



# FROM THE PRESIDENT

OXNARD COLLEGE

Week of August 31, 2015

**These signs around campus say it all!**



Thanks, Bob Sube and members of the M & O staff, for your hard work and your dedication to conserving our vital water resources.

## ***The “Stigma” of Community College: A Student’s Perspective***

Bizzy Anderson, a journalism student at the University of Missouri, writes a blog for the *Huffington Post*. In her June 23, 2015, entry entitled, “The Stigma About Going to Community College That No One Talks About,” Ms. Anderson talks candidly about her experiences of leaving a four-year university and returning to her local community college in order to complete basic requirements to transfer to another baccalaureate institution and to reduce her costs.

“Just as there is a stigma with transferring while in college,” writes Ms. Anderson, “there is an even greater stigma surrounding community college. Many believe it isn’t ‘real college,’ or that it’s much easier than a typical four year university.

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

“This is just simply false. While it offers a different lifestyle, the course load and academics can be just as rigorous as any other school. Community college is an excellent option for any student in any situation, and many will use it as a financial or academic primer before transferring to a four-year university after completing their sophomore year.

“I am beyond grateful for my opportunity to spend a semester fulfilling requirements at a community college, and am lucky to have gotten myself ahead in that environment. Do I have any regrets? Nope!”

Thank you, Ms. Anderson. We couldn't have said it better ourselves.

## **The STEM First-Year Experience**

### **STEM Grant Project-based Data of Student Perception**

The concept of a First Year Experience (FYE) had its genesis in a review of the fall to fall persistence data of students pursuing STEM degrees over the previous four years. In addition, STEM grant qualitative findings (STEM grant project-based data of student perception) indicated that students desired an orientation that provided cognitive and non-cognitive support services prior to starting their first semester at OC as well as regular intervals of meetings and touch points throughout the semester to facilitate their persistence.

As a result, a pilot cohort (23) of first year STEM students participated in a four-day orientation—the FYE Discovery Week—immediately prior to the start of the fall 2015 semester, focusing on strategies to enhance their academic success. On Sunday, activities included multiple parent and student workshops, collaborative learning activities, and a keynote speaker, Jesse Calvillo, from AGQ labs.



Throughout the week, students participated in financial aid workshops, EOPS presentations, Library & Learning services, “start thinking of transfer now” seminars, STEM Faculty information sessions, an educational excursion to AGQ labs and presentations from STEM Students, Engineering, Math and Physics Club members. CYPHER (Conscious Youth Promoting Health & Environmental Readiness) organized daily project-based activities revolving around the “value of a learning community and social support”.

Post-survey findings indicated that students became more aware of the importance of tutoring services, seeking out mentors, study groups, developing personal goals and motivation, study habits, asking for assistance and maintaining “peer camaraderie”. This cohort of students will continue to participate in industry-led workshops, peer-mentoring, bi-monthly meetings and STEM enrichment activities throughout the upcoming year. The STEM grant will track outcomes and publish results on a regular basis which identify the effectiveness of this new program and to facilitate continuous quality improvement.

*(courtesy of Dr. Cynthia Herrera)*

## **Inaugural Dual Enrollment Class Confirmed**

“The pilot class in our newly reestablished Dual Enrollment collaboration with the Oxnard Union High School District will begin this month at Channel Islands High School. We will be offering a Public Speaking class (COMM R101) as an introduction to a planned expansion of Dual Enrollment classes on campuses throughout the OUHSD

and here at Oxnard College. This represents an opportunity for Oxnard College to increase our FTES while strengthening our relationship with our high school partners.”

*(Ken Sherwood, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Learning)*

## **Student Involvement in Emergency Planning**

Ms. Gail Warner, Director of OC’s Fire Academy, announces that “on the afternoons of Sept 9 and Sept 11 Battalion 44 will be conducting emergency preparedness and prefer planning for all the building complexes. They will be led by our fire academy coordinator, Ms. Tami Crudo. The cadets will be will be in uniform and will be working in teams to accomplish this task in two afternoons. They will be taking pictures and notes and may ask someone for directions or the location of some equipment. Once this project is complete emergency preparedness booklets will be made for each classroom.”

## **Chancellor’s Circle to be Held at Oxnard College September 9**

Oxnard College is proud to be the host of the Statewide Chancellor’s Circle luncheon, as we will be welcoming to our campus California Community Colleges Chancellor Brice W. Harris. The event is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., in the Oxnard College Performing Arts Building.

These luncheons, held several times a year at community colleges across the state, bring together business partners, philanthropists, and community college leaders to advance the goals of the California Community Colleges and to provide college leadership and Chancellor’s Circle members the opportunity to network and to discuss issues relevant to the community college system.

While on campus, attendees will enjoy a performance of the Ballet Folklorico, tours of the campus, and a lunch prepared by our culinary students. Additionally, they will experience the vibrancy and enthusiasm of our campus, because it will be Condor Spirit Day and we will also be hosting Condor Days for potential new students, so the campus will reverberate with our blue and green.

Please note that there will be reserved parking set aside in Lot H.

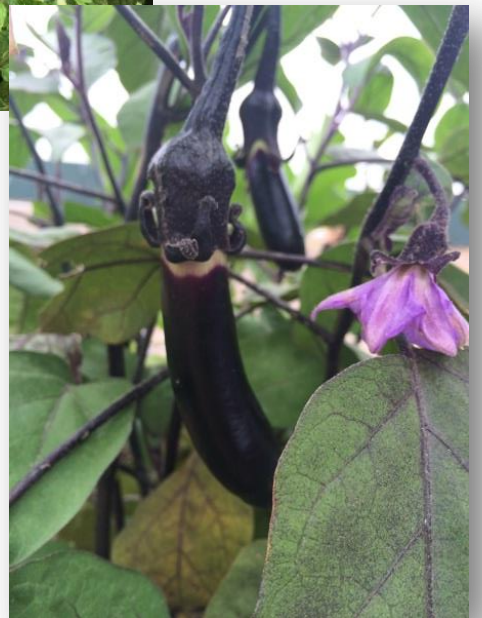
## **Collaborative Campus Garden Serves as a Teaching and Learning Tool**

Oxnard College’s produce garden, located adjacent to the Memorial Garden, is managed collaboratively by the Green Society Club, the CRM program (primarily the bistro class), and the gardeners on campus. Chef Pilar Sanchez is the gourmet instructor and also the instructor that oversees this project.

In the garden, during its peak season, you will find strawberries, chives, eggplant, mint, corn and onions. Compost is created from produce waste from our culinary program. Students apply this compost create a natural fertilizer to facilitate plant growth. Once the produce has matured, our bistro students pick the produce and incorporate it in the lovely dinners they serve on Bistro Nights.

According to Liz Burnett, CRM Tech, “It is such a great learning experience for our students to see this process happen from the ground up, not to mention the environmental effects it has. Our students are learning what to compost, how to grow vegetables without pesticides, how to know when items are ripe for picking, and how to use what you have at hand in your menu.”

These pictures of the garden in season are provided by Liz and Pilar.



# Remember We are Always Accepting Nominations for the CONDOR SPIRIT CITATION Award

(fillable PDF form available on the "Oxnard College" webpage – click this  button )



## Announcing the CONDOR SPIRIT CITATION

The CONDOR SPIRIT CITATION recognizes members of the Oxnard College community who consistently go above and beyond their duties to show our students that they are indeed special and that their present and their future is our primary concern.

This Citation, awarded on an occasional and unannounced basis throughout the year, celebrates those individuals-faculty, staff, or student employee-who show their dedication to Oxnard College and its mission on a daily basis and in every interaction with our students and with other employees. They truly "go the extra mile" in attitude, in professionalism, in enthusiasm, and in compassion for our community.

You all know someone like this. So here's your opportunity to give them some well-deserved recognition.

Please fill out the form below and mail to **Karla Banks, Executive Assistant to the President, at [kbanks@vcccd.edu](mailto:kbanks@vcccd.edu) or via interoffice mail.** Every nomination will be closely reviewed. There's no limit on the number of citations that can be awarded.

## NOMINATION FOR CONDOR SPIRIT CITATION

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF NOMINEE: \_\_\_\_\_

DIVISION/DEPARTMENT OF NOMINEE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide some general comments on why you think this person is deserving of a Citation.

Please share with us a specific instance or occurrence that clearly illustrates why this person should be honored.

NOMINATOR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_