Golden West College Leadership Pipeline Graduation
I am very honored to join you in congratulating the first class of the GWC Leadership Pipeline program. It was a great event that highlighted the strength of leadership we are lucky to have throughout the Coast District. I would especially like to thank Crystal Crane and Omid Pourzanjani for developing and implementing the Leadership Pipeline Program. While I am sure that there are many that have contributed greatly to the project, Crystal and Omid deserve much credit for this outstanding program. The fact that all of you attended today's event speaks volumes to the importance and support for developing leaders from within. Congratulations to all of the Leadership Pipeline graduates!

Coastline Academic Senate Luncheon
I would like to thank the Coastline Academic Senate for having me at their Annual Academic Senate Officer Installation Luncheon. This has been a great year and I am looking forward to working with the new and returning Academic Senators.

OCC Scholarships and Awards Night
OCC held its 56th annual Scholarships and Awards Night ceremony on Wednesday. More than 500 scholarships totaling over $400,000 were handed out to students to assist with educational costs—a new record for the college. I would like to congratulate Dr. Harkins for OCC’s outstanding scholarship program and commitment to helping our students.

End of Year Events
These past few weeks have been filled with events celebrating the completion of another academic year—many hosted by and focused on students. Special thanks to the Board for their commitment to attend as many of these events as possible. I am appreciative of all of the invitations and enjoy celebrating your successes.

Coast Launchpad Hosts 2014 Close It Summit West
I am proud to announce that the Coast Colleges Launchpad Initiative has partnered with Closelt.org to host the 2014 Close It Summit West. Join us for a one-time opportunity to hear about Orange County's industries and students and how to close the gap between education and employment. This event will be held on Friday, June 20 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. in the Coast Colleges District Board Room. The day's event will feature Manpower CEO Phil Blair and interactive discussion with educators and CEOs. Spaces are limited—so reserve your seat today! Please RSVP to Kristen Le at kle@cccd.edu.
Sincerely,

[Signature]
Coast Colleges Hosts 2014 Close It Summit West

Conference to feature keynote speaker, Mr. Phil Blair, CEO of Manpower

Costa Mesa, Ca. – Coast Colleges is dedicated to improving organizational teaching and learning, and discovering new approaches for enhancing the transition from the community college experience to the 21st century workforce. This year, Coast Colleges is proud to partner with CloseIt.org to host the 2014 Close It Summit West. This event will be held on Friday, June 20 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. in the Coast Colleges District Board Room in Costa Mesa.

Leaders from industry, government, education, foundations and non-profits will join together to challenge the status quo and actively engage in finding solutions to close the skills gap and bridge the opportunity divide between students and employers.

This is a one-time opportunity to hear about Orange County’s industries and students and how to close the gap between education and employment. The day’s event will feature Manpower CEO Phil Blair and interactive discussion with educators and CEOs. Spaces are limited—so reserve your seat today! Please RSVP to Kristen Le at kle@cccd.edu by Friday, June 13.

**What:** 2014 Close It Summit West  
**When:** Friday, June 20 at 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Coast Colleges District Board Room – 1370 Adams Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Coast Colleges is committed to the success of this prestigious conference and welcomes your support by becoming a sponsor!

For more information, please contact Kristen Le at kle@cccd.edu, or (714) 438-4606.

**Editors:** Save-the-Date attached.
The Coast Community College District is headquartered in Costa Mesa, Ca. along the Orange County coastline. The district is comprised of Coastline Community College headquartered in Fountain Valley, Golden West College in Huntington Beach and Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa.
Gratitude for OCC Experiences Inspires Student Commencement Speaker

Saahm Aresh wants to thank Orange Coast College “for the best three years of my education.”

Instead of sending the college a note of appreciation, Saahm will do it in person, as OCC’s student commencement speaker.

“I want to show the school my appreciation,” says Saahm, who is president of the OCC Honors Student Council and will graduate next week with a 3.9 GPA. His future is bright – he was accepted to Johns Hopkins, UCLA, UC Berkeley and UC San Diego, but has decided to be a Bruin and will attend UCLA next fall.

He plans to pursue a law degree, possibly specializing in real estate law, since his parents are involved in real estate professions.

At OCC Saahm has been involved in a myriad student activities. He was the Green Coast Day Student Director in 2013 and 2014, leading and coordinating the day’s events.

He is also the student representative for the International Business Advisory Committee, which oversees educational criteria and requirements for the college’s international business program.

Saahm joined the Honors Student Council in 2012 and served as Director of Fundraising. The following year he was elected president of the council. He also belongs to six academic honor societies, including Phi Theta Kappa, Omega Psi Sigma (as the vice-president and then treasurer), Alpha Beta Gamma (director of social events in 2013), Alpha Gamma Sigma, Sigma Kappa Delta (treasurer) and Phi Alpha Mu.

In 2012, Saahm received the Garrison Fellow Award, which is presented to the six honors students nominated by the academic divisions as their best students.
OC Weekly Editor Gustavo Arellano to Join OCC Alumni Hall of Fame

Gustavo Arellano, the editor of Orange County’s alternative newspaper, “OC Weekly,” will be inducted into Orange Coast College’s Alumni Hall of Fame on Wednesday, May 21, in a ceremony at the OCC Library immediately following the college’s 66th Commencement Ceremony, where he will be a special guest of honor.

The Alumni Hall of Fame induction will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the OCC Library. Refreshments will be served. OCC’s graduation will take place at 5:30 p.m. at the Pacific Amphitheatre at 88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa.

Arellano, who attended OCC from 1997 to 1999, says his experience as a student at Coast changed his outlook on life. “I credit all of my success to the revelation I had at OCC that work and education didn’t have to be soul-sucking experiences,” he said.

A film major at OCC, Arellano became interested in journalism at Chapman University, where he earned a Bachelor’s degree followed by a Master’s degree at UCLA. He presently serves as a lecturer with the Chicana and Chicano Studies Department at Cal State Fullerton.

Arellano is well known as the author of “¡Ask a Mexican!,” a nationally syndicated column that has a weekly circulation of more than 2 million in 39 newspapers across the United States.

OCC’s newest Alumni Hall of Famer has also written two books, “Orange County: A Personal History” and “Taco USA: How Mexican Food Conquered America.” In 2006 and 2008, Arellano won the Association of Alternative Weeklies award for Best Column, and a collection of his columns was published in book form by Scribner Press in 2007.

Arellano has also appeared in national and international newspapers, The Today Show, Hannity, Nightline, Good Morning America and The Colbert Report, and his commentaries regularly appear on Marketplace and the Los Angeles Times.

Photos of OCC’s Alumni Hall of Fame recipients hang in the campus library. In addition to honoring past students who have successful careers and frequently fame, the Alumni Hall of Fame inspires students to achieve their dreams. Arellano was one of those students.

OCC Guitar Ensembles to Perform May 22

OCC music instructors Adam Pettit and Dave Murdy will direct the OCC Guitar Ensemble in a performance on Thursday, May 22, at 7:30 p.m. in the Robert B. Moore Theatre. Tickets are available for $10 at the OCC Bursar’s Office, (714) 432-5880 or at www.occtickets.com. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Pettit will direct classical guitar students in solo performances and a variety of guitar ensembles – orchestra, quartets, trios and a duo. The program includes selections from jazz, contemporary and classical works. Murdy will lead ensembles and combo pieces of jazz, pop, rock and other contemporary styles.