

**Tom O'Connor, BA, NRP**  
**Paramedic/EMT Program Director**



Tom was born and raised on Long Island, NY and worked in the tristate region as a mobile surgical facility operator. He later transitioned into the print business on a domestic and global scale. The draw of medicine pulled him back to take an EMT course in the pursuit of becoming a physician assistant.

The NREMT certification and opportunities in California facilitated a cross-county relocation to begin a career in EMS in Oxnard, CA. He attended the paramedic program at Ventura College in 2006-2007 and returned to Oxnard in this new role, eventually being promoted to Field Training Officer and taking a paramedic internship. Tom was then promoted to Paramedic Field Supervisor and began teaching at Ventura College as an EMT instructor in 2009. He later added paramedic instruction in 2010 and finally transitioned to the full-time program director position in 2013.

Tom holds a BA in Biology from the University of Delaware and an AS in Paramedic Studies from Ventura College.

**Paramedic Faculty**

**John Terrusa BA, NRP, DMT, CCP**  
**Paramedic Instructor**



John is passionate about all aspects of emergency medicine. He is a strong proponent of education and training; that fosters, compassion, and knowledge sharing.

Early in John's career he started off as a student teacher with the Los Angeles Unified School District, but as time moved forward he transitioned career paths; John became a Firefighter/Paramedic and is still proudly serving the citizens of Los Angeles after more than 25 years. Presently, he is a working Firefighter/Flight Paramedic, and truly enjoys being able to be a patient care advocate and to be able to deliver quality optimal medical care in austere conditions. Additionally, John works as a FEMA US&R Critical Care Clinical Instructor (training physicians, and paramedics). He is a Rescue Diver as well as a Diver Medical Technician (DMT) and has worked at both USC and UCLA's hyperbaric chambers. In 2016 John was invited to be an international guest lecturer on "Critical Care Flight Medicine"; with an emphasis on search and rescue flight operations, in Sao Paulo Brazil.

John is grateful to be able to help educate tomorrow's prehospital health care providers.

**Justin Johnson, BS**  
**Paramedic Instructor**

Justin grew up in Ventura County with a goal of becoming an MD. The autonomy and excitement of EMS drew him towards EMT, where he fell in love with prehospital medicine. After working as an EMT in the Los Angeles area for 3 years, Justin attended the Ventura College Paramedic Program in 2006-2007. He then became employed as a Paramedic, serving the citizens of Oxnard and surrounding areas. His years of service in Oxnard yielded experience as a Paramedic, Field Training Officer, Preceptor, and Supervisor. Around the time that he had graduated from the Paramedic Program, Justin recognized a passion for teaching and began teaching psychomotor skills to the EMT classes at Ventura College. He then became an EMT instructor and finally became an instructor for the Paramedic Program at Ventura College.

Justin holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix and an Associate of Paramedic Studies from Ventura College

## ***EMT Faculty***



***Steve McNaughten, BA, EMT  
Adjunct EMT Instructor***

Steve was born and raised in Southern CA and worked in various jobs as a mail-room clerk, grocery clerk, warehouse worker, movie extra and a waiter. He was pursuing the path of business management and economic forecasting. The draw of public service guided him to take fire science and EMT courses in the pursuit of becoming a firefighter.

The opportunities lead to first being a volunteer firefighter and ambulance operator and finally, leading to a career in the Oxnard Fire Department. He eventually was promoted to Battalion Chief. Steve has been teaching at Ventura College as a Professional Expert since 2012 and transitioned to an Adjunct EMT Instructor in 2015.

Steve holds a BA in Economics from California State University Fullerton, an AA in Liberal Arts from Citrus College and an AS in Fire Technology from Rio Hondo College.

***Andrew Dowd, EMT-P  
EMT Instructor***



Andrew is a second-generation firefighter who grew up spending his weekends at the fire station with his dad. His love of firefighting and EMS stayed with him, and after a career in the Telecommunications and Information Technology field, Andrew decided to pursue his life's passion and become a Firefighter. Andrew attended the EMT Program at Santa Barbara City College, the Oxnard College Fire Academy, and the Ventura College Paramedic Program. Andrew is a State Fire Marshall Master Instructor, and holds an A.S. Degree in both Paramedic Studies and Fire Technology.

Andrew has spent the last 12 years with the Santa Paula Fire Department, where he is currently an Engineer on A-Shift. He has also previously served on the Ventura County Pre-hospital Services Committee, and as American Heart Association Instructor and Regional Faculty in BLS, ACLS, and PALS. Andrew started with Ventura College in 2010 as a skills lab instructor, and became a primary instructor for the EMT program in 2013.

***Karen Bateman, RN  
EMT Instructor***



Karen has 36 years as RN with experience in acute care including, Pediatrics, OB, Emergency Department and Nursing Education as Staff Educator and Department Manager.

Karen volunteered for several years as Flight Nurse for Ventura County Search and Rescue Unit.

She began teaching EMT at Ventura College in 1994. Additional experience as American Heart Association Instructor for BLS, ACLS and PALS since 1986