

NEWS Brief

A WEEKLY COMMUNICATION TO THE
COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

February 7, 2020



FROM THE OFFICE OF
John Weispfenning, Ph.D.

This Week at the District

REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT



This week, trustees received a report on financial aid and student loans. In total, more than 31,000 Coast students received aid in 2018-19—cumulatively totaling above \$75 million in awards. Less than 3.5 percent of students took out loans, a percentage that continues to decline as Colleges work to direct students to other non-loan options.

Trustees noted the work of Coast financial aid professionals and observed that financial aid is essential to student retention and completion.

Trustees also:

- Heard a report on student health offerings, including the expansion of mental health services and health center hours. The effect of enrollment decline on health center funding was discussed, as were grant and other non-fee funding sources.
- Heard a report on the District's strong performance in mitigating risk and lowering costs as a member of its insurance pools.
- Set April 29 as the date for Service Awards.

Student, faculty, and staff representatives shared a variety of beginning of the year accomplishments, including welcome week activities and Lunar New Year celebrations. College presidents highlighted upcoming Flex Day activities and the work to inform students about upcoming election dates and the census.

President Suarez thanked all for their support for the Altobelli family and Orange Coast College. All are invited to [a memorial at Angels Stadium on Monday, February 10](#).

Trustees adjourned in memory of all those who perished in the helicopter accident.

CHANCELLOR'S SCHEDULE

WEEK OF February 10, 2020

*Monday—Wednesday
(Washington DC)
Acting Chancellor
Dr. Andreea Serban*

*Thursday
In the District*

*District Closed on Friday
for Presidents Day*

BOARD MEETING DATES

February 19, 2020

Regular Board Meeting

COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS

To view the Coastline President's Bulletin, please visit the following link:

<https://blog.coastline.edu/>

To view the Golden West College News Room, please visit the following link:

www.gwcnews.com

To view Orange Coast College news, please visit the following link:

www.orangecoastcollege.edu/news

COASTLINE COLLEGE OFFERS ZERO-COST DEGREE PATHWAY

Faculty, staff, and administration at Coastline have created a zero-cost course materials Option Two (California State University) transfer pathway through the continued growth of the College's Open Educational Resource offerings.

Students can now complete an entire Option 2 transfer pathway, Areas A through E, by taking exclusively zero-cost courses. The next goal is to offer a major whose required courses can be completed zero-cost.

In addition, the number of Coastline sections using zero-cost course materials has increased annually by 60 percent, going from 108 sections in Spring 2019 to 173 in Spring 2020. This is thanks to the hundreds of hours expended by instructors to convert their courses to zero-cost, providing a free digital or print option in place of for-profit publisher materials.

Sections using zero-cost materials are identified on the online searchable schedule. The national average for a textbook is \$153, so students enrolling in zero-cost sections save thousands of dollars aggregately per class.



COASTLINE COLLEGE WELCOME WEEK A SUCCESS

During Welcome Week, Coastline Financial Aid staff set up booths at all three campuses: Garden Grove, Newport Beach, and Westminster Le-Jao.

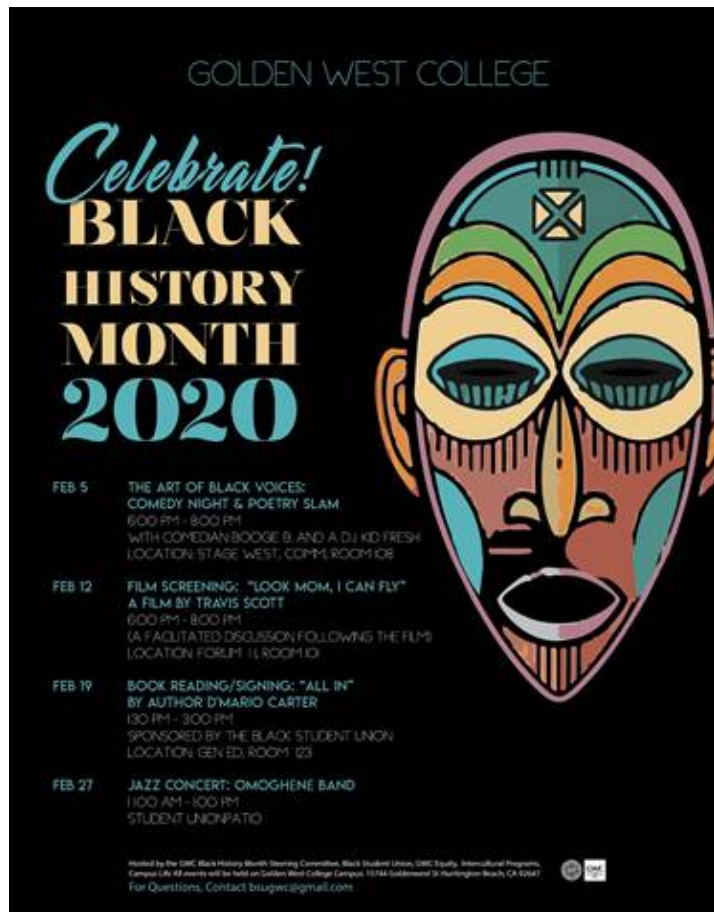
New and returning students were welcomed and provided general financial aid information. All booths were well received, keeping staff busy with assisting students and parents.

The Financial Aid staff were available to answer any questions as they encouraged students to complete the 2020-21 FAFSA.



CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT GOLDEN WEST COLLEGE

Golden West College will be celebrating Black History Month with the following activities:



The poster features a central illustration of a stylized African mask with vibrant colors (yellow, green, blue, red, and purple) and a white 'X' on the forehead. To the left of the mask, the text reads: 'GOLDEN WEST COLLEGE Celebrate! BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2020'. Below this, a list of events is provided for February 5, 12, 19, and 27, including details on dates, times, locations, and sponsors. At the bottom, it states the event is hosted by the GWC Black History Month Steering Committee and provides contact information for questions.

- FEB 12** **FILM SCREENING: "LOOK MOM, I CAN FLY" A FILM BY TRAVIS SCOTT**
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
(A FACILITATED DISCUSSION FOLLOWING THE FILM)
LOCATION: FORUM II, ROOM 101
- FEB 19** **BOOK READING/SIGNING: "ALL IN" BY AUTHOR D'MARIO CARTER**
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
SPONSORED BY THE BLACK STUDENT UNION
LOCATION: GEN ED, ROOM 123
- FEB 27** **JAZZ CONCERT: OMOGHÉNE BAND**
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
STUDENT UNION PATIO

ORANGE COAST COLLEGE GUARDIAN SCHOLARS SELECTED TO TRAVEL ABROAD FOR HUMANITARIAN WORK

Three Orange Coast Guardian Scholars—Jerzo Castellanos, Christopher Huerta, and Christopher Gonzalez—were selected from a highly competitive national pool of candidates for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel abroad this summer to do global humanitarian projects with an organization called Export Hope.

The students are now fundraising \$500 each to cover a small portion of the expenses for their trips.

"Every little bit helps—both practically and in showing OCC's Scholars just how many of us are rooting for them behind the scenes," said Program Coordinator Gabrielle Ridley.

Export Hope funds all travel expenses and the cost of participating in the various programs the Scholars have selected, but they are responsible for fundraising the \$500 each to help support miscellaneous expenses while in their host countries.

[Learn more about the students here.](#)



FOUNDER OF KWANZAA TO VISIT ORANGE COAST COLLEGE TO CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Dr. Maulana Karenga will visit campus on Wednesday, February 26, to give a talk at the OCC Planetarium titled *Living the Legacy of Black History: Remembrance, Reflection, Resistance and Remaking the World*.

Dr. Karenga is professor and chair of Africana Studies at California State University, Long Beach. An activist-scholar of national and international recognition, Dr. Karenga has had a far-reaching effect on Black intellectual and political culture since the 1960s.

[Learn more about the event here.](#)

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SHARED PLANNING FOR A FUTURE THAT IS COMPLEX AND UNKNOWN



Thank you for your engagement in planning for the future of Coast. Since the adoption of the hiring freeze and incentive-retirement program, our HR teams have been very busy in communicating to employees.

We essentially have two groups with different engagement needs: those eligible employees who are interested in taking the incentive and those who will continue on with Coast after June 30.

Incentive-eligible employees should be receiving communications on requirements and timelines for the programs. You have likely also seen emails regarding in-person sessions to learn about the incentive and gain further understanding about Coast District retirement benefits.

For those continuing after June 30, we are also beginning meaningful conversations about how we provide a high-quality experience for our students with fewer people.

For all of us, it is important to know that the incentive is not guaranteed. Trustees will have final say on moving forward with the incentive program in late April.

At that time, my recommendation on whether to proceed will rest on two considerations:

- Will we achieve our financial goals based on those who indicated interest in retiring?
- Will the experience and institutional knowledge being lost cause an unacceptable disruption of our mission to serve students and the community?

We don't know the answer to either question today. Only time will tell, and that uncertainty is stressful. I acknowledge that stress. At the same time, I ask for your understanding as we address the complexities and unknowns of balancing the size of the District with our current and projected student enrollment. Together, we will take the necessary steps for the future while honoring the dedication of our long-serving faculty and staff.

Lastly, as our communities continue to grieve for the loss of John, Keri, and Alyssa Altobelli, Kobe and Gianna Bryant, Sarah and Payton Chester, Christina Mauser, and Ara Zobayan, I join the trustees in expressing our gratitude for your outpouring of support for the families, friends, and all those affected at our Colleges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Weispfenning".

John Weispfenning, Ph. D.
Chancellor