Board Study Session
This week’s Board of Trustees study session focused on Full-Time Faculty Hiring. I would like to thank the Board for their leadership in hosting this discussion and providing a forum for all parties to develop and provide information on the topic.

Banning Land Trust
This week, members of the Banning Land Trust met with representatives from Coastline and the District to discuss the development of the Banning Ranch property (adjacent to Coastline’s Newport Learning Center) and opportunities for partnerships with academic programs from all three colleges. The land will feature preserved natural habitats that can serve as “labs” for our students. I have requested that a brief presentation be prepared for an upcoming Board meeting.

Adult Education Consortium
Adult Education has been a popular topic lately. The passage of Assembly Bill 86 (AB 86) appropriated $25 million to the State Chancellor’s Office to allocate funding for two-year planning and implementation grants to regional consortia of community college districts and school districts for the purpose of developing regional plans to better serve the educational needs of adults through non-credit (FTES bearing) education. Coast Colleges is leading an effort to obtain a grant that would provide $326,585 for planning.

If our application is successful, grant funds would be used to better provide adults with the following:

- Elementary and secondary basic skills, including classes required for a high school diploma or high school equivalency certificate
- Classes and course for immigrants eligible for education services in citizenship and English as a second language and workforce preparation classes in basic skills
- Education programs for adults with disabilities
Short-term career technical education programs with high employment potential
Programs for apprentices.

Since September of last year, team members from Coast Colleges have had discussions with representatives from the K-12 school districts within the CCCD service area to determine interest in this consortium. Led by Dr. Andreea Serban, Coast Colleges has established the Coast Community College District (CCCD) Adult Education Consortium which consists of Garden Grove Unified School District, Huntington Beach Union High School District, Newport-Mesa Unified School District and the three Coast Colleges. While consortium members have collaborated for years in CTE courses and pathways, collaboration in Adult Education has never taken place. This new adult education consortium presents excellent opportunities for alignment and the construction of new pathways to enable effective student transitions from secondary education to post-secondary education. Faculty and administrators from the colleges will work closely with instructors and administrators from the school districts to maximize this opportunity to clear barriers, both real and perceived, for adult students.

President’s Weekend

As a reminder, Coast Colleges will be closed Friday and Monday in observance of the Presidents’ Day holidays. I wish you all a relaxing and fun Presidents’ Weekend!

Sincerely,
OCC Black History Month Event, Film Series Begin This Week

The Orange Coast College International and Multicultural Committee (IMC), OCC Foundation and the OCC Library will present “Black History Month and the Langston Hughes Project,” a multicultural celebration of 150 years of Emancipation Proclamation and civil rights accomplishments and observance of the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King’s “I have a Dream” speech that will take place on Thursday, February 27.

Rendell Drew, professor of political science, will offer a presentation of King’s historic speech on Thursday, February 27, at 1:45 p.m. in the Robert B. Moore Theatre. The program will be followed by a multimedia concert performance of The Langston Hughes Project.

The multimedia presentation is the highlight of a two-week observance of Black History month that start this week with free screenings of films and discussions on Thursdays, February 13, 20, 27, in the Student Center Lounges and Friday, February 28, in the Giles T. Brown Forum. Extra credit slips will be available for students who attend.

The Langston Hughes Project “Ask Your Mama: Twelve Moods for Jazz” is a masterwork written in 12 parts by Hughes, a black poet and social activist, in the early 1960s. This multimedia presentation recreates Hughes’ vision of the global struggle for freedom in the early 1960’s. African American artists and photographers link words and music to a kaleidoscopic collection of images.

Ron McCurdy, music director and composer, orchestrates the original musical based on the poetry Langston Hughes. McCurdy is professor of music in the Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California (USC). He also served as director of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz at USC, professor of music and chair of the Afro-African American Studies Department and director of Jazz Studies at the University of Minnesota.

OCC’s Black History Month programming was made possible by a $1,200 grant the OCC Library received as a part of the Bridging Cultures initiative sponsored by the National Endowments of Humanities.

OCC received a copy of the film series, “Created Equal: America’s Civil Rights Struggle” from the Gilder Lehrman Institute as a part of the grant, “Created Equal: U.S. Civil Rights Struggle Grant.”

The films will be presented on campus from February 13 through February 28. Students are invited to participate in reflective discussions following each film.
Orange Coast College’s Opera Magnifica will present the inaugural production in the college’s new Recital Hall with weekend performances of “Trial by Jury…..and More! A Gilbert and Sullivan Extravaganza” on February 21, 22 & 23.

Performances are 7:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, February 21 and February 22, and 3:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, February 22 and February 23, in the newly refurbished Recital Hall in Music 102. Tickets are $10 and can be purchased at www.occtickets.com, the OCC Bursar’s Office at (714) 432-5880, or at the door.

“This is our first performance for the public in our brand new recital hall,” said Director of Choral and Vocal Activities Eliza Rubenstein. She noted that the intimate facility will give every attendee a close-up view of the performers. “It is also our first full-length opera production in many years, a testimony to OCC's growing vocal program.”

The Recital Hall is part of a $4.8 million Music Department renovation project which was completed this fall. The Recital Hall was constructed in former rehearsal space. The new hall has fixed seating for 77 people, stage lighting and state-of-the-art acoustics.

Music instructor Susan Ali will direct soloists, the OCC Chamber Singers and an instrumental ensemble conducted by music professor Ricardo Soto.

The show takes place in a courtroom featuring popular Gilbert and Sullivan characters – the Pirate King from “Pirates of Penzance,” the Three Little Maids from School from “The Mikado,” and King Gama from “Princess Ida” – who are on jury duty as Angelina sues Edwin for breach of contract of marriage. The comic operetta includes bonus scenes woven into the storyline that enhances the fun-filled event.

Ali, a mezzo-soprano, is also on the faculty of Orange Coast College and Fullerton College, where she teaches voice and directs Opera Theatre Workshop. She has performed throughout Southern California including engagements with Pacific Symphony, San Diego Chamber Orchestra, Montage Orchestra, Dana Point Symphony, Symphony Irvine, South Bay Opera, Orange County Opera. She has earned an MFA degree in vocal performance from UC Irvine, and an Ed.D from Columbia University.

February 28 Deadline Approaching for $350,000 in OCC Scholarships

Orange Coast College students will receive more than $350,000 in scholarships on Honors Night on May 14, but they must apply for the awards by Friday, February 28.

In the last month, OCC received two scholarship grants of $25,000, reported Doug Bennett, executive director of College Advancement and director of the OCC Foundation. The Casey Family Foundation is sponsoring $25,000 for scholarships in construction technology, while $25,000 in Southern California Edison STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) scholarships will be earmarked for students studying STEM-related disciplines except Allied Health. Veterans are also eligible for the Casey and SCE scholarships, Bennett said.

Students can apply for scholarships on-line at: https://orangecoastcollege.academicworks.com/users/sign_in.