

Community Colleges See Full-Time Enrollment Boost

Total Attendees Down; Jobs Trump Education

By KAITLIN AQUINO

Orange County community colleges saw a rise in full-time enrollment last year, though their total enrollment figures took a hit.

The area's nine community colleges reported total enrollment declined 1.5% to 121,822 this year, according to this week's Business Journal list.

That follows a 10% decline in last year's list; two years ago the decline was 21%.

The drop in local enrollment comes amid a national decline.

Community colleges across the country saw a 7.8% drop in enrollment over last year, according to education data firm **National Clearinghouse Research Center**.

Saddleback College in Mission Viejo this year saw the largest drop in part-time and total enrollment. Part-time enrollment is down 24% to 9,647, while total enrollment dropped 16% to 16,218—a continuation of its 38% drop the year prior.

The decline, according to **South Orange Orange County Community College District** Chief Communications Officer **Letitia Clark**, follows the nationwide trend of people postponing their education—an effect of the economic crisis caused by the pandemic.

"People are focusing on family demands rather than their education during these tough



Costa Mesa's Orange Coast College enrollment up 15%

times," she told the Business Journal.

Shrinking family sizes, aging population and the rising cost of living in Orange County are also contributing factors to the area's declines in community college enrollment, Clark said.

The average rent in Anaheim, the largest city in Orange County by population, saw an 11% year-over-year increase to an average of \$3,381 per unit, according to a report in April by real estate market tracker **Redfin Corp.** (Nasdaq: RDFN).

OC is "a more affluent area, so it's tougher to live here," Clark said. "That contributes to food and housing insecurity. When we have those factors, sometimes it's hard to grow a population where we see students [continue their education]."

California State University, Fullerton President **Fram Virjee** has also seen a decline in community college transfer applications to CSUF for the same economic reasons.

Community college students "often have more demanding financial obligations to take care of their families," he told the Business Journal (see story, page 1).

All figures for colleges on the list solely report students enrolled in unit and credit classes, with the exception of **Santiago Canyon College**.

Majority Declines

Five of OC's community colleges reported declines in total enrollment.

Three of the five—**Golden West College** in Huntington Beach, **Fullerton College** and **Irvine Valley College**—saw enrollment

drops ranging from 2% to 3%.

Cypress College saw this year's second-biggest decline in enrollment, an 8% drop to 12,740. Its part-time enrollment fell 18% to 7,537.

"When there are a lot of jobs available and we have a very low unemployment rate, our enrollment suffers. People are working, they're postponing their education because they have jobs," Cypress College President **JoAnna Schilling** told the Business Journal.

"When there are jobs, people tend to leave school and often come back later, when the job market is not so strong."

On Upswing

Four other OC community colleges reported increases.

Enrollment at **Orange Coast College** in Costa Mesa jumped 15% to 16,568, while **Coastline College** in Fountain Valley rose 10% to 9,308. Both colleges, along with **Golden West College**, belong to the **Coast Community College District**.

Santiago Canyon College in Orange saw a 2.8% increase in total enrollment to 14,484.

To further increase enrollment, the college has initiated a marketing campaign that targets students looking to earn an associate degree while still attending high school—a market the school has yet to fully tap into.

According to Santiago Canyon College Interim President **Enrique Perez**, "dual enrollment [in high school and community college] is not for everyone. It's for that student who's really driven and really looking to graduate with an associate degree." ■

The LIST

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THE LIST COMMUNITY COLLEGES



JOHN C. HERNANDEZ
President
Irvine Valley College



TIM MCGRATH
President
Golden West College



ANNEBELLE NERY
President
Santa Ana College



ENRIQUE PEREZ
Interim President
Santiago Canyon College



JOANNA SCHILLING
President
Cypress College

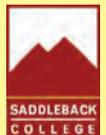


ANGELICA L. SUAREZ
President
Orange Coast College

THE LIST COMMUNITY COLLEGES

▶ NEXT WEEK'S LISTS *Automakers, Auto Dealers*

LISTED ALPHABETICALLY BY DISTRICT, THEN SCHOOL NAME

School •Address	School logo	Full-time enrollees •Part-time •Total	2021-2022 associate degrees awarded	Full-time faculty •Part-time •Total	Notable trade/vocational programs	Year established	Top local official •Title •Phone/Fax	
Coast Community College District 1370 Adams Ave. Costa Mesa 92626-5429 Website: cccd.edu Email: publicaffairs@ccd.edu		10,556 25,021 35,577	7,195	436 1,417 1,853		1947	Whitney Yamamura chancellor (714) 438-4600	
Orange Coast College 2701 Fairview Road Costa Mesa 92626-5563 Website: orangecoastcollege.edu		6,744 9,824 16,568	2,368	257 488 745	Culinary arts, sailing and seamanship, Allied Health Professions, fashion, photography and video, welding, aviation	1947	Angelica L. Suarez president (714) 432-5072	
Coastline College 11460 Warner Ave. Fountain Valley 92708-2597 Website: coastline.edu		712 8,596 9,308	1,414	51 303 354	Cloud computing/Amazon Web Services, cybersecurity, data analytics, emergency management, paralegal, real estate	1976	Vince Rodriguez president (714) 546-7600	
Golden West College 15744 Goldenwest St. Huntington Beach 92647-3103 Website: goldenwestcollege.edu		3,100 6,601 9,701	3,413	128 626 754	Criminal justice, nursing, cosmetology, automotive technician	1966	Tim McGrath president (714) 892-7711	
North Orange County Community College District 1830 W. Romneya Drive Anaheim 92801-1819 Website: nocccd.edu		11,767 19,010 30,777	5,129	532 760 1,292		1965	Byron Breland chancellor (714) 808-4500	
Totals for the district								
Cypress College 9200 Valley View St. Cypress 90630-5805 Website: cypresscollege.edu Email: info@cypresscollege.edu		5,203 7,537 12,740	1,632	226 336 562	Automotive technology; aviation; airline travel careers; mortuary science and funeral services (baccalaureate); dental hygiene; nursing; hotel, restaurant, and culinary arts	1966	JoAnna Schilling president (714) 484-7000	
Fullerton College 321 E. Chapman Ave. Fullerton 92832-2011 Website: fullcoll.edu Email: campus.communications@fullcoll.edu		6,564 11,473 18,037	3,497	306 424 730	Business administration, pre-nursing, business management, computer science, psychology, kinesiology, career education	1913	Monte Perez interim president (714) 992-7000/(714) 992-9933	
Rancho Santiago Community College District 2323 N. Broadway Santa Ana 92706-1606 Website: rsccd.edu		6,591 22,138 28,729	4,064	307 1,384 1,691		1915	Marvin Martinez chancellor (714) 480-7300	
Totals for the district								
Santa Ana College 1530 W. 17th St. Santa Ana 92706-3398 Website: sac.edu		3,608 12,637 16,245	2,509	215 1,184 1,399	Automotive technology, criminal justice, fashion design and merchandising, fire technology, medical assistant, nursing, Orange County Sheriff Regional Training Academy, occupational therapy assistant, paralegal, welding	1915	Annebelle Nery president (714) 564-6000	
Santiago Canyon College 8045 E. Chapman Orange 92869-4512 Website: sccollege.edu		2,983 9,501 12,484	1,555	92 200 292	Online real estate programs; STEM programs; nursing assistant, water utilities, bio-technology program	1985	Enrique Perez interim president (714) 628-4900	
South Orange County Community College District 28000 Marguerite Parkway, Ste. 3699 Mission Viejo 92692-3635 Website: socccd.edu		11,352 15,387 26,739	6,873	341 877 1,218		1967	Julianna Barnes chancellor (949) 582-4850	
Totals for the district								
Irvine Valley College 5500 Irvine Center Drive Irvine 92618-0301 Website: ivc.edu		4,781 5,740 10,521	3,112	150 322 472	Engineering, accounting	1985	John C. Hernandez president (949) 451-5100	
Saddleback College 28000 Marguerite Parkway Mission Viejo 92692-3635 Website: saddleback.edu Email: jmccue@saddleback.edu		6,571 9,647 16,218	3,761	191 555 746	Nursing, paramedic, architecture, culinary arts, automotive technology	1968	Elliot Stern president (949) 582-4500	

Note: To the best of our knowledge, this information is accurate as of press time. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy and thoroughness of the list, omissions and typographical errors sometimes occur. Unless otherwise noted, the information on this list was provided by the companies themselves. List may not be reprinted without permission of the editor. Photos show the first top official listed.

Researched by Meghan Kliever