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Dr. Christiaan Desmond Selected as OCC Dean of Consumer and Health Sciences

Orange Coast College welcomes Dr. Christiaan Desmond as its new Dean of the Consumer and Health Sciences Division. He will be replacing Dr. Jane McLaughlin, who retired in June 2020.

Dr. Desmond joins OCC from San Jose City College, where he served as the Associate Dean of Career Technology Education. He also previously served in administrative positions related to business and workforce development, as well as in instructional roles as a professor of automotive engineering and technology.

"I have devoted the past 16 years to education and serving the community. I have been fortunate to work at high school, community college, and university campuses," Desmond says. "My true passion is at a community college where I believe we can have the greatest impact for our students. As an educator and southern California native I can't think of anything better than working at Orange Coast College serving the students, faculty, staff and community."

Dr. Desmond's educational background includes a bachelor's degree in history from California State University, Long Beach; two master's degrees in occupational studies and educational administration from Cal State Long Beach; and a doctorate in community college leadership from Ferris State University.

In his downtime Dr. Desmond enjoys spending time outdoors hiking or at the beach with his wife and three children. His first day at OCC was July 6.

"I am very excited to have Dr. Desmond join our leadership team, and look forward to his leadership starting this summer," says Vice President of Instruction Dr. Michelle Grimes-Hillman.

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OCC Foundation Recognized by Share Our Selves Community Health Center



The Orange Coast College Foundation was recognized by Share Our Selves Community Health Center in Costa Mesa for its continuous support of graduating high school seniors who attend the center's programs.

"Share Our Selves has a 'First in Family to Go To College' program, where the kids who are graduating high school receive a sweatshirt from the college that they will be attending. Always the biggest number are going to attend OCC," explains Executive Director of Advancement Doug Bennett.

Each year for the past five years the Foundation has donated sweatshirts for the high school seniors from the OCC Bookstore. This year, Share Our Selves invited Bennett and OCC President Angelica Suarez to attend the ceremony, where they were presented with a proclamation from the nonprofit organization in recognition of the College's support.

"It was a chance to go down there and see the kids, which was really nice," says Bennett. "What was really neat was seeing Dr. Suarez talking to the kids' parents in Spanish. They're sitting there, talking to the president of the College, who is telling them that she herself was the first person in her family to go to college. It's nice to see that kind of networking."




OCC One of 12 Colleges Accepted Into Open Educational Resources Partnership

Orange Coast College is one of 12 schools selected to participate in the 2021-2022 OpenStax Institutional Partnership program at Rice University. As a participant in the network's first-year program, OCC will work to actively build and execute a strategy that will encourage greater use of free, flexible textbooks among its faculty and students.

"OCC was chosen to participate in this strategic partnership with OpenStax by demonstrating an eagerness to drive adoption of open educational resources (OER)," says OCC OER Coordinator and Professor of History Melissa Archibald.