



## Calendar

- Dec. 7 – Fall Student Dance Showcase, 7 p.m., Robert B. Moore Theatre, Parking Lot C
- Dec. 7 – Holiday Pops, 7:30 p.m., Visual & Performing Arts Recital Hall MUS 102
- Dec. 8 – Men's Basketball vs. Miramar, 5 p.m., OCC Gym Main Floor
- Dec. 8-9 – An Old Fashioned Christmas Melodrama & Ice Cream Social, 7 p.m., Drama Lab Theatre, Parking Lot C
- Dec. 9-10 – An Old Fashioned Christmas Melodrama & Ice Cream Social, 2:30 p.m., Drama Lab Theatre, Parking Lot C
- Dec. 9 – OCC Chamber Singers present Handel's El Mesias, 7:30 p.m., Robert B. Moore Theatre, Parking Lot C
- Dec. 10 – Classical Guitar Concert, 3 p.m., Robert B. Moore Theatre, Parking Lot C
- Dec. 11 – Studio Guitar Fall Concert, 7:30 p.m., Robert B. Moore Theatre, Parking Lot C
- Dec. 13 – Women's Basketball vs. Long Beach City, 5 p.m., OCC Gym Main Floor
- Dec. 13 – OCC Wind Ensemble Concert, 6:30 p.m., College Center Ballroom B
- Dec. 19-Jan. 1 – Winter Break - Campus Closed
- Jan. 2 – Winter Intersession 2024 Begins



## OCC Named Top 150 U.S. Community College Eligible for Prestigious 2025 Aspen Prize

The Aspen Institute has named Orange Coast College as one of the 150 institutions eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges. The colleges selected for this honor represent 15 percent of more than 1,000 community colleges nationwide, and are recognized as having high and improving levels of student success as well as equitable outcomes for Black and Hispanic students and those from lower-income backgrounds.

OCC has been invited to submit data and narratives as the next steps in an intensive data and practice review process, culminating in the announcement of the Aspen Prize winner in Spring 2025.

"We are honored to be recognized as a nationwide leader among two-year colleges," said OCC President Angelica Suarez. "OCC would not receive such accolades without a tireless commitment to student success exemplified by our faculty, classified professionals and managers. We are thrilled to celebrate this distinguished honor once again and look forward to celebrating the success of our College and its students."

Selection of the top 10 finalists by a panel of 16 experts in community colleges, higher education, and workforce training, will be announced in June 2024. The Aspen Prize will be announced in late Spring 2025.

## Coast Report Captures Top State, Regional Honors

Orange Coast College's student-run newspaper, Coast Report, won state and national honors in October 2023 for its production in the 2022-2023 academic year, adding 19 more accolades to its decorated list of achievements, including first-place honors for its website.



During the College Media Association (CMA) and the Associated Collegiate Press (ACP) Fall National College Media Convention, the nation's largest gathering of collegiate journalists, media students, and their advisers, student journalists from Coast Report nabbed six accolades from Oct. 29-Nov. 2 in Atlanta.

Along with first place for Two-Year Newspaper Website of the Year, Coast Report also received second place for Two-Year Best College Media Group of the Year and third place for Division III & Two-Year Website of the Year (standalone) categories at the CMA Pinnacle College Media Awards. Kate Bent, former Editor in Chief, was awarded first place in ACP's Individual Award for her editorial, "Student journalists need support now more than ever," and received fifth place for Two-Year School Reporter of the Year from candidates across the nation. Reporter Anna Tran received an honorable mention in the Editorial Cartoon category.

The Coast Report received 13 more awards from the Journalism Association of Community Colleges (JACC) SoCal Regional Conference, held Oct. 21 at California State University of Northridge.

JACC SoCal Publication Award Winners for Fall 2023 included a first-place win for Timothy Hessen's Sports Game Story for his coverage of the women's basketball national championship journey. Coast Report added a podcast series to its offering and, in its first semester up and running, won second place in the Podcast/Audio News category. Liz Hanna, Stephanie Morales, and Vie Cabrera collaborated for an Online Photo Story/Essay piece to capture third place, while Stephanie Morales and Vie Cabrera placed fourth for their Video Journalism work on OCC's art gallery, The Doyle. For In the News Photo category, Stephanie Morales was awarded fourth place covering Horticulture's annual plant sale.

## OCC Speech, Debate, and Theatre Team Earn First Place at Crossman Invitational

Orange Coast College's Speech, Debate, and Theatre team won first place in community colleges at the El Camino College Crossman Invitational Forensics tournament on Nov. 4-5 in Torrance, having previously earned state and national titles in Spring 2023. The team put on an impressive display across all three categories of forensics - Debate, Speeches, and the oral interpretation of literature.

The team had three of their five debate teams break out of the preliminary rounds into final rounds of competition, and another just missed out despite having a winning record in preliminaries. Additionally, the team had individuals that genuinely shined in debate, with five members receiving speaker awards, which are given for strength of argumentation while also having great delivery.

OCC has proven to be a well-rounded team, performing well across different types of events. The team performed amazingly in the individual events section, taking home six medals across the 11 individual events.

Lastly, Coast performed so well during the International Public Debate that the tournament could not host a final round. Per tournament rules, teams cannot compete against themselves, and OCC knocked everyone else out of the competition.

"We are thrilled to be back on track early this year and this is a sign that we are heading in the right direction," said OCC Director of Forensics Shauhin Davari.

Orange Coast College left an undeniable mark on the competition, earning more points than any other community college.





## OCC Marketing & PR Department Wins 13 Regional NCMPR Awards

Orange Coast College’s marketing and public relations department won 13 Medallion Awards at the National Council of Marketing and Public Relations District 6 annual conference and awards ceremony on Nov. 8 in Palm Springs.

Medallion Awards recognize outstanding communication achievement at community and technical colleges throughout the U.S. OCC is part of the NCMPR’s District 6, including Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Utah, and areas around Guam.

Coast was recognized with three gold, eight silver, and two bronze awards for creative work produced during the 2022-2023 academic year. OCC’s gold awards included the sailing schedule, the Dennis Kelly Aquarium 50th Anniversary event campaign, and the Friends of the Library outdoor signage display. The College also nabbed silver awards for the 75th Anniversary website, video, logo, and printed advertisement, the OCC academic planner, the OCC Instagram social media page, the Tiny Campus Tour video, and the OCC Library book return outdoor signage. OCC took home two bronze awards in the “Booklet” and “Logo Wear” categories.

Juan Gutierrez, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, served as one of the presenters for the conference, leading a workshop on anniversary branding.

“Each year, we gather at NCMPR’s district 6 conference to join our peers from community colleges across the Western United States and engage in collaborative learning and recognition of successful marketing and public relations campaigns and projects,” said Director of Marketing and Public Relations Juan Gutierrez. “OCC’s marketing team is consistently recognized as one of the best in community college marketing and PR for their publications, video, graphic design, and photography efforts, and this year was no exception.”

## OCC Salutes Veterans & Welcomes Founder of VET NET Ally Program for Veterans Appreciation Ceremony

OCC’s Veterans Resource Center paid tribute to veterans for their service to our country with an appreciation event on Nov. 8.

Members of the campus community gathered in the Quad for a ceremony that included a welcome and speech by Dr. Marshall Thomas, Director of Veterans Affairs at the California State University, Office of the Chancellor, and founder of the VET NET Ally Program.

Guest speaker Dr. Marshall Thomas is an advocate for veterans in higher education and speaks frequently at colleges and universities about military culture and the impacts of military service on student-veterans. In his current role, he provides support and advocacy for military-affiliated students (veterans, service members, and dependents) and the people who serve them in the CSU.

Most notably, Dr. Thomas developed the VET NET Ally program in 2009 to educate college and university faculty, staff, and administrators about student veterans. The VET NET Ally program is a four-hour seminar, which has been presented at more than 60 colleges and universities, including Orange Coast College, is designed to create welcoming campus environments and visible networks of allies to student veterans.

OCC student veterans and veteran dependents have access to numerous services and resources, including priority registration, access to a veterans counselor, and dedicated support space on campus. The VRC, located on the second floor of the Student Union, provides student veterans and veteran dependents with a place to study and connect. Staff are available to assist military-connected students with referrals to various on- and off-campus resources, services, and programs.





## OCC's Chamber Singers Perform New Spanish Edition of Handel's Messiah

Orange Coast College's Chamber Singers will perform *El Mesías*, a new Spanish-language edition of Georg Frideric Handel's famous *Messiah*, on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Robert B. Moore Theatre.

Originally an Easter offering, *Messiah* has been a fixture of the holiday season for nearly 275 years and is arguably the most beloved oratorio in the English language. Thanks to a new Spanish edition created by San Diego musician Ruben Valenzuela, *Messiah*, or *El Mesías*, will be performed entirely in Spanish with a full orchestra featuring student and alumni soloists.

Eliza Rubenstein, OCC choral director and conductor, selected *El Mesías* to acquaint OCC's musicians with one of the seminal works of the classical repertoire while bridging cultures and communities.

"Ruben Valenzuela created this new edition specifically to reinforce the universality of this timeless music, and our community is the perfect audience for it," says Rubenstein. "We are thrilled to be among the very first ensembles in the world to perform this work in its new version, and whether you've known

and loved *Messiah* for decades or you're experiencing it for the first time, we are confident you'll enjoy this concert."

This concert is underwritten through generous support from the OCC Foundation.

Tickets are on sale for \$10 at the OCC Tickets website. Parking is free and available in Lot C.

## OCC Foundation Raises More Than \$700,000 for Giving Tuesday

Orange Coast College's Foundation received gifts totaling more than \$700,000 on Nov. 28 as part of its Giving Tuesday campaign. The day was highlighted by a gift of \$500,000 from the William, Jeff and Jennifer Gross Foundation for the Jeff Gross Photography Endowment. The Foundation received well over 300 individual gifts for programs and activities across the campus including scholarships, athletic teams, academic programs, the Planetarium and more.

Giving Tuesday is an international effort to inspire personal philanthropy and charitable giving during the holiday season. Largely fueled by social media, the event takes place on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving and widely recognized retail events like Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Giving Tuesday kicks off the charitable season, when many people participate in end-of-year giving.