Coast Launchpad Conference

I would like to thank Team Launchpad for their assistance in hosting the Coast Launchpad conference held last Friday. It was a day of learning and highlighted the need to carefully study and continue to work toward closing the gap between education and employment. I would like to thank Board President Mary Hornbuckle, Board Vice President David Grant, and Board Clerk Lorraine Prinsky for participating in the event. The report on the Orange County labor market provided by Enrique Cruzalegui from Burning Glass, Inc., was a great way to begin the discussions on how we can better work together with businesses and others to close the skills gap and ensure that our students are ready to join the workforce. The response from the community was very positive and the evaluation forms told a similar story. We will be posting the information provided in the workshop and will also be working on a follow up plan so that we can capture the momentum and excitement around this initiative and continue to provide a venue for these discussions. If you are interested in being a part of Team Launchpad, please let us know! The team meets on the first Tuesday of each month and we welcome your participation (email nsprague@mail.cccd.edu to be added to the list).

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NASA Astronaut Dr. Mae Jemison Works with Coast to Develop STEM Boot Camps

I had the pleasure of meeting with Space Shuttle Endeavour astronaut and physician, Dr. Mae Jemison this week. Dr. Jemison was the first African-American woman in space and since retiring from NASA has worked to create ways to encourage study and practice in STEM-related fields. Dr. Jemison met with Coast to discuss and develop a program for a STEM boot camp for students that would provide
different models and delivery methods for identifying skills gaps in math and science at an early age and ways of bridging those gaps. I am proud that she has chosen Coast to develop and implement these important workshops that will favorably impact student success at all ages. I look forward to continuing these discussions and working with the campuses and faculty to determine how best to implement these programs at Coast.

**OC Chancellors Regionalism Workshop**

This week Coast was host to a regional workshop of the Orange County chancellors. This workshop focused on the needs for development of programs that support the growing bio-medical devices industry. The participants included NOCCCD Chancellor **Ned Doffoney**, Saddleback College President **Todd Burnett**, and **Steven Glyer** representing the CCCCO's LA/OC regional CTE initiative (just to name a few). We were proud to host such a great group that is dedicated to creating new ways of supporting needed CTE programs and services on a regional level that provide well-trained workers for Orange County's businesses.

Sincerely,