



ORANGE COUNTY MAYOR

Jerry L. Demings

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Greetings,

On behalf of Orange County Government, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics for choosing the Orange County Convention Center (OCCC) to host the 2022 Food and Nutrition Expo in October.

As Mayor of Orange County, I am proud of our world-class *Center of Hospitality* on International Drive. Year after year, industry leaders and trade publications have ranked the OCCC as one of the most sought after convention centers in North America.

Efforts to prioritize the Center's renowned culture of hospitality and health and safety protocols have [resulted in a dozen industry recognitions for the OCCC](#) in 2021. The Center has safely hosted over 210 events through the pandemic, more than any other convention venue in North America.



For years, Orange County has led diversity, equity and inclusion efforts in Florida. In fact, we are currently implementing a comprehensive Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiative to facilitate a government and community-wide culture rooted in diversity, equity and inclusion. Our welcoming community provides the region with quality jobs, broad-based prosperity and a sustainable quality of life.

Increasing economic prosperity in Orange County and maintaining the health and wellbeing of the community is my top priority. In close collaboration with local hospitals, community leaders and health experts, we proactively developed specific countywide policies aimed at preserving the safety of Orange County residents and visitors. Orange County's COVID-19 vaccination rate for ages 18-64 receiving at least one dose of vaccine is 79%. For individuals 65 and up, we are at 92%.

It is important that any prospective convention looking to do business here in Orlando understand we have created a community culture of innovation, collaboration and inclusiveness. This commitment has served our region well in attracting a wide variety of healthcare affiliated conventions. A prime example is the recent [HIMSS22 Global Health Conference and Exhibition](#) held at the OCCC in March, which had nearly 29,000 attendees and a \$102 million in economic impact for Orange County.

Conventions like the 2022 Food and Nutrition Expo collectively contribute approximately \$3 billion in economic impact to Central Florida annually. Additionally, more than 25,600 jobs and 1,000 businesses are positively affected by our event activity.

Our entire community is committed to working together to ensure that your convention will be a great success. With deepest appreciation, I offer my sincere best wishes for a productive and successful event in October.

Thank you for choosing the OCCC to do [Business Better than Usual!](#)

Sincerely,

Jerry L. Demings
Orange County Mayor