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41st Annual Orange County Career Forum

March 13, 2026

Orange Coast College
Costa Mesa, California

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NOTES

Workshop 21: Fashion - Lit & Lang 250
How do clothes make it from a designer's sketchbook to your favorite store? Learn what it's like to work in fashion wholesale as a professional in a showroom environment. Get the breakdown on how brands sell collections to retailers, how trends turn into purchase orders, and what happens during market appointments. We'll talk about relationship-building, sales strategy, travel, trade shows, and the fast-paced nature of working between designers and stores. If you're curious about the business of fashion, and how to build a successful career without being a designer, this session will give you a real-world look inside the industry.
Presented By: Marissa Balagot, Fashion Professional

Workshop 22: From Posts to Paychecks: How Brands & Influencers Make Real Content - Lit & Lang 251
Ever wonder how brands make it to your feed — and who's behind it? We'll pull back the curtain on how a content agency operates. You'll learn how professional creators and marketers plan, make, and measure content that gets results for major brands. We'll analyze real posts, break down what works (and what flops), and you'll walk away with a framework you can apply to your own social media — whether that's for a side hustle, a personal brand, or your first job in the industry.
Presented by Marc Kharrat, Head of Agency, Foodbeast

Workshop 23: Behind the Scenes of Pro Sports - Lit & Lang Room 252
Ever wonder what goes on behind the scenes of your favorite teams? Dive into the action and hear from an insider who works in sports marketing and community outreach for the Anaheim Ducks. Find out how they shape the game and make an impact off the ice!
Presented By: Greg Hughes, Asst. Manager, Fan Development Marketing

Workshop 24: Start Your Own Business: What It Really Takes - Lit & Lang 253
Starting a new business, running it, AND marketing it to the world is not as easy as it sounds. (And it doesn't actually sound that easy!) But, there are some things that can help you along the way. In this session, entrepreneur Michelle Almonte will give you some simple strategies to keep you focused, on track, and successful.
Presented By: Michelle Almonte, Founder and Creative Director, Michelle Sheppard Events

CRF OC

INSPIRING ORANGE COUNTY STUDENTS THROUGH CIVICS AND EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

Conference Schedule

Registration	9:00 am - 9:45 am
Session 1	9:55 am - 10:55 am
Session 2	11:05 am - 12:05 pm

Students must complete and return the enclosed evaluation form in order to receive lunch.

Workshop Registration

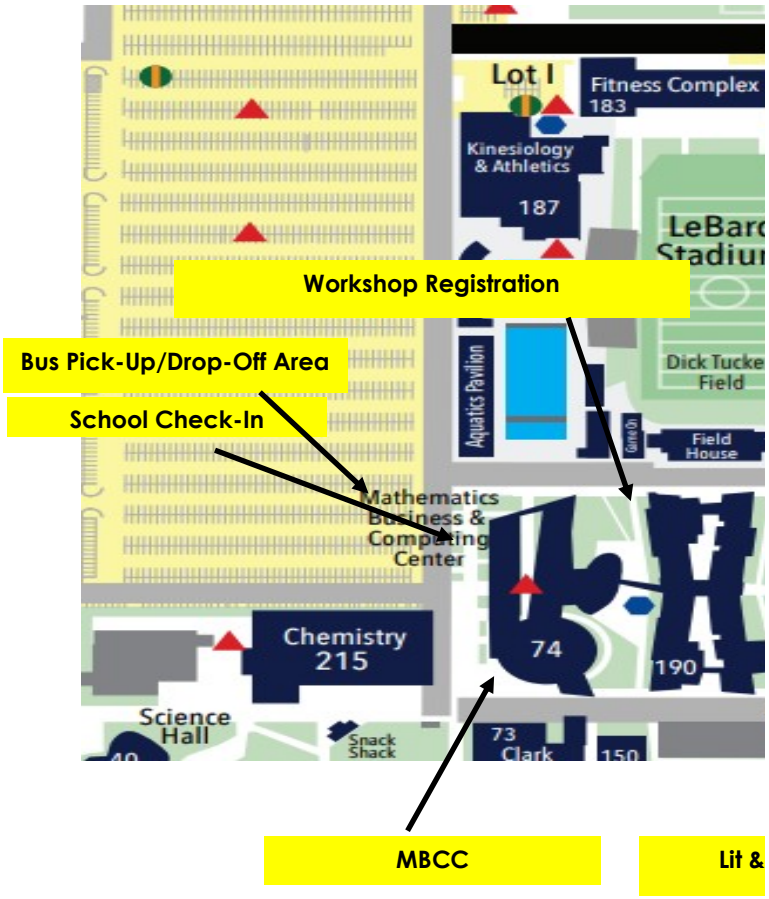
The workshops listed on the following pages are identified by a number. Each session is represented by a different color (red for session 1, blue for session 2). Students *must* attend the workshop they registered for during the appropriate session. Students may not attend the same workshop twice.

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2026 Orange County Career Forum
Orange Coast College Map



Workshop 17: Woodworking Careers: From Craftsmanship to Manufacturing - Lit & Lang Room 238

Woodworking can be a career and not just a hobby! Woodworking is an important part of many industries, including home building and commercial furnishings. If you are interested in manufacturing, forestry, art & design or millwork, there is a place in the industry for you. Come hear from a professional about the latest tools and technologies, as well as how to pursue a career in the field!

Presented By: Saul Martin, Professional Education Manager, Architectural Woodwork Institute

Workshop 18: Artificial Intelligence Careers and the Future of Work - Lit & Lang Room 239

Artificial Intelligence is reshaping the job market across every industry — from healthcare and entrepreneurship to marketing and operations. Learn how you can prepare for the AI frontier by building communication, critical thinking, and prompting skills to give you a competitive edge. Real-world examples and an AI exercise will show you how to use AI as a tool for productivity, not a shortcut — positioning you for the future of work.

Presented By: Sagar A. Patel, Founder / CEO, Ocean Calm Advisory Group

Workshop 19: Flying the Friendly Skies: Become a Pilot - Remain in Registration Area

Interested in aviation? Learn about the path to become a pilot, how to get there, the types of jobs available in aviation, and the future of the industry. Hear from a pilot who has flown for an airline, private, and charter flights.

Presented By: Joe Ettlin, Alaska Airlines

Workshop 20: Banking - Lit & Lang 241

Curious about careers that involve money, problem-solving, and helping people? Banking offers a wide range of paths you can start exploring now—from tellers and customer service to future opportunities in lending, and technology. If you enjoy working with people, analyzing numbers, or using tech to solve real-world problems, banking has a career for you.

Presented By: Christopher M. Naghibi, Esq., Executive Vice President - Head of Multifamily at Colorado Federal Savings Bank, Managing Partner, Black Crown Law APC, Owner, Black Crown Realty & Black Crown Management, Owner & Co-Host of The Higher Standard Podcast

Workshop 12: Careers Inside the Courthouse: Jobs Beyond Being a Lawyer - Lit & Lang Room 221

Interested in the justice system? There are jobs in the field that aren't just for lawyers or paralegals. Hear from professionals in the legal field regarding job opportunities beyond practicing law. Learn about the career paths available, and how to get started. This session will open your eyes to all the ways you can make an impact in the legal world!

Presented By: Ernest M. Montoya, Orange County Superior Court, Staffing, Classification & Compensation Officer, Alma Guzman, Orange County Superior Court, Court Interpreter Manager

Workshop 13: Careers in Law - Lit & Lang Room 223

If you are looking to learn more about legal jobs, this session is for you! Hear from lawyers about how they spend their days (in and out of court) and hear from the paralegals that support them!

Presented By: Tiffanny Brosnan, Employment Law Partner at Snell & Wilmer, Geoff Moore, Assistant General Counsel, Hyundai Motor America, Ana Anjan, Senior Associate, Risk Management & Compliance, Hyundai Motor America

Workshop 14: Mechanical Engineering - Lit & Lang Room 235

Ever taken something apart just to see what's inside? Did you ask yourself how it works? Engineering is about curiosity, problem solving, and efficiency; ideas that you already apply on the daily. There's a way to take it to the next level. But how to get started? There are a lot of options and some mysteries about what it means to become an engineer.

Presented By: Mauricio Segovia, PhD, Mechanical Engineer

Workshop 15: Education: Create, Inspire, Educate - Lit & Lang Room 236

We need great educators more than ever! Education is an exciting and rewarding field to pursue - not just for teachers and administrators, but also for specialized roles. Find out how you can become part of this impactful career path.

Presented By: Colleen Mangali, Program Manager, Career Education, Orange County Department of Education, Pilar Comparan, Project Manager, Career Education, Orange County Department of Education

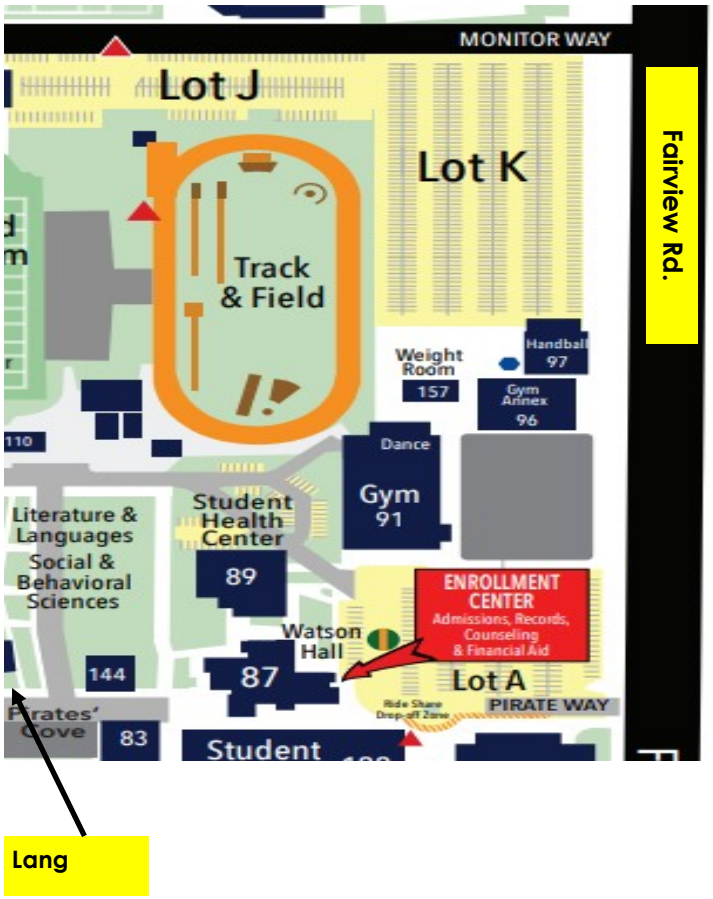
Workshop 16: Financial Advising: Plan for Success - Lit & Lang Room 237

Want to help people use their money to create financial freedom, peace of mind and a lasting legacy? Do you have passion, integrity and empathy? Listen to what motivates this financial advisor to get up each day and help people with their money. Learn how you can be happy and do well by doing good for others.

Presented By: Patrick Stoll, Private Wealth Advisor, Northwestern Mutual and Danielle Shaver, Assoc. Dir. of Intern Development, Northwestern Mutual

Workshop #s 1-6: MBCC (1st & 2nd Floor)

Workshop #s 7-24: Lit & Lang (2nd Floor)



Workshops #s 1-6: MBCC (1st and 2nd Floor)

Workshop 1: FBI - MBCC 163
This is a rare opportunity to hear from one of the FBI's finest agents! Agents work on everything from undercover operations to cyber-crimes. How does one become an FBI agent? What are the necessary academic and personal qualifications? What are the dangers?
Presented By: David Staab, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Workshop 2: Nursing: Make a Difference, Every Day - MBCC 164
There is something for everyone in nursing. Attend this workshop for an informative discussion and learn how nursing provides career opportunities at the bedside, in the community, teaching, and across the business world. If you love caring for others, nursing may be the career for you!
Presented By: Lindsay Holt, PhD, RN, CPAN, CCRN, HS Assistant Professor, Assistant Director Pre-Licensure Program, Sue and Bill Gross School of Nursing UC Irvine

Workshop 3: Lights! Camera! Action!: Filmmaking- MBCC 201
Developing a film or television project takes imagination, persistence, and a collaborative team with diverse creative skills. Hear from industry professionals as they walk through how an idea evolves from concept to screen, sharing real-world insight into the stages of development, production, and post-production. Participants will gain a behind-the-scenes look at how writers, directors, producers, and crew work together to bring a story to life.
Presented By: Paloma Riojas - Writer/Producer, William Hellmuth - Director of Photography, Noemí González - Actor/Producer, Ijaaz Noohu - Director

Workshop 4: Architecture - MBCC 204
Architects create our built environment! Step into the world of a decorated architect to hear the secrets to a successful career and explore alternate career paths within the architecture profession. This hands-on workshop will provide you an opportunity to create something unique, giving you a glimpse into how you can influence the experiences of communities you live and play in every day.
Presented By: Rita S. Carter, AIA, Assoc. DBIA, Client Leader/Principal, DLR Group

Workshop 5: Auto Tech Careers: Gear Up for Success - MBCC 206
Interested in becoming a mechanic? Learn the essential steps to build a successful career in the automotive repair industry. Hear about the skills and qualifications needed, tools of the trade, and the career paths available. You will learn about the importance of hands-on experience, the role of certifications, and how to stay up-to-date with industry innovations. This session will equip you with the knowledge to start and thrive in your mechanic career.
Presented By: Jacob Hamrick and Mike Russell, Automotive Technology, Golden West College, Diane Rochat, Outreach Specialist, Business & Career Education

Workshop 6: Becoming a Musician - MBCC 207
Are you interested in what it takes to become a touring musician? Whether you want to be a full time musician or just have a side gig, you will discover how to break into this dynamic world and build a career that fulfills your dreams.
Presented By: Josh Partington, Guitarist, Something Corporate

Workshop #s 7-24: Lit & Lang (2nd Floor)

Workshop 7: Police and Firefighters: Careers That Make a Difference - Lit & Lang 201
Looking to make a difference in your community? Hear from police and firefighters who help keep our communities safe. Learn about the responsibilities and the ups and downs of their jobs. You will also learn about the process of getting hired with a local police/fire department.
Presented By: Maurilio Torres, Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue, Scott Baker, Training Officer, Costa Mesa Police Department

Workshop 8: Building Our World: Careers in Construction - Lit & Lang 203
Meet Build California, a one-stop shop for information on construction careers, training, and jobs. Learn about life-changing opportunities and exciting career paths many people have never heard of. Get a fresh look into the construction industry! You will hear directly construction professionals share their personal career journeys.
Presented By: Lyn Nhong, Workforce Outreach Manager, AGC of California Elizabeth Sanchez, Preconstruction Specialist, Shawmut Design and Construction Melissa Uscanga, Senior Outreach Coordinator, Ghirardelli Associates

Workshop 9: Careers in the Operating Room & Medical Field - Lit & Lang Room 204
If you are interested in a career in medicine, there are many opportunities in the operating room - from surgeon to surgical tech. Hear from a surgeon who has a long career with experience in the operating room (including robotic-assisted surgery) about all of the different jobs available in this exciting field!
Presented By: Nora Evans, MD

Workshop 10: See Yourself as an Optometrist - Lit & Lang Room 205
Optometry is the cheat code career people wish they knew sooner. High pay, great hours, and meaningful work every day. You're a doctor who helps people daily without living at work. It's healthcare...without the chaos.
Presented By: Thahn Mai, OD, FSLS, Insight Vision OC

Workshop 11: Event Planning - Lit & Lang 220
Do you enjoy entertaining and planning events? Come learn what goes into planning these events and how to make that a full time job. Hear from an event planner who plans weddings, corporate events, and fundraisers!
Presented By: Scott Lu, Principal Planner, Scott Lu Events & Productions