



Educational Assistance Center

THE ADVOCATE: A Newsletter Devoted to Disability Equity



WELCOME BACK!

services to welcome students back. For many students, this may be their first college experience, while others are returning with new goals, challenges, and dreams for the future.

What makes our college special is the people who make up our OC campus community. Our faculty bring knowledge, passion, and mentorship to the classroom. Our counselors provide guidance and help students identify academic, career, and personal pathways toward their goals. Our professional staff provide the resources, services, and support that help students navigate college and overcome obstacles along the way. Together, we create an environment where students feel welcomed, supported, and empowered to succeed.

The fall semester also provides an opportunity to reflect on the past year and consider how we can continue to improve. Whether strengthening our programs, expanding student services, embracing new ideas, or finding better ways to connect with our students, every contribution matters.

As we begin another academic year, let us welcome one another back with enthusiasm, optimism, and a renewed sense of purpose. Let us remember why we chose education as our profession and the important role each of us plays in changing lives.

Welcome back, faculty, counselors, and professional staff! Here's to a successful, meaningful, and inspiring fall semester!

~ Leo Orange

A New Semester, A New Opportunity to Make a Difference

Welcome back, Condors! Oxnard College's Fall Semester has begun! As summer comes to an end, our campus is once again coming alive. Classrooms are being prepared, offices are reopening, and faculty, counselors, and professional staff are returning with renewed energy and a shared commitment to student success.

The beginning of a new academic year is more than simply a return to work, it is a time for new beginnings, new goals, and new opportunities. Across campus, faculty are preparing engaging courses, counselors are getting ready to guide students through their educational journeys, and professional staff are preparing programs and

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION OR SUGGESTION FOR NEXT MONTH'S CONTENT?

Contact Leo Orange at lorange@vcccd.edu

The 7 Core Accessibility Principles

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Principle 1: Use proper heading levels

Welcome to our first of seven articles about digital accessibility principles, where we'll explore each principle in detail. This month, we'll talk about heading levels!

Why are heading levels important?

Heading levels allow a person who uses a screenreader to navigate a website or document by skipping from one section to another in a logical order. Without them, the entire website or document comes across as a single block of text with no delineation. Imagine trying to find Chapter 7, Section 3 of a textbook without a table of contents or any changes to page layouts or font sizes---you'd be forced to skim the entire document word for word to spot where Chapter 7 began!

Heading levels also allow someone who uses a screenreader to quickly pursue a document and get an idea of its overall structure and subject matter---the equivalent of picking up a book and thumbing through it before simply diving in on page 1.

What do we mean by "proper" heading levels?

Heading levels should be used to define a document's structure rather than to change font size for visual emphasis. They must be organized such that subheadings are nested beneath primary headings. Do not skip heading levels along the way, as this will lead to confusion. Finally, a document only ever has one Heading Level 1 (its title).

Here are how this newsletter's heading levels are assigned:

H1: The Advocate: A Newsletter...

H2: Welcome Back!

H3: A New Semester, An New...

H2: The 7 Core Accessibility Principles

H3: Principle 1: Use proper heading...

H4: Why are heading levels...

H4: What do we mean by "proper"...

H2: Do you have a question about...

H2: EAC Staff Spotlight

H3: Leah Alarcon, Dean of Student...

Do you have a question about accessibility?



Even though the principles of accessibility are fundamental, we know that making inaccessible material accessible can be tricky. Struggling with a PDF? Trying to change the reading order of your flyer? Having trouble writing appropriate alternate text for your image? You don't have to go it alone! Submit a ticket explaining your issue, and OC's Accessibility Team will help you find a solution.

[Accessibility Team](#)
[Question / Request Form](#)

DID YOU KNOW EAC NOW HAS AN [ACCESSIBILITY WEBPAGE?](#)
Check it out to learn best practices for all things digital!





EAC STAFF SPOTLIGHT



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**DR. LEAH
ALARCON**

**DEAN OF
STUDENT SUCCESS**

What do you like about being the Dean of Student Success?

What I really like about being a dean is that I get to support people. Every day, I come to work with the goal of contributing to the success of our students and my colleagues. That could be helping a student through a difficult experience so they can access resources to be successful or helping my colleagues work through challenges and encouraging them along the way.

How has your career path led to your current role?

I started at OC as a student worker and I knew I was meant to work in higher education because I wanted to be someone students could turn to for guidance. My professional career has allowed me to work in admissions, outreach, financial aid, academic counseling, as well as a director of TRIO programs, EOP, and foster youth. I was also interim Vice President for Student Development for two years. This path has prepared me to be a dean as it has given me the knowledge and hands-on experience to serve our division and our students. I am fortunate to have an

understanding of the roles each department plays in helping students achieve their goals.

How does your role feed into the Educational Assistance Center?

As the Dean of Student Success, I get to work with EAC to provide support to our classified professionals, provisional employees, student workers, and faculty so they may provide services to our students.

Why do you think Oxnard College is a good fit for students with disabilities?

Oxnard College is a good fit for students with disabilities because we are committed to providing individualized support and guidance that helps each student feel welcomed, understood, and empowered to succeed. We work closely with students to understand their goals, identify appropriate resources and accommodations, and help them navigate any challenges they may encounter so they may develop the confidence and skills to become successful and independent students.

How do you like to spend your Saturdays?

I like to spend time with my family and going on adventures with my 12- and 14-year-old girls.

If you could only have one book with you on a deserted island, what would it be?

A photobook of my friends and family would make me the happiest.

**CONNECT
WITH US**



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