Accreditation
Accreditation visits took place this week and I want to thank all of you who were involved in developing, collecting, vetting and publishing the reports in response to the ACCJC and to those who met with team representatives over the last few days. In particular, I would like to thank our Board of Trustee for their leadership and participation in the Accreditation process.

At the District, team members met with me to primarily discuss the four District recommendations. Comments from team members indicated that they were amazed at the progress made and specifically commented on the policy revisions since last March. We were commended for these efforts and I am grateful to the Board and to our District Consultation Council for the extensive work they accomplished to help reach this milestone. My impression was that the team was satisfied with our responses, evidence and implementation and I am proud of all that we have done together. I remain cautiously optimistic, however, while we await the team’s final report.

Typically, the team report to the AACJC is submitted several weeks after the visit and the Commission takes action at their June meeting. Results of the follow-up are not anticipated to be published until July 2014 and we will keep you updated as additional information becomes available.

I am proud of the quality of the responses and the work that all of you contributed. Thanks again for your commitment to Coast Community Colleges.

Career & Technical Education Pathways Grant
Congratulations to the Educational Services and Technology Division for their leadership in the application process for the $15-million California Department of Education Career Pathways Trust grant.
Coast Colleges joined with our neighboring community college districts, the OC Department of Education and all of the K-12 school districts in the county to ensure that this will be a highly competitive grant application under the California Department of Education Career Pathways Trust initiative. If the grant is awarded, Coast Colleges will receive close to $700,000. The Orange County Career Pathways Partnership (OCCPP) will create a county-wide, self-sustaining infrastructure that builds, supports, and expands rigorous and innovative pathways. The OCCPP Regional Consortium will create opportunities for secondary and post-secondary (K-16) educators to work with industry partners in three target sectors: Health Care/Bio-Technology (HCBT); Engineering/Advanced Manufacturing and Design (EAMD); and Information Communication Technology/Digital Media (ICT). Each priority sector will produce competent graduates capable of securing high-skill, high-wage, high-growth positions.

In addition, this week the Educational Services and Technology Division submitted a letter of interest and statement of qualifications for Coast Community College District to be considered for the role of fiscal agent for an upcoming statewide grant – the Accountability Dashboard, Research, Evaluation, and Data-related Toolkits Technical Assistant Grant. The full Request for Applications to serve as fiscal agent is expected to be released shortly and we will be sure to provide updates as we receive them.

AACC
With the schedule of Accreditation follow-up visits, several of our Coast team members were not able to attend the AACC conference in Washington, D.C. I am grateful to those that changed their plans to accommodate the Accreditation team and I am equally thankful to those that were able to represent Coast at the conference. I would like to thank Trustee Jerry Patterson for his participation at the conference and for his assistance with our elected officials. Trustee Patterson was able to visit with legislators and discuss important issues such as the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act and Pell Grants. I would also like to congratulate Coastline President, Dr. Lori Adrian on her successful presentation at this prestigious national event.

Congratulations, Golden West College Foundation
Last weekend, the Golden West College Foundation hosted their annual gala to raise money for student scholarships. This year's theme, "Dancing with the Stars" brought out the inner dancer in all those that attended while raising awareness and funds for the foundation. I would like to congratulate President Wes Bryan on a successful event and thank Trustee Mary Hornbuckle, Trustee Lorraine Prinsky and Trustee Jim Moreno for attending and representing the District.

Sincerely,
OCC Honors Student Wins Top Prize at UCI Conference

OCC Honors student Sara Nordstrand won the first place prize for Honors Student Research Posters at the 14th Annual Honors Student Research Conference at UC Irvine on Saturday.

Sara’s poster was titled “The Rescue of Europe – The Marshall Plan: An Act of Altruism or a Plot in the Self-Interest of the U.S.?” The poster outlines the consequences of the European Recovery Plan (The Marshall Plan) for the reconstruction of war-torn Europe following World War II.

Sara is the President of Omega Psi Sigma, OCC’s political science honors society, which opened a chapter at OCC in 2012. She is also vice president of the OCC Student Senate and serves as the student representative on the OCC Academic Senate.

Sara, an international student who is completing her fifth semester at OCC, graduated from high school at the Internationella Engelska Gymnasiet Södermalm in Stockholm, Sweden. She currently lives in Fountain Valley.

She decided to enroll at OCC because her mother attended Coast before she moved to Sweden, where Sara grew up. Her uncle was also a guest speaker on campus.

“They only had good experiences at this school,” she said. “That, along with OCC’s history of successful transfers to four-year colleges, were the biggest factors in my final decision to enroll.”

She will graduate with a 4.0 GPA from the Honors Program with an ATT degree in Political Science in May. She hopes to transfer to UC Berkeley or Claremont McKenna College. Eventually Sara plans to enroll in graduate school. “I hope to work in international politics on the global scene within conflict resolution,” she said. “That would be my ideal career!”

OCC’s chapter of Omega Psi Sigma has approximately 40 members whose academic interests include political science, pre-law and social science. Members must have at least a 3.0 GPA and complete two qualifying classes from a selection of political science, history and social science offerings.

“We are an event-focused society,” Sara said. Last week Omega Psi Sigma screened the documentary “Miss Representation” followed by a lively panel discussion. CCCD Trustee Mary Hornbuckle was among the 60 participants. The honor society is also planning a mock-law class that will feature guest speakers. “We want to encourage student success on campus, and as a result we started a program of study groups this semester that we hold in select political science classes,” Sara added.
OCC Offers Robust Summer Schedule

Orange Coast College just published its summer 2014 class schedule on the college’s website at www.orangecoastcollege.edu. The college is offering 189 classes during the summer term. New and returning students who are not currently enrolled can apply online now for summer and fall classes.

Registration appointments will be issued in late April. New and returning students will receive appointments to register online May 27 to May 30. The registration period for late applicants is June 3 to June 13. The summer term begins June 16 and ends August 9. Fall classes begin on August 25 and end on December 14.

OCC is increasing the number of class sections for both the summer term and fall semester. Students will be able to take high demand classes in English, mathematics and sciences that are required for transfer to a 4-year university or to earn the associate degree at OCC. The robust section offerings will allow students to take the classes in the day, evening and online.

“The college has worked to anticipate and meet student demand through our scheduling again this summer, and has increased the number of available seats by about 10 percent,” reported John Weispfenning, Vice President of Instruction.

There is no fee for completing an admissions application. Class fees are $46 per unit. Prospective students who complete an application will receive more information about placement testing, orientation and registration by email. For more information, call (714) 432-5072.

Green Coast Day Guest Speakers Focus on California’s Drought, Water Supply

Water – and the lack of it – will be topics for speakers at Orange Coast College’s Green Coast Day on Wednesday, April 16, at 9:30 a.m. in the Robert B. Moore Theatre. The public is welcome to attend the free program.

OCC Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Tom Garrison, will examine causes of the drought in 2013-2014 and the possibility of an El Niño climate event beginning this summer.

The 90-minute environmental lecture will also feature Betty Burnett, general manager of the South Coast Water District as a speaker. She will speak on “Water Supply Reliability.”

In addition, seven OCC Honors students will also receive awards as Garrison Fellows at the conclusion of the lecture.