jeff Gross Photography Endowment

Orange Coast College’s School of Photography has received a \$450,000 grant from the William, Jeff and Jennifer Gross Family Foundation. The donation will be used to establish the Jeff Gross Photography Endowment and will help fund the purchase and repair of photography equipment for students, as well as pay for advanced photography students to serve as tutors for their entry-level peers.

“The ... thing that’s so exciting about this gift is its flexibility,” says OCC photography professor Blade Gillissen. “Annual interest from the endowment can be spent on new equipment, repairing older equipment, or even short-term staffing/tutoring in a limited capacity.”

Students in OCC’s photography program have access to a broad range of photo equipment, including film and digital cameras, lenses, light kits and more. Equipment rentals are available to all enrolled photography students for a low fee in order to ensure that the program remains accessible to everyone, regardless of socioeconomic circumstances.

Navigate OCC Switches to Virtual Format, Will Introduce Students to College Programs and Services

Orange Coast College’s Spring Navigate OCC student orientation event has been moved to a virtual format as the College makes efforts to minimize in-person interactions through the end of January and early February.

Starting on January 18, Navigate OCC will be held virtually on Canvas, with all newly enrolled students invited to access the site and view pre-recorded content from a variety of academic and student services departments and programs. Continuing students also will be encouraged to visit the site to get reacquainted with OCC resources and programs.

The event is a collaborative effort that spans across many areas of the College, and is coordinated by the Future Pirate Center, Global Engagement Center, Student Equity,

and Associated Students of OCC. Additionally, several departments participate, including OCC's Career Center, Visual and Performing Arts (Commercial Art program, AR/VR program, Dance, Fine Arts), Counseling, Engineering department, Extended Opportunities Programs and Services (EOPS), English as a Second Language department (ESL), Financial Aid and Financial Wellness, Journalism department, Guardian Scholars, STEM Academy, Housing, Sociology-Ethnic Studies-Gender Studies department, OCC Cares/Pirates' Cove, Puente Program, Title IX, Success Center, and Instructional Innovation Center.

"Navigate OCC is a great way for new students to feel connected to the campus, develop a community of peers and support, and feel more confident before the start of the semester," says Student Support and Success Program manager Felipe Salazar.

Employees, Children Gathered for Holiday Festivities on Dec. 17

All employees were invited to an end-of-year holiday celebration on Thursday, December 17, 2021, that included a breakfast buffet, ice sculptures, and a surprise visit from "Surfer Santa."

Youngsters from OCC's Harry and Grace Children's Center stopped by to sing Christmas carols and Hanukkah songs,

and were treated to a surprise visit from Santa Clause, who drove up in a classic VW Bus and carrying an OCC surfboard. Santa was accompanied by several elves, who assisted him in greeting the children and taking photos.

OCC culinary students provided several beautiful ice sculptures for the event, and the College's incredible food services team provided catering that included breakfast burritos, yogurt parfaits, and muffins. Mascot Pete the Pirate also made an appearance, and even got into the holiday spirit by wearing a Santa hat.

Flex Day is Set for Feb. 24

Employees will once again gather for OCC's biannual Flex Day training and professional development on Thursday, February 24 from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

The theme for OCC's Spring Flex Day is "Access Granted: Engaging our Campus Community with Care and Inclusivity." Employees will have an opportunity to sign up for five 1-hour General Sessions and two 2-hour workshops. There will also be a midday presentation that will include a talk by OCC President Angelica Suarez and Keynote Speaker Dr. Sandra Yancy McGuire, author of "Teach Students How to Learn" and "Teach Yourself How to Learn."

Many presentations will be recorded and be made available for future viewing.

