

OCC's Respiratory Care program is a two-year program that prepares students with the knowledge, skills and behaviors of respiratory care practice as performed by a Registered Respiratory Therapist. Students who complete the program are the healthcare professionals that evaluate, treat, and manage patients of all ages with respiratory illnesses and other cardiopulmonary disorders. One of the main responsibilities of OCC's respiratory care graduates in the care of the critically ill patient is management of the ventilator (breathing machine).



Orange Coast College Scores A+ on Smoke/Tobacco Free Report Card

Orange Coast College is a leader in smoke and tobacco-free policy according to the California Youth Advocacy Network, which released its 2022 College and University Smoke/Tobacco-Free Report Cards in late May. OCC received an A+ grade, outperforming a B average grade in CYAN's Region 8 which includes Orange County and parts of Los Angeles County.

"We are thrilled to receive the highest possible grade on CYAN's smoke and tobacco-free college report card," says OCC President Angelica Suarez. "We are especially proud of the student-led collaborative effort to transition OCC into a smoke and tobacco-free campus. This accomplishment demonstrates the critical role that participatory governance

plays in our College's mission of fostering a respectful, supportive and equitable campus climate."

OCC transitioned to a smoke-free campus in June 2020 after many months of discussion and planning by OCC's Smoke/Tobacco-Free Task Force, which was made up of representatives from all of the College's constituency groups. The effort was led by students, who were motivated to action after learning that OCC had received an "F" rating on CYAN's Smoke/Tobacco-Free Policy Report Card in 2018.

Students teamed up with Coast health instructor Anna Hanlon to apply for a grant through the Truth Initiative, which OCC received. Hanlon and student representatives also partnered with OCC's Office of Institutional Effectiveness to conduct a campus-wide survey, with results showing strong support for a transition to a smoke-free campus.

Funding from the Truth Initiative grant helped to fund the implementation of OCC's smoke-free policy, including educating new students and providing assistance to students and employees who are interested in quitting smoking. Additionally, OCC's Student Health Center hired a Smoking Cessation Specialist to oversee cessation efforts.

According to CYAN, studies show that smoke and tobacco-free policies are effective in preventing commercial tobacco use among young adults as well as helping individuals quit using commercial tobacco. The group writes: "Our hope is that this Report will help expedite the process of policy adoption at the community college and private campuses that are not already smoke and tobacco-free."