

#WeAreNOCE

Table of Contents

- 3 Message from President Purtell
- 4 Career Readiness & Economic Empowerment
- 8 Noncredit Education as a Launchpad
- 12 Personal Growth & Empowerment
- 18 Community & Social Connection
- 26 Accessibility & Opportunity
- 32 Statewide Leadership
- 38 Awards

Follow us on:







Mission

NOCE serves our diverse community by providing holistic programs and services that are relevant and accessible to all learners in achieving their goals. NOCE is dedicated to offering a transformative educational experience that builds lasting foundational skills and promotes student success.

Vision

NOCE commits to enriching lives through education to meet the evolving needs of the community.

Values

Accountability – We strive to utilize data-informed decision-making processes.

Diversity – We celebrate our diverse community by committing ourselves to an inclusive institutional culture.

Equity – We actively address achievement gaps and systemic racism to ensure equal opportunity and access for all.

Excellence - We strive for excellence by providing evolving, dynamic, high-quality instruction.

Innovation - We challenge the status quo by finding creative solutions.

Integrity - We cultivate a collaborative equity-minded culture of mutual respect, honesty, and responsibility.

Learning - We commit to offering holistic programs that promote personal and professional growth.



NOCE IS TRANSFORMATIVE

Message from NOCE President, Valentina Purtell

At North Orange Continuing Education (NOCE), we believe education is a bridge to new opportunities. Every day, we witness how access to learning transforms lives, opening doors to career readiness, economic empowerment, and personal fulfillment. NOCE serves as a launchpad, providing students with the knowledge and skills they need to advance in their careers, build stronger futures, and become active, engaged members of their communities.

Through our diverse noncredit programs, we empower students to take the next step—whether that means preparing for a new career, gaining the confidence to continue their education, or acquiring skills that enhance their personal and professional lives.



Our programs are built with accessibility in mind, ensuring that education remains an opportunity for all, regardless of background or circumstance.

Beyond academics, NOCE fosters a sense of belonging and social connection. Students find support, mentorship, and encouragement from faculty, staff, and peers who are invested in their success. This sense of community strengthens resilience, builds confidence, and creates lasting impacts that extend far beyond the classroom.

The stories within this report highlight the transformative power of education at NOCE. They showcase the students who have redefined their futures, the programs that make success possible, and the partnerships that help us create real and lasting change. Together, we continue to remove barriers, expand opportunities, and uplift individuals on their journey to academic, professional, and personal growth.

Welcome to this year's annual report—an inspiring look at the power of education in action.

#WeAreNOCE



SHORT-TERM, HANDS-ON TRAINING

NOCE Strengthens Partnership with UDW

NOCE provides short-term, hands-on training to equip community members with in-demand skills, including a successful partnership with United Domestic Workers (UDW). As one of the top-performing colleges in the UDW Demonstration Project, NOCE offered FasTrack sessions to support UDW members with orientation, application assistance, and academic counseling. Throughout the year, NOCE hosted multiple onboarding events on campus and at UDW offices and events, ensuring seamless access to English as a Second Language (ESL), high school, and career training programs. The partnership's success earned NOCE an invitation to present at the California Community College Chancellor's Office DEIA Institute, where Director of Student Equity and Success Deb Perkins highlighted NOCE's FasTrack model, the I-BEST Personal Care Aide program, and NOCE's commitment to empowering diverse communities through education.

Launch of New Career Certificates and Labs

NOCE's Career Technical Education (CTE) Program continues to evolve with the regional labor market data to ensure relevant skills and job opportunities upon completion. This year, CTE launched new certificate programs in Entrepreneurship and Customer Relations and expanded hands-on training and certifications in the Google IT User Support program. Entrepreneurship Program was available to all, however also marketed to special populations looking to start their own home-based businesses including seniors, those who are undocumented, and those who are formerly incarcerated. The Customer Relations certificate was designed as the second level in a series of certificate options, to prepare students for office and administrative support in various fields or businesses.

NOCE Disability Support Services (DSS): a Champion for Inclusive Education

NOCE's DSS Program champions inclusive education by empowering adults with disabilities to achieve independence, employment, and academic success. Through specialized instruction, transition counseling, and neurodivergent learner labs, NOCE fosters an inclusive learning environment while offering Career Development and College Preparation (CDCP) certificates in fields like childcare. Workforce preparation partnerships with organizations such as Ralph's, Disney, and Project Search provide vocational assessments, mentorships, and employment support, aligning with California Community Colleges' Vision 2030 to remove barriers and expand opportunities for all learners.

The DSS Workability III (WAIII) Program was recognized in September 2024 as the most successful in California, achieving the highest employment success rate among the state's 13 programs. In 2023/24, NOCE helped 22 students secure long-term employment, with a 32% success rate—outpacing the next highest program at 29%. By providing individualized case management, employment coaching, and wraparound support such as transportation assistance and work-related reimbursements, NOCE ensures that students secure meaningful jobs at companies like Ralph's, Ross, and Disneyland.

32% Success Rate



JOB SEARCH SKILLS, CAREER **EXPLORATION, AND NETWORKING** OPPORTUNITIES

Career Preparation Activities Build Professional Connections and Job Opportunities

NOCE provides extensive job search support, career exploration tools, and networking opportunities to help students succeed in the workforce. The Career Skills and Resource Lab offers inperson and online assistance with job search techniques, resume building, interview preparation, and career assessments. Students can explore careers through new virtual reality (VR) simulators, offering hands-on experiences and skill modules across industries. Launched in March 2025, the VR headsets are available in the Career Skills and Resource Lab, where students can complete career assessments and explore matched career options. Faculty training is underway to integrate VR into coursework, with usage data helping enhance classes and services.

Networking events such as the Google IT Round Table, Allied Health Mentor Round Table, and the annual Career Fair connect students with industry professionals, offering insights into job expectations, workplace environments, and career growth. Employers from diverse fields engage directly with students, helping them build professional connections and explore job opportunities. With career fairs and mentorship programs, NOCE equips students with the skills and confidence needed to achieve their career goals.

DIGITAL LITERACY

NOCE is committed to equipping students with essential digital literacy skills to support their educational and personal growth. The English as a Second Language (ESL) Program now offers ESL Student Success, a course designed for waitlisted students that introduces language learning strategies, goal setting, and digital literacy to help them navigate NOCE's ESL courses. In response to student requests, the Emeritus Program launched a mobile literacy course to assist older adults in confidently using digital devices. To further bridge the digital divide, NOCE provides online students with laptop loaner access and hands-on training through various departments. Student Technology Support Services helps students operate their devices, the Career Skills and Resources Lab introduces Canvas basics, and the ESL Student Support Center assists with email setup. Through these initiatives, NOCE ensures that all students can thrive in today's technology-driven world.

WORKFORCE OUTCOMES

Vision 2030 Success Metric:

Attained a Living Wage

28%

420 out of 1,494 students

Calculated by comparing the median annual earnings to the living wage for a single adult in the county associated with the community college district. The metric is for the 2022/23 cohort.

NOCE is exceeding in this metric.

Source: https://datavista.cccco.edu

NOCE CERTIFICATES EARNED IN 2023/24



English as a Second Language (ESL)/ Citizenship Program

1,317



Career Technical **Education Programs** 384



Disability Support Services Program

265



High School Diploma/ **GED & HISET Program** 117

Martha Pineda, a dedicated student in the NOCE Career Technical Education Program, began her journey in early childhood education out of a desire to better understand and support her own children's development. Originally from the Philippines, Martha discovered NOCE in 2018 through a brochure but was too busy at the time, balancing two jobs after recently immigrating. It wasn't until the pandemic and the birth of her second child that she revisited the idea and took the leap, starting her studies in the 2023 Summer Term. Since then, Martha has completed the Assistant Preschool Teacher, Infant/Toddler, and Management courses, and is currently enrolled in the Preschool Director program. What began as a personal endeavor has grown into a deep passion for education.

Through her studies, Martha found a renewed sense of purpose and confidence, transforming from a shy newcomer with language barriers into a driven learner with clear goals. Inspired by her experience at NOCE, she now plans to transfer to Cypress College to become an elementary school teacher and later pursue a bachelor's degree in Ethnic Studies with a focus on Asian American Studies. Her goal is to become a bilingual Filipino teacher, helping bridge communication gaps and uplift her community. Martha credits NOCE-and particularly the support of her counselor Khanh Ninh-with providing the stepping stones that have shaped her vision and empowered her to believe in a brighter future.



NONCREDIT EDUCATION AS A LAUNCHPAD



NONCREDIT AS A PATHWAY TO CREDIT COLLEGE

NOCRC Develops CAEP Three-Year Plan

At the September 2024 Executive Committee Meeting for the North Orange County Regional Consortium (NOCRC) for Adult Education. members outlined the development of the California Adult Education Program (CAEP) Three-Year Plan, focusing on assessing service impact, identifying regional workforce and educational needs, and defining strategies for adult learners. Providers NOCE, Garden Grove Unified School District (GGUSD), and North Orange County Regional Occupational Program (NOCROP) collaborated with stakeholders to shape the plan. **Extended Executive Committee meetings** throughout the 2024/25 school year reviewed data, gathered community feedback, assessed funding, and identified barriers to success. The plan is currently being drafted, with a final approval set for June 2025.

NOCE Supports Student Transition to Credit **Programs**

Transitioning students to credit programs is a key institutional strategy at NOCE, with dedicated support led by Transition Counselor Dr. Anacany Torres. Through initiatives such as transition courses, campus tours, and workshops-including the Financial Aid 101 sessions in collaboration with Cypress College-NOCE equips students with the knowledge and resources needed for a seamless transition to credit education. Additionally, Fullerton College's Dr. Vickie Calhoun visits NOCE's Anaheim Campus every Thursday, offering hands-on support in the Career Skills and Resource Lab. Workshops like the Opening the Doors to Possibilities event, hosted in collaboration with Cypress College's Psi Beta Honor Society, featured former NOCE students sharing their transfer experiences, further inspiring students to continue their academic journey. These collaborative efforts reinforce NOCE's commitment to student success in higher education.



Dream Your Future 2025

NOCE hosts an annual college transition event, Dream Your Future. This year's event was held on April 17, 2025 at Fullerton College and led by transition counselor Dr. Anacany Torres. Students interested in beginning their college journey at Cypress or Fullerton College attend to receive information and support. Attendees heard from college representatives who shared valuable information and encouragement for a smooth transition to community college. Participants received college-themed items and an NOCE Certificate of Participation.

BUILDING CONFIDENCE TO PURSUE FURTHER EDUCATION AND PERSONAL GOALS

DSS Educational Coaching Grant Extended

NOCE's Disability Support Services (DSS) Program received a three-year extension for its Educational Coaching-Transition Counseling grant, following a successful one-year pilot. This extension will enable DSS to continue providing educational coaching and transition counseling for students with disabilities, assisting those transitioning from high school and adult programs to NOCCCD. The grant provides \$372,817 annually, totaling \$1,118,451 over the contract period from October 2024 to June 2027. This funding provides counseling to K12 schools, helping with applying to NOCE, doing intake and registration. Educational coaches meet regularly throughout the week to ensure success in completing their inclusive classes. Coaches check-in with the student to help with organization, scheduling, requesting accommodations, communication with instructors and peers, and identifying homework, and testing due dates.



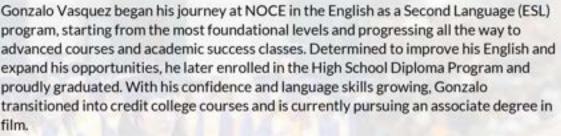
Dar'rius Smith: A Testament to Persistence and Strong Support Systems

Dar'rius Smith is a dedicated student at North Orange Continuing Education (NOCE), actively engaged in the Disability Support Services (DSS), Basic Skills, and Career Technical Education (CTE) programs. He discovered NOCE through Career Corps and quickly embraced the opportunities for academic and personal growth. With a strong passion for computers, 2D and 3D design, and creative expression through poetry, Dar'rius has worked diligently to improve his math, English, and computer skills-both in the classroom and at home. In Fall 2022, he enrolled in the College Prep. Math Certificate 1 program and, through consistent effort and educational coaching provided through DSS, will proudly earn his certificate this year.

Dar'rius credits NOCE with transforming his confidence, work ethic, and academic ability. With the support of instructors and counselors, he has not only strengthened his academic foundation but also gained valuable job-readiness and freelancing experience in audio editing and photography. Now, he is preparing to transition to Cypress College with the guidance of his DSS counselors and educational coaches, where he plans to further pursue a career in technologyspecifically in fields such as remote IT support or game beta testing. Dar'rius' journey reflects the power of persistence, self-belief, and a strong support system. "It's never too late to improve or to keep learning," he says-an inspiring message he lives by and shares with others.







Today, Gonzalo is not only a proud alumnus but also a dedicated employee at NOCE. For the past eight years, he has worked in various departments, including counseling and other support services. Inspired by his own educational transformation, he now helps guide other students through their learning journeys. Gonzalo credits NOCE with giving him the confidence, discipline, and skills that changed his life - opening doors to new opportunities, better jobs, and the chance to give back to the very community that supported him.

Gonzalo Vasquez

Alumni, English as a Second Language and High School Diploma Programs; NOCE Employee



NOCE fosters personal growth and empowerment by equipping students with the skills to increase independence, practice self-advocacy, and prioritize wellness and self-care. Through supportive programs and resources, individuals gain the confidence to navigate life's challenges and achieve greater self-sufficiency.

INCREASED INDEPENDENCE AND SELF-ADVOCACY

NOCE Welcomes the First Student Trustee and Reinforces Student Advocacy

In a historic first for NOCE, a special election was held to select the inaugural Student Trustee, a position created to represent student interests on the NOCCCD Board of Trustees. Six qualified candidates participated in the election, which took place from October 8-14, 2024. The winner, Robert Johnson, a Career Technical Education (CTE) student and President of the Technology Club, was selected to serve as the voice of NOCE students. Johnson, an active leader involved in campus and community events, represents students by casting advisory votes at Board meetings, gathering student input on relevant issues, and advocating for student needs. Upon his election, Johnson engaged in onboarding, including attending the Community College League of California Conference and meeting with key trustees and administrators. As Student Trustee, he continues to participate in campus activities, events, and promote initiatives such as Timely Care and the Helping Hand Clothing Closet. As an advocate for NOCE students, Johnson launched a survey aimed at making the Student Center a more desirable and effective space for students.



Student-Focused Strategies Encouraged through Institutional Student Leadership Program

The NOCE Student Leadership Program was created to develop leaders to actively participate in their school. NOCE values student input and promotes empowering leaders to be active members of the community. Student leaders gain valuable leadership experience; are eligible to receive a certificate of leadership participation upon completion and include on their resume; gain a comprehensive understanding of school and state budgeting as well as planning; gain access to a network of school and District-wide faculty, staff, and administrators, including a committee mentor; participate in student leadership conferences, meetings, and optional NOCE events; and make a positive and valuable impact on NOCE. Leaders serve a one-year term, attend monthly meetings, help disseminate information to and gather feedback from NOCE students, share student perspectives in meetings, and participate in assigned committee work and student leadership activities. Lourdes Valiente's journey with NOCE has been nothing short of transformative. Initially unsure of her direction after relocating to the U.S. as an immigrant, Lourdes found a sense of purpose and fulfillment within the NOCE community. As a student, Lourdes pursued a variety of programs in NOCE's Career Technical Education (CTE) offerings, including courses in management and personal care aide, which helped her develop valuable skills that would become the foundation of her professional growth. She also enrolled in Parenting Program classes, gaining practical knowledge to support her family and her community. These educational experiences empowered Lourdes to move forward with confidence, shaping her goals and expanding her career prospects.

What began as a simple desire to contribute to the student body as a student leader evolved into a deeper commitment to serve both students and staff. Through her involvement in the student leadership program and her role on various committees, Lourdes discovered her passion for service and advocacy, which reignited her purpose in life after feeling lost for years. She credits NOCE for not only offering her a platform to grow but also for giving her a place where she truly belonged.

Her transition from student to part-time staff member marked a significant milestone, boosting her confidence and allowing her to see the school from both perspectives. Lourdes now feels empowered in her role and is proud to contribute to the school's mission. Her journey highlights the power of NOCE's support systems, which provide more than just academic assistance—they offer emotional support, career guidance, and a sense of community. Lourdes' story is a testament to the life-changing impact of NOCE, as she

continues to serve with the same passion

and dedication that has shaped her

personal and professional growth.

Lourdes Valiente

Student in Career Technical Education and Parenting Programs, Student Leader



NOCE is proud to welcome student leaders on NOCE shared governance committees and advisory workgroups as well as District-wide committees.

NOCE Shared Governance Committees and Workgroups

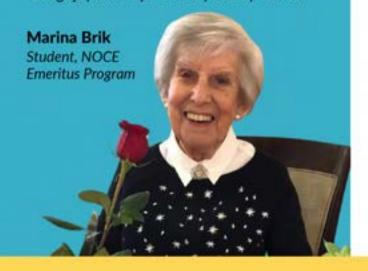
- President's Cabinet
- Budget and Facilities Committee
- Community Relations Team/Marketing and Outreach Advisory Workgroup
- · Institutional Effectiveness Committee
- · Student Equity and Achievement Committee
- Curriculum Committee
- · Technology Committee
- Accessibility Advisory Committee
- DEIAA Committee
- Distance Education Advisory Committee
- Department Planning and Review Panel

District-wide Committees

- District EEO Committee
- District Technology Committee
- District Council on Budget and Facilities
- District Consultation Council
- Institutional Effectiveness Coordinating Council



Marina Brik is a stellar student who comes to the Emeritus Program Health and Wellness class at Emerald Court Senior Living with enthusiasm and motivation. Each week, Marina goes above and beyond, keeping up with all the exercise, fitness, wellness, and dance moves, continuously pushing herself to do more. While others may take a break, Marina does not stop moving! As an ambassador at Emerald Court, she takes her role enthusiastically, encouraging new residents to attend class. She loves to share her experience and the benefits that she has gained including improved fitness, balance and mobility, and great social connections. According to her teacher, Jessica Gonzales, "Marina's ability to pick up choreography and move at a faster pace than most is stellar - one would never know that she is living her best life in her 90s!" Marina's bright personality brings joy and inspires many to stay active!



Emeritus Courses' Increase in Enrollment and Popularity Showcase the Desire for Senior Independence

The NOCE Emeritus Program experienced remarkable growth in the 2024/25 academic year, reflecting a strong and increasing demand for lifelong learning opportunities. Designed for adults 50+-but open to anyone 18 and older-Emeritus courses provide tuition-free education that fosters independence, vitality, and community engagement. This year, enrollment grew exponentially, surpassing the previous year and demonstrating the program's critical role in supporting older adults in areas such as physical and cognitive health, digital literacy, self-advocacy, and creative expression. The program's reach expanded significantly, fueled by 1,900 inquiries generated through a successful digital advertising campaign. To meet this growing demand, several key initiatives were launched, including online courses to increase accessibility, mobile literacy classes to reach underserved populations, and expanded class offerings across new community, senior, and rehabilitation centers. The success of the Emeritus Program underscores the importance of continued learning in maintaining health, independence, and social connection. NOCE remains committed to ensuring that lifelong learning remains accessible, impactful, and inspiring.

NOCE Connects with Organizations that Engage Seniors

NOCE proudly partners with organizations that support and advocate for older adults, including the Council on Aging, the Answers Guide, and Leisure World. Through event sponsorships, shared promotional efforts, and on-site outreach, these collaborations help raise awareness of NOCE's free programs and services for older adults while strengthening community ties. Whether through high-energy events like the Pickleball Slam Tournament or the Leisure World Summer Concert Series, NOCE continues to connect with older adult communities in meaningful ways that support lifelong learning and engagement.

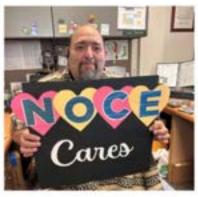














WELLNESS AND SELF-CARE

NOCE provided a variety of wellness and self-care activities to support students' mental health and personal growth. Emotional Wellness Workshops, facilitated by Maria Noemi Vidal, MS, LMFT, offered virtual and in-person sessions covering topics such as healthy dating, mindfulness, and emotional awareness. The Career Skills and Resource Center hosted a workshop on imposter syndrome, helping students overcome self-doubt and build confidence. Additionally, monthly workshops focused on developing soft skills, including time management and test anxiety.

The NOCE CARES for LA campaign was launched to support employees and families affected by the LA fires. The initiative included wellness workshops on processing acute distress, mindfulness, and community support, along with resources for coping with trauma. Employees participated in a dedicated wellness conversation to foster healing and connection.

Furthering its commitment to mental health, NOCE introduced TimelyCare, a free virtual mental health platform for students, offering therapy appointments, crisis response, self-care resources, and on-demand wellness tools. With culturally competent providers and 24/7 access, TimelyCare ensured students received timely and inclusive support for their well-being.

NOCE Welcomes Facility Dog Lindon

Lindon, NOCE's dedicated facility dog, became the newest team member in August 2024. A two-year-old Labrador Retriever, Lindon was carefully matched with DSS Counselor Dr. Casey Sousa through Canine Companions, an organization that trains service and facility dogs to support individuals and communities. At NOCE, Lindon plays a vital role in promoting emotional wellness by bringing a sense of calm to the NOCE ARISE Labs, attending campus activities, and offering comfort during special events like Paws for Pawsitivity. His presence fosters a supportive and inclusive environment, helping students manage stress and enhance their overall well-being. With ongoing training and community support, Lindon is making a meaningful impact at NOCE!





A WELCOMING, INCLUSIVE SPACE THAT FOSTERS BELONGING

NOCE Prides Itself on Welcoming Spaces and Activities for All

NOCE is dedicated to creating an inclusive and supportive environment through diverse programs and events that celebrate various communities. LGBTQIA+ Pride is highlighted through events such as Pan Dulce for Pansexual Pride Day and weekly listening circles. The Rising Scholars program empowers justice-impacted students with a safe space, workshops, and resources, including Second Chance Week, offering workshops on career-building, wellness, and expunging criminal records. Resources for Undocumented Students are available through the Grads to Be Program, legal aid workshops, a redesigned webpage and campus protocols, ensuring all students, regardless of their status, feel supported.

NOCE also celebrates DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility) through cultural events and activities including Lunar New Year, Black History Month, and Women's History Month. The Lunar New Year celebration included red envelope distribution to promote good luck and prosperity, while the Black History Month Cultural Experience Walk honored important Black historical figures. For Women's History Month, NOCE honored phenomenal women in NOCE making a difference. Through these initiatives, NOCE fosters a space where all students and employees can thrive, connect, and belong.

NOCE Faculty Fellows Go to Africa

Faculty, staff, and students across NOCCCD took a trip to Ghana, Africa in 2024 Fall Semester to attend the All-African Diaspora Education Summit hosted by A2Mend. A tremendous opportunity to experience first-hand professional development with educators around the world. The summit, "Colonization to Sovereignty: The Future of Educating the African Diaspora," provided the opportunity for the NOCE faculty fellows to learn about the history of Ghana including learning about the first African Prime Minister and a journey to The Slave River. NOCE was grateful for this opportunity and the faculty fellows' quest for continuous learning, moving toward a more empathetic future through knowledge. NOCE looks forward to learning more about this inspiring trip and incorporating these experiences into classroom learning, strategic planning, and institutional processes. NOCE Ghana Faculty Fellows: Tina McClurkin, Afraim Sedrak, Dr. Kimberley Stiemke, and Matt Van Gelder.





Moral Courage Workshop Series Introduces Skills for Emotionally Intelligent Leadership and Workforce Wellness

On November 15, 2024, NOCE, in partnership with the Office of Culture, Diversity, and Inclusion and NOCCCD Faculty Fellows, hosted The Diversity Dilemma workshop, marking the start of a year-long focus on Moral Courage. The workshop provided attendees with a six-step approach to engage in difficult conversations productively, reframing oppositional interactions into "win/win" experiences. NOCE continued exploring these concepts throughout the 2025 Spring Semester. A team of NOCE staff, faculty, and management participated in two Moral Courage workshops, developing skills to productively discuss polarizing issues, transforming them into trust-building opportunities. Professor and CEO Irshad Manji visited NOCE on February 21, 2025 for the Phase One Workshop to introduce the five core skills of Moral Courage. In Phase Two, Allison Gerrard, Managing Director of the Moral Courage College, launched the "Practice Makes Painless" workshop on February 28, 2025. Phase 3 invites team members over Summer 2025 to a Mentor Certification Program, where, upon completion, participants will be ready to teach the Moral Courage framework to NOCE stakeholders.

NOCE Employee Onboarding Site Launched

The WASC co-chairs launched the anticipated NOCE Onboarding site in Canvas at the 2024 Opening Day back-to-school employee event. Tina McClurkin, faculty co-chair and now Interim Associate Dean, and Julie Schoepf, WASC co-chair, took 18 months to research and populate the NOCE's first ever Onboarding Site. The tool is jam packed with historical information, resources, an organization chart for the District, Board of Trustees and Chancellor's Staff. It also houses accreditation information, videos, and more! With the help from Joseph Aranda, NOCCCD Professional Development Coordinator, Julie Schoepf is currently working on moving the site into EdVantage, so new staff can enjoy the same experience as other trainings.







BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS AND SUPPORT NETWORKS

Student Navigator Program Improves Student Persistence

NOCE has launched the Student Success
Navigator Pilot Program, hiring ten Navigators
to support retention and success across various
student cohorts, including English as a Second
Language (ESL), High School, Career Technical
Education (CTE), and Counseling. The program
focuses on improving student persistence and
engagement.

Juan Camilo Cardona, a 20-year-old from Bogotá, Colombia, came to the United States two years ago in search of new opportunities. Shortly after arriving, he found a home at North Orange Continuing Education (NOCE), where he is now enrolled in both the ESL and High School Diploma programs. He is also taking dual enrollment courses at Cypress College and plans to study Business Administration full-time. With dreams of transferring to California State University, Dominguez Hills to specialize in Sports Management and Youth Development, Camilo ultimately hopes to start his own sports agency that promotes inclusivity and uplifts communities through athletics.

Beyond his own academic journey, Camilo serves as a Student Success Navigator at NOCE, where he supports fellow students by helping them stay engaged and connected. Assigned to 19 ESL courses with low attendance, he personally reaches out to students who have stopped attending, offering guidance, encouragement, and referrals to resources like technology support, food services, and community

resources. His approachable demeanor and first-hand understanding of the student experience make him a trusted advocate. Whether he's helping students individually or building community by setting up outreach tables and chatting in the hallways, Camilo's leadership, compassion, and commitment to service make him a true champion for NOCE students

Juan Camilo Cardona

NOCE English as a Second Language and High School Diploma Program; NOCE Student Navigator



Developing an Online Community

NOCE has fostered a strong online community by leveraging technology and support systems that connect students, faculty, and staff. The Distance Education Program's Canvas resource course has been expanded to include all faculty, even those not yet teaching online, ensuring they have access to essential technology tools and training resources. Staff can also be added upon request, making this online Resource Center a continuously evolving hub for the latest instructional tools, troubleshooting support, and professional development opportunities, including CCC system-wide training. For students, NOCE provides a comprehensive range of online support services, including a laptop loan program, technology assistance, virtual tutoring, and counseling. The Canvas LTI online tutoring service has become a cornerstone of student support, allowing learners across all programs to access academic assistance remotely, enhancing their confidence and engagement. Additionally, NOCE Campus Communications Team supports its staff with specialized training in branding, design, and communication tools such as Canva and Constant Contact, along with targeted training for those involved in website management and social media outreach. Through these initiatives, NOCE continues to strengthen its online community, ensuring that all members have the tools and resources they need to succeed.

Increased Engagement through Launch of Student Clubs and Initiatives

NOCE is increasing student engagement and community building through the launch of new clubs and initiatives. The Technology Club, founded by student Robert Johnson and advised by Professor Afraim Sedrak, offers a collaborative space for tech enthusiasts, while the NOCE United Student Club, led by Counselor Marcela Mendoza, connects students with academic resources and support. The Christian Club. introduced at the Power Up event by student leader Kristine Nacu, quickly gained traction with over 30 students signing up. Additionally, Disability Support Services (DSS) fosters student connection through the ARISE Lab's virtual groups for neurodiverse students and the Peer Mentorship Program, which pairs experienced students with new peers to build job and social skills. Events like holiday-themed activities and movie nights further strengthen the sense of community. Through these clubs and initiatives, NOCE continues to create an inclusive, supportive, and engaging student experience.



Student Satisfaction Survey Highlights Via RNL Research Project

Bottom Line Indicators —

How satisfied are our students compared with students nationally?

Percentages below indicate the students selecting "Satisfied/Very Satisfied"

83%

NOCE

69%

National

How likely are our students to enroll again, if they had to do it over?

Percentages below indicate the students selecting "Probably/Definitely ves"

87%

NOCE

79%

National

NOCE's Major Strengths	Rank
The NOCE Centers are safe and secure for all students	1
Students are made to feel welcome at all three NOCE Centers	2
It is an enjoyable experience to be a student at NOCE	3
The quality of instruction received in most classes is excellent	4 (tie)
People at each NOCE Center are respectful and supportive of each other	4 (tie)

Over 700 students completed the student survey that was conducted through this the RNL research project.

DE Student Experience Survey Yields Successful Outcomes, Suggestions for Improvement

In October 2024, the NOCE Distance Education (DE) Committee and the Office of Institutional Research and Planning conducted a survey to understand student experiences in online, Zoom, and hybrid courses. Running from October 6-21, 2024, the survey collected responses from 502 students, with promotion via the NOCE website and social media. The findings aim to improve the quality, accessibility, and support of NOCE's DE programs.

Top Findings

High Engagement with Online Learning

- · 82% of students have taken at least one online class at NOCE
- Nearly 40% have completed two or more NOCE online courses

This shows strong student participation and growing comfort with distance education.

Flexible Formats Are Strongly Preferred

- 43% of students prefer fully online classes
- 27% prefer hybrid formats
- Just 13% prefer fully in-person learning

Flexibility and convenience are top priorities for NOCE students balancing multiple responsibilities.

Most Students Feel Prepared, But Support Still Needed

- 59% felt very prepared to begin online learning
- 9% faced significant challenges

While most students are confident navigating online courses, the data highlights a need for strengthened onboarding and technology support.

PARENTING EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY-BUILDING FOR FAMILIES, PROFESSIONALS WORKING WITH CHILDREN



BTIC Conference Provides Critical Insights on Supporting Children through Challenges

The Building Trauma-Informed Communities (BTIC) Conference, hosted by NOCE on April 11, 2025, provided valuable insights into supporting children through trauma. Held at Knott's Berry Farm Hotel, the event brought together parents, educators, social workers, and healthcare professionals to explore trauma-informed approaches to caregiving and education. Attendees benefited from expert presentations, including a welcome from the California Surgeon General, and a keynote by UCI Professor Dr. Dawn Bounds, a leader in youth mental health, who shared strategies for fostering resilience in children. The free conference also offered practical tools for supporting children through difficult situations, building confidence, and promoting hope, while emphasizing the importance of community collaboration and trauma-sensitive practices.

"The conference offers a wonderful opportunity to come together, build connections within our community, and celebrate those who dedicate themselves to children's well-being. Safe, secure relationships are crucial for children's survival and resilience. I am always uplifted to see a room filled with individuals who are committed to learning and growing as they strive to provide the building blocks of resilience for youth. Each of us can make a difference."



Chivonne Carter, LCSW. Adjunct Faculty, **NOCE Parenting** Program

Raul Guereque, a stay-at-home father and longtime educator, discovered NOCE's Parenting Program through the California Community Colleges website. Although not local to the area, he was drawn to the program's flexible, tuition-free online courses—an ideal fit for his lifestyle while raising two young daughters. Having stepped away from the classroom, Raul was looking for a way to stay mentally engaged and grow as a parent beyond books and podcasts. NOCE offered him the opportunity to reconnect with education, focus on personal development, and build confidence during his healing journey.

Since joining, Raul has experienced meaningful growth in both his parenting and personal relationships. The supportive environment—shaped by educators like Parenting Instructor Chivonne Carter and fellow parents—has helped him feel connected and empowered. He hopes to return to teaching in the future, potentially focusing on parenting or mental health, areas where he's found renewed passion. Raul highly recommends the Parenting Program to any parent seeking connection, growth, and practical tools for everyday life.

Raul Guereque

NOCE Parenting Program Student



FREE COURSES, RESOURCES MAKE EDUCATION ATTAINABLE



Pharmacy Technician Program Makes High Quality Training Accessible

On November 8, 2024, the American Society of Health System Pharmacists (ASHP) visited NOCE to conduct an accreditation survey of the Pharmacy Technician and Pharmacy Technician Advanced Programs. The program was praised for its tremendous growth since the last visit six years ago and commended for its value to the community. Interim Dean of Career Technical Education Tina McClurkin expressed pride in the work done by Professor Dr. Julie Shields and the entire Pharmacy Technician team. While awaiting official confirmation, NOCE anticipates receiving the accreditation status letter in summer 2025.

ENROLLMENT RECOVERY AND **GROWTH**

Throughout the 2024/25 school year, NOCE made significant strides in enrollment recovery, achieving notable growth in Full-Time Equivalent Students (FTES). The 2023/24 academic year concluded with a 29% increase in FTES, reaching 3,821.42, driven by expanded in-person offerings, enhanced community engagement, and optimized distance education attendance accounting. Summer 2024 saw a 39.3% FTES increase compared to the previous summer, while Fall 2024 recorded an 11.9% rise from Fall 2023. Key contributors to this growth included the reopening of off-site community locations, particularly senior residential centers, marking a strong recovery from pandemic-related disruptions.

2023/24 FTES	+29%
2024 Summer FTES	+39%
2024 Fall FTES	+11%

OUTSTANDING PROGRAM GROWTH



EMERITUS PROGRAM GROWTH 2025 SPRING SEMESTER

+30%

Registration

2025 Spring saw an increase of 30% in registration counts compared to the 2024 Spring

+9%

Student Headcount

2025 Spring saw an increase of 9% in headcount compared to the 2024 Spring

+5%

Course Offerings

2025 Spring saw an increase of 5% in course section offerings compared to the 2024 Spring

NEARLY 100 OFF-SITE LOCATIONS PROVIDE ACCESS TO EDUCATION

ESL/CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM: 19 LOCATIONS

EMERITUS PROGRAM: 65 LOCATIONS

PARENTING PROGRAM: **10 LOCATIONS**

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM: **3 LOCATIONS**



NOCE'S STRONG COMMUNITY PARTNER NETWORK

NOCE's network proudly consists of over 300 active community partners. Below are the diverse categories and sectors with which we have established strong partnerships and collaborations. Our partnerships and collaborations support and benefit all NOCE departments, programs, and services. We are committed to expanding our relationships to ensure we are meeting the changing needs of our vibrant community.

Educational Institutions

- Public and private schools (K-12)
- Colleges, universities, and vocational schools
- Literacy and adult education programs
- After-school and tutoring services

Nonprofit Organizations

- Food banks
- Unhoused shelters and transitional homes
- Advocacy groups
- · Youth mentorship programs
- · Senior services organizations
- Domestic violence shelters
- Veterans services
- Child abuse and neglect prevention
- · Foster and emancipated youth
- LGBTQIA+ organizations
- Canine Companions
- Volunteer and service clubs

Healthcare Organizations

- · Hospitals and clinics
- Community health centers
- Mental health service providers
- Rehabilitation facilities
- Wellness and preventive care programs

Faith-Based Organizations

- · Churches, mosques, synagogues, and temples
- Interfaith coalitions
- Faith-based community service programs

Community Development Organizations

- Neighborhood associations
- Housing cooperatives
- Economic development corporations

Arts and Culture Organizations

- Museums and galleries
- Performing arts centers
- Cultural festivals and heritage committees

Social Services and Advocacy Groups

- Immigration and refugee services
- · Disability support organizations
- Addiction recovery programs
- Crisis intervention centers
- Council on Aging

Public Safety and Justice Entities

- · Police and fire departments
- Legal aid organizations
- Community mediation groups
- Advocacy groups for justice impacted
- Emergency management and prevention

Government Agencies

- · Local, state, and federal government offices
- Public health departments
- City libraries
- Housing authorities
- Public officials and representatives

Technology and Innovation

- Technology incubators and accelerators
- Research and development
- Digital literacy programs
- STEAM initiatives

Businesses and Corporations

- · Corporate and local small businesses
- Retailers and service providers
- · Banks and financial institutions
- Strong workforce organizations
- Job centers and placement agencies
- Chambers of commerce

Sports and Recreation Organizations

- · Parks and recreation departments
- Community sports leagues
- Community centers and gyms
- YMCA/YWCA Programs
- Boys and Girls Clubs

Throughout the Year, NOCE Engaged in Extensive Grassroots Outreach and Partnership Engagement

To connect with diverse communities. During the 2024 Summer and Fall terms, NOCE participated in family festivals, resource fairs, and community events, collaborating with organizations like UDW, the Orange County Office of Probation, and local schools to provide educational resources and enrollment opportunities. Events such as the Santa Ana Zoo meeting, Hunt Library resource fair, and Anaheim's Summer Extravaganza strengthened ties with local partners and expanded access to NOCE programs. In the 2025 Spring Semester, NOCE continued outreach through events like United Way's OC Network of Care Convening and the Orange County Pathways Showcase, where students and parents explored NOCE's Career Technical Education programs through interactive exhibits. Additionally, NOCE expanded its reach to employees at Wincome Hospitality Group and connected with new audiences at the A2MEND Conference in Los Angeles. These efforts reinforced NOCE's commitment to accessible education and engagement.

NOCE's Power Up Resource Fairs

In 2024/25 NOCE's Power Up Resource Fairs connected students and community members with essential resources across multiple campuses and information on NOCE programs and services. The September 18, 2024 event at the Anaheim Campus featured Orange County Social Services Administration's mobile unit, helping with CalWORKS, CalFresh, and Medi-Cal, alongside partners providing free cell phones, health screenings, and financial literacy resources. On December 11, 2024, the Wilshire Center hosted a holiday-themed fair, welcoming nearly 100 attendees and community partners such as Outreach Programs of America, UCI's All of Us Campaign, and Credit.org. The March 5, 2025 fair at the Cypress Center drew hundreds and included collaborations with Cypress College and organizations like OC211, MECCA, CHIRLA, and UCI Health, offering services from legal aid to opioid crisis awareness. These events provided valuable support to NOCE students, faculty, and the broader community.

2024/25: NOCE Engaged in 200+ Outreach Events



600+ Students and families attended Power Up Events hosted in 2024/25

Yanin Martinez is a determined and evolving individual who has embraced the journey of self-improvement through education. Originally from Mexico with a bachelor's degree in physical therapy, Yanin initially sought to continue her career in the U.S. but found her path broadened through the opportunities provided by NOCE. Her time in English as a Second Language (ESL) classes helped her build confidence in her language skills and personal growth. Yanin's confidence has flourished, enabling her to feel empowered in personal and professional spheres, such as engaging in conversations with her husband and mother-in-law, despite the language barrier. Her passion for learning and teaching has evolved, and she is now pursuing a nursing program while also exploring teaching opportunities, hoping to combine healthcare knowledge with teaching in the future. Her journey at NOCE has been transformative, impacting her career and personal development. Yanin credits the support from counselors, instructors, and staff, particularly those who guided her through her challenges in English, parenting, and career

and staff, particularly those who guided her through her challenges in English, parenting, and career education as a personal care aide. She credits the importance of being proactive—meeting with counselors regularly, trying new things, and asking questions—as keys to her success. She also acknowledges the flexibility and resources available to students as a huge benefit. Yanin has grown in her ability to manage her family and work with children, especially those with special needs, and in her academic and professional aspirations. With her sights set on a future where she can blend healthcare and education, Yanin is committed to helping others while pursuing her development in a field she's passionate about.

Yanin Martinez

NOCE English as a Second Language, Career Technical Education Program, and Parenting Programs

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, NOCE IMPLEMENTED VARIOUS MARKETING INITIATIVES

To increase accessibility and awareness of its courses and programs. A new outreach van, funded by the Strong Workforce Regional grant, was acquired to support community events with customized branding and interactive program displays. The Disability Support Services Online Access Pass initiative expanded outreach efforts statewide, partnering with organizations like the Orange County Department of Rehabilitation and Regional Centers, leading to increased student enrollment, Additionally, the Career Technical Education (CTE) Program launched a series of promotional videos highlighting NOCE's supportive culture, which were shared across digital platforms. To further boost enrollment, NOCE partnered with National Cinema Media to run targeted movie theater ads in high-traffic Southern California locations, reaching millions of potential students. These strategic efforts strengthened NOCE's presence and accessibility within the community.

Successful Digital Media Outcomes

Throughout the 2024/25 school year, NOCE partnered with Stamats Communications to run digital advertising for most NOCE instructional programs. NOCE is excited to continue digital advertising into the next school year while also making great strides to streamlining the inquiry-to-application follow-up process.

DIGITAL ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN DATA

5,353

Total Inquiries

50,899

Total Clicks to Apply

NOCE Movie Theater Advertisement



NOCE Staff & Faculty Engagement Video



NOCE Overview Video





INNOVATIVE LEADERS IN NONCREDIT **EDUCATION FIELD**

NOCE Hosts Successful Statewide Noncredit Summit

NOCE proudly hosted the Vision 2030 Noncredit Summit on October 3-4, 2024, bringing together over 300 attendees from more than 40 colleges and districts across California. Held at the Westin Anaheim Resort, this landmark event-part of the California Community College (CCC) Chancellor's Office's Vision 2030 series—focused on the impact of noncredit education in transforming communities through access and inclusion.

Attendees engaged in keynote sessions, panel discussions, and breakout presentations led by esteemed speakers, including CCC Chancellor Dr. Sonya Christian, NOCCCD Chancellor Dr. Byron D. Clift Breland, Senator Josh Newman, and other education and workforce leaders.



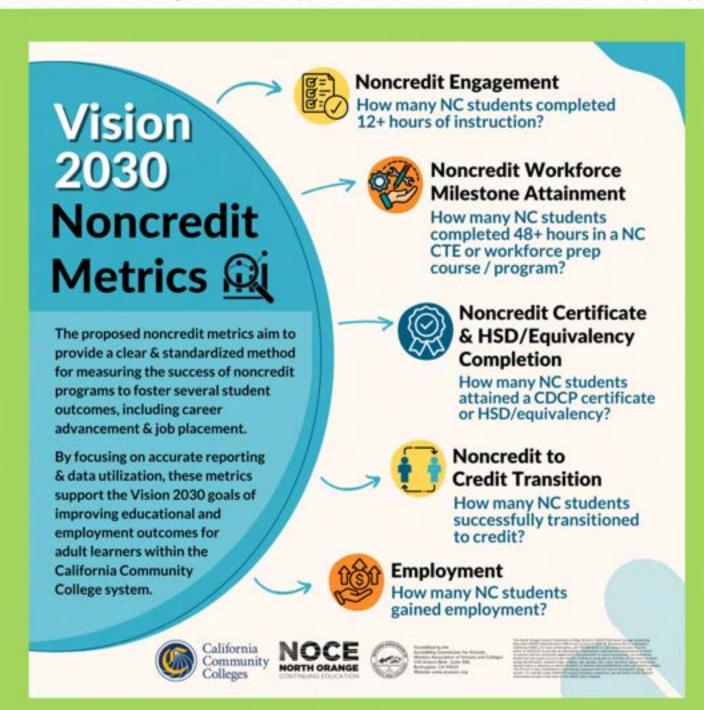
The summit featured insightful discussions on noncredit education's role in workforce development, financial resources, outreach strategies, and data-driven decision-making. Special highlights included student success stories, industry sponsorships, and an innovative event app.





Vision 2030 Noncredit Workgroup Develops Metrics

Following the Adult Education Summit in late Fall 2023, at the request of California Community College (CCC) Chancellor Dr. Sonya Christian, the Vision 2030 Noncredit Workgroup was established to develop recommendations for systemwide noncredit metrics for Vision 2030. This workgroup was established with a team of experts in noncredit education and representatives from the CCC Chancellor's Office. These individuals were carefully selected for their extensive experience and knowledge in the field, ensuring a comprehensive approach to metric development as well as their roles and decision-making authority within the CCC Chancellor's Office. Workgroup meetings took place between November 2023 and April 2024. Subgroups were developed to support an in-depth dialog in the following areas: metrics and accountability, student services, articulation and pathways, and professional development and support. Thank you to the NOCE members serving on this Workgroup: Valentina Purtell, Dulce Delgadillo, Julie Schoepf, Lisa Mednick-Takami, Jason Makabali, and Dr. Harpeet Uppal.



Student Leaders Attend First CCC Student Senate General Assembly

On April 4-April 6, 2025 five NOCE student leaders and the Student Services Coordinator Maria Hernandez attended the 2025 General Assembly for Student Senate for California Community Colleges at the Westin LAX in Los Angeles. During the General Assembly, delegates came together to provide the Board of Directors, through the resolution process, with priorities that guide the organization for the upcoming year. The General Assembly also included engaging workshops and speakers throughout the event. Workshop topics included effective student trusteeship, sustainable advocacy, inclusivity

through accessibility, empowering parenting students, and financial literacy.

NOCE is the only school left in California without a voting delegate - but not for long. With the addition of the Student Trustee, NOCE now qualifies to become a voting member. NOCE staff is working with leadership at the Student Senate for California Community College to complete the process of becoming a voting delegate for Region 8. When that process is completed, NOCE will join the 116 credit colleges and the San Diego College of Continuing Education to have a voting delegate.



Robert Johnson: Championing Student Voices at NOCE

Robert Johnson's journey at North Orange Continuing Education (NOCE) is a powerful example of transformation through opportunity, support, and leadership. He came to NOCE to earn a certificate in Computer Support and Network Technician, seeking practical skills for a meaningful career. While he had faced academic challenges in the past, NOCE's welcoming environment, dedicated instructors, and strong student support helped him regain confidence and thrive. What started as a search for affordable education became a life-changing experience. Robert emphasized that free doesn't mean lesser—in fact, he found NOCE's programs

and educators to be deeply impactful, preparing him confidently for his next steps in education and life.

Beyond academics, Robert quickly emerged as a campus leader. He made history as NOCE's first-ever Student Trustee, served as President of the Technology Club, and represented students on the NOCE President's Cabinet. In these roles, he advocated for the student voice, collaborated with campus and community leaders, and developed public speaking and leadership skills. He credits a strong support system of faculty, staff, and fellow students for helping him discover his voice and sense of purpose. Today, Robert is not only a successful student but also a mentor and advocate, paving the way for future leaders. His journey reflects the power of persistence and the incredible opportunities available at NOCE to those ready to grow and lead.

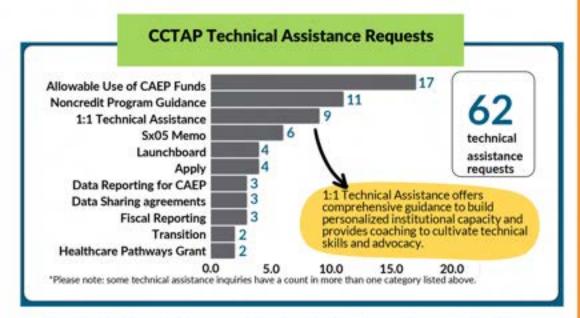
Robert Johnson

Career Technical Education Student, Student Leader, and First NOCE Student Trustee

CCTAP, facilitated by NOCE, leads professional development across the state

The Community College Technical Assistance Provider (CC TAP), facilitated by NOCE, continues to expand its impact by leading professional development and technical assistance for noncredit providers statewide. CC TAP has hosted webinars, trainings, and conference sessions on key topics such as noncredit programming, funding strategies, Al-driven CAEP technical assistance, and equity-centered discussions. Notable events include the first in-person Noncredit 101 training at Foothill College, the Vision 2030 Noncredit Summit, and presentations at the CCCAOE Fall Conference. CC TAP also played a vital role in organizing the annual CAEP Summit, hosting over 80 sessions and providing crucial insights on noncredit course coding and compliance. With a strong presence at conferences, ongoing outreach, and hosted workshops throughout Spring 2025, CC TAP remains committed to strengthening noncredit education across California.





"...It was helpful for me that you explained how FTE works. I really appreciated the explanation of the difference between short-term vocational and workforce preparation programs. Super helpful." - Noncredit 101 Webinar Survey Response

CCTAP Webinar Topics

- Introduction to CC TAP Inaugural Webinar
- Noncredit 101 Webinar
- PLF: Understanding Data
- PLF: CAEP 101 What do Consortia Look Like?
- PLF: CAEP Program Evaluation 101
- · Leveraging Braided Funding Opportunities for Noncredit Program Development
- · PLF: Reporting Student Attendance Hours for CCC Noncredit Programs (SX05)

Upcoming Noncredit Leadership Activities Hosted by NOCE and CC TAP

- August 27, 2025 Hosting Noncredit Regional Workshop at Woodland College
- September 16, 2025 Hosting Board of Governors meeting at the Anaheim Campus
- September 22-25, 2025 Hosting statewide CAEP Summit in Anaheim

AWARDS

NOCE Awards and Achievements for 2023-2025

2025 Orange County Teacher of the Year Nominee

Maryam Rezai, Adjunct Instructor for the English as a Second Language Program



2024/25 Tenured Faculty

Corinna Lopez, ESL Noncredit Instructor (EL Civics), English as a Second Language Program

Dr. Anacany Torres, Counselor (Transition), Counseling and Student Services

NOCCCD DEIAA Women Champions Award Winners

2024 - Dulce Delgadillo, NOCE Director of Research and Planning

2024 - Marlo Smith, Adjunct Faculty Member for ESL Program and NOCCCD Adjunct Faculty United President

2025 - Regina Alcala, NOCE Adult Hourly in the Rising Scholars Program Counseling and Student Services

2025 - Karla Frizler, Associate Dean I for ESL Program and NOCCCD District Management Association President



2023/24 Colleague of the Year Awards

Pragyee Mool, Administrative Assistant II, Office of Institutional Research and Planning

Jennifer Oo, Professor, Career Technical Education Program (not pictured)

Marlo Smith, Adjunct Faculty, English as a Second Language/Citizenship Program

Courtnie Voet, Student Services Specialist, Disability Support Services Program



2024 NOCCCD North Star Award Winner

Denise Mora, Career Center Coordinator II, Career Technical Education Program



AWARDS

NOCE Awards and Achievements for 2023-2025





2024 Davey Award - Silver Award for Online Film and Video

NOCE Student Services Video Tour in collaboration with GradComm

Team: Antionese Cotton, Denise Mora, Jennifer

Congratulations to all NOCE faculty and staff for their outstanding achievements and dedication to student success.







Anaheim Campus 1830 W. Romneya Drive Anaheim, CA 92801 (714) 808-4645



Cypress Continuing Education Center 9200 Valley View Street Cypress, CA 90630 (714) 484-7038



Wilshire Continuing Education Center 315 E. Wilshire Avenue Fullerton, CA 92832 (714) 992-9500

...and over 90+ locations in the community!

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