Mission Statement
The mission of the Orange County Community Colleges Legislative Task Force (OCCCLTF) is to find unity in legislative positions affecting the four districts in Orange County (Coast Community College District, North Orange County Community College District, Rancho Santiago Community College District and South Orange County Community College District) and to educate, inform and influence legislators on behalf of the 300,000 community college students in Orange County.

Objectives
- Share legislative information affecting community colleges at the state and federal levels
- Familiarize task force members with state and federal legislative agendas
- Define the task force “ask”
- Agree on legislative direction and advocate as a larger voice

2012-2013 Legislative Priorities
- Veterans Affairs
- Student Success/Completion Agenda (define “completion” for legislative purposes and include vocational program completions.)
- Pell Grants and other financial aid programs that benefit students

2012-2013 Membership
South Orange County Community College District (Chair, 2012-2013)
Mr. Gary Poertner, Chancellor
Ms. Marcia Milchiker, Trustee
Ms. Tere Fluegeman, District Director – Public Affairs

Coast Community College District
Dr. Andrew Jones, Chancellor
Ms. Mary Hornbuckle, Trustee
Dr. Martha Parham, District Director – Public Affairs

North Orange County Community College District
Dr. Ned Doffoney, Chancellor
Ms. Donna Miller, Trustee
Ms. Kai Stearns Moore, District Director – Public Affairs
Mr. Wayne Wedin, Community Member

Rancho Santiago Community College District
Dr. Raul Rodriguez, Chancellor
Ms. Arianna Barrios, Trustee
Mr. Brian Conley, Community Member
Mr. Ryan Ahari, Student Representative
Outcomes for Student Veterans: 2011-2012 Legislative Session

A large number of veterans are expected to be discharged as the U.S. Armed Forces draws down its presence in Iran and Afghanistan. These veterans may need time to transition, heal, establish residency, find jobs and establish educational plans. These two bills help support veterans as they transition back into civilian life and give them greater flexibility and accessibility in using their educational benefits. The Orange County Community Colleges Legislative Task Force helped to author and advocate for these bills throughout the legislative year.

**AB 2478 (Hayashi) – Student residency requirements.** This bill expands the current exemption given to veterans from paying non-resident tuition at California Community Colleges from one year to two years, provided they were a member of the Armed Forces stationed in CA on active duty for more than one year immediately prior to being discharged. This benefit must be used while he or she lives in CA, within two years of being discharged, and requires that the student file an affidavit with the community college stating that he or she intends to establish residency in California. The intent is to give Veterans a longer period of time to begin their education plans and establish state residency. The OCCLTF helped to author this bill and strongly advocated for it.

**AB 2133 (Blumenfield) – Priority registration.** Allows a former member of the Armed Forces to use his or her four years of priority registration enrollment at the California State University (CSU) and the California Community Colleges (CCC) within 15 years of leaving active duty. Safeguards in the bill protect the interests of the state while encouraging Veterans to complete their educational goals in a timely manner. Aligning these time periods helps veterans capture the federal benefits they earned and use them here in California. It also aligns priority registration with the 15-year period that Veterans are eligible to use their G.I. Bill benefits. The OCCLTF strongly advocated for this bill.

**AB 2462 (Block) – Academic credit for prior military academic experience.** Requires the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to determine which courses should be awarded credit for prior military academic experience using standards of the American Council on Education. This bill passed with an amendment to delay implementation until July 1, 2015. The OCCLTF supported this bill.

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