President's Update March 16, 2022





Face-Covering Transitions: Shift from all-college to site specific and individual preference

- Face coverings will continue to be required in all classes and labs when for-credit instruction occurs from March 12 to March 26, 2022.
- Nursing and allied health programs will follow industry-sector health care masking protocols until further notice.
- Face coverings will be optional in all other spaces.
- The college will continue to encourage and support the use of face coverings by anyone who chooses to wear them.

Merkley, Wyden Announce Key Funding for Nurses, Educators in Congressional Funding Deal



"Hey folks,

Congratulations! The FY22 Omnibus bill passed last night and was signed by the President. Below you will find a joint press release by Senators Merkley and Wyden listing the Congressional Directed Spending requests that were funded as well as other important wins for Oregonians......

..... In addition to the funding allotments above, Merkley and Wyden secured in the bill federal funding for specific community projects throughout Oregon, including:

• \$503,000 for Oregon Coast Community College, for equipment."

This funding will be used to install a SIM lab in our Lincoln City facility, creating better access for students in North County, and expanding our overall capacity in allied health programming

BTW: Applications for next year's OCCC Nursing Program CLOSE at 11:59 p.m. March 31. Apply now! https://oregoncoast.edu/associate-of-applied-science.../







OK. It was a little, eensy, teensy bit windy. But Sharks turned out in force for the OCCC Associated Student Government/Surfrider beach cleanup at South Beach State Park. What the Sharks didn't collect ... the wind did. Thanks, all!

Faculty Spotlight!

Matt Fisher, OCCC Biology Faculty and Science Department Chair, wrote a paper that is featured in the current issue of The American Biology Teacher, the peer-reviewed journal of the National Association of Biology Teachers. In the article, Matt covers the current scientific understanding of predator/prey dynamics between rough-skinned newts and garter snakes and how they evolved toxin-antitoxin countermeasures. The article focuses on how educators can use this interesting case study to teach various topics in biology.



Join us for an evening of legislative updates and a live Q&A with Rep. David Gomberg & Sen. Dick Anderson

THURSDAY, MARCH 17 5:30 - 6:30 PM

Participate via Zoom at https://oregoncoast.zoom.us/j/95653770787

For the past seven years, Oregon Coast Community College and the Small Business Development Center have hosted live video town hall meetings between Lincoln County residents and their elected officials in Salem. The next such event – featuring a discussion of the recently-wrapped short legislative session –is set for 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 17. The event will be held live, via Zoom, and will feature State Senator Dick Anderson (R - Lincoln City) and State Representative David Gomberg (D - Otis).

Throughout every full-length legislative term, Lincoln County residents can meet regularly with their representatives, live via video conference from Oregon Coast Community College's facilities. For this hectic short session, only this post-session summary town hall was possible. Sen. Anderson and Rep. Gomberg will be able to take your questions, live, during the event.

Pearls of Wisdom 2022 (IV)

Raised \$45,000+ (best year yet) for student scholarships and program supports. College staff and community members volunteered their time to make this happen.





Legislative Session

The 2022 Oregon Legislative Session has come to an end. Oregon Community Colleges (including OCCC) had three legislative priorities, two were successfully reached: Future Ready Oregon was funded (this is a very big deal for CTE at community colleges) and important adjustments were made to Oregon Promise ("free community college" for high school graduates). Our third priority, assistance with Cybersecurity for Community Colleges was not funded, but did generate legislative awareness and interest in the issue and we will bring this topic back in the next session in 2023. Oregon Community College Association each year puts out a comprehensive end of session report, available <u>here.</u> This is always a great resource to see what happened with individual bills and funding actions, please check it out as there is impact to your professional and often personal lives.



March is Women's History Month

Oregon Coast Community College acknowledges that we reside within the ancestral homelands of the Yaquina (Yaqo'n) and Alsea (Wusi'n) Tribes. Today, those tribal descendants are represented by The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. We are honored for the opportunity to teach, learn, and work on their ancestral lands. We also recognize the ongoing contributions they make to the community, Oregon Coast Community College, and the world.