



# FROM THE PRESIDENT

OXNARD COLLEGE

October 12, 2015

## **ACCREDITATION: OUR #1 PRIORITY**

A prevailing theme throughout the “From the President...” newsletter for the next several issues will institutional accreditation and the completion of our self-study. An underlying concept about accreditation bears repeating: Quite simply, accreditation is the lifeblood of our institution. Without full ACCJC accreditation, our courses will not transfer and students will be deprived access to Federal financial aid. Just as importantly, the accreditation process provides an unparalleled opportunity to evaluate all phases of our operations and our programs and to engage in the vital process of self-reflection and ongoing continuous improvement.

Accreditation co-chairs Ken Sherwood and Linda Kama’ila have been coordinating a team of faculty and staff charged with writing our responses to the newly-revised Standards. Their first deadline is looming: All first drafts of each of the four Standards must be submitted to the co-chairs no later than October 15. Other important target dates include

- Submittal of the final report to ACCJC by July 15, 2016 and
- The on-site visit by the accreditation team (either September 26-29, 2016 or October 10-13, 2016).

Between now and submittal of the report, the draft of our self-study will be reviewed by both local and District shared governance entities.

My continuing thanks go to everyone who is putting in the extra hours necessary to craft a comprehensive self-study.

## **YES, THE OC MARQUEE DOES EXIST**



After a personal visit to the factory, Bob Sube, Director of Facilities, reports, that “ Due to a few manufacturing setbacks and ‘hiccups,’ construction of the 15 foot high aluminum letters took more time than the manufacturing company anticipated. I verified the status of the sign in the sign company’s warehouse in Garden Grove. The owner confirmed that completion and delivery of the sign will be sometime in late October.”

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

## **THE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION TEAM (BIT) AT OXNARD COLLEGE**

*(Since my last newsletter, several of you have inquired about the BIT team: its process, function, and goals. In response, I have asked Oscar Cobian, Vice President, to provide a short overview of our BIT initiative.)*

Oxnard College's Behavior Intervention Team (BIT) is composed of faculty, mental health professionals, counselors, administrators, and the student health center coordinator. The BIT works collaboratively, using a specific protocol to ensure that critical student behavior or mental health issues or incidents of student discipline are addressed appropriately. The following is the process for tracking BIT reports on campus.

- When a referral is submitted through the BIT incident report on-line (VCCCD portal/MyCollege/ Oxnard College/BIT Reporting Form), the report is promptly received by BIT team members through campus email.
- For reports that require immediate intervention, the BIT convenes immediately to assess the situation and develop an appropriate response. Otherwise, the team evaluates non-emergency reports during regular meetings to develop the appropriate response to each person of concern.
- In some situations, the BIT will communicate regarding steps to gain additional information to better assess certain situations.

Once a referral is made, depending upon the situation, immediate action may be taken.

- The BIT will meet and discuss the incident.
- In some situations, the BIT will communicate with the individual reporting the situation in order to gain additional information to better assess the incident and its status.
- Appropriate intervention is determined and action/additional action is taken.
- Feedback is provided when appropriate in keeping with federal and state laws pertaining to confidentiality.
- The responsible administrator follows through with student discipline procedures for issues of violation of student code of conduct, including academic dishonesty.

The BIT needs everyone at Oxnard College to feel empowered to make referral. If you feel a student is in distress, if he/she is exhibiting inappropriate or concerning behavior, or he/she has violated code of conduct, please submit a BIT report on line. Our faculty and staff are the "eyes and ears" of the College on a daily basis. Your involvement enhances the physical and emotional safety of our students and campus.

## **THREE OC POSITIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION AT BOARD MEETING**

Two Oxnard College positions will be considered for final approval by the Board of Trustees at their October 13 meeting: the Assistant Director of Student Success, who will be primarily responsible for ensuring that all of the Student Success and Support Program (SSSP) components are effectively implemented and evaluated; and an Admissions and Records Technician to address workload issues. The third is final consideration of a position re-classification for a current employee.

## **OC STUDENTS AND THE NEW WEST SYMPHONY**

Dr. Scott Wolf, OC Professor of Music, provides us this information about a memorable event in which he and his students participated.

"Friday (October 2) was the opening night of the 2015/2016 Season for the New West Symphony at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center, and I want to share with you my experience. The symphony generously offered the

Oxnard College music program free tickets to attend this lovely concert consisting of two Spanish works, Rodrigo's "Concierto de Aranjuez" and Manuel De Falla's "Suite from the Three Cornered Hat," and the American-themed Symphony No. 9 by Dvorak, his "New World" Symphony. **Eighty Oxnard College music students** attended, and the symphony went so far as to acknowledge the college's presence during their opening remarks. The symphony played wonderfully, and students have been raving to me about it non-stop since, particularly with regard to the guitar soloist, Jason Vieaux, and the symphony's energetic treatment of the Dvorak symphony.

"It is wonderful to see the students excited about this music, and even more rewarding to find that this was not only such a positive experience, but for many of them it was their first concert ever. The engagement and sense of community I felt that night from our students was truly inspiring."

## **LOCAL BANK PROVIDES SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT**



MUFC Union Bank has presented to the Oxnard College Foundation a check for \$5,000, which will be matched 100% by the Oxnard College Foundation and used to fund additional Oxnard College Student Scholarships. The photo shows Anthony Volante, OCF President; Chris Diaz, MUFC Union Bank Foundation Officer; Teresa Elenes-Waisman, OCF Board of Director; and Connie Owens, OC Community Development and Institutional Advancement Specialist at the October 7 presentation.

Thank you, MUFC Union, for your generosity and your belief in the future and the potential of our students.

## ANNUAL HEALTH FAIR



Oxnard College's Health Fair on October 7 attracted a broad spectrum of area health service providers and agencies to provide important information to our students and faculty. Thanks are extended to Deanna McFadden and the Oxnard College Student Health Center for organizing this event.

## NATIONAL MOMENT OF SILENCE



The Student Services Division staff paused for a moment of silence at 11:00 a.m., Thursday, October 8, 2015, as part of a National Moment of Silence to honor the victims of the shooting at Umpqua Community College.