

Employee Relations Analyst Creates Path to Success

Hilda Garcia has worked for local government, in one capacity or another, since age 14 when she joined the City of Santa Ana's Summer Youth Worker Program as a Staff Aid assisting in Health Care Agency Human Resources.

At that time, participants were members of an internship pool that also provided support services to the County of Orange. "I was born and raised right here in Santa Ana, and had heard from friends at school that the County was a great local employer with wonderful management opportunities," she recalls. "The Summer Youth Worker Program was my introduction to the County, where I started to build my office skillset."

When she was 16, Hilda was hired by the County as an Extra Help Staff Aid. "I got my permit and was able to join the Human Resources team to work three hours each day after school. In the summer, I could commit to a heavier schedule," she said. "My mom was a single mother who taught me that, if I wanted something, I had to be willing to work hard for it."

In 1999, Hilda became an Extra Help Office Trainee and achieved permanent employee status two years later as an Office Assistant with the Health Care Agency. As her career progressed, she realized that further advancement would require the attainment of a college degree. Hilda earned a Bachelor of Business Management degree with a Minor in Human Resources by attending evening classes while



maintaining her full-time job – often averaging just three to four hours of sleep each night. "I had to stay personally committed on a tight budget," she recalls. "The County's [tuition reimbursement program](#) helped to offset some of the cost, and I'm grateful. I hope to inspire other people to reach for their goals, even if it takes ten years. Don't give up."

Numerous promotions would follow, leading to the present day and current position of Employee Relations Analyst (Administrative Manager I). As a member of the newly-created Shared Services division within Human Resource Services, Hilda's job duties include providing employee relations, recruitment, personnel, and classification assistance to more than 13 agencies/departments, from which she can be pulled away at a moment's notice to oversee special

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projects. “Even though I’m busy, I love my job,” she said. “You have to be very organized and stay positive. I make a to-do list every morning, and re-rank my priorities as needed.”

Throughout the recentralization process, Human Resource Services has undergone alterations in both staffing and structure. It has benefited Hilda tremendously to view change as an opportunity to meet new people, learn new things and gain new experiences. “I’ve tried to focus on making my colleagues’ jobs easier,” she shares. “It doesn’t matter what level I am, I ask myself what I can do to make a difference in all encounters and situations. I feel fortunate to have a job – and that is the attitude I walk into the office with every day.”

As for the future, Hilda hopes to stay with the County and move onward and upward. She envisions herself as the Director of Human Resource Services or County Executive Officer one day. Though internal job openings can sometimes appear limited, she encourages others to follow the same path she has forged to success: “Decide on your career goals, seek mentors and network with folks who are already in those positions. Try to surround yourself with encouraging people who believe in you. It has made all the difference for me.” ■

Crime Victims’ Monument Design Finalists on Display



Supervisor Todd Spitzer welcomes attendees to an unveiling reception held February 26th for the five Orange County Crime Victims’ Memorial design finalists.

The final proposals in a competition to design the Orange County Crime Victims’ Memorial at Mason Regional Park in Irvine are on display now at the Old Orange County Courthouse in Santa Ana.

The five designs will remain available until March 20th for public viewing and input. They are also available online at <http://bos.ocgov.com/cvm/>. Finalists were selected from 59 entries and include Man-Foo Chu of Washington, Jason Zerafa of New York, Marija Cvejic of Serbia and Joaquin Ochoa and Ivan Juarez, both from Mexico.

“Crime victims deserve a space for solitude, reflection, dignity and peace to honor their loved ones who were afflicted by senseless human acts of selfishness, anger and evil,” Supervisor Todd Spitzer, Third District, said of the memorial.

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The winning design will be announced at Mason Regional Park on April 12th at a special event following the 10th Annual Survive and Thrive Run/Walk Health and Safety Expo.

The goal of this competition is to identify an outstanding artistic compliment to the landscape of the park, creating an iconic gathering space that will provide visitors with a space for contemplation, remembrance and healing. ■

Eco Challenge Recycling Event at Honda Center Nets More than Six Tons



The festive atmosphere at Eco Challenge Recycling Day was highlighted when the youth in attendance called for all of us to “Take the Eco Challenge!”

On Saturday, February 1, cars began lining up at the Honda Center in Anaheim around 5:30 in the morning. One family made it a special occasion by staying in a hotel across the street overnight to ensure a prime spot for the main attraction – a household hazardous waste, e-waste and used clothing disposal event. By day’s end, more than six and a half tons had been collected at OC Waste & Recycling’s (OCWR) Eco Challenge Recycling Day.

Better yet, after delivering their waste, families enjoyed the Anaheim Ducks’ fun zone with street hockey, a bounce house and Ducks awards. Most valuable in prizes included Ducks tickets and the chance to watch the team warm-up during a morning skate session.

Since the opening of the Eco Challenge exhibit in 2012, OCWR has partnered with the Anaheim Ducks and the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim to help increase Orange County’s environmental awareness. These public-private partnerships have brought more than 18,000 visitors to the County-sponsored Eco Challenge Exhibit at the Discovery Science Center in the past year. The interactive Eco Challenge exhibit represents a ten-year investment by the County and an innovative way to educate school-aged children through hands-on experience combining learning with fun.

Eco Challenge Recycling Day was one of three special events that OCWR is organizing at the Honda Center this season. The next will take place on Saturday, April 5th. To learn more, please visit www.ocecochallenge.com. ■

County Celebrates Haster Basin Recreational Park Grand Re-Opening

Supervisor Janet Nguyen was joined by more than 300 Orange County residents, local dignitaries and staff from OC Public Works and OC Parks to celebrate the grand re-opening of the Haster Basin Recreational Park in Garden Grove on February 25th.

The emcee for the ceremony was former OC Public Works Director Ignacio Ochoa, who retired from the County last month. Speakers included First District Supervisor Janet Nguyen, Senator Lou Correa, the former and current mayor of the City of Garden Grove, as well as a representative of the California Department of Water Resources.

The Haster Basin, Recreation Park and Pump Station Project is a hybrid of both flood control protection, and parks and recreation amenities. Approximately two additional acres of usable park area has been added to the First District through the effort, which recently won Parks and Recreation Project of the Year from the American Society of Civil Engineers Orange County Branch.

Although the park serves as an excellent new addition for the community, the primary purpose of the facility is for flood control. The Haster

PARK SLIDESHOW: [CLICK HERE](#)



A ceremonial ribbon was stretched across a full-sized soccer goal at the grand re-opening of the Haster Basin Recreational Park. Please click here to enjoy additional photos from the event.

project was designed to accommodate storm runoff from a 100-year storm event and the retarding basin and pump station work in tandem. The pump station ensures that sufficient volume is available in the 11.5 million cubic-foot basin to accommodate the peak of such a storm.

A grant in the amount of approximately \$15.6 million was awarded from the California Department of Water Resources toward construction of the project. ■

Get Fit with Cigna Healthcare Seminars

Human Resource Services' Employee Benefits staff has scheduled Cigna Healthcare "Get Fit!" seminars throughout the month of March from 12 – 1 p.m.

These presentations will include information about:

- How to design a safe and effective personal fitness plan
- How much, how hard, and how often you need to exercise to see results
- How everyday activities, including simply moving more, can add up to help you reach your fitness goals
- Easy ways to add more physical activity to your daily life
- How tracking your progress will help you to stay motivated and reach your fitness goals

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All attendees receive an activity tracker, courtesy of Cigna Healthcare. The following seminars are open to all County of Orange employees, regardless of health plan election:

Thursday, March 6th

CEO/IT Data Center
Main Meeting Room
1400 S. Grand Ave.
Santa Ana

Monday, March 17th

Health Care Agency
Building E
1729 W. 17th St.
Santa Ana

Monday, March 10th

Probation
***County badge required to enter this facility**
2nd Floor Conference Room
331 The City Drive South
Orange

Wednesday, March 19th

Social Services Agency
Room 200A
12912 Brookhurst St.
Garden Grove

To register, please visit [Training Partner](#) online and select Class Name: Get Fit! ■

Brandman University Offers Reduced Tuition for County Employees

On February 25th, the Board of Supervisors approved and authorized Human Resource Services to execute an agreement with Brandman University to offer reduced tuition for its Irvine Campus programs and related online courses to County of Orange employees.

Reduced rates for undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degree programs are being offered at a discount of 15% - a rate that is 5% more than the previous agreement. Specific rates include: a \$75 per credit reduction from full tuition for undergraduate degrees; a \$90 per credit reduction from full tuition for graduate degrees; and a \$91.50 per credit reduction from full tuition for doctorate in education program starting in Fall of 2014.

Nursing degrees, Extended Education courses and Associate programs are excluded from the 15% tuition reduction; however, Brandman will offer a 10% tuition discount for open enrollment courses delivered by the School of Extended Education. Additionally, a newly discounted, fixed tuition rate of \$5,400.00 per year is being offered for Competency Based Education for the Bachelors in Business Administration degree for students who enroll by August 31, 2014.

To learn more, please contact Jamie Crews at HRS at (714) 834-7055 or jamie.crews@ocgov.com. ■

South County Senior Summit E-Cig Education Event



DON'T MISS THE 7TH ANNUAL
South County Senior Summit

Office on Aging
 Laguna Woods Village

HOSTED BY
 ORANGE COUNTY SUPERVISOR
PATRICIA C. BATES
 ORANGE COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING,
 AGE WELL SENIOR SERVICES,
 LAGUNA WOODS VILLAGE

“Are You Prepared To Age-In-Place?”

☆ Featured Speakers ☆

Nora Eisenhower
 Assistant Director
 Office of Financial Protection for Older Americans

Dr. Laura Mosqueda
 Associate Dean of Family Medicine
 University of California, Irvine

Dr. Marilyn Ditty
 Chief Executive Officer
 Age Well Senior Services

Karen Roper, MBA
 Director
 OC Community Services

Lisa Gibson, MS, RD
 Registered Dietitian
 Age Well Senior Services

Friday, March 21, 2014 - 9 AM to 12:45 PM
Registration begins at 8 AM

Laguna Woods Village, Clubhouse 3
23822 Avenida Sevilla, Laguna Woods, 92637
 Enter at Gate 3 (Calle Aragon) off Moulton between El Toro & Glenwood
 Extra parking available at Clubhouse 1

RSVP required by March 14. Call (800) 510-2020 or (714) 567-7500.

**COMPLIMENTARY BREAKFAST & LUNCH!
 WIN FABULOUS DOOR PRIZES!**



Orange County Sheriff's Department presents

Electronic Cigarettes
The New “E-diction”



Topics Include

- Various types of e-cigs and how they work
- Prevalence in schools and community
- Health concerns
- Prevention tips
- Law Enforcement's approach

Locations:

Dana Point	Laguna Hills	Lake Forest	Rossmoor	Stanton
March 10, 2014 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	March 19, 2014 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	March 25, 2014 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	March 27, 2014 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	March 20, 2014 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Dana Hills High School Theater Room 33333 Golden Lantern Dana Point 92629	Laguna Hills Community Center 25555 Alicia Parkway Laguna Hills 92653 <i>English and Spanish</i>	Lake Forest City Hall 25550 Commerce Centre Lake Forest 92630	Rush Park Auditorium 3121 Blume Drive Rossmoor 90720	Stanton Civic Center 7800 Katella Ave Stanton 90680 <i>English and Spanish</i>

All parents are welcome. There is no cost.

The Orange County Sheriff's Department is hosting multiple public presentations throughout the county on the latest information reference electronic cigarettes / vapor pens. The presentations are open to the public and will be given by Drug Liaison Deputies, professional staff from the Orange County Health Care Agency, Community Outreach Groups, and the Orange County Department of Education. For further information please contact Sgt. Mike Pixomatias at (714) 647-1806 or email at mpixomatias@ocsd.org.



Get the 411 on OC Animal Care

- OC Animal Care employs 127 staff members who work in the following divisions: Shelter Services, Veterinary Services, Customer Services, Field Operations, Accounting, as well as Purchasing and Community Outreach. These employees provide services to 17 contract cities and the unincorporated areas of Orange County.
- At the OC Animal Care shelter in Orange, the team cares for an average of 450 dogs, cats, rabbits, and exotic pets each day. During the busy summer months, this number can exceed 800.
- OC Animal Care hosts a volunteer program, which has more than 400 participants who assist on-site at the shelter as animal socializers and from home as foster caretakers. To find out more about volunteer opportunities like these, please visit <http://ocpetinfo.com/involve/>.
- In 2013, 11,761 pets were adopted into new forever homes and 3,466 lost animals were successfully returned to their owners.
- OC Animal Care investigates animal cruelty, neglect and abandonment cases, and prosecutes perpetrators to the full extent of the law.

To learn more about OC Animal Care, please visit <http://www.OCPetInfo.com>.



Service Awards

For the Month of February

35 YEARS

Corwin Brown
Health Care Agency

Sonia Rodriguez
Social Services Agency

30 YEARS

Jack Meurer
John Wayne Airport

Raymond Oliver
OC Community Resources

Mary Fitzgerald
OC Public Works

Mary Anne Skorpanich
OC Public Works

Cheryl Green
Probation

Sharon Matthews
Probation

Rebecca Menendez
Probation

25 YEARS

Theresa Row
Assessor

Diane Gipson
Health Care Agency

Pamela Gutierrez
Health Care Agency

Kim Phan
Health Care Agency

David Rogoff
OC Community Resources

Clinton Brown
OC Public Works

Thomas Renock
Registrar of Voters

Joe Anaya
Sheriff-Coroner

Daniel Beam
Sheriff-Coroner

Antoinette Bland
Sheriff-Coroner

Donald Dixon
Sheriff-Coroner

William Downard
Sheriff-Coroner

Chi Bui
Social Services Agency

Doreen Cardenas
Social Services Agency

Victor Chavez
Social Services Agency

Susan Collins-Rogers
Social Services Agency

Margarita De Boer
Social Services Agency

20 YEARS

Ana Garcia
Child Support Services

Shelly Howard
Child Support Services

Dora Valencia
Child Support Services

Bernardino Herrera
District Attorney

Reyna Brown Guillen
Health Care Agency

Frank Cabrera
Health Care Agency

Elizabeth Campos
Health Care Agency

Alma Gomez
Health Care Agency

Fabian Mendez
Health Care Agency

Sandra Sagarnaga
Health Care Agency

Roger Yee
John Wayne Airport

Tammy Osborn
OC Community Resources

Michael Ruiz
OC Public Works

Kristine Chavez
Probation

Lori R. Mia
Probation

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