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# NEWS

## PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Juan Gutierrez, Director, Marketing and Public Relations  
(714) 432-5725

Maricela Sandoval, Coordinator, Student Equity  
(714) 432-6844

[msandoval46@occ.cccd.edu](mailto:msandoval46@occ.cccd.edu)

## Orange Coast College Schedules Food Pantry Grand Opening for Jan. 22



Orange Coast College is kicking off the New Year with the grand opening of its Pirates' Cove food pantry on Jan. 22 from 10 a.m. until Noon. Members of the media and the general public are invited to attend the event, which is sponsored by Whole Foods.

Pirates' Cove will expand on the College's previous food pantry with more fresh food options and a workspace intended to help students connect with representatives from community programs.

"The idea behind the Cove is that it could be a one-stop location for students who need immediate help, such as those experiencing food insecurity or homelessness," says OCC Student Equity program coordinator Maricela Sandoval. "In addition to building a larger food storage area, we've created a space where representatives from our partner organizations, such as CalFresh, can meet with students to see if they qualify for aid."

OCC has partnered with Second Harvest Food Bank Orange County to stock Pirates Cove, as well as student clubs and honor societies who have contributed through food drives, such as the OCC

Food Riders club.



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The College also received one-time funding to set up the Cove through the California Community College Chancellor's office via a program titled "Hunger Free Campus," which seeks to address nutritional deficiencies among college students.

"We have been so fortunate to partner with some amazing organizations, including local nonprofit Second Harvest OC, which is providing the majority of the food in our pantry and has loaned us a refrigerator so that we can give students access to fresh food items," says Sandoval. "Right now, we are hoping the Cove will serve as a hub for access to basic needs, so that students who are trying to better their lives through education don't have to worry about hunger on top of everything else they might be challenged with."

The Pirates' Cove will be located in OCC's Journalism building, on the northwest side of campus. The College's Student Equity program plans to have the pantry fully operational by the start of OCC's Spring 2018 semester on Jan. 29.

For a map of OCC's campus visit [map.orangecoastcollege.edu](http://map.orangecoastcollege.edu)

*[Orange Coast College](http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu), founded in 1947, is one of the nation's top transfer schools. With a student population of 25,000, OCC provides exemplary programs leading to Associate degrees and 130 career programs. The college's 164-acre campus is located in the heart of Costa Mesa.*