Emerging Conversation Themes

On May 5, 2022, CLAOC and Octane hosted an ecosystem gathering welcoming 180 Orange County business, academic, and non-profit leaders to discuss a shared vision of how to build a better OC that will provide opportunities for all communities to thrive. Here are the emerging conversation themes of how the OC region can collaborate to build a thriving OC for all:

1. **Address Affordability & Cost of Living Issues**
   
   Ensure that affordable housing and other necessary infrastructure is readily available to those who need it to live and work in OC.

2. **Brand OC Locally & Nationally**
   
   Promote Orange County’s innovative and diverse ecosystem and leadership that works together to build a robust economy while attracting talent and businesses to the region.

3. **Connect the Talent Ecosystem Across the Region**
   
   Bring together businesses, nonprofits, K-12 schools, community colleges, and universities to promote and track progress towards collaborative talent development.

4. **Expand Career Awareness Opportunities**
   
   Work with employers to provide career awareness and on-the-job training opportunities for middle and high paying jobs.

5. **Support Alternative Career Paths, Hiring Practices, & Skill Acquisition**
   
   Promote and strengthen nontraditional educational pathways and certifications for in-demand skills, and skills-based hiring.