

# OC is ME

Mentoring & Empowering

Winter 2020

# **Welcome and Purpose**



I was a first-generation college student. My late parents, Amador and Josefina Sanchez, were immigrants from Mexico with a limited education. They were great parents, but they didn't know how to advise us about college, so my two siblings and I made quite a few mistakes as we navigated the mysteries of higher education. I was fortunate to somehow find my way to a successful career, but I would have avoided many of the mistakes I made if I had a peer mentor to help me. How many first-generation college students have lost their way because they did not have a peer mentor to talk to?

Your role as one of our college's Peer Mentors is, therefore, especially important. You will help other students navigate the challenges of college, so that they achieve their educational and career goals. You will provide them with the benefit of the insights you have acquired through your own educational journey and we will do our best to help equip you to be reliable and knowledgeable guides. You will not only support, guide, and encourage other students, but you will find that you will become a better student yourself, and gain valuable experience for your resume' also.

I am excited about the difference you will make in the lives of others, and I am excited about how this experience will help you to achieve your own goals. Oxnard College is proud of you!

Luis P. Sanchez, JD, LLM Interim President, Oxnard College

# Why OC is ME

Each and every student walking through the door, whether straight out of high school or returning after a career change all need our full support. Being able to build a meaningful connection with each student allows us to help ensure that students are successful well beyond their academic courses. OC is ME calls on each of us to act as a guide along that path.

The power of student-to-student is the greatest asset we have.

It has been my experience that many times students feel worried about asking the wrong question or may not feel comfortable in a new setting, but the power behind OC is ME is

that students learn about 'how to go to college' or how to figure out this roadmap from other students just like themselves.

When working with others the peer-to-peer mentorship model has proven to be most efficient. Although caring adults instill the importance of higher education and preparation is important, we need to be aware and value, students talk to other students about challenges, opportunities and general questions.

Why is that?

Because our peers are the most influential people in our lives.

The ME in the title of this project stands for Mentoring and Empowerment. That is something we all can do. It instills the idea that each and every one of us has an important role in the success students will attain.

This is why, now, more than ever, we need all our student workers, faculty, administrators and staff to be actively mentoring and empowering one another. As an example we can commit to sharing information about activities on campus, scholarship opportunities, application deadlines and much more.

We are OC.

Through Mentoring and Empowering student advocates, we will be able to magnify our impact well beyond our current scope.

We each have a responsibility to all of the students on campus.

Will you **be the person you needed** when you first started?

I know I am committed to letting students know they can count on ME.

-Gaby Rodriguez, Student Activities Specialist

# **Overview**

Student workers serve as near peers and role models. They benefit from intentional professional learning that builds a sense of purpose and community while also fostering leadership, critical thinking and communication skills.

# Aim of the Effort

A collegewide convening of student workers for shared training. This short session at the beginning of the year will be tailored to:



- → Build a sense of purpose to serving as role models and guides to peers
- → Build a sense of community amongst all of the student workers to network and support each other
- → Provide the beginning to ongoing professional learning fostering leadership, critical thinking and communication skills
- → Develop a conduit for cohesive communication and campaigns directed to the near peers of the OC student workers.

# **Connection-Community-Achievement**

Oxnard College is such a great place to get started. Everyone knows each other and the other students are so helpful. Lorenzo from the Welcome Center walked me over to the STEM Center to introduce me to Crystal. I recognized her from my Trig class. Before I knew it--I was helping somebody with a project at OC Make. Whenever I have questions I know there are tons of people to ask...and I don't feel embarrassed like I should've already known. It's like I have a guide for each step I didn't know I needed to take. I didn't know there'd be so many opportunities to make friends, get involved and learn by doing. Next semester I am going to apply to be part of OC is ME. I'll be able to work on campus and give back to my community.

First Year Student Fall 2020

# OC is ME at work:

# Illumineers, FYE Mentors, LLRC Writing Center Tutors, ASG & more

- 1. Student workers directly improve student success while simultaneously fostering leadership, critical thinking and communication skills.
- 2. These 'near peers' are the critical messengers needed to support the learning and achievement of their peers resulting in increased: course retention, course success and completion of degrees and certificates.
- 3. Student workers cultivate an active and engaged learning community where peers feel valued and individual success achievable. This occurs in class, clubs, centers, and where services are provided.

# This focus helps to realize the mission of Oxnard College.

Oxnard College is a learning-centered institution that embraces academic excellence by providing multiple pathways to student success.

# OC is ME actively supports these OC Initiatives:

- → Integrated college programs and services
- → Innovate to achieve equitable and inclusive student success

### Integrated College Programs and Services

OC is ME creates a unified identity for student workers. It articulates the greater purpose of their role and creates a sense of community amongst these compelling young adults. By convening student workers together and intentionally networking them we deploy convincing messengers to integrate college programs and services.

OC is ME: student workers have direct and often weekly contact with students. As an example, Illumineers connected with over 500 students twice weekly for the duration of the semester. As a result, these near peers are useful messengers for campaigns that support student success such as: meet with a counselor, attend workshops, seek learning support and build awareness of campus resources.

### Innovate to Achieve Equitable and Inclusive Student Success

Oxnard College employs over 75 student workers each semester. By working across divisions and disciplines we can create a contagious culture of purpose and community by investing in the time and talent of the students we employ. This aim for cohesiveness will allow us to be consistent with our messaging, align more strategically to our mission and goals and make efficient use of the services and resources of Oxnard College.

We will connect student workers together and establish a sense of community. We'll see the evidence in the Fall when clubs are bustling, students linger on campus and workshops have waiting lists. We'll notice when people pass in the hall there's a jostle of handshakes and hellos, study sessions with friends are hip and there's no lack of slack channels.

By working together, we are creating a critical mass aiming to shift the college culture away from the commuter student's quick trek from the car door to the classroom door and back again. By working together we provide for community building responsible for creating networks of learners who support each other academically and socially. In a new report published in the Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, Associate Professor of Communication Studies Jeffrey Hall found it takes roughly 50 hours of time together to move from mere acquaintance to casual friend, 90 hours to go from that stage to simple

'friend' status and more than 200 hours before you can consider someone your close friend.<sup>1</sup>

A recent pilot project at OC focused on creating welcoming spaces designed to cultivate a sense of belonging and nurture shared passions and interests. The professional learning used modules focused on Belonging, Growth Mindset and Diversity Asset Model. As a result, the number of students using the STEM Center increased 547% over two years. The number of hours invested by students increased 471%.

OC is ME aims to ensure students experience engaging learning opportunities by providing timely awareness and actionable next steps to take advantage of field trips, clubs, experiences and outreach.

# **Community Building**

Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.

Vince Lombardi

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

# **Professional Learning**

# Introduction to Belonging<sup>2</sup>

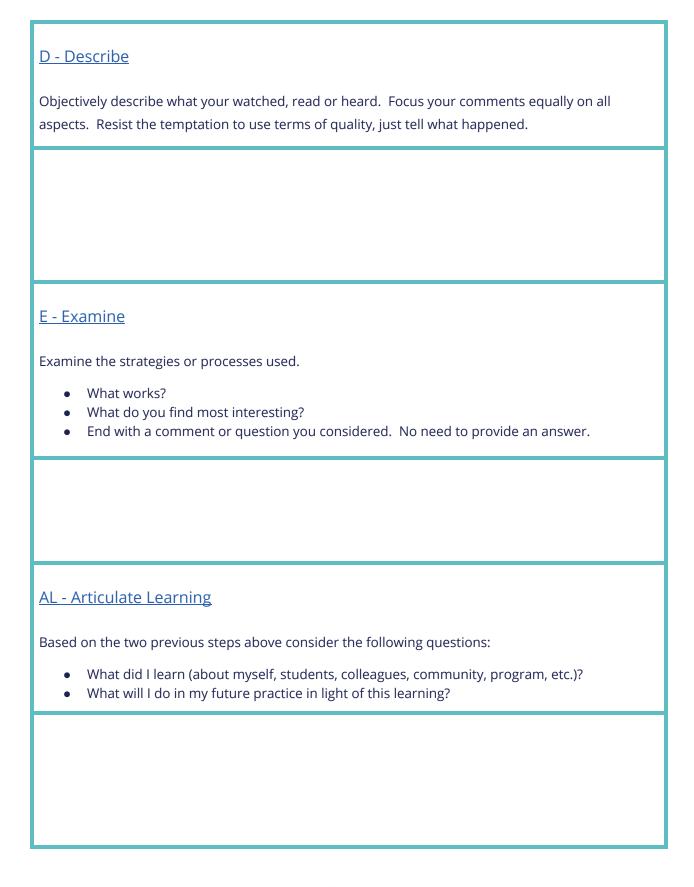
### Deal Reflection Format

DEAL Model for Critical Reflection (Ash & Clayton, 2011) requires participants to examine their thinking. The process generates, deepens, and documents learning. When used in conjunction with collegial discussion it becomes a process to develop a collaborative Professional Learning Community that investigates a wide range of strategic content.

**℃** 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://news.ku.edu/2018/03/06/study-reveals-number-hours-it-takes-make-friend

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>https://vimeo.com/260974002



# The basics of Growth Mindset<sup>3</sup> and Why adopting a Growth Mindset Matters<sup>4</sup>

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### D - Describe

Objectively describe what your watched, read or heard. Focus your comments equally on all aspects. Resist the temptation to use terms of quality, just tell what happened.

### E - Examine

Examine the strategies or processes used.

- What works?
- What do you find most interesting?
- End with a comment or question you considered. No need to provide an answer.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0jEF66xSBA

# AL - Articulate Learning Based on the two previous steps above consider the following questions: • What did I learn (about myself, students, colleagues, community, program, etc.)? • What will I do in my future practice in light of this learning?

# **Cascading Mentoring**

Cascading mentoring is an intentional cultivation of a collection of dynamic relationships that span the breadth and depth of a given profession. These relationships are mutually beneficial to individuals and collectively empowers the profession and community.

### At first fall it started alone.

Each profession has its own precise language, habits of mind, community of practice and levels of mastery in the content, skills and competencies needed to produce outcomes. This training and exercise shapes a professional's values and worldview by composing what's within the viewfinder before sharpening focus on select aspects and softening others. In a very real sense who we are and what we profess are inextricably intertwined.

# A cascade is together. Not at the same time. Not in the same way.

The learner benefits from the mentor kindling an emerging sense of identity, interest and engagement. While the mentor reinforces early approximation of habits of mind and emerging capacity related to the profession they are also hotwiring the shared experience between mentor and mentee. Not only does the mentee feel a growing sense of belonging but the mentor also feels heard and understood. When the profession is valued, the professional feels valued.

# A cascade spans the fall.

The benefits of a mentor and mentee spans a career. Learning and innovation go together.

"Teachers and students (leadership and people), co-intent on reality, are both Subjects, not only in the task of unveiling that reality, and thereby coming to know it critically, but in the task of re-creating that knowledge. As they attain this knowledge of reality through common reflection and action, they discover themselves as its permanent re-creators."

— Paulo Freire, Pedagogy of the Oppressed

# Mentors benefit in many ways.

- 1. The veneer of shallow learning easily rips under the pressure of a good question. The need for rich understanding becomes real in the face of an eager learner with fragile understanding of a pivotal concept.
- 2. The opportunity to exercise voice helps to develop fluency in the language of the profession and creates stronger cognitive muscle supporting the habit of mind of the profession.
- 3. The best way to learn something is to have to teach it to somebody else.
- 4. Typically there is a chasm between knowing the content well enough to pass a class and actually mastering it to ensure the learning is portable and can transfer to real life application.

# A cascade is all. It isn't a singular story of elements.

### Cascading mentoring is participatory.

- 1. It shifts learning from being spectator entertainment of the real professionals to a participant sport where there is room on the team to share the authentic experience. Nobody gets a workout watching a recognized expert do their job.
- 2. Mentees accept mentors whose expertise is a step above their own. Indeed the close proximity of skill set ensures fresh empathy and on-demand recollection of the typical barriers to learning and effective strategies for navigating new concepts.
- 3. Valuing incremental steps of emerging expertise broadens meaningful participation and exercises needed skills. It happens because mentors are expected to bring: prior knowledge, active learning, real world applicable examples, thick understanding and adaptive expertise.

### **Deal Reflection Format**

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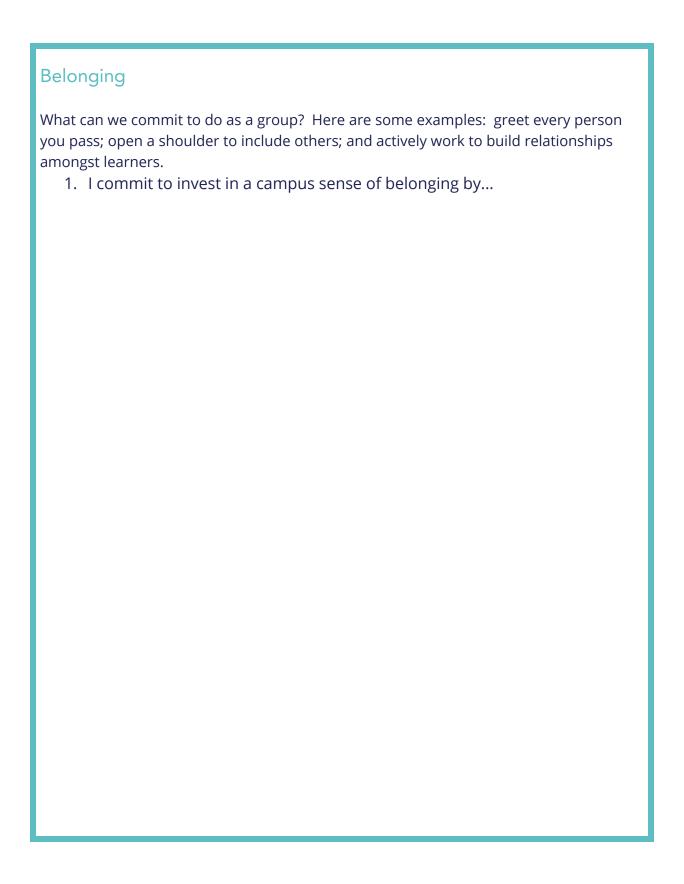
# AL - Articulate Learning

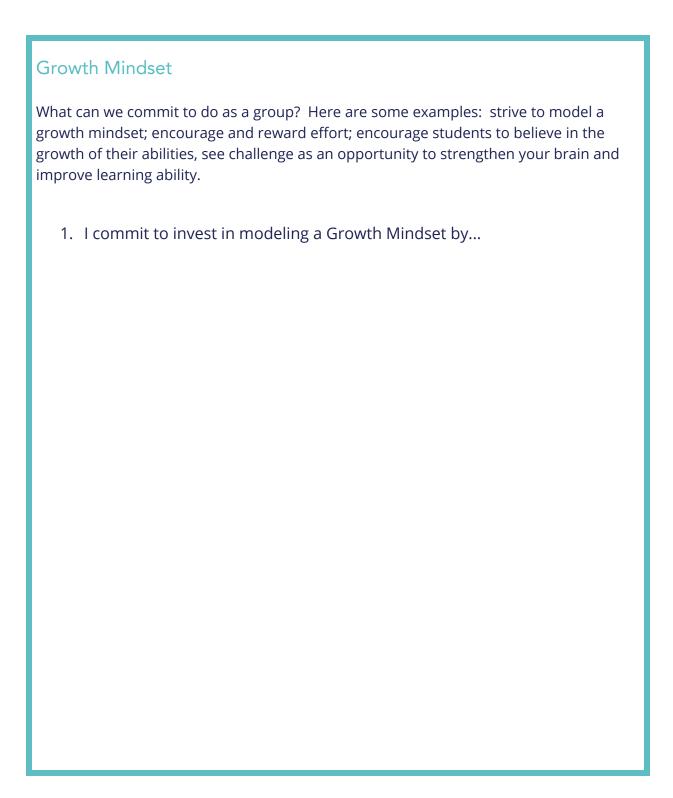
Based on the two previous steps above consider the following questions:

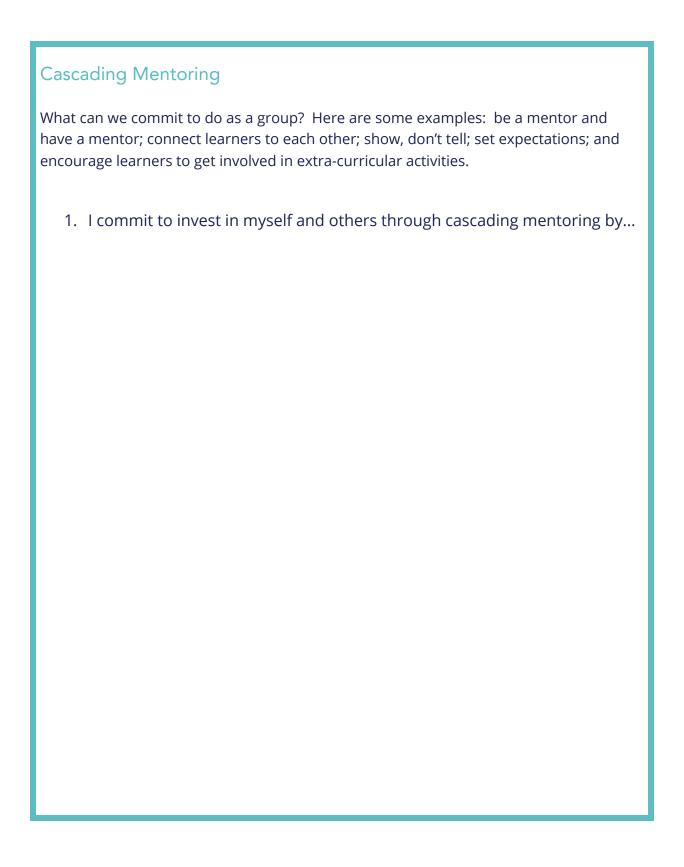
- What did I learn (about myself, students, colleagues, community, program, etc.)?
- What will I do in my future practice in light of this learning?

# **Commitments**

In light of what we know, what are we willing to commit to do together?







# You are the first Connection

### Make it matter

One of the most important things you do as part of OC is ME is greet others and help them feel welcome, assist with networking and meeting the needs of students:

- → Introduce those new to OC to other staff, faculty, administrators and students.
- → Help get the conversation going and shepherd the relationship until it looks like it is going on its own. This could happen in five minutes or it will be over the course of six weeks.
- → Provide direct guidance. Don't tell people where to go. Walk them over. Provide introductions and set the context: (describe the space, set the expectation). "This area is where co-learning happens. You can work with Illumineers and study with other students. You'll make friends and be a regular here."
- → Walk students over to campus resources. During the walk, chat with them and show interest in their life. Explain to the student what to expect when they get to the resource. "How are your classes going? I went to OC Live last week and it was awesome. Have you gone? I'm in the Chemistry Club. Last week we made Kambucha. Are you in any clubs? You should. They are fun. Ok, at the Transfer Center I will introduce you to Julianna. You will tell her what you need and she can help you sign up for the Transfer 101 workshop. It's always a good idea to look at Assist and make sure your information is up to date.
  - ♦ Hi, Julianna! It's great to see you. How are your classes going? I'd like to introduce you to Janelle. This is her second year at OC and she is majoring in Physics to become an environmental engineer. She needs to take one of the Transfer TAP & TAG workshops to be sure she has a spot at a UC for next Fall. Janelle, come back to the STEM Center and let me know how it all turns out. I can't wait to hear where you TAG."

# **Campaigns**

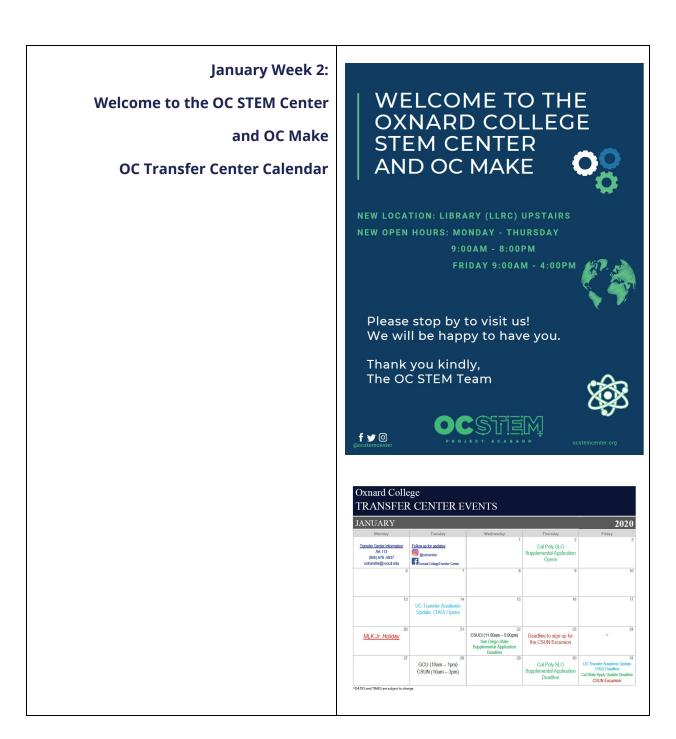
It's like I have a guide for each step I didn't know I needed to take. I didn't know there'd be so many opportunities to make friends, get involved and learn by doing.

First Year Student Fall 2020

Campaigns help to illuminate the steps needed to progress from hopeful college goer to completion. OC is ME helps students stay on track and meet important deadlines. There is



a print campaign with flyers to be passed out to learners and educators. The campus monitors showcase information. Most importantly, it's the synchronicity of everyone talking about the same thing at the same time and being encouraging. This broad-based and multi-component strategy increases the likelihood of learners engaging in productive behaviors.



January Week 3:
Snapshot recruitment for
The Port of Hueneme
OC Transfer Center Spring 2020
Workshops Schedule



### **January Week 4:**

# **Announcement of Smithsonian Scholars Internship and Deadline**





# **UCSB - Smithsonian Scholars Program**

The program provides activities such as:

- 1. Professional Development Workshops
- 2. Field Workshops
- 3. Research Internship Opportunities

For further details please visit: https://oep.ucsb.edu /programs/smithsonian\_scholars\_project/

February 28th - Application deadline for the UCSB - Smithsonian Scholars Program







# **February Week 1:**

# **Snapshot recruitment**

# OC STEM Snapshots

DATE: MARCH 2020

LOCATION: LIBRARY (LLRC), ROOM #101

TIME: 4:00PM - 6:00PM

PRESENTATION BY VAIL COOK,

MATERIALS AND PROCESS ENGINEER FOR ASTRO AEROSPACE

Snapshots provide OC STEM students experiences that will provide inspiration to inspire STEM engagement and persistence in a rigorous course of study. During these business and industry tours/presentations,

careers in action and hear from innovators in the field.

Since 1958, Astro Aerospace has been a leader and pioneer in creating the technologies for space deployable structures. Astro's stellar 100% on-orbit deployment success record on hundreds of flight units and our continuing commitment to high quality means reliable space deployable products for your program. Whether it's a new application of existing technology or a hallenging application requiring new mechanization and detailed engineerin

affordability ensures that your needs will be met quickly and reliably

NORTHROP GRUMMAN



# **February Week 2:** Join a STEM Club

### JOIN A STEM CLUB

STEM career who want to establish networks and

attaining their goals of academic success through experiments, field trips, study groups, and tutoring. We make chemistry accessible to the general

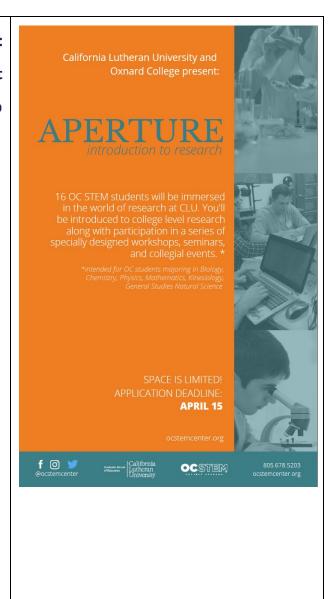
atmosphere among students for women's rights and

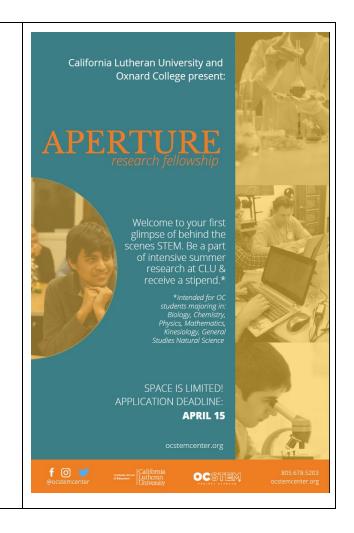
For details: ocstemcenter.org

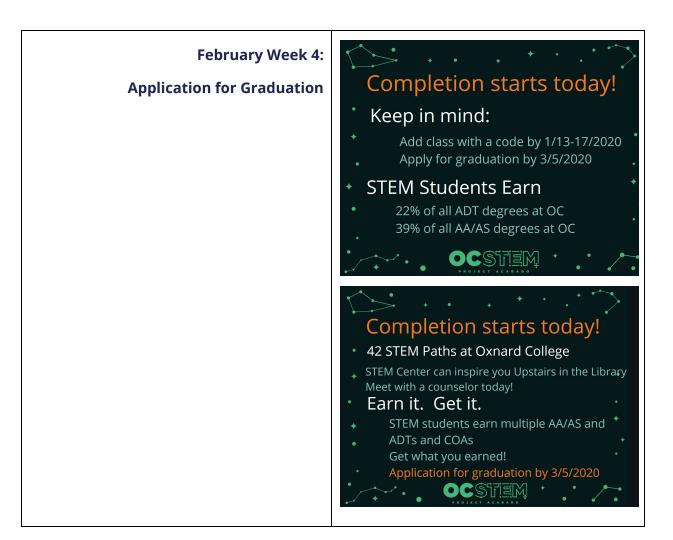


VISIT US! WE ARE UPSTAIRS IN

# February Week 3: Aperture Recruitment Research and Fellowship







### March Week 1:

# **UCLA Scholars Program**

# UCLA Scholars Program

The goal of the program is to motivate, inform and prepare students to transfer from a California community college to a selective Top Tier Research institution such as UCLA. Students in the program have access to summer and yearlong academic preparatory transfer programs which guide students through the community college experience, the application and admissions process, research and pregraduate opportunities and career exploration. Critical Race Theory is used as a framework to address issues from a social justice perspective, academic excellence and educational equity.

DEADLINES: WINTER: 01/25/20 SPRING: 4/18/20 CULMINATION: 6/26/20

For further details, please visit their website: https://www.aap.ucla.edu/units/cccp/#scholars-program-application





### March Week 2:

### **How to Study**

# **STUDY CYCLE**

### Preview

Skim the chapter, note headings and boldface review summaries, come up with questions.

### Attend

Go to **CLASS**. Answer and ask questions. Take meaningful notes.

### Review

As soon as possible read your notes and fill in gaps and note any questions.

### Study

Repetition is the key. Ask yourself question.
Intense Study Sessions and weekend reviews.

### Assess your learning

Periodically perform reality checks.



### INTENSE STUDY SESSION

### Set a Goa

(1-2 min) What do you want to accomplish?

### Study with Focus

(30-50 min) Interact with the material. Organize, concept map, summarize, process, re-read, fill in notes, reflect.

### Reward vourself

(10-15 min) Take a break.

### Review

(5 min) Go over what you just studied.



### March Week 3:

# Go see a counselor before registering for Summer and Fall 2020

# Be strategic! Plan

### Be sure you are selecting wisely.

Maximum of 70 units transfer to university
Pell Grants are limited to 12 semesters
15 units a semester will help you transfer quickly

### One extra class math problem

In class time
(15 weeks x 3 hours/week=54 hours)
Out of class time-studying and homework
(15 weeks x 9 hours/week=162 hours)
Total

Hours=162. \$2,600 if you'd worked.



# The Time to Plan Your Tomorrow is Today

Fall registration is right around the corner.

Meet with a counselor: Stop by in the mornings and beat the rush. Do it now.

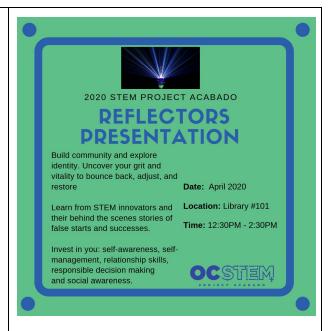
Update your progress: Make sure your comprehensive ed plan is current. Apply for degrees and certificates you've earned.

Come prepared: Bring 3 questions, assist.org print outs for the schools you may attend and a device for notes.



# March Week 4:

### **Reflector recruitment end of April**

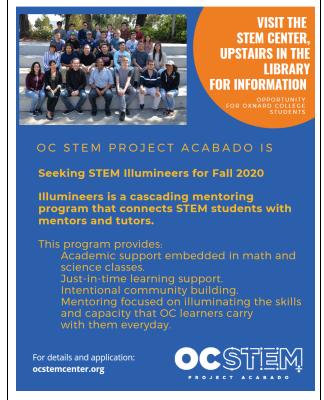


### March Week 5:

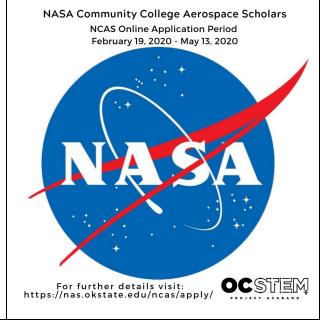
**Viewfinder recruitment Summer 2020** 



# April Week 1: Recruit for Illumineers Fall 2020



# April Week 2: NCAS Application





# Connecting OC is ME to the campus

As a part of OC is ME, you represent the campus. You have the unique perspective of being both a student and an employee. Therefore, you know the services offered here at Oxnard College, the systems needed to benefit from the services and how these services can benefit college students. Most importantly, other students are more likely to accept advice and help from you, a near peer.

# Directions: (20 minutes + 5 minutes for headshots)

- → Divide into groups of four (representing different college resources).
- → Take a walking tour of the campus.
  - Briefly explain what you do.
  - Describe the services offered that benefit students.
  - Recommendations.
- → While on the tour practice OC is ME commitments:
  - Belonging
  - Growth Mindset
  - Cascading Mentoring

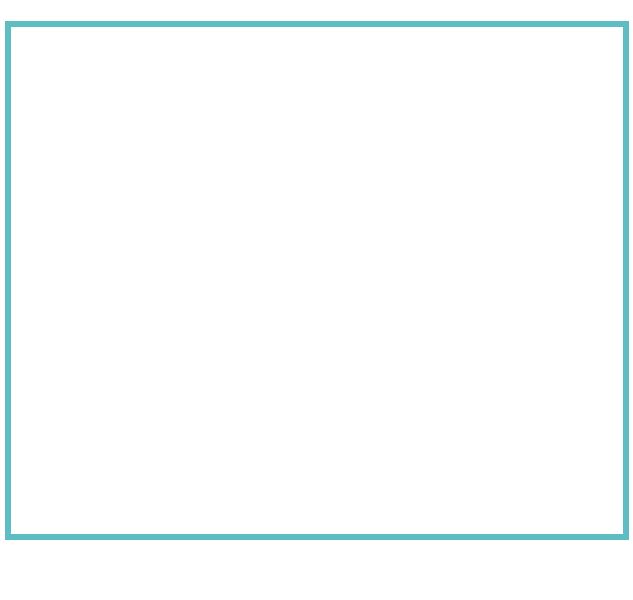
# Making OC is ME visible

You are the face of Oxnard College. Really, we'd like to take head-shot and for each of you to contribute a bio for us to share on campus.

1. During your walking tour of the campus stop by the amphitheater to have your photo taken.

2. Write your bio and make sure you email it to Haida Jimenez Martinez <a href="mailto:hjimenezmartinez@vcccd.edu">hjimenezmartinez@vcccd.edu</a>.

Bio. Tell us a little about yourself.
Name. Aim. Something about you. Where you serve.
Here is an example:
Shari is an aspiring mechanical engineer currently studying at Oxnard College. Her goal is to transfer Fall 2020, earn a degree and come back to help her community in Oxnard using her engineering skills. She enjoys drawing, and studying math and physics. She serves as an Illumineer in the STEM Center.
Now, tell us about you.



# **OC** is **ME** Measured Outcomes:

Underlined outcomes align to Vision for Success.

**Student Success:** 

STEM Student Progress Outcomes

- Increase GPA
- Increase course taking
- Increase student retention
- Increase student success



- Increase the number of students taking 15+ units
- Increase the number of semester units taken by students
- Decrease the average number of accumulated units for students at graduation

### Path to Completion

- Increase student Fall to Fall persistence
- Increase student transfer rates to CSU and UC
- Increase student graduation rates
- Increase ADT
- Increase AA/AS
- Increase Certificates
- Increase Proficiency Award
- Increase the number of students with degree or transfer within three years

### Educational excellence:

### Learners

- Ensure learners experience engaging learning opportunities (internships, field trips, clubs, experiences, outreach)
- Increase the use of academic and social support for students
- Expand on-campus student employment opportunities that directly improve student success while simultaneously fostering leadership, critical thinking and communication skills
- Increase the use of Oxnard College resources
- Increase the participation in expanded opportunities

### Increase Capacity and Sustainability

- Increase Oxnard College enrollment
- Increase college attendance in the Oxnard College service area
- Increase media and awareness of Oxnard College