

NOCE School Scoop

Making an Impact through Inclusion, Integration, and Innovation

Special Edition: 2023 Annual Report
April 11, 2023

NOCE
NORTH ORANGE
CONTINUING EDUCATION

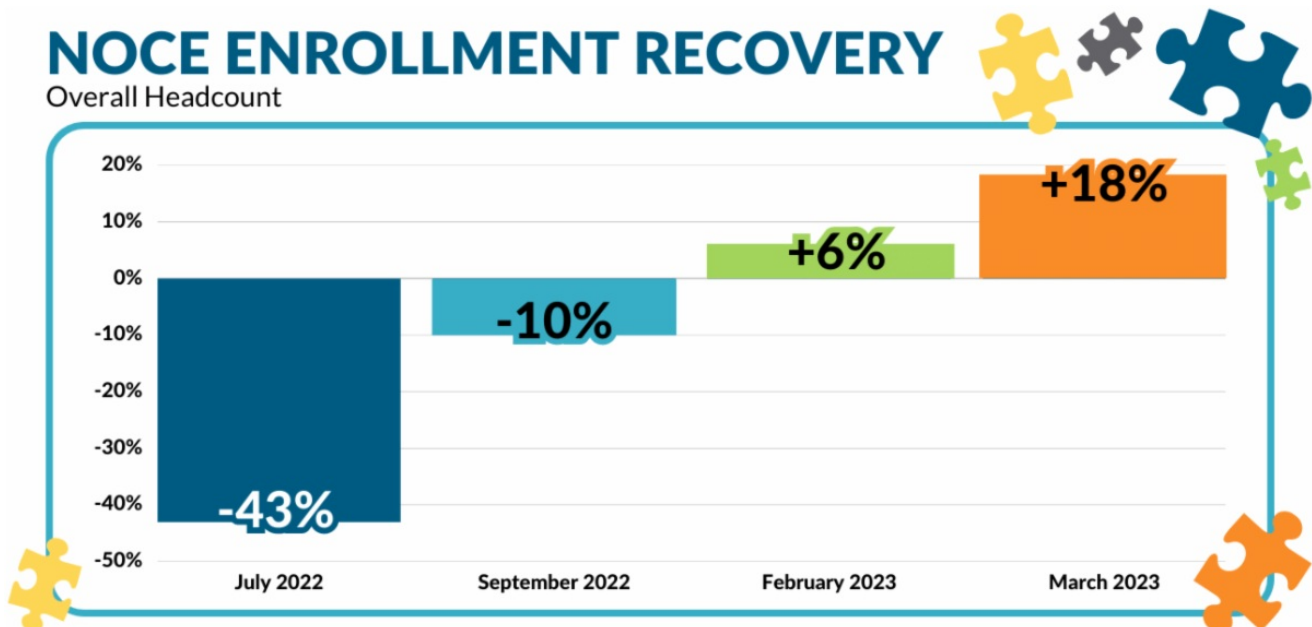
INSTITUTIONAL IMPACT

Enrollment Recovery Yields Positive Results

Over the past year, NOCE continued executing the comprehensive plans to re-engage community members, support students holistically, and expand institutional capacity. Through the [enrollment recovery plan](#) -- which focuses on student progression and pathways to increase outcomes through outreach, onboarding, instruction, student services, and basic needs -- enrollment took a positive turn.

NOCE ENROLLMENT RECOVERY

Overall Headcount



In the 2022 Summer Session, NOCE was down in Full-Time Equivalent Students (FTES) by 43 percent. By the start of the 2022 Fall Semester, enrollment increased, resulting in a 10 percent decrease overall from the 2021 Fall Semester. However, in February 2023, NOCE saw for the first time since the pandemic, growth in both unduplicated headcount and class registrations in comparison to the same time the previous year. Registrations continue to climb and as of March 25, 2023, NOCE is enjoying a 18 percent increase in total registrations and 13 percent increase in headcount with only three percent increase in additional class section, which points to greater efficiency. All programs are experiencing growth. For more in-depth information, check out the [NOCE Enrollment and FTES Comparison Report \(for P1-2023\)](#) developed by the Office of Institutional Research and Planning.

"Enrollment recovery is everybody's business at NOCE," shared President **Valentina Purtell**. The positive shift in FTES has been a school-wide effort to increase community engagement, diversity instruction delivery modalities, establish more in-person classes -- both on campus and in the community, expand curricular offerings, increase student services, and offer basic needs support.

NOCE Celebrates Successful Accreditation Visit



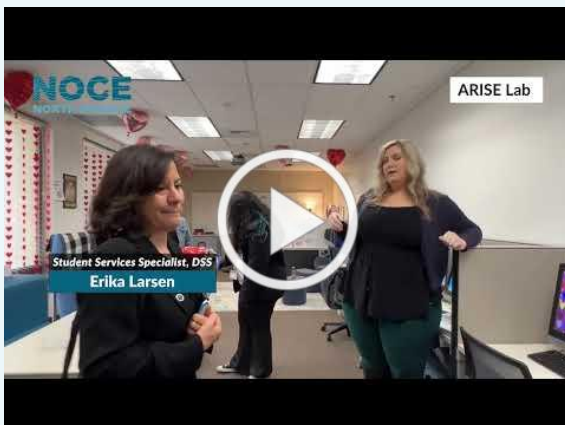
After a nearly four-year journey, NOCE celebrated a successful three-day accreditation visit in March 2023. The beginning of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) self-study process coincided with the start of the pandemic. Just like our students, NOCE pivoted quickly to an online environment. With resilience, creativity, and innovation, NOCE staff, faculty and students accomplished the unprecedented task led by co-chairs **Tina McClurkin** and **Julie Schoepf**. NOCE's efforts were reflected in the comments of the visiting team, noting a culture of collaboration and a responsive institution of high quality and deep care of its students.

School-wide Strengths:

- Maintenance of efforts to provide high-quality and comprehensive programs and student services despite the pandemic, including launching distance education in record time.
- Comprehensive and holistic student support services aligned with the institutional core values.
- Extensive menu of course offerings to address academic, vocational, and enrichment needs of students. NOCE has something for everyone.

School-wide Growth Areas:

- Expand the capacity of the Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) assessment, ensuring key course SLO data elements are tied to program-level and institutional-level outcomes.
- Continue to develop rigor, relevance, and coherency of the distance education offerings.
- Include NOCE student representation in the District-wide shared governance structures.



Watch NOCE's WASC Accreditation Journey Video Tour

As part of the virtual accreditation visit, NOCE developed a video that showcased its campuses and also encapsulated the core essence of NOCE – its students, faculty, staff, and community partners. Learn more about the NOCE WASC accreditation journey through this video.

[WASC Accreditation Journey Video](#)

INCLUSION



NOCE Grows in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Anti-Racism, and Accessibility (DEIAA)

DEIAA Committee

NOCE's newest shared governance committee, DEIAA, met throughout the year to ensure diversity, equity, inclusion, anti-racism, and accessibility are integrated into the school-wide strategic plan. The DEIAA Committee, chaired by the Lifeskills Education Advancement Program Interim Associate Dean **Martha Turner**, sought to promote a greater understanding and appreciation for diversity and equitable practices, and to build and maintain an institutional culture where everyone is treated with dignity and respect. The Committee is working with Dr. Stroud from RSCC Consulting, an equity-based firm, to conduct a DEIAA landscape analysis at NOCE by interviewing key stakeholders and facilitating a student focus group to inform an institutional action plan. DEIAA Committee will host an all-day retreat facilitated by RSCC to revise the group charter, clarify the role of the group, set goals and measures of success, and strengthen the DEIAA plan to align to NOCE's mission. The Accessibility Advisory Group, a sub-committee of DEIAA, also made progress on finalizing the group's three-year institutional plan and charter.



Diversity Celebrations: The DEIAA Committee collaborated with Student Success and Equity as well as Campus Communications to sponsor recognition months -- sharing information, resources, and recognition -- for Black History Month, LGBTQ+ History Month, Disability Awareness Month, Women's History Month, Lunar New Year, and Hispanic Heritage Month (pictured left), to name a few.

Cultural Growth: DEIAA facilitated the participation of faculty, staff, and students in professional development opportunities at the COLEGAS Conference, A2MEND Summit, APAHE Conference, and Black Student Success Week.

DEIAA and Mental Health are Focus of Professional Development

In collaboration with the NOCE strategic plan, professional development incorporated DEIAA and mental health components into flex days and workshops throughout the year:

- **Community Agreements** with **Dr. Leonor Cadena**, NOCCCD Interim Director of Diversity and Compliance and **Dr. Kimberley Stiemke**, NOCE Basic Skills Professor and Faculty Fellow. Workshop to develop guidelines for intentional communication through a social justice lens.
- **Overcoming Change and Avoiding Burnout** with **Dr. Erin Sherard** and **Jamie De La Mora**, NOCE Parenting Faculty Members. Workshop on how to manage self-care to provide meaningful services to our diverse community.
- **Discontinuing Intersectional Erasure: How to Amplify Disabled People in Higher Education and Celebrate their Diverse Accommodations** with **Dr. Rezenet Moges-Riedel**, CSULB Professor of Linguistics and Deaf Cultures. Workshop on accessibility, biases, social norms, and intersectionality in higher education.
- **Course Design for Racial Equity and Student Success** with **Dr. Frank Harris III**, SDSU Professor of Post Secondary Education. Workshop on proven strategies to intentionally design courses with the goal of advancing student success and racial equity.

Student Services Embraces Inclusion

NOCE's Student Leadership Program Expands

With the hiring of Special Projects Manager of Student Engagement **Michelle Bringman**, NOCE has expanded the Student Leadership Program. Started a few years ago with three students, the program now boasts 10 leaders who serve on a variety of shared governance and organizational committees, participate in outreach and orientation events, and gather student feedback from their peers. The leaders also participated in an interview with the WASC Accreditation Visiting Team. The addition of the student voice was positively reflected in the accreditation process and was suggested to expand even further, perhaps into a student trustee position at the District level. More to come!



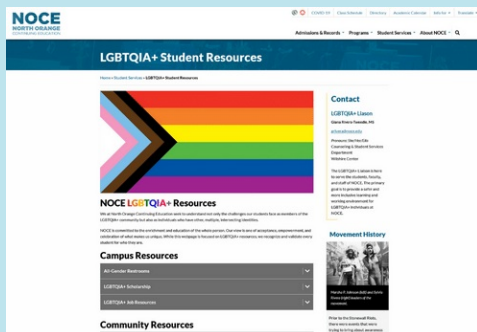
Photo: Pictured here are some of the 2022/23 NOCE Student Leaders (from left to right): Svetlana Soske, Lynda Hall, Maria Vela, Girija Sriram, and Lourdes Valiente.



Strengthening Student Inclusion through the Student Leadership Program

Take a look at this video to see how the NOCE Student Leadership Program is beneficial to both students and the institution.

NOCE Student Leadership
Video



Increased Visibility for LGBTQIA+ Resources

NOCE launched a new webpage and resources to support LGBTQIA+ identifying students at noce.edu/lgbtqia. The site offers campus-based and community resources as well as information for the LGBTQIA+ Liaison Giana Rivera-Tweedie. The newly formed NOCE LGBTQIA+ Advisory Group works together on a quarterly basis to discuss opportunities to provide a safer and more inclusive learning environment. Goals for the group include implementing activities for students and

professional development for employees, and working to identify and respond to students' needs.

Support to Serve Formerly Incarcerated Individuals

A part of the Rising Scholars Program, NOCE established a partnership with Project Kinship, a non-profit organization that offers re-entry services to formerly incarcerated individuals. The team at Project Kinship are working with NOCE to host counseling hours at their site, outreach presentations at re-entry fairs, and future plans to host a re-entry higher education conference. The team says clients are most interested in enrolling into NOCE's high school diploma, career technical education, and parenting programs.

A graphic featuring several colorful puzzle pieces in shades of blue, green, and orange. On the right side, there is a portrait of a smiling woman with dark hair wearing a white sweater.

DID YOU KNOW

\$5,200 was raised since 2020 in annual GivingTuesday campaign to support NOCE scholarships, book awards, and emergency aid.

Students Gain Employment Support



Disney Employment Fair

NOCE's Career Skills and Resource Lab partnered with the Disneyland Resort to host an employment fair for students. Dozens of students participated in the application and interview process with three students (shown on the left) being hired on the spot! A pre-summer Disney hiring event is now being planned for late spring.



Free Career Assessment

CTE now offers all NOCE students a free career readiness evaluation, providing students with personalized insights into their career process with steps to grow specific skills. A six-week course, Build Your Career, was also offered for the first time to deepen the understanding of this evaluation.



Volunteer Experience

DSS Program students seeking employment worked throughout the year in volunteer positions to build their job skills at various sites including the Anaheim Campus Pathways of Hope Food Pantry, Giving Children Hope in Buena Park, and El Sol Academy Middle School in Santa Ana, to name a few.

*Photo (left): Student **Edwin Salazar-Lira** volunteers at Aveda Salon in Fullerton each week prepping, cleaning, and organizing the salon.*

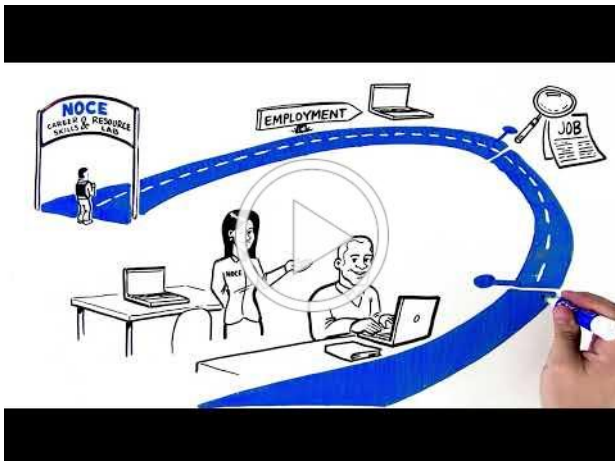
Career Readiness Services Offered at NOCE

- Career Skills and Resource Lab (CTE)
- I-BEST Instruction Delivery Model (ESL/CTE)
- Education and Career Coaching (DSS)
- Pharmacy Technician Externship (CTE)
- Job Placement Services (DSS)
- Disney Employment Fairs (All programs)
- Volunteer Experience for Students Seeking Employment (DSS)
- Helping Hands Clothing Closet (CTE)
- Coming soon: pre-apprenticeship program (CTE)



Completion and Transition Encouraged

To support completion and transition, the Career Technical Education Program partnered with the Counseling and Student Services Department to develop videos to encourage completion and transition.



Career Skills & Resource Lab Video



Grad Check Video

INTEGRATION

NOCE Re-Engages with the Community

NOCE's Outreach Initiative is an integral part of the institutional recovery strategies. Since the 2022 Fall Semester, NOCE has re-engaged the community and partners in a variety of ways.



Outreach Initiative Ramps Up

From one-on-one information sessions to supporting retirees at the OC Wellness Fair and participating in an International Community Festival, NOCE has re-established a brand presence in the community, re-engaging partners, developing new partners, and sharing educational opportunities with families. We have visited over 30 schools, faith-based organizations, county municipalities, and community-focused groups, reaching an estimated 2800 families in North Orange County since September 2022. New staff members in ESL, High School Diploma, CTE, and Student Services have built partnerships leading to employment fairs, new curricular and student services, and opening new classes at off-site locations. We look forward to continuing this momentum.

NOCRC Partners' Breakfast Re-Launched

After a three-year hiatus, the Partners' Breakfast, hosted by North Orange County Regional Consortium for Adult Education (NOCRC) welcomed more than 125 attendees with more than 70 different organizations represented. Partners, staff, and students offered feedback on strengthening existing and launching new collaborative activities to address community needs. Many connections were made to expand educational opportunities.



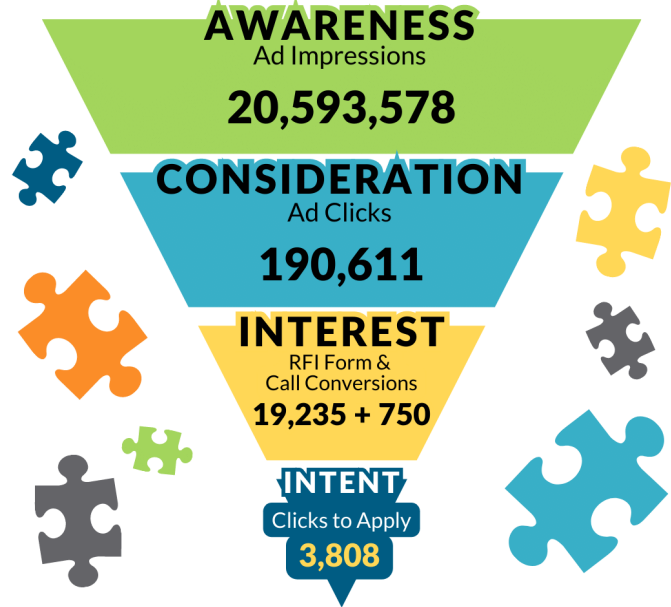
NOCE Marketing Builds Awareness and Interest

CAMPAIGN CONVERSION BREAKDOWN

July 2020 - February 2023

Digital Marketing Investment

Throughout the year, NOCE engaged in a comprehensive digital marketing campaign with Stamats Communications. Ads ran on social media, Internet display, search engines, digital audio, and video for NOCE's six instructional areas. Multi-lingual ads ran simultaneously on Facebook. In addition, NOCE followed up interested community members to encourage application and enrollment through email and text campaigns. The awareness not only yielded new students but also reminded stopped out students to return and complete programs at NOCE.



Reimagined Class Schedule

According to CCC Apply data, students learn about NOCE through a friend or family member, Google search/ads, and through the printed class schedule mailed to their home. To make it more effective, a team of NOCE staff worked with consultants GradComm to re-imagine, re-organize, and re-design the marketing publication. The project reduced text, increased images and symbols, improved organization with color, streamlined information and production process, and linked to resources and information on the website.

Career Pathways for English-Language Learners (ELL) Gets a Boost

The specialized Career Pathways for ELL were promoted through social media and YouTube advertising in preparation for the 2023 Spring Semester, producing a boost in awareness and interest for the dual-certificate earning program

CTE/ESL CAREER PATHWAYS ADS



Onboarding Collaboration Across NOCE



Enrollment Touchpoints Collaboration

To support both guided pathways and equity planning, personal follow-up with students throughout their onboarding process is a school-wide collaboration. Beginning with Campus Communications sending an initial welcome email when students express interest to StarHelp team following-up if a student does not complete their application. Students receive additional follow-up from Counseling and Student Services to support orientation completion. Welcome tables staffed by employees and student leaders were re-

established at all three NOCE Centers to guide students during the first two weeks of the semester. To keep students engaged, instructional programs send newsletters with key program information and support services.

Early Alert System Pilot

Beginning in 2023 Spring Semester, NOCE faculty can utilize the Starfish Early Alert Progress Survey. The Progress Surveys are a resource for faculty to provide encouragement to students or to provide referrals to academic and community resources. Led by Director of Student Equity and Success **Deb Perkins**, Starfish is being explored as an early alert system as well as a tool for creating a prospective student database and identifying students who have applied but not enrolled.

Student-Centered Training

Under the direction of Admissions and Records Director **Triseinge Ortiz**, the StarHelp team participated in multiple student-centered trainings throughout the year including option-oriented student support and best practices for de-escalation, and positive collaborations.

Multilingual Support

NOCE contracted with Language Service Associates to provide multilingual translation via phone. Students who contact NOCE can request translation services in numerous languages. This service is accessible to all NOCE team members interacting with the public.

A graphic featuring a light blue background with several colorful puzzle pieces (blue, yellow, orange, green) floating around. Two women are shown from the chest up, smiling. The woman on the left has dark hair and is wearing a dark top. The woman on the right is wearing a pink hoodie with "SACRAMENTO" written on it. A white speech bubble with a blue border contains the text "DID YOU KNOW" in bold, followed by "With our first StarHelp e-mail follow-up campaign, staff assisted 703 individuals to complete their NOCE student application!". To the left of the text is a blue icon of an envelope with a white telephone handset inside it.

DID YOU KNOW

With our first StarHelp e-mail follow-up campaign, staff assisted 703 individuals to complete their NOCE student application!

INNOVATION



Awarded Grants will Offer New Innovative and Enhanced Programs

For NOCE to flourish, President **Valentina Purtell** encouraged school-wide innovation in all areas of program and service development. With this call, many sought innovative opportunities:

Rising Scholars Network: NOCE was one of the 12 colleges and the only noncredit program to receive a three-year award of \$382,000 to offer targeted services and support to formerly incarcerated adults.

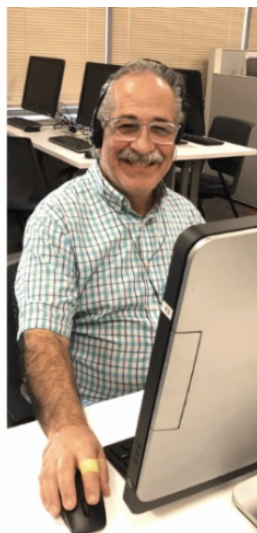
Disability Innovation Fund – Subminimum Wage to Competitive Integrated Employment: The five-year, pilot program will support integrated and above-minimum wage employment for adults with disabilities. The \$600,000 grant is in collaboration with Department of Rehabilitation and Regional Center of Orange County.

Google IT Support: Computer Network Support Specialists Pre-Apprenticeship: The California Apprenticeship Initiative's four-year, \$500,000 grant was awarded to NOCE to launch a Google-sponsored pre-apprenticeship program. The short-term CTE certificate will provide multiple pathways to the google IT Network Support Specialist job. An additional \$25,000 grant from Disney augmented this program with increased career services and work-based learning.

Workability III and California Department of Rehabilitation Cooperative Contract: NOCE's WAIII Program was granted a three-year, \$182,000 grant augmentation to prepare students to find and retain competitive and meaningful employment.

NOCE Awarded Statewide Technical Assistance Grant as Provider for CAEP: NOCE received a California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) \$1.8 million Technical Assistance Grant (TAP) for all colleges offering California Adult Education Programs (CAEP). The two-year grant focuses on equitable technical assistance to all CAEP providers, building data literacy and decision making, establishing effective learning communities, and resources to the field.

DSS Awarded Grant for Educational Coaching for all NOCCCD Students: DSS received a \$441,138 grant from the California Department of Rehabilitation to provide educational coaching support students with any disability enrolled in an inclusive course at NOCE, Cypress College, and Fullerton College through September 2024.

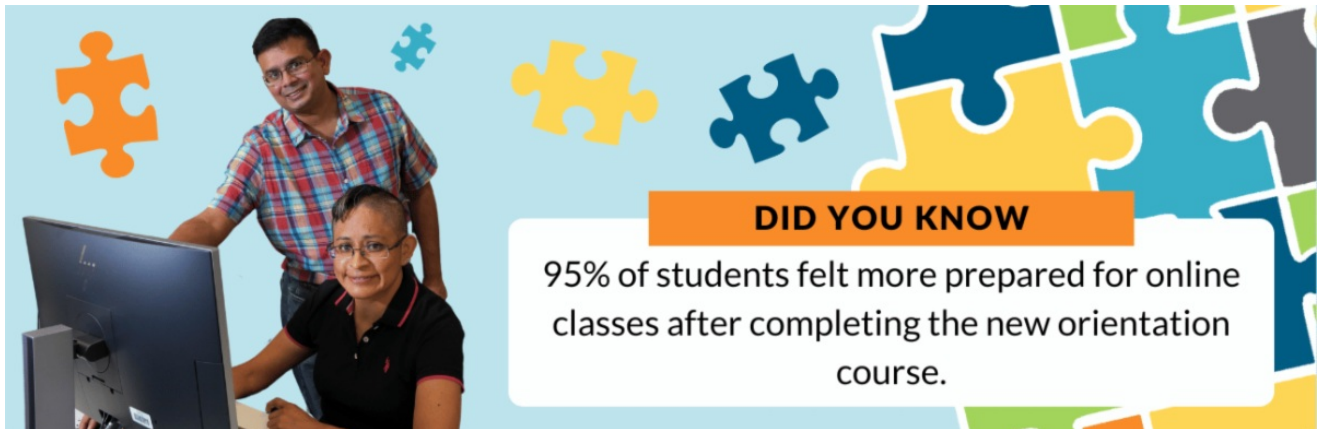


NOCE was strategic in aligning curriculum development with high-demand instructional offerings based on students' needs and labor market information in North Orange County. NOCE's new and revised CTE certificates, such as Business Information Worker, Pharmacy Technician, and Personal Care Aide, are in line with local job prospects in the key Orange County industry sectors in healthcare, information technology, advanced manufacturing, and hospitality. NOCE's Curriculum Committee also recently approved the addition of Apple Swift and Google IT curriculum to the 2023 Fall Semester catalog.

Distance Education Offers Viable Educational Option for Students

NOCE further enhanced the Distance Education (DE) Program to meet the evolving needs of students.

- In 2022 Spring, NOCE approved the new DE Plan for 2022-2024. The new plan includes developing program infrastructure, providing support and professional development to faculty, and increasing the number of certified DE faculty members, just to name a few.
- DE Faculty Coordinator and Professor **Janet Williams** created an orientation course to support students new to the online environment with 31 students completing the pilot in 2022 Fall Semester. Included in the course is the NOCE Online Student Resources section to access various services offered at NOCE at the click of a button.



- Williams also created a course blueprint, that is currently being piloted, to align with the CVC-OEI Course Design Rubric, help faculty prepare for the Peer Online Course Review (POCR) process, and create consistent learning paths for students.
- **Maria Aceituno** was hired as NOCE's first Instructional Designer to provide ongoing technical assistance and course design support.
- NOCE contracted with Ease Learning for instructional design support for the high school and CTE Programs. Three DE social science courses were developed with this content and piloted last fall.



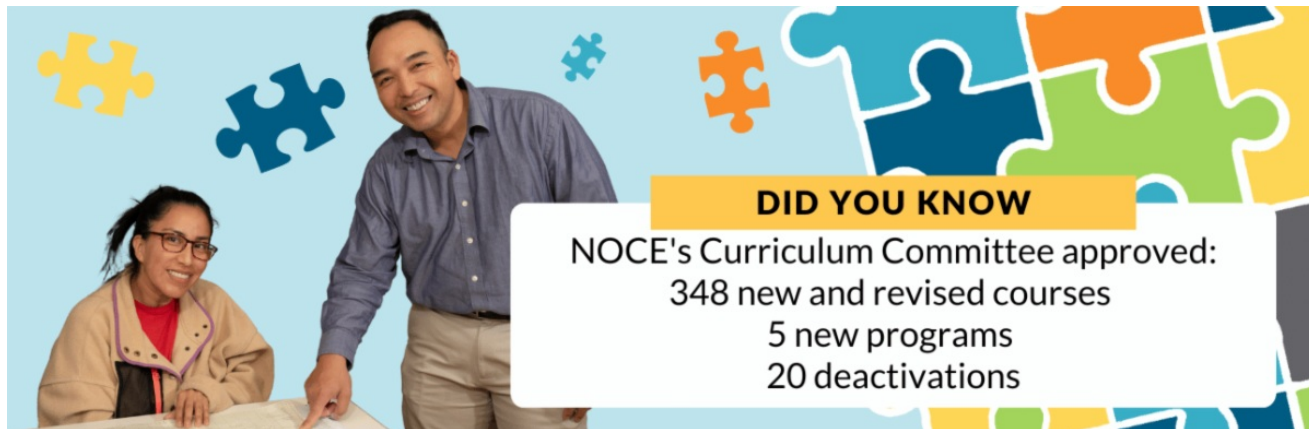
Curriculum Committee Collaborates for Success

The NOCE Curriculum Committee (pictured to the left) began the year with its first ever retreat in August 2022. The event facilitated collaboration, strengthened capacity in curriculum review and program review processes, increased understanding of legal requirements, committee's role, and priorities.

Incorporating DEIAA into the Curriculum: Under the leadership of **Dr. Kimberley Stiemke**, the Curriculum Committee's work with Dr. Frank Harris III is producing a standardized rubric for infusing DEIAA practices into the curriculum review process, with emphasis placed on the Course Outline of Record (COR). The rubric is scheduled to be piloted in 2023 Fall Semester.

Instituting Attendance Accounting Project: Under the guidance of the Attendance Accounting Taskforce facilitated by Vice President of Instruction **Dr. Karen Bautista**, the existing 285 DE courses were revised to include outside-of-class assignments, student learning hours, and instructor-student contact hours to align with updated CCC Chancellor's Office regulations. Data suggests that the efforts from this project will result in additional FTES.

Establishing a Program Review Process: The Curriculum Committee is establishing comprehensive and annual program reviews, starting with a review of reference materials and best practices. The goal is to complete a program review template for a 2023 Fall Semester pilot.



2022/23 One Book, One School Program

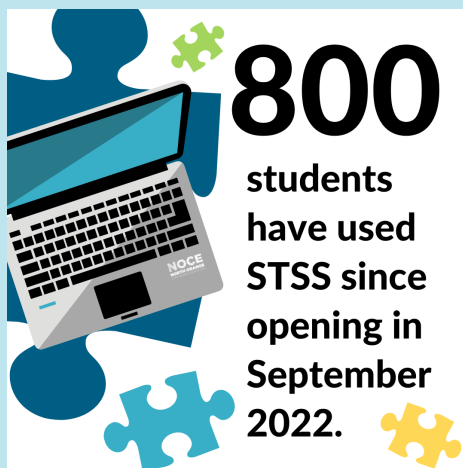
The NOCE Professional Development Committee, under the leadership of **Candace Lynch**, annually coordinates a school-wide One Book, One School Program. This year's selection was *Make it Stick: The Science of Successful Learning* by Peter C. Brown, et. al. Any NOCE team member can join the reading group where the book's key points and how it relates to NOCE are explored and then developed into school-wide professional development opportunities. The reading group is finalizing its efforts in April 2023.

Auto-Award Certificates Pilot Produces Results

Admissions and Records in collaboration with Office of Institutional Research and Planning launched a auto-award pilot process with the English as a Second Language (ESL) Multiskills Certificate. Automatic degree/certificate awarding is the process by which students are awarded all certificates for which they've completed the requirements. Currently, students must apply for a certification and will be issued one upon verification of completed requirements. However, with the auto-awarding, students do not have to apply. The manual process uses curriculum data in Banner, Degreeworks, and Argos reports; the goal is to automate this process and expand into other certificates.



NOCE Supports Students with Basic Needs



Student Technology Support Services

NOCE established the Student Technology Support Services (STSS) Program in September 2022 in response to student needs for technology support. Led by Instructional Technology Services Manager **Morgan Beck**, NOCE hired personnel and opened an office on the second floor of the Anaheim Campus, across from Admissions and Registration. STSS provides students with laptops and wireless connections as well as support in how to set this equipment up to help them meet their educational goals.

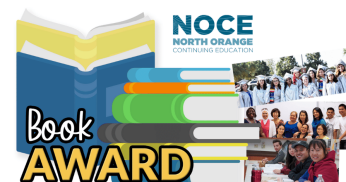
Mental Health Assistance

NOCE dedicated many resources over the past year to supporting students' mental health.

- **CARE Team:** As envisioned and led by Vice President of Student Services **Martha Gutierrez**, NOCE launched the CARE Team in 2022 Fall Semester to support students who may be struggling with mental health and/or basic needs, provide services, and provide regular support so that the students may persist in their educational goals. The CARE Team collaboration between Counseling and Student Services, Campus Safety, and Disability Support Services utilizes a case management system.
- **Emotional Wellness Workshops:** Counselor **Noemi Vidal** coordinated one-hour virtual bilingual wellness sessions for students throughout the year focused on reducing anxiety, increasing mindfulness, and providing essential resources.
- **Cypress ARISE Lab Re-Opens:** Although the Cypress ARISE Lab opened in 2020, the team held a grand re-opening in 2022 Fall Semester. More than 200 students and employees visited to learn about services. While the ARISE Lab was developed as an educational support and wellness lab for students with disabilities, all Cypress College and NOCE Cypress students are welcome.
- **RAD Care Outreach:** Following the lead of Fullerton College and Cypress College, NOCE will be rolling out RAD Care Cards through the Counseling and Student Services office during spring 2023. These pocket-sized resource cards encourage students to Reach out, Ask for help, and Do something and include important crisis resources.



students were awarded book awards to continue their studies



INFLUENCE



NOCE is a recognized leader in educating and supporting adult learners

Awards, Presentations, and Recognition

President Purtell Honored with Community Partner Award – President **Valentina Purtell** was honored with the 2023 Community Empowerment Award by Access California Services for her and NOCE's partnership support in welcoming refugees and providing English-language instruction.

DSS Associate Dean Wins CAPED Award – Dr. **Adam Gottdank** was awarded the Exemplary Service Award by the California Association for Postsecondary Education and Disability (CAPED) for his lifelong support of adults with disabilities.

Workability Advocate Awarded – DSS Program Coordinator **Lorri Guy** was awarded the 2023 Community Spotlight Award by the Regional Center of Orange County for her leadership in programs that support the inclusion of adults with disabilities in competitive, integrated employment, and her advocacy for equity in higher education.

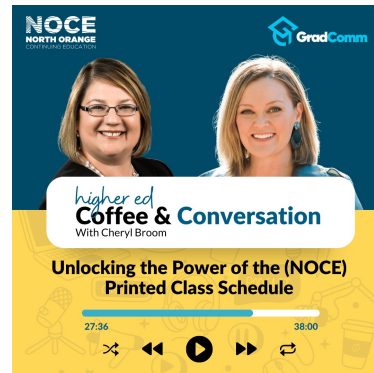
NOCCCD Board of Trustees Awarded Community Recognition Award – Nominated by NOCE's DSS Program, the District's Board of Trustees was recognized by CAPED for their regional support of adults with disabilities, supporting employment and educational opportunities beyond the requirement of Title V.

Director of Institutional Research Completes Latina Leadership Program – **Dulce Delgadillo** was selected to participate in the Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) Leadership Institute. Delgadillo participated in workshops, presentations, advocacy, networking, and field trips with leaders across a variety of sectors.

Curriculum Chair Serves as Statewide Leader – Dr. **Kimberley Stiemke**, NOCE Curriculum Committee Chair, utilizes her expertise to represent NOCE and the noncredit perspective on several committees, including the CCCCCO Assessment Advisory Committee, the ASCCC Curriculum Committee, the ASCCC Black Caucus. She also served as the NOCE Faculty Fellow with the NOCCCD Office of Diversity and Compliance.

Class Schedule Redesign Highlighted on Podcast – Director of Campus Communications **Jennifer Perez** was featured on the Higher Ed Coffee and Conversation Podcast with GradComm CEO Cheryl Broom about the importance of the printed class schedule for marketing noncredit programs and the work done to reimagine and redesign the publication at NOCE.

DE Program Shines in Presentations – DE Coordinator and Professor **Janet Williams** represented NOCE's DE Program throughout the year, presenting at conferences and events about online noncredit instruction, best practices for online teaching and learning, and AB705 as it relates to noncredit. Williams presented at local, regional, and national conferences including the League for Innovation in the Community College Conference in March 2022 and the American Association of Adult and Continuing Education Conference in October 2022 on "Continuous Improvement: A Best Practice for Online Teaching and Learning."



Photos:

Top row (from left to right): Purtell, Williams, and Gottdank; Bottom row (from left to right): Delgadillo, Stiemke, and Perez and Broom.

NOCE Student Success

Throughout the 2021/22 academic year, NOCE students achieved...

253 Career Technical Education (CTE) Certificates

272 English as a Second Language (ESL) CDCP Certificates

186 High School Diplomas

253 Disability Support Services (DSS) Certificates



Average Course Retention - 83%

Average Course Success - 67%

Term-to-Term Retention - 48%

Noncredit-to-Credit Transition - 3%

Average Hourly Wage Increase After Completing CTE Training at NOCE - 21%



Student Success Spotlight



Miriam Castillo

Career Technical Education Programs and Disability Support Services

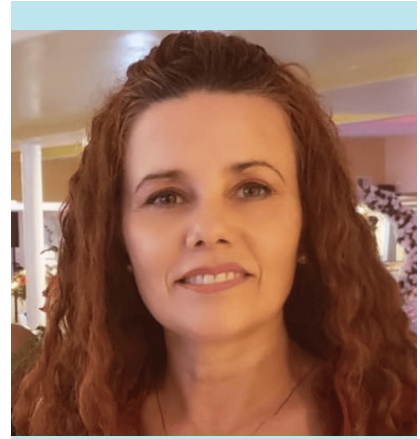
Miriam Castillo was simultaneously taking classes in the DSS Program and the Career Technical Education Program's Early Childhood Education Certificate. After completing her certificate in 2022 Spring Semester, Miriam worked with C2C's job developer to prepare for and land employment with a nearby preschool. She continues to work at the preschool while completing DSS Program classes, with her goal of graduating in May 2024.



Tristan Monroig

Disability Support Services

Tristan Monroig enrolled in the Disability Support Services' Workability III (WAIll) Program to get support with employment preparation, placement, and coaching. In June 2022, Tristan accepted a second employment offer at Ralph's grocery in Cerritos. Tristan is a courtesy clerk, with ambitions to transfer to a specialty department such as deli or bakery. Tristan is the third participant placed under the WAIll case management program with Ralph's/Kroger since the program relaunched in 2022.



Amparo Galeano

English as a Second Language, Career Skills & Resource Lab

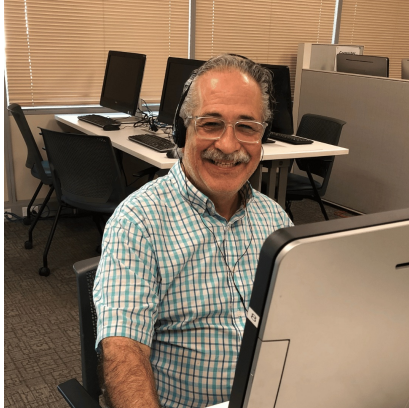
Amparo has improved her English in order to reach her employment goals by attending English as a Second Language (ESL) courses at NOCE. The Career Skills and Resource Lab (CSRL) helped her find a job at a retail store, and later, was hired in the CSRL where she now provides Canvas and registration assistance to her fellow students. Amparo hopes to speak English fluently and to help other ESL Program students gain confidence through technical and moral support.



Zully Torres

English as a Second Language and High School Diploma Programs

Zully Torres enrolled in English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and right away appreciated the warmth of NOCE. The faculty and staff helped her understand the step-by-step processes, resolve her doubts, and develop an educational plan. The counselors shared the benefits of finishing her high school diploma and college opportunities. Zully plans to complete her high school diploma, continue to build her English fluency, and transfer to Cypress College to enroll in medical sonography.



Norman Baker

Emeritus Program

Norman Baker started taking Emeritus Program classes in August 2021. Upon retiring from his teaching career, Norman was looking for ways to stay active. Norman loves the variety of courses offered by NOCE and feels the Emeritus classes are beneficial resources and amazing social connectors for seniors in the community. "I have enjoyed making new friendships with my classmates, making me feel part of a community," says Norman. "As a retired educator, the Emeritus Program is a great way to continue my love of learning."



Meredith Hughes

Parenting Program

Meredith Hughes, a mother of three, and a dedicated parent. Her daughter, Bridget, was born in 2020, but Meredith found new challenges in raising her. Through the NOCE Parenting classes, Bridget has been able to learn concepts such as social awareness, clean-up time, and listening attentively; while Meredith has been able guide Bridget through her experience, and feels she has a safe space to ask questions and observe how other parents are parenting their children. Through the classes at NOCE, Meredith has gained new tools to help her as she raises her children.

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