



25

YEARS

PROUDLY SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

ORANGE COUNTY  
CONSERVATION CORPS

# ANNUAL REPORT

2018 - 2019

# Message from the CEO



**Dear Friends:**

**The Orange County Conservation Corps (OCCC) works each day to fulfill our mission of serving young, at-risk adults through training, skills development, employability and educational programs that build self-sufficiency and benefit the community through conservation-driven projects.**

This mission is accomplished and driven by the exceptional staff and Corpsmembers that make our organization thrive each day. These young adults of our community enter our doors, ready to become Corpsmembers and take critical and measured steps towards a bright and robust future. Some have never worked on projects like the ones they are volunteering to face each day yet, they are committed, determined, and because of this, they are successful.

Our Corpsmembers are vital to so many conservation driven projects throughout the county, and in turn, these projects are critical to their growth and success both personally and professionally. Elevating these young adults through these projects has been a rewarding experience for our staff, the real backbone of this organization. They are the ones coordinating the 6:30 a.m. crews and making sure we run at tip-top shape to ensure

our Corpsmembers get the program they deserve. I am truly grateful for their daily work and sacrifice.

As an organization, we are indeed thriving, but the work could not be possible without our generous and supportive donors and sponsors. Your partnership and trust have given us the ability to make our corps a top-tier organization for our communities' youth and environment, and you have my deepest gratitude. As we move onward, I look forward to keeping you all informed.

Thank you all for another successful year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katharyn O. Muñiz". The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Katharyn O. Muñiz**  
Chief Executive Officer

## Board of Directors

**Jose Sandoval**  
Chairman

**Mark Yarter**  
Vice Chair

**Barbara Whitney**  
Secretary

**Richard R. Licerio**  
Treasurer

**Kris Murray**

**Dan Harden**

**Daisy Sarmiento**

**Genoveva Meza Talbott**

**Pearl S. Boelter**

**Silvia Ichar**

**Henry Barbosa**

## Executive Committee

**Jose Sandoval**  
Chairman

**Mark Yarter**  
Vice Chair

**Barbara Whitney**  
Secretary

**Richard R. Licerio**  
Treasurer

## Fundraising Committee

**Mark Yarter**  
Chairperson

**Daisy Sarmiento**  
Entrepreneur

## Board Development Committee

**Barbara Whitney**  
Chairperson



## CORPSMEMBER ACCOMPLISHMENTS



91%

of Every Dollar Goes to Corpsmembers and Program Services.

OVER  
83,000

Paid Job Training Hours Performed.

OVER  
350

Vocational Certificates of Achievement Earned by Corpsmembers.

OVER  
\$60,000

in AmeriCorps Scholarship Awards earned by Corpsmembers.

## AGE DEMOGRAPHICS

OVER

**500**

Corpsmembers served throughout the year.

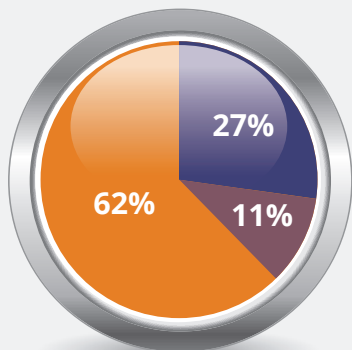
**62%**

of Corpsmembers are 20 years old or younger.

**75%**

of Corpsmembers entered the program without any prior work experience.

**Ages ranging from 18-25**



- 18-20
- 21-23
- 24-25



# Alumni Spotlight

## Stay Hungry - Achieve Your Goals

In 2017, Alex Lopez was looking for work and, in the meantime, was taking on odd jobs to generate income. He went online to search for employment and found a corpsmember listing at the Orange County Conservation Corps (OCCC). He decided that it was worth reaching out, and in fifteen minutes, Alex had an interview scheduled.

While working at OCCC as a Corpsmember Alex learned how to operate power tools, manage native and non-native plants, amongst other landscaping skills. He found the work very rewarding, and he especially enjoyed tree cutting but, after three years, Alex decided that it was time to start looking into what he wanted for his future.

As a child, Alex loved to cook, and he often used his pocket money to buy ingredients and prepare delicious and creative meals. His favorite dish to make was spaghetti and meatballs. Cooking has always been a passion for Alex, so when the OCCC notified Corpsmembers that the Marriott was hiring a dishwasher/steward, Alex was sure that this was his next step - he was right.



Alex Lopez,  
Alumnum, Age 26

As a dishwasher/steward at the Marriott, Alex gained hands-on experience in a professional kitchen. He enjoyed the fastpaced hustle and bustle of the kitchen and admired the work the chef performed with this crew. Sometimes, Alex would bring the meals he prepared at home to share with his coworkers, and eventually, this practice caught the attention of management. Impressed with what Alex could make, they offered him a position as a station attendant where he would prepare cold line meals and room service.

Alex was thrilled and knew that he has now positioned himself to be closer to his ultimate goal of becoming an executive chef in a professional kitchen. He is currently looking into culinary school and is working hard in hopes of becoming a banquet chef.



Alex Lopez meeting Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris with fellow Corpsmembers Brandon and Daniela, and OCCC Manager Susan Sorria, and OCCC CEO Katharyn O. Muñiz.

Government Education Day at the California State Capitol, 2019

He credits his ambition to the OCCC staff and their work in driving him to decide on his goals and work to achieve them. His best advice to future corpsmembers is to take full advantage of the opportunities given to them, and if you work hard, you too can achieve your goals. He hopes that, like him, they will hustle and stay hungry.

# Building Bridges to Education

## College & Career Preparatory Academy partnership with the Orange County Conservation Corps

College and Career Preparatory Academy (CCPA) began a partnership in the fall of 2018 with the Orange County Conservation Corps to provide educational services to their Corpsmembers on location. This new partnership has grown the CCPA program on average 60 students. During the 2018-2019 school year there were 123 student enrollments and **26 graduates** from the OCCC program.

CCPA is required to collaborate with federally-funded workforce partners to support job training and placement in employment opportunities, life skills training, certification opportunities, entrepreneurial and leadership training, career exploration, and enrollment in CTE courses. Through these programs, participating students gain real-world skills. The collaboration of CCPA staff and community partners gives students opportunities to explore potential career paths and gain marketable job readiness skills. Through this collaborative effort, CCPA staff arranges community college tours and provides college enrollment information for students and families during pre and/or post-graduation.



With this partnership, students enroll at CCPA following a referral from OCCC. **CCPA provides the educational program support to complete a high school diploma program or equivalency.** Through these collaborative efforts, students experience a supportive educational environment and the opportunity to expand their career readiness skills.

## Program Overview

The Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) recognizes that the traditional public school model is challenged to meet the needs of a growing portion of the county's student population. The College and Career Preparatory Academy (CCPA) was established to provide instructional services that the OCDE does not generally provide for those over 18 years of age; will offer educational services that will benefit its target population; and will support students in a way that focuses on one of the legislative intents in the Charter Schools Act, which is to "increase learning opportunities for all pupils, with special emphasis on expanded learning experiences for pupils who are identified as academically low achieving." To this end, The College and Career Preparatory Academy endeavors to educate a broad range of students from geographically diverse areas throughout Orange County. The target population, residing in any school district in the county, is best served by the College and Career Preparatory Academy due to its capacity and expertise to collaborate with all school districts and county agencies and to centralize educational, workforce, social services, and law enforcement services collectively.

Today, more than ever, students must be prepared to think critically, act creatively, communicate effectively, collaborate generously, and act with character and integrity to become contributing community members, citizens and leaders in the 21st century. This OCDE affiliated charter school supports the alignment of education with workforce investment and economic development, in support of a comprehensive, accessible, and highly-qualified workforce development system.



At the core of a highly skilled and prepared workforce is a rigorous education, one that must be accessible and contain the necessary supports and structures that promote the individual and collective characteristics of a literate and productive citizenry.

CCPA is strengthened through collaboration with a variety of partners. The most important partnerships are those formulated between teachers, students, parents, mentors, and the community. The dynamics among these groups are critical to the planning, implementing, and design of CCPA. Federally-funded workforce agencies and community partners are vital to the academic progress and meaningful learning experiences for CCPA students. These partnerships provide guest speakers, mentors, field trips, career fairs, job shadowing, internships, and community service opportunities.

CCPA's vision and mission is to address the need to increase the graduation rate and decrease the dropout by providing students the opportunities to earn their high school diploma and become college and career ready.



# Our Corpsmembers Making a Difference



**1,500+**  
Native Plants and  
Trees Installed



**415**  
Tons of Recycled  
Materials



**120**  
Miles of Public Roads  
and Alleyways Improved



**100**  
Miles of Public  
Trails Maintained



**85**  
Acres of Invasive  
Vegetation Removed



**47**  
Community Events  
Supported



**45**  
Miles of Flood  
Channels Improved



# Our Corpsmembers are Hard at Work in our Communities

## Natural Resources - City of Anaheim Fire & Rescue

Our Crews were contracted to implement fuel modification in nearly **60 acres** of sensitive habitat areas in Deer Canyon Estates, Pelanconi Park, and Oak Canyon Nature Center.

Corpsmember tasks included: raising tree canopies, thinning vegetation, removal of non-native vegetation, and cutting and chipping of existing dry vegetation. The project provided multiple benefits to surrounding schools, several hundred homes, and businesses that are nestled in Anaheim Hills. This project mitigated risks associated with wildfires to habitable structures and cleared fire roads and trails for emergency vehicles. Other public benefits accomplished were improved public access, enhanced view corridors, and increased viability of coastal sage scrub and other iconic Southern California flora, including the majestic Coastal Oak Trees, beautiful Barbed Cacti, and Willow Trees.



## Recycling - Streets, Alleys, and Highway Cleanups in our Communities

OCCC has forged critical partnerships with city municipalities to clean up streets, alleys, and highways. This concerted effort has improved the esthetics and, more importantly, the environmental health of our communities. During the fiscal year, our corpsmembers removed **3,139 abandoned waste tires** and **137,629 pounds of hazardous electronic waste** discarded on roadsides and alleys. All the collected material was processed at our headquarter building, palletized, and transported to state-certified recycling centers to eliminate landfill waste.

# Thank you to our DONORS AND SPONSORS



## DONORS



## SPONSORS

### Company

Alta Planning + Design, Inc.  
NMC Builders

### Education

Orange County Department of Education  
- College and Career Pathways Academy  
University of California, Irvine

### Government

Anaheim Fire and Rescue  
Anaheim Workforce Development Board  
California Conservation Corps

California Department of Resources  
Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)  
City of Anaheim  
City of Costa Mesa  
City of Garden Grove  
City of Huntington Beach  
City of Irvine  
City of La Habra  
City of Laguna Beach  
City of Laguna Hills  
City of Mission Viejo  
City of Orange  
City of Santa Ana  
County of Orange  
Metropolitan Water District

Orange County Parks  
Orange County Public Works  
Orange County Water District  
Orange County Workforce Development Board  
Santa Ana Watershed Association  
Santa Ana Workforce Development Board  
Waste Management of Orange County

### Nonprofit

Bolsa Chica Conservancy  
Fire Safe Council East Orange County Canyons  
Fullerton Arboretum  
Huntington Beach Tree Society  
Laguna Canyon Foundation  
Orange International Street Faire

# Financials

Year End – June 30, 2019

<b>Grants from governmental agencies</b>	<b>\$ 3,349,283</b>
Fee for service	\$ 1,337,072
Other Contributions	\$ 328,519
	<b>\$ 5,014,874</b>
Program Services	\$ 4,419,615
General & Administrative	\$ 456,171
	<b>\$ 4,875,786</b>
<b>Increase in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 139,088</b>
<b>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>\$ 5,151,060</b>
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 5,290,148</b>

PROUDLY SERVING OUR COMMUNITY



ORANGE COUNTY  
CONSERVATION CORPS

**Orange County Conservation Corps**

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Anaheim, CA 92801

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[www.occorps.org](http://www.occorps.org)