

NEWS *Brief*

A WEEKLY COMMUNICATION TO THE
COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

September 13, 2019



FROM THE OFFICE OF
John Weispfenning, Ph.D.

This Week at the District

COAST COLLEGES EMPLOYEES AND CHANCELLOR BREAK FOR COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

“Really good things are in place that will have a continuing benefit in the coming years,” said Chancellor Weispfenning to employees at Golden West College in reference to the new buildings and innovative programs reshaping the College environment. This conversation was part of the Chancellor’s Coffee Breaks held at each of the Colleges this week.

Among the coffee topics were enrollment and budget. The chancellor spoke with employees about the challenging student recruitment environment and the uncertainty the Coast District faces as a result of the struggling state funding formula. The chancellor acknowledged employee budget concerns and encouraged everyone to look for ways to limit expenses, but also sought to clarify that the District will be able to manage these challenges.



“We have the tools to work our way through this,” said Chancellor Weispfenning to employees at Coastline College. “If we work together, we will weather this.”

The coffee breaks also provided an opportunity to celebrate successes. Accolades included strong student achievement reports and meeting student basic needs.

“We are a high performing district on student success, among the highest in the state and nation,” said Chancellor Weispfenning to employees at Orange Coast College. “We are also near the very front of the national conversation on how we meet student needs.”

The conversation continues as the final Chancellor’s Coffee Break for this round will be at the District Office on September 24.

CHANCELLOR’S SCHEDULE

WEEK OF September 16, 2019

In the District
Monday—Thursday

Acting Chancellor
Dr. Marco Baeza
Friday

BOARD MEETING DATES

September 18, 2019

Regular Board Meeting

COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS

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

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

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COAST COORDINATES PARTNERSHIP TO BUILD A STRONG WORKFORCE FOR ORANGE COUNTY

The Strong Workforce Program Pathways Scale Up regional project, organized by Coast Community College District, seeks to develop and replicate best practices for scaling up career pathways that promote student success and improve workforce outcomes. The project convenes leaders and practitioners from Orange County community colleges, K12 institutions, four-year colleges, and universities, alongside the region's major businesses and industries.

On Tuesday, September 10, as part of this project, Coast District organized and hosted superintendents from the Regional Occupation Programs (ROPs) with representatives from community colleges and the Orange County Department of Education for a panel presentation titled *Reintroducing ROPs: Partners for College and Career Readiness and Pathway Success*.

ROP leaders outlined their regional mission and programs, and discussed opportunities for partnerships with community colleges. The session also included a presentation by Project Director Stephanie Feger of the Coast District on the regional dual enrollment workshops, coaching, and resources that will be developed this year.





RIDERSHIP IS STRONG FOR GOLDEN WEST'S OCTA COLLEGE PASS PROGRAM

It's only the second week of the Golden West College Pass program, and the ridership numbers are impressive. OCTA has reported 3,512 boardings from 497 different GWC students.

The student-funded program allows full-time and part-time students enrolled at the college to download a free pass via the OC Bus app or to use their student identification cards to ride free on the regular OC Bus system, allowing them to get to school, to work, or wherever the bus travels across Orange County.

SKATE ART EXHIBIT ON DISPLAY AT GOLDEN WEST

Skateboarding is not a new phenomenon; it is well-known as a worldwide sport that has risen from an underground sub-culture to mainstream culture with its own style, attitude, and aesthetic. The new College Art Gallery exhibition, "Skate | Create: The Art of Skateboarding" explores this passionate culture through the fine art of some of its heaviest hitters, historic contributors, and local up-and-comers.



OC CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL RETURNS TO ORANGE COAST COLLEGE

Orange Coast College will host the 16th annual Orange County Children's Book Festival on Sunday, October 6.

The festival brings 90 published authors, 12 studio illustrators, and 60 literacy centered exhibitors to the Costa Mesa campus for a day of family fun. Attendees will have a chance to meet with well-known authors and artists, including five-time NBA champion and two-time Olympic Gold Medalist Kobe Bryant, who will be promoting his new book "Legacy and the Queen," and reality television star Elena Gant, promoting her new book "Rox & Pax."

Five stages will be located throughout campus, including a S.T.E.A.M stage highlighting space exploration. Noted astrophysicist David A. Aguilar will be on hand to share his experience working for NASA's New Horizons Mission special media team on the historic Pluto Flyby Mission. There also will be Storyteller, Illustrator, Early Reader/Middle Grade/Teen Stage, and Animal and Nature stages. Exhibitors setting up shop at the festival include Orange County Public Libraries, PBS SoCal, Lakeshore Learning, and the Orange County Department of Education. There also will be train rides and bounce houses for kids.

"Our purpose and steadfast commitment for wanting all children to read is what drives us each year to welcome families, have them meet authors and find books to encourage family reading," Executive Director Pat Burns said.

Parking and attendance for the event is free, and multiple food vendors will be on site, including Kona Shaved Ice, Wendy's Bacon Hot Dogs, and Sophia's Kitchen. More than 30,000 people are expected to attend. For more information visit www.kidsbookfestival.com. Visit <http://occpbpublicity.orangecoastcollege.edu/occbf19/> to view a complete list of authors, illustrators and exhibitors.



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I've had a few occasions this week to reflect on the benefits of cooperation.

One of those occasions was a meeting on Thursday of the Orange County Legislative Task Force, a group of chancellors, trustees, government and public affairs staff, and community members from the four OC community college districts. This group shares information and coordinates strategy to maximize our success in federal and state advocacy.

Another opportunity for cooperation is demonstrated with Strong Workforce and Orange County's Scale Up project. Here we again have an opportunity to maximize success for our region by cooperating with our educational colleagues from K-12 to colleges and universities alongside business and industry leaders.

Finally, this week, we saw details forming for a joint job fair—including workshops for critical job search skills—to include all four OC community college districts plus some neighboring districts. The Employment Summit will be held in December with the goal of recruiting diverse candidates for all participating college districts. Our combined efforts will bring a stronger, deeper pool of talent than any district could achieve on its own.

Competitiveness is often a default and natural reaction to scarcity, including scarce funding and resources. For all of us, the personal and institutional motivations behind competition are often very hard to ignore. And some light competition is productive. Yet our most stubborn challenges are, more often than not, best met through the combination of talents and resources made possible by cooperation.

Have a great weekend,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John Weispfenning".

John Weispfenning, Ph. D.
Chancellor