ASOCC Transition Dinner

Thank you all for joining the student leaders at OCC for the ASOCC Transition Ceremony this week. This event marked the beginning of the "graduation" season at Coast Colleges. For me, it is a chance to reflect and celebrate our students as they transition from community college to the next stop along their path of choice. The students were inspiring and fun and really set a wonderful tone for the coming month of celebrations of student success. Please join me in congratulating ASOCC President Rachel Gajardo and all of the students in the ASOCC on a great year of accomplishments.

#ReachHigher Campaign

Earlier this week, First Lady Michelle Obama announced the #ReachHigher College Gear Day to support college attendance for our youth. While it was late notice, several Coast Colleagues participated and were featured on social media.
Service Awards
I would like to thank the Board for their recognition of Coast employees at the annual Service Awards. This year’s event honored those that celebrated milestone service years in 2013, including seven Coast Colleagues with over 35 years of service! Combined, Wes Bryan (GWC), Benjamin Honbo (OCC), Dean Mancina (GWC), Rose Wood (GWC), Americo Lopez-Rodriguez (GWC), Jennifer McDonald (CCC), and Leon Skeie (OCC) have over 260 years of service to students -- 260 years! Congratulations to all of the recipients (you can see the list on the attached press release) and thank you for your dedication to our students.

Coast Hosts CCFC
Coast was host this week to the Community College Facility Coalition regional workshop. Lease-Leaseback and design-build were the topics of the workshop and representatives from community colleges and builders were on hand to learn of the latest delivery methods, legal perspectives, contractual issues, and legislative changes surrounding construction projects. As we continue with plans for our Measure M bond projects, this type of workshop is timely and helps to ensure that we are maximizing the funds for our campus facility projects. Congratulations to Director of Facilities Jerry Marchbank and his team who helped to facilitate the workshop and show Coast in a great light.

Launchpad - The Conference
Please mark your calendars for June 20, 2014 as we will be hosting the 2nd Annual Launchpad Conference. This year’s event will feature InnovateEducate as a partner. InnovateEducate is an organization that grew from leaders in business working together to close the national skills gap between education and employment. These business leaders (from Dell, Oracle, Monster.com, ACT, AT&T, IBM, HP, and Intel) are working on the tools and research to identify and address barriers to job attainment. Community colleges can provide perspective and key data on the programs and services currently provided and, most importantly, on the students that we serve. We are so proud to bring this together for the day to discuss how this skills gap impact Orange County and how we can work together with our neighbors in business to help close the gap. I hope you will join us at CloseIt West, hosted by Coast Launchpad on June 20.

Sincerely,
COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES RECOGNIZES EMPLOYEES FOR SERVICE

Coast Mesa, Ca. – The Coast District Board of Trustees recognized nearly 200 employees for long-standing service at a recent ceremony, including three employees who have worked for the District for 40 years: Americo Lopez-Rodriguez (Golden West College), Jennifer McDonald (Coastline College), and Leon Skeie (Orange Coast College).

Mary Hornbuckle, Board President, ended the celebration with much appreciation. “Tonight’s event acknowledges almost 2,500 years of service to this district and its students,” Hornbuckle stated. “On behalf of all of the trustees, I thank you for your time and commitment to Coast.”

“I am very proud of our faculty and staff for their dedication to our students’ success.” said Dr. Andrew Jones, District Chancellor. “Coast is great because of the quality service they provide each and every day.”

The Coast Community College District employs over 2,000 faculty, staff and administrators, and is among the top employers in Orange County. A listing of all employees honored is included below.

Attention Editors: Photos Available Upon Request

Five Years
Abernathy, Dean L. Cassidy, Lori A. Gonzalez, Fernando
Aguirre, Vanessa M. Choe, Thomas J. Gorman, Daniel O.
Ames, Steven M. Christie, Joan E. Green, Katherine B.
Arensdorf, Thomas J. Chu, Alice Guillen, Denia E.
Aube, Susan L. Clark, Wendy L. Halley, Mireille C.
Baker, Karen M. Coker, Paula L. Hampton, April N.
Barcenas, Leonor Fitzgerald, Colleen D. Hawkins, Kate L.
Basabe, Sandra Flores, Noemi O. Hayes, Laura M.
Berry, Cynthia A. Fontenot, Jeffrey S. Herrera, Rafael R.
Borja, Sergio Furlong, Kimberly A. Higgins, Minnie H.
Bosich, Jill K. Galvan, Efren J. Hussain, Syed I.
Burton, Adrienne Garcia, Ofelia Johnson, Leilani A.
Caluag, Elizabeth H. Gomez, Angela C. Kahlen, Denise D.

CONTACT:
Martha Parham
District Director, Public Affairs
(714) 438-4605

May 2, 2014

NEWS
Five Years, cont.
Kang, Charles H.
Kopp, Kyle M.
Le, Kristen
Leighton, Kenneth A.
Lopez, Ashley B.
Maekawa, Naoko
Mensah, Araba G.
Mertz, Laila B.
Milunas, Joseph R.
Nanez, Dennis X.
Nguyen, Jimmy
Nguyen, Lieu N.
Nguyen, Peter V.
Nguyen, Trang D.
Ortiz, Oscar
Payan Montoya, Jose J.
Plaster, Nikki M.
Polk, Sherana L.
Puangco, Katherine M.
Ramirez, Nancy
Recalde, Edwina C.
Rivera, Jennifer M.
Russell, Gregory A.
Savage, Jennifer
Scarborough, Teresa A.
Schlosser, Lauren L.
Schramm, Lim H.
Sugden, James M.
Tom, Eileen C.
Topping, Holly B.
Tran, Chau N.
Tran, Khoi A.
Vasquez, Theresa A.
Venable, Terance T.
Wood, Melanie L.
Yanalunas, Margaret M.
Young, Richard G.

Hoyt, Sherri L.
Lloyd, Nicole J.
Lowenberg, Ronald E.
Miles, Susan L.
O’Connor, Robin A.
Parsons, Jason W.
Profeta, Glen A.
Rose, Lynn A.
Stauter, Gisela C.
Ta, Huong Q.
Thompson, David L.
Valenzuela, Yvonne
Capoccia, Rozanne
Villalobos, Jessica

15 Years
Arroyo, Leticia C.
Barrera, Esteban F.
Boelznier, Joyce H.
Brahmbhatt, Harshad
Carranza, Oscar
Carroll, Kym R.
Clark, Gregory D.
Cline, James F.
Cruz, Baltazar
Cuevas, Daniel C.
Dahnke, Lynn M.
De Surra, Christopher J.
Delaney, Jeffrey P.
Falcon, Roman
Hanlon, Anna M.
Mai, Maria V.
Malaty, Martha Seif H.
Marten, Connie A.
Mesenbrink, Cathy
Milligan, Patrick
Moon, Belta N.
Neal, Michelle Y.
Nguyen, Ailene B.
Olufson, Jan L.
Perez, Socorro
Poshek, Joseph E.
Quezada, Araceli
Raskin, Debra G.
Riley, Kevin O.
Rodriguez, Vincent P.
Sambrano, Michelle Y.
Tran, Thao T.
Tran, Tiffany T.
Valle, Erica J.
Vu, Phukhanh D.
Vu, Victoria N.
Wallace, Mary A.
Werblin, Cathleen C.
Winer, Timothy N.
Winterbourne, Susan F.
Wolf, Daisy
Wolf, Sigrid H.
Xa, Quan H.
Xa, Tina C.

20 Years
Cant, David K.
Crumsey, Marie V.
Frohn, Patrick R.
Gonzales, Shirley L.
Isaac, Darryl
Jones, Barbara Jean H.
Le, Mai T.
Lerma, Maria Del P.
Melby, Laurie R.
Mendoza, Robert H.
Moser, Melissa M.
Orr, Bob E.
Pascoe, Kimberly A.
Phillips, Clyde H.
Rothgeb, Helen M.
Tillotson, Jeffrey L.

25 Years
Borkenhagen, Brian E.
Bowman, Laurie S.
Cortes, Barbara L.
Cruz, Eucario G.
De Battista, Janice M.
Filakousky, Rich J.
Kalama-Dutro, Leinaala
Lundell, Candra D.
Mc Donald, Patti A.
Nguyen, Tri D.
Reynolds, Mike J.
Rosas, Suzanne H.
Tran, Kathie T.
Wyant, James D.
30 Years
Avery, Brad
Craig, Mark A.
De Pretto, Diane J.
Farr, Carole R.
Groot, Joycelyn M.
Kelly, Marilyn N.
Lo, Wei-Lun L.
Stein, Konrad M.
Yoshida-Peer, Noreen R.

35 Years
Bryan, Wes
Honbo, Benjamin T.
Mancina, Dean W.
Wood, Rose A.

40 Years
Lopez-Rodriguez, Americo
McDonald, Jennifer C.
Skeie, Leon G.

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The Coast Community College District is comprised of Coastline Community College headquartered in Fountain Valley, Golden West College in Huntington Beach and Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa.
OCC Garden Wins Blue Ribbon at South Coast Plaza Show

Students from Orange Coast College’s Horticulture Club and Architectural Technology took first place among college displays at South Coast Plaza’s 25th Annual Southern California Spring Garden Show this week.

The theme for the show this year was “Celebrating the Gardens of Southern California.” Students selected the Noguchi Garden near South Coast Plaza as their inspiration for their entry, “Reflections of a Southern California Scenario.”

“California Scenario” is commonly referred to as the Noguchi Garden for the famous artist that designed the landscape, Isamu Noguchi. The Segerstrom family commissioned the garden in the 1980s. The garden illustrates the transformation of a desert landscape into an agricultural mecca and explores water’s important part in these vastly different scapes that define California.

Members of the Horticulture Club reinvented Nolguchi’s 20th century design with 21st century concepts and values. “As students of horticulture we believe environmentally friendly design, functionality and beauty are essential,” the students said in a statement about their work. “Reclaimed wood, recycled materials and edible components are all reinterpretations of Noguchi’s original artful design.”

It was the fourth year in a row gardens designed by OCC students won awards at the garden show, which attracted 130,000 visitors over four days, according to Rick Harlow, OCC Horticulture professor who supervised the students’ work.

“This project represents about six months of work taking up most of the free time of several students from our Horticulture Department,” Harlow said. The project is not part of a class is there is no grade compelling students to join the effort. The garden project “is owned exclusively by the students from concept to teardown,” he added.
“Spring Awakening” Cast: Don’t Miss the Show!

The young actors performing in OCC’s rock musical “Spring Awakening, which opens next week,” have nothing but high praise for the coming-of-age production and Director Naomi Buckley.

“Spring Awakening” opens on Friday, May 2, with performances at 7:30 p.m. on May 2, 3, 4, 9 and 10. A closing matinee show is 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 11, in the Drama Lab Theatre. Advance tickets are $12 adults, $10 seniors 62 and over, and $8 for OCC students. Tickets may be purchased at the OCC Bursar’s Office, (714) 432-5880, ext. 1, or online at www.occtickets.com. If available, tickets will be $15 at the door. The show is recommended for mature audiences.

“Spring Awakening’s” coming-of-age story is set in 1890’s Germany juxtaposed against score of alternative, modern music. “It’s not your typical happy, lighthearted musical,” explains director Buckley, who is directing her first production for the OCC Theatre Department. Buckley, who is on the theatre faculty at CSU Dominguez Hills, joined the OCC theatre department as a part-time instructor this fall.

The rock musical features 13 cast members. The musical is based on a play written in 1891 and banned by authorities for its frank portrayal of abortion, homosexuality, child abuse and suicide. “It was ahead of its time,” Buckley said. Even though the story takes place 100 years ago, “it’s modern in terms of the story that it tells,” she said. Adolescents at the time were “experiencing a lot of the same things young people experience today.”

Stage manager Danny Nguyen admits he didn’t know much about “Spring Awakening,” but “it’s no disappointment.” Although the musical is based on a play written more than a century ago, modern audiences will be engaged in struggles each character faces. “It makes me really understand the world and completely fall in love with this musical,” he said.

Pirates Win State Title after Topping Corsairs in Five!

ORANGE – After losing a two-set lead, then pulling out a five-set thriller for the state championship, Orange Coast College sophomore standout Ty Hutchins summed it up best following Friday night’s 25-18, 25-23, 17-25, 21-25, 15-10 win over Santa Monica City College.

“I can finally breathe now.”

There were several members of the Pirate roster, coaching staff, administrators and former players in the stands at Santiago Canyon College gasping for air after watching the Pirates (20-1) drop two straight sets to the never-say-die Corsairs (14-7), setting up a dramatic fifth-and-deciding set for the California Community College Athletic Association state championship.

“Yeah, I’m sure there a little bit of doubt crept in there, but we believe in each other and we trust each other – we always have,” sophomore middle blocker Scott Metrakos said. “We knew we had one more set to win this and we gave it everything we had. I can’t even describe how good this feels.”