



FROM THE PRESIDENT

OXNARD COLLEGE

October 5, 2015

Dear Colleagues of Our Oxnard College Community:

Forty-five. This is the number of school shootings in 2015, according to Newsweek. Forty-five instances in which the sanctity of our educational communities has been shattered by senseless, unprovoked attacks. Now, with the killings at Umpqua Community College in Oregon, we must yet again grieve for the loss of faculty and students and their unrealized potential.

We cannot allow ourselves to become numb to this horrific phenomenon, to say “there’s been another school shooting” and then go on with our day. As educators, our roles have changed: In addition to focusing on the life of the mind, we now must also focus on protecting the very lives of our students—and ourselves.

When I arrived on campus, I assessed, in consultation with my leadership team, OC’s readiness to handle an emergency, be it earthquake, fire, or active shooter. We collectively agreed that the College did not have the necessary procedures and tools in place to protect life and property. Therefore, in this special issue of “From the President...” I want to let you know what we have already achieved and what we are aggressively addressing so that, if the unthinkable happens at Oxnard College, we will be as prepared as possible.

What we have already accomplished:

- Blackboard Connect has been upgraded to allow the capability to send out mass emergency notifications to students and faculty and staff. Please note that once you are hired or enrolled, you are automatically included in this database. Messages go out in email, text, or phone; you can select the method of receipt of message. To double-check your information, go to the VCCCD portal and open the “Work Life” tab. Under “Self Service,” you will find the “Personal Information” tab. Click on “Maintain Emergency Alert Information.”
- Under the leadership of Mike Bush, we have drawn on the expertise of the fire and safety professionals of Oxnard College’s Fire Academy—specifically, Gail Warner, Mike Ketaily, and Tammi Crudo—to completely revise our emergency planning manual and to create procedures specific to Oxnard College.
- We have purchased personal emergency notification devices for the staff of the library, student services, and central administration. This alert system allows the wearer to quickly notify first responders if there is a medical emergency or a clear and immediate danger. We have ordered 160 additional units which will arrive in approximately two months. These will be distributed to all full-time faculty and staff; units will also be available at the College Police station for adjunct faculty to check out while on campus.

A moment of silence will be observed at noon on Monday, October 5, in front of the Oxnard College flagpole and the Condor statue (adjacent to Condor Hall). Please take a few minutes from your work or your lunch and join your colleagues as we take time to remember those lost at Umpqua Community College. Please feel free to announce to your classes for any students who may wish to participate.



Every Wednesday – SHOW YOUR CONDOR SPIRIT – Sport Your “Condor wear”!

- Our fire cadets have toured every campus building and inventoried all fire extinguishers, AEDs, and first aid kits. They are writing emergency procedures unique to every building.
- “Shots Fired,” a training video on responding to an active shooter situation, is available through the portal on the bottom of front page of “Employee Information.” I strongly encourage you to take a few minutes and view this video, if you have not yet done so. If you have already seen it, please review it again to refresh your awareness of actions that can and should be taken.
- Dr. Cobian and his staff have revised the processes of the Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) in order to provide a venue for faculty and staff to report observed student behavior that may present concerns. When a form is completed, it is forwarded to our BIT team, who then reviews each case and follows up as necessary. To submit a BIT form, enter the VCCCD portal, click on “MyCollege,” then click on Oxnard College under “College Quick Links,” and the BIT Reporting Form will be the first clickable item.
- We have evaluated and refreshed our cache of emergency supplies.
- Emergency services procedures are available on the OC website. In the “Quick Links” section at the bottom of OC’s opening page, click on Campus Safety.
- On October 15 at 10:15 am, all three VCCCD colleges will participate in the Great California ShakeOut 2015. We will simultaneously test the emergency mass notification system and the audible alert/siren system.

Our next steps:

- An aggressive slate of training sessions will address specific incident management topics such as classroom response, evacuations, and hazardous materials management.
- We are working to further strengthen partnerships and communication with the Oxnard Police Department, Oxnard Fire Department, Oxnard emergency management officials, and Port Hueneme officials.
- We are completing a budget request that focuses on two priorities: facilities upgrades to retrofit classroom and office doors with effective locking systems, and enhancements to our campus public address system.
- We are establishing an electronic suggestion box for members of the OC community to provide suggestions to improve campus security and crisis response.

My thanks go to each of you as we collaborate in providing a safe learning and working environment for our students and ourselves.