CCC Pays it Forward
It was nice to hear that Coastline recently celebrated Pay It Forward Day on Monday. Coastliners participated in random acts of kindness throughout the day: buying coffee or lunch for someone, giving someone a smile or words of encouragement, and more. Our priority is to help and encourage our students; however, it is also important to do so for others as well.

OCC and Coastline Participate in Newport Beach Film Festival
“OCC Shorts” were screened at the historic Regency Lido Theatre on April 26 to a nearly packed house. This year’s selection included six films by student filmmakers. This is the 12th year that Coast has participated in the Newport Film Festival, and the College is the only school that is allowed to show films in the 600-seat Lido Theatre.

Last week, Coastline held a special reception honoring filmmakers whose films premiered at the Newport Beach Film Festival. Special guests included Gregg Schwenck, Festival Director, Janice Arrington and Jarod Harris & Lynn Cohen.

Such events allow our colleges and communities to connect.

GWC Peace Conference
Last Friday, Golden West College held their Peace Conference on campus, which was sold-out for the first time with more than 210 attendees. The TED Talks style conference included 18 speakers and their topics and bios can be found online at http://www.goldenwestcollege.edu/peace/. Congratulations to GWC on a successful event!

GWC/CIELO Ribbon Cutting
Earlier today, I attended GWC’s ribbon cutting ceremony for their new community center: CIELO (Community for Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Leadership & Opportunities). The ceremony kicks off a venture between Golden West College and the Oak View Renewal Partnership. CIELO will be a one-stop hub for entrepreneur resources for Orange County and will be able to assist students in various programs that can lead to self-employment, such as Digital Arts, Digital Media, Cosmetology, and Floral Design. More than 100 people from the College and the community were in attendance and we hope to see even more faces at the CIELO Grand Opening in Fall 2015.

OCC Community Meeting
Orange Coast College staff hosted a community meeting on Monday to discuss the College’s Vision 2020 Facilities Master Plan and the final reports of several impact studies. More than 70 members from the local community were on hand to hear about and give their feedback on the updated plan. Recommendations by
OCC included lowering the priority for certain projects such as the OCC Village and parking structure, in order to focus on more immediate projects, such as a new Student Center and Language Arts and Social Sciences Building. The College also recommended the recirculation of the CEQA document. Community members offered constructive feedback, which will be taken into consideration as OCC moves toward securing Board approval for the final plan later this summer. Thank you to all those who attended and helped plan, what sounds to have been, a smooth event.

Coast Colleges in Top Three in California
I am pleased to share that the colleges of the Coast District are ranked #3 in FTES in California, according to the 2013-14 Apportionment Attendance Report from the State Chancellor’s Office. Coast follows Los Angeles County (#1) and Los Rios (#2). Kudos to our outstanding faculty and staff for creating a stimulating learning environment for our students.

OCC Coast Colleague Event
I would like to take a moment to recognize our faculty and staff who were honored at OCC’s Coast Colleague Event. John “Mickey” Laux has taught chemistry for the past 18 years and was named OCC’s Full-Time Faculty Member of the Year. He is known for his fun and engaging teaching style, which has earned him the admiration of students and colleagues alike during that time. Shauhin Davari teaches forensics and was named Part-Time Faculty Member of the Year. He, too, was once a student in the same program. Shauhin also volunteers as a coach on OCC’s nationally ranked Speech and Debate team. Debra G. Raskin was named the College’s Classified Staff Member of the Year. She oversees the math area of OCC’s Student Success Center and teaches math part-time at Coast. Debra also attended OCC as a student, and jokes that she “just never left.” Thank you all for your dedication and commitment to Coast and its students.

Chancellor Search Update
Our search for a permanent Chancellor for the Coast District moves forward. Earlier this week, the Selection Committee (Board of Trustees) and the Search Committee separately interviewed a number of qualified candidates. The Selection Committee has received feedback from the Search Committee and will continue to deliberate and engage in additional conversations with selected candidates in an effort to find a Chancellor who is the best fit for the Coast District. Updates will continue to be provided as information becomes available. Thank you again to the members of the Selection and Search Committees and to those who have contributed to the search process.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Jones