Launchpad Conference

We were so pleased to welcome Gene Wade, founder and CEO of UniversityNow to Coast Colleges to be the keynote speaker at the first Coast Launchpad Conference. Gene calls himself a "serial education entrepreneur" and has been involved in the establishment of several companies focused on access to education. Prior to founding UniversityNow, he was co-founder & CEO of Platform Learning, a tutoring company that served tens of thousands of low-income students throughout the United States. He was also co-founder & CEO of LearnNow, a school management company that was sold to Edison Schools where he was an Executive Vice President. Prior to becoming an education entrepreneur, he was a corporate bankruptcy attorney. Gene has an MBA from The Wharton School, a J.D. from Harvard Law School and a B.A. from Morehouse College. Gene has been featured on TedX and was named one of the Top Ten Disruptors of 2013 by Forbes Magazine.

Gene spoke to a full house that included several members of the Coast District as well as representatives from Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez’s office, Orange County School Board Trustee David Boyd, and chancellor of the Rancho Santiago Community College District, Dr. Raul Rodriguez. After his address, Gene was joined by Dr. Pedro Gutierrez (Coastline's Academic Senate President) and Professor Denise Cabanel-Bleuer (OCC's Academic Senate President) and me for a brief panel discussion. Organized by Team Launchpad, a group of Coast Team members that meet monthly, the event was a great success. Want to join the team? Team Launchpad is open to everyone and meets the first Tuesday of each month at 8:00am in the Chancellor’s Conference Room. Weren't able to attend? A video of the event will be posted to the District website as soon as it is available.

Faculty Hiring Plan

At the Board's meeting last week, there was great emphasis given to the plans for hiring full-time faculty. Given the heightened interest and the need to create a plan that is comprehensive and effective, I have asked that a taskforce composed of CFE, administration, academic senate and other constituents be formed and charged to develop a detailed and comprehensive district-wide faculty hiring plan. We will be setting up meetings for the taskforce and are committed to completing a preliminary report for the November 6, 2013 Board meeting. As this is key to our accreditation work, we will need to redouble our efforts in order to accomplish this assignment and complete the responses to ACCJC in a timely and thorough manner. The taskforce will expand and contract membership and participation as needed and I look forward to working with the team to accomplish this most important undertaking.
Orange County Legislative Task Force
North Orange County Community College District is the host to this year's Orange County Legislative Task Force (OCLTF). OCLTF includes trustees, chancellors, district directors of public affairs from all four districts in Orange County. Each year, additional participants are included depending upon the legislative agenda for the coming session. At our first meeting, it was determined that the Student Trustee from each district participate in this year's OCLTF. OCLTF has had success in recent years with bills relating to benefits and access for returning Veterans. As we contemplate this year's platform, the taskforce is analyzing bills related to the completion agenda, Pell Grants, funding equalization, local control, and any issues that present themselves during the legislative session. I look forward to another successful year of advocacy on behalf of all community college students in the county.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Constitution Day Tackles Topics on Terrorism, Civil Rights and Gay Marriage

Terrorism and tolerance, the Civil Rights Movement, and recent Supreme Court rulings on gay marriage, are topics that will be the focus of Constitution Day activities sponsored by Social and Behavioral Sciences on September 17, 18 and 19th.

Two Constitutional scholars will visit OCC on Thursday, September 19th, to speak on “Marriage Redefined in One State or All? The Meaning and Impact of the Supreme Court’s Marriage Decisions.” The 85-minute program will begin at 11:10 a.m. in the Robert B. Moore Theatre. Admission is free, and the public is invited to attend.

Erwin Chemerinsky, the dean of UC Irvine Law School, will return for the fourth year to participate in OCC’s Constitution Day program. He will debate John Eastman, the former dean of Chapman University Law School.

OCC political science professor Patrick Coaty will open Constitution Day activities in the Forum from 11:10 to 12:35 on Monday, September 17th. He will lecture on “Terror and Tolerance.”

Coast District trustee and former U.S. Congressman Jerry Patterson will take the stage with OCC political science professor Herrick Arnold to speak about the United States Constitution in the Forum from 11:10 to 12:35 on Tuesday, September 18th. Political science professor Rendell Drew will also discuss the Civil Rights Movement and Dr. Martin Luther King’s famous “I Have a Dream” speech to mark the 50th anniversary of the speech.
Campus Invited to Focus Day on September 13

Where will you find student singers, new Steinway pianos, tasty pastries, guitar playing deans, ceremonial shovels, delicious BBQ, wonderful people, informative speakers, and really, really big scissors?

The answer: Focus Day 2013, Friday, September 13th.

The Ribbon Cutting and Open House for Music Modernization begins at 9:30 a.m., with a tour of the newly remodeled music complex, the last campus project funded by Measure C. The fun begins on the Music Building patio, with a continental breakfast starting at 9:00 a.m.

The Focus Day presentation begins at 10:00 a.m. in the Robert B. Moore Theatre. The campus will welcome new faculty and staff members and the college will present an overview of OCC's focus for 2013-14.

At 11:45 a.m., faculty and staff are invited to the Ground Breaking Ceremony for OCC’s new $35 million Interdisciplinary Complex that will house business, math and computer classrooms. The facility, funded by the Measure M bond, will open in fall 2015. A BBQ lunch will be served at 12:00 p.m. at the site. Entertainment will be provided by the Pirate Express Band.

Campus Begins Construction on Interdisciplinary Complex

Beginning Monday, September 9th, workers will install temporary construction fencing on the southwest side of the Adams Parking Lot to facilitate the construction OCC’s new Business, Math, and Computing Complex. The campus and construction team will continue to make all reasonable efforts to reduce impact to pedestrian and vehicular traffic. The $35 million complex, funded by the Measure M Bond, will open in fall 2015.

During construction, parking will not be available on the road on the east side of the Literature/Language Building. The road will only be accessible for service and emergency vehicles.

OCC Theatre Opens Season With “39 Steps”

Orange Coast College Theatre Department will open its 2013-14 season with an entertaining comedy, “The 39 Steps,” on Friday through Sunday, September 6-8, at 7:30 p.m. in the Drama Lab Studio Theater. The award-winning play, directed by David Scaglione, spoofs the great English thriller using five daring – and energetic – actors to portray more than 100 zany characters.

Written by Patrick Barlow and John Buchan, the play mixes a Hitchcock masterpiece with a juicy spy novel to create a fast-paced whodunit. “39 Steps” won two Tony awards and a Drama Desk Award, as well as the Laurence Olivier Award for the Best New Comedy in 2007.

Tickets are $5 advance at www.occtickets.com or 714-432-5880 and $7 at the door.