



OCC CLEEO Program Welcomed Homeboy Industries Founder, Father Boyle

Orange Coast College's Counseling Latinos for Engagement and Equity (CLEEO) project hosted Father Gregory Boyle, the founder, and director of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, on April 25.

Boyle has authored several books and established the largest and most successful rehabilitation and re-entry program for former gang members worldwide.

Boyle witnessed the devastating impact of gang violence on his community during the so-called "decade of death" that began in the late 1980s and peaked at 1,000 gang-related killings in 1992. In the face of law enforcement tactics and criminal justice policies of suppression and mass incarceration as the means to end gang violence, he and parish and community members adopted a radical approach at the time: treat gang members as human beings.

OCC's CLEEO Project provides cross-cultural learning opportunities for the campus community and supports the access and success of Latinos in higher education.



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OCC Celebrates Black Student Success Week

Orange Coast College Celebrated Black Student Success Week, April 24 – 28, with events, webinars, and activities at the College

theme was “Vision to Action: Building Systems and Structures for Black Student Success.” The week-long event Focused on successful approaches to ensuring Black and African American students succeed at California community colleges.

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OCC Celebrates Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month

Heritage Month, a celebration of how generations of Asian and

The Orange Coast College Global Engagement Center, Multicultural Center, and Student Equity and Student Life programs will host several virtual events and activities throughout the month to celebrate OCC’s AAPI community, including an online community board, mental health workshop, and movie screening. Go to the OCC Multicultural Center web page for more details.

competition. The team scored 282.5 points, making it the winningest in community college forensics history.

“I am so honored and humbled by all your work,” OCC President Angelica Suarez said. “Thank you for bringing this honor to Orange Coast College.”

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OCC Forensics Takes Gold at Nationals for 13th Time

The Orange Coast College Forensics team won the National Championship title on April 15 at the Phi Rho Pi National Tournament. This is the 13th National title for the program.

The team of 14 students won by 40 points over their competitors from schools nationwide. All 14 members of

Coast was recognized with four gold, six silver, and two bronze awards for creative work produced during the academic year.

CCPRO serves California's 116 community colleges and public and governmental relations, marketing, and design professionals. The annual conference allows marketing and public relations professionals to network with peers and share experiences, challenges, and advice.

Gold

College Website: Specialty Page

Print Advertising

Class Schedule- Division B

Silver

College Website: Specialty Page

Note/Card/Invitation

Bronze

Banner/Outdoor Media

College Promotional Video- Short Format

"We feel honored to receive this recognition from our marketing and PR peers around the country," said Director of Marketing and Public Relations Juan Gutierrez. "I could not be prouder of our marketing team and the quality of their work in promoting OCC's outstanding programs and services."



Juan Gutierrez Receives CCPRO All Pro Award

Juan Gutierrez, Director of Public Relations & Marketing at Orange Coast College, was honored with the Community College Public Relations Organization 2023 All Pro award Thursday, April 13, in Los Angeles.

This lifetime achievement award is for outstanding work and service to CCPRO and as a community college communicator. CCPRO California serves community colleges, public and governmental relations, marketing, and design professionals state-wide.

"I am honored and humbled to receive this award from my peers, whom I respect, and from an organization I love," Gutierrez said. "I have the best job in the world. I get to share excellent news and help celebrate the accomplishments of our outstanding students. I get to promote programs that truly change lives and partner with many worthwhile groups in our communities who share a mission to better the circumstances of so many."

Gutierrez stepped into his role at OCC in 2014 and has been the school's chief spokesman for the past nine years. He has led his team in community relations and multiple award-winning media campaigns in communication, design, marketing, and social media. Gutierrez has more than 21 years of experience in higher education in the California Community College system, including OCC, Pasadena City

"It's hard to think of a more deserving person for the All Pro award than Juan," Director, Marketing & Public Relations at

Golden West College Andrea Rangno said. "He understands how important it is to stay at the forefront of marketing and public relations trends in higher education, and OCC has

Gutierrez has held leadership and board roles in such organizations as Community

College Public Relations Organization (CCPRO), National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR), Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA), Director of the Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce, and a graduate of the Leadership Pasadena program. In 2013, THE Magazine of Pasadena honored Gutierrez as one of its 50 inspiring leaders.

"My heartfelt congratulations to Juan on receiving this well-deserved prestigious award," Orange Coast College President Angelica Suarez said. "It serves as a testament to his remarkable commitment to exhibiting the highest standards

communications."



OCC Dance Students Selected for Nationals Competition

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and wildlife species from various ecosystems, including cold water, tropical, freshwater, brackish estuaries, and a mixture of seawater and fresh water. This makes OCC's aquarium unique among its peers because aquariums often focus on only one type of animal, such as all local animals, says Rob Ellis, marine sciences professor and former aquarium director. For more information, visit OCC Aquarium.

OCC Honors Outstanding Coast Colleagues and Retires

Orange Coast College hosted its annual Outstanding Coast Colleague of the Year Awards and the Spring Retiree Recognition Ceremony to honor OCC retirees, nominees, and our Coast Colleagues of the Year winners. This year, 25 nominees for the Outstanding Coast Colleague award and six colleagues retiring during the spring semester.

Retirees included Bill Barber, professor in the Culinary Arts program; Thomas Seltzer, General Manager in instruction Food Services; Richard Frechen, Professor of Chemistry;

Farah Sogo, Professor in Biology; Rose and Garcia Kings, Professor in Architectural Technology, and Jorge Sanchez, from Maintenance and Operations.

Coast Colleagues of the Year nominees' winners were

Childhood Lab Coordinator

FT Faculty Member of the Year – Kelli Elliott, Biology

PT Faculty Member of the Year – Nina Barrios, English

Manager of the Year – Rochelle Santacruz, Early Childhood Lab Manager

Since 1990 OCC has honored and recognized employees, via the Coast Colleagues of the Year award, who “demonstrate the highest level of dedication, commitment to student success, excellence in instruction and the College’s mission.” Awardees are nominated by their colleagues and students for this prestigious designation, and in recent years winners have been chosen by the College’s employee representative groups. This peer-to-peer recognition is one of our most revered traditions and contributes to a sense of community and connectivity on campus.

FT Faculty Member of the Year – Kelli Elliott, Biology and PT Faculty Member of the Year – Nina Barrios, English

Manager of the Year – Rochelle Santacruz, Early Childhood Lab Manager and Early Childhood Lab Coordinator