



Educational Assistance Center

THE ADVOCATE: A Newsletter Devoted to Disability Equity



TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AWARENESS

Every March, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) and its partners collaborate to lead Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (DDAM). The annual campaign highlights how people with and without disabilities come together to form strong communities. NACDD's 2025 theme, *We're Here All Year*, emphasizes community, accessibility, and opportunities for people with developmental disabilities beyond the month of March.

Priority Registration for Summer and Fall 2025 semesters for students in special populations (with less than 90 units) begins on April 14, 2025, two and a half weeks before open registration opens for continuing student who are not part of the following programs: CalWORKS; EAC; EOPS; Foster and Homeless Youth; Military Personnel; Rising Scholars; and Student Parents.



PRIORITY REGISTRATION BEGINS APRIL 14TH

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

Contact Heather Molloy at heather_molloy1@vcccd.edu

THERAPY DOGS ON CAMPUS MARCH 19TH

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As part of the ongoing celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, the EAC has invited two therapy dogs from the Alliance of Therapy Dogs to Oxnard College on March 19, 2025.

Labrador Retriever, Choco, and Golden Retriever, Sierra, will be accompanied by their handlers outside of the Student Services Center. Be sure to come out from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm to de-stress and learn more about therapy dogs and their training!

EAC HOSTS MOVIE AND DISABILITY MODULES

On March 12, the EAC hosted disability simulation modules in an effort to show attendees what it would be like to live with autism, hearing impairment, visual impairment, intellectual disabilities and specific learning disabilities such as dyslexia and dysgraphia.

Both staff and students attended the event, with students staying behind afterward to watch the Woody Harrelson movie, *Champions*, about a professional basketball coach who is relegated to community service coaching individuals with disabilities.



EAC STAFF SPOTLIGHT: JENNIFER RUPPERT



EAC Counselor Jennifer Ruppert's passion is assisting individuals with disabilities in gaining equal access. She has 24 years of experience with counseling students throughout K-12 and college but is proudest to call OC her home. She enjoys collaboration with other departments and the community of lifelong learners.

Jennifer helps guide and assist students with dual enrollment, earning AA/AS degrees or a certificate of Achievement, transferring to a university or career technical pathway, selecting courses, creating education plans, and making sure students receive the accommodations they need.

Stay Tuned for April's Edition of the EAC Advocate to learn more about Autism Spectrum Disorders and Priority Registration for Summer Semester and Fall Semester 2025!

OXNARD COLLEGE EAC WELCOMES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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On March 6th, the EAC welcomed nearly 300 senior students, faculty, and staff from Oxnard Union High School District to highlight the program's offerings at Oxnard College. The day began with arrivals to the Performance Arts Building from Adolfo Camarillo High School, Rancho Campana High School, Pacifica High School, Oxnard High School, Rio Mesa High School, Hueneme High School, Channel Islands High School and Frontier High School.

EAC Coordinator, Leo Orange, kicked off a short presentation and introduced attendees to Oxnard College President, Dr. Roberto Gonzalez, who shared his non-traditional educational pathway from community college student to a doctoral graduate from the esteemed University of Southern California (USC). EAC Counselors, America Barroso and Jennifer Ruppert discussed Educational Assistance Center benefits for registered students with disabilities. These benefits include, but are not limited to: support with advocacy; resources such as assistive technology; and accommodations like priority registration, extended time on tests, testing in a separate setting, audiobooks, notetaking assistance, and electric scooter. Then Alternate Media Specialist, Nate Streeper, gave the students an informative and entertaining demonstration of Snoop Dogg reading Shakespeare on Jamworks before the students took a tour of the campus and enjoyed EAC-sponsored Subway sandwiches for lunch!



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