



## Calendar

- Saturday, March 5 - Holly Topping & Rebecca Campbell Exhibits Opening Reception, 2-4 p.m., Doyle Arts Pavilion
- Saturday, March 12 - John Altobelli Park Dedication Ceremony, time 11:30 am, OCC baseball field
- Thursday, March 17 - Student Union Dedication & Ribbon Cutting, 10:30 a.m., OCC Student Union
- Saturday, March 19 - OCC Planetarium 3rd Anniversary Event, 11 a.m until 2 p.m., OCC Planetarium



## OCC Recovery Kitchen Named EPA 2021 National Award Recipient for Education, Outreach

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has selected Orange Coast College's Recovery Kitchen as a recipient of its 2021 Food Recovery Challenge National Award for Education and Outreach.

"Reducing food waste represents an environmental and economic benefit for communities in our region," said EPA Pacific Southwest Regional Administrator Martha Guzman. "The Food Recovery Challenge Awardees in California are leading the way, modeling how organizations across the state can address food insecurity, prevent methane emissions that contribute to climate change, and make cost-saving business decisions."

OCC's Recovery Kitchen was founded in 2019 as part of the food service management program at the College. The recovery kitchen was formed to help end student hunger and food waste on campus. The kitchen also helps students in the food service management, culinary arts, baking and pastry, and nutrition programs gain experience working in a commercial high-volume kitchen, with emphasis on proper handling and processing of recovered foods.

"Orange Coast College is honored to receive this award from the EPA in recognition of the incredible work being done by the students, faculty and volunteers in our Recovery Kitchen," said College President Angelica Suarez. "As one of the largest college campuses in Orange County, and in the state of California, we are committed to lowering our carbon footprint while also addressing inequities in food security and public health."

The OCC Recovery Kitchen collaborates with the College's on-campus food pantry, the Pirate's Cove, and its Food Services, culinary arts, nutrition and dietetics, and horticulture programs to recover food for the student body and local food banks. In 2020, OCC's Recovery Kitchen distributed 212,392 meals and recovered 609,541 pounds of surplus edible food that would otherwise go to landfill. The recovered food was used to create pre-packaged meals that benefited students and community members experiencing food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our main purpose is to lower food insecurity among our students and reduce our campus's food waste through curriculum and collaboration," said Alexandra Yates, Faculty Director of the Food Service Management Program at OCC. "No student should ever go hungry. If we can tie it to curriculum so that we can train our future leaders, we can all work towards finding a solution to this problem."

Nearly 600 businesses, government agencies and organizations across the country participated in EPA's Food Recovery Challenge in 2020-2021. Through the Challenge,

EPA has worked with organizations and businesses for the past decade to set data-driven goals, implement targeted strategies to reduce wasted food in their operations, and report results to compete for recognition.

## OCC Celebrates Black History Month with Full Slate of Events

During February Orange Coast College celebrated Black History Month, a nationally recognized observance that highlights the achievements and contributions of Black- and African-Americans who have shaped United States history.

This year, OCC's newly formed Black Student Union (BSU) led the way, organizing several events throughout the month including a "Certified Black Students Meet & Greet" on Zoom, an online screening of the film "A Love Song for Latasha," and a "Rollin' in Melanin" roller skating event on Feb. 25 at Fountain Valley Skating Rink. Founded last year by president Nylah Hines, the OCC BSU provides a space for students to gather and learn more about Black culture in the U.S and around the world.

OCC's Multicultural Center, International Multicultural Committee and Student Equity program also collaborated to plan several events throughout the month, including lectures that are part of OCC's Umoja Indaba Series.

"Recognizing and celebrating our diverse experiences is fundamental to building a holistically inclusive and equitable learning community," wrote OCC President Angelica Suarez in a message to campus. "These exciting events feature many champions — OCC students, faculty, classified professionals and managers. Thank you for coming together to plan a meaningful calendar of activities for Black History Month."

To see a full list of Black History Month events, visit <https://prod.orangecoastcollege.edu/services-support/gec/multicultural-center/index.html>

## OCC Set to Host First CCC Partnership Resource Team Visit on March 3

Orange Coast College will host its first Partnership Resource Team (PRT) visit on March 3 as part of its involvement in the California Community College's Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative (IEPI). The PRT will meet with OCC President Angelica Suarez and Vice President of Instruction Michelle Grimes Hillman, as well as the College's deans, faculty and specific participatory governance committees and senates.

IEPI was launched in 2014 to help California's community colleges and college districts improve their operational effectiveness. OCC applied for the Initiative last fall, with plans to focus on enrollment planning. Since then, the College has homed in on three themes: enrollment awareness, development of a strategic enrollment plan and predictive analytics.

The March 3 visit will be the first of three visits in 2022, and will take place via Zoom, with the second visit scheduled for early April in person. The PRT will assist the College in creating an Innovation and Effectiveness plan, which OCC will potentially receive up to \$200,000 to implement.

## Student Union Dedication Scheduled for March 17

Orange Coast College will dedicate its brand new Student Union building on Thursday, March 17 with a ceremony and ribbon cutting at 10:30 a.m. followed by a lunch reception.

The Student Union gives students a place to gather, study and connect on campus, and houses the College's Associate Students, as well as the Student Life, Outreach, Veterans Affairs and Scholarship programs. The facility has ample meeting space available for student club meetings and events.

College and Coast District officials will be on hand in addition to District Trustees, building architects, local elected officials, and students, faculty and staff.



~ You're invited ~

Please join us for Orange Coast College's

### STUDENT UNION DEDICATION

MARCH

17

10:30 a.m.

East side of building  
(College Center side)

Program followed by ribbon cutting  
and light reception

Parking available in Lot A (Fairview Rd & Pirate Way)

This event is ADA compliant. Reasonable accommodation requests related to a disability should be made no later than five business days prior to this event by contacting Michelle Wang at [mwang@occ.cccd.edu](mailto:mwang@occ.cccd.edu)

