

# INSIDE NOCCCD



## February 2025 Edition

Happy Black History Month from the North Orange County Community College District.

---

# OC TEACHER OF THE YEAR NOMINEE



**HELEN SERRANO**

**Helen Serrano**, Adjunct Instructor for the English as a Second Language (ESL) Program, has been selected as NOCE's 2026 Orange County Teacher of the Year Nominee. Serrano has taught in the ESL Program for 22 years, dedicating her career to empowering and uplifting students through education and fostering a belief in oneself. Congratulations to Helen Serrano on this well-deserved recognition!

**Full Accreditation for Credit Colleges!**

# ACCJC

ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR  
COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES

Outcomes | Innovation | Improvement

NOCCCD is proud to announce that Cypress College and Fullerton College have both had their accreditation status reaffirmed by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). Both colleges also received accommodations for exceeding the high standards for accreditation!

Both colleges were found to meet all compliance requirements. In addition, Cypress College received a Commendation for exemplary performance in implementing a data strategy to ensure equity disparities are highlighted, evaluated, and discussed to improve student outcomes.

Fullerton College was commended for creating a culture of collaboration and shared responsibility, and for programs that help students clearly navigate their way toward completion of their intended degrees and certificates.

[Read the Full Story](#)

---

## Black Joy at NOCCCD



During an era of great change across the country, the North Orange County Community College District has continued its commitment to expand diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility and anti-racism (DEIAA) efforts as part of its educational mission.

February is celebrated as Black History Month, an annual observance of the achievements and contributions of African Americans to United States history and culture. At the February 11, 2025 Board of Trustees meeting, [Resolution No. 24/25-08](#) was approved, stating: “the Board of Trustees of the North Orange County Community College District joins with the nation in affirming, recognizing and celebrating February as Black History Month by acknowledging the significant and impactful contributions of Black/African Americans to this nation, to our higher education community and to the North Orange County Community College District, and encourages its campuses and student organizations to promote historical and cultural awareness by featuring various programs, exhibits, and other relevant activities and by participating in events sponsored by local communities.”

### **African Diaspora Educational Summit in Ghana**

Last year, the NOCCCD Board of Trustees invested in staff, faculty, and students who identify as part of the African Diaspora to go on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Ghana, Africa in conjunction with African American Male Education Network and Development (A<sup>2</sup>MEND) organization.

According to A<sup>2</sup>MEND, the second biennial [All-African Diaspora Educational Summit](#) (ADES) in Ghana was designed “to explore how African-centered education is a vital tool for empowering Black people globally. The summit provides a platform to address key questions: How can we most effectively implement an educational structure that centers the history, traditions, philosophy, and lived experiences of Black people? Who were we before they came?”

Over 25 participants from Cypress College, Fullerton College, and NOCE attended the Summit. A presentation was given to the NOCCCD Board of Trustees on November 12, 2024, which highlighted various trip experiences like a joyous welcome celebration with dancing and a naming ceremony that spiritually connected participants with their ancestors. It also included haunting experiences that put NOCCCD students, staff, and faculty in the footsteps of the victims of the slave trade in the preserved historical locations that these events happened.

Cypress College President Dr. Scott Thayer, who is a founding member of A<sup>2</sup>MEND, had this to say about the Summit: “Every one of the Ghana Fellows I have spoken with shared that the experience was both powerful and transformative. The faculty are especially eager to bring their perspectives into their classrooms and curriculum. I thank the Board of Trustees for their financial support and continued commitment to our various diverse communities.”

**Save the Date:**



NORTH ORANGE COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

**THE FUTURE OF  
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN EDUCATION**

**AI EXPO '25**



04.16.2025 | 12 PM-4 PM  
Cypress College  
9200 Valley View Street  
Cypress, CA 90630

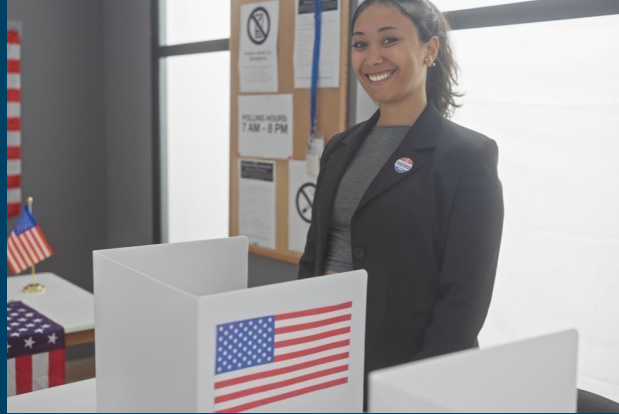
[Click to Register](#)

---

**Fullerton College Formally Recognized for Voter Registration Efforts**

Every two years ahead of the general election, the California Secretary of State Students Vote Project hosts the Ballot Bowl a friendly competition where higher education campuses compete to register the most students to vote and showcase civic

[Read the Full Story](#)



# Pluralism, Inclusion, and Equity

## March Events



Throughout the 2025 spring semester, the North Orange County Community College District will be offering a series of trainings on Pluralism, Inclusion, and Equity (P.I.E.). The workshops and trainings are designed to increase participants' intercultural proficiency to provide effective teaching and support services for our diverse student body.

During a tumultuous time for the topic of immigration in our national landscape, it is more important than ever to support immigrant/undocumented students and their families throughout the community.

Dr. Flavio Medina-Martin, Director of Diversity, Culture & Inclusion for NOCCCD, highlighted the importance of understanding and supporting these marginalized communities saying: “It’s important that our employee groups are equipped with tools so that they can see [and understand] the difference between AB540 students, Dreamers, undocumented students, mixed [status] families. To understand [their] trauma and the different journeys that are students are going through.”

### **Upcoming Spring P.I.E. Events:**

#### **Supporting Undocumented Students & Marginalized Student Groups Two-Part Series (P1)**

via Zoom (<https://nocccd-edu.zoom.us/j/88373339055>)

Monday 03/10/25

3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

#### **Diversity Statements 101: Laying the Foundation**

In-person: Cypress College Complex

Wednesday 03/12/25

1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

#### **NOCCCD Women Champions of DEIAA**

In person: Anaheim Union High School District Board Room

Tuesday 03/25/25

5:30 p.m.

For more information, visit the [P.I.E. Series page](#).

---



## **Board Meeting Highlights**

NOCCCD Board of Trustee meetings are held twice a month. The Board gathers to address District business

including: staffing changes, fiscal matters, the passing of Board Policies, and other issues affecting Cypress College, Fullerton College, and NOCE

[Read the Highlights](#)

## Stay Connected with Us!

We love staying connected with our community! Follow us for the latest updates, events, and inspiring stories:



NORTH ORANGE COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

1830 W. Romneya Drive

Anaheim, CA 92801-1819

[\(714\) 808-4500](tel:7148084500)

*Published by the NOCCCD Public Affairs Department.*

[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt Out](#) using TrueRemove™  
Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.  
View this email [online](#).

1830 W Romneya Dr | Anaheim, CA 92801 US

This email was sent to .  
*To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.*

**emma**®

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.