Response to Decision on DACA

On Tuesday, September 5, 2017—immediately following the announcement from Attorney General Jeff Sessions, regarding the Trump Administration’s plans to phase out the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program—Chancellor John P. Weispfenning, Ph.D., released a statement to all Coast Community College District faculty, staff, and students.

“Students within the Coast Community College District began the 2017-2018 school year last week with great hopes and expectations for what the new semesters have in store. However, our students that identify as Dreamers now face many uncertainties about their ability to complete school, continue to work, and remain in the state. As educators, we are committed to educating ALL students, and we are committed to their success regardless of the circumstances that brought them to the United States.”


Presentation to the Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce

On Thursday, September 7, Chancellor Weispfenning joined members of the Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce for their monthly breakfast meeting. He was invited to make a presentation about the Coast Community College District. In his presentation, he discussed the unique attributes of each campus, our impact and connection to the community, and our valuable work to help fill the skills gap in the state of California.

(Photo left: Chamber President Steve Rosanskey, Chancellor Weispfenning, Civic Affairs Chair Russ Hill)
Statement about Title IX

Every Coast Community College District (CCCD) student, employee, and visitor has the right to flourish academically and professionally in an environment free from sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, and all forms of gender-based discrimination and violence. The District responds promptly and equitably to all reports of sexual misconduct. We encourage members of our community to report incidents of sexual misconduct or other inappropriate behavior, to familiarize themselves with the District's related policies and procedures, and to seek the care and support they deserve. For more information related to Title IX and resources available to all faculty, staff, and students, please visit the link provided: https://www.cccd.edu/employees/hr/title9/Pages/default.aspx.

Le Jao Campus Update

Coastline is happy to report that the construction at the Le-Jao Campus is just about complete! In June 2016, construction began to change the face of the campus by adding a Student Resource Center and a student café.

At the Le-Jao Campus, students now have many comfortable spaces to lounge, eat, and socialize. The addition of the covered terrace enables students to choose from a variety of seating options to enjoy a meal, to study, or to spend time with friends. The terrace is surrounded by landscaping and is a beautiful addition to the campus and community.

Another notable feature of the campus improvement is the glass storefront doors at the entrance. Now, you can see the campus and view all of the student activity taking place, giving the campus setting The Student Success Center (SSC) has moved upstairs with a brand new layout, designed to enhance learning assistance and tutoring services. This center has easy access to another highlight of the campus, the Student Resource Center (SRS). The SRS is 2,000 square feet of easily accessible and valuable student resources designed for student and community use. It is unmistakable that Coastline is now an integral part of the community with the giant "CCC" across the windows of the SRC. Although the SRC has glass walls, automatic shades create a comfortable environment for all who use it. It also has quiet spaces where students can "plug-in", study, and print assignments in a comfortable environment. Two independent meeting rooms with advanced technology are also located in the center and can be used for group study sessions or club meetings.
GWC Floral Students Take Top Honors at National Design Competition

Terri Tae Hwa Kang, Gina Wright and Tracey Duncan, Golden West College floral students, won honors in the American Institute of Floral Designers’ (AIFD) 2017 Student Floral Design Competition held in Seattle, Washington. The competition was held in July as part of the Institute’s 2017 National Symposium “X”. These three students were part of the college design team that brought home a total of four awards in the competitions four categories: Interpretive, Fashion Flowers, Wedding and Sympathy.

Kang took home first place in the Sympathy category, second place in the Interpretive category and 3rd in the Overall Student Highest Score. Duncan won second place in the Sympathy category and Wright tied for third place in the Interpretive category. The GWC Floral team was led by advisors Gail Call AIFD, CFD and Miriam Somoano AIFD, CFD.

OCC Statement on DACA

Orange Coast College President Dennis Harkins, released a statement this week in response to the Trump Administration’s announcement about DACA.

“As this week the Trump Administration announced that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program will be phased out over the next six months. This program was implemented by former President Barack Obama five years ago, and gave nearly 800,000 undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children a chance to attend school or work...”, said Dr. Harkins in his statement to OCC faculty, staff, and students.

“As California Community Colleges Chancellor Eloy Ortiz wrote in a memo earlier this week, “the ‘unwinding’ of DACA does not impact a student’s ability to attend our colleges, qualify for an exemption from non-resident tuition fees under AB540, or to apply to financial aid under the provisions of the California Dream Act.” What this means is that DACA students will still receive services at California community colleges, including Orange Coast College.

As the president of a community college that serves DACA students, I am deeply concerned about this announcement because it impacts many of our students and community members. It is my belief that these individuals, colloquially known as “Dreamers”, should be given every chance possible to continue to contribute to our community in positive ways.”

The full statement, in addition to resources and information for students, can be found on the new OCC webpage dedicated to DACA information http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/student_services/international_students/daca/Pages/home.aspx.
This week we had the opportunity to attend the Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce “Wake Up” breakfast meeting. Chamber members learned about the notable programs and characteristics of our three colleges, the Measure M building campaign, and how Coastline Community College, Golden West College, and Orange Coast College are responding to the expected skills gap in the California labor market.

There were several good questions, about the value and cost of a community college education, the expansion of the Newport Beach Sailing Center, and the role of our colleges as it relates to partnerships in the community.

Regularly meeting with community groups, like the Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce is one to keep the residents of our district informed about and connected to the great work done at all of our colleges.

John Weispfenning, Ph.D.
Chancellor