



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT



Photo: Paramedic Class #96.

## ‘We’ve been waiting a long time for this’: Crafton’s Paramedic Class #96 Recognized at First In-Person Ceremony of 2022 Graduation Season

After being canceled twice due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the in-person ceremony honoring Crafton Hills College’s Paramedic Class #96 was held on May 6.

The Finkelstein Performing Arts Center at the Yucaipa college served as the backdrop for the event, which was attended by dozens of family, friends and program supporters. It also kicked off Crafton’s 2022 graduation season.

“We’ve been waiting a long time for this,” said Amanda Ward, director of the paramedic program, to the graduates. “I just want to say thank you for the amount of patience and trust over the last year that you have spent with us.”

Program grads faced many obstacles during their course load, from the unknown to having to spend 8-plus hours a day attending classes held via Zoom after in-person learning shifted online due to the pandemic. They also had to navigate a new

world of care following the rise in COVID-19-related cases, all while completing between 600 and 720 hours of hands-on field work -- with help from program preceptors.

**“You’ll be trusted with a lot of responsibilities. Do them well, and let’s make everyone proud.”**

“I sit and listen to people who are worried about our craft, but I’m not scared at all. There’s nothing more challenging than what you just went through. You have this on lock,” Ward said.

The ceremony featured remarks by Crafton staff and alumni, including guest speaker Jeff Kelsheimer, a program alumnus and current fire captain/paramedic for the Palm Springs Fire Department.

Class #96 presented a plaque honoring their accomplishments that will join others hanging in program headquarters from previous classes. Awards and individual recognitions were also an exciting highlight, as was a student address by James Shin, acting president of the graduating class and the newest member of the Palm Springs Fire Department.

“We are proud of the graduates of this fine program,” he said. “Don’t forget where you came from. This is only the beginning. We are still students of the craft.”

“Embrace opportunities to give back. Think of how many people helped us, shaped us, encouraged us,” Shin continued. “Be a good steward. You’ll be trusted with a lot of responsibilities. Do them well, and let’s make everyone proud.”

Before the ceremony came to a close, there was a special awarding of program pins. This new addition – which organizers hope becomes a graduation tradition – had loved ones come to the front of the stage to “pin” their graduates.

Ward also announced the recipient of the inaugural Tony Giordano Memorial Scholarship, a brand-new fund intended to support paramedic students in memory of Giordano, a program alumnus and former area firefighter who died in July 2021. Shin received the honor this year.

To support the scholarship fund, go to [craftonhills.edu/Giordano](http://craftonhills.edu/Giordano), or send a check payable to Crafton Hills College Foundation to 11711 Sand Canyon Road, Yucaipa CA 92399.

To learn more about the paramedic program, which is the longest-running of its kind and the first Community College-based paramedic program to be accredited, go to [www.craftonhills.edu/paramedic](http://www.craftonhills.edu/paramedic).



Photo: Veteran graduates.

## The Crafton, Veterans Resource Center Honors Veteran Grads from the Class of 2022

Veteran students who help make up Crafton Hills College's Class of 2022 were recognized at a small, but lively ceremony on May 17.

Hosted by the Veterans Resource Center, the event was planned to honor not only each grad's academic achievements, but their service to our country.

"These are the veterans who stuck around through COVID, and because of their hard

work, we are here today," remarked Steven Rush, the VRC services coordinator, to kick off the celebration.

Lisa Mills, a VRC counselor, and Cody Long, a mental health counselor at the center, each took turns to say a little bit about each graduate before they were handed a customized stole and cords to wear during Crafton's campus-wide commencement ceremony on May 25.

Graduate attendees included Michael Hendrix, a Marine Corps veteran focused on business administration and a VRC regular, and Steve Rodriguez, an Army veteran studying radiologic technology and recently accepted into a rad tech program to continue his studies.

Also recognized was Jose Aaron Rosales, a fellow Marine vet who was just accepted into Harvard University to study medicine, and Sebastian Romeropreciado, also a Marine transferring to Cal Poly Pomona to continue pursuing his degree in computer science.

"The obstacles you overcame were immense," said CHC President Kevin Horan. "As you know as veterans, ceremonies are important. We are pleased at this accomplishment, and I look forward to meeting each and every one of you."

Located next to Campus Police, the Veterans Resource Center supports veterans and their dependents in utilizing educational services available to them. In addition, the center provides work study opportunities, counseling, personal and professional development workshops and career exploration and guidance.

To learn more, go to [www.craftonhills.edu/veterans](http://www.craftonhills.edu/veterans) or send an email to [veteransservices@craftonhills.edu](mailto:veteransservices@craftonhills.edu).



## CHC Hosts Great Teachers Seminar

The Great Teachers Seminar was held on Friday, April 29 at Crafton Hills College. A collaborative effort between Crafton and San Bernardino Valley's Professional Development teams, the half-day event created an opportunity for full-time and part-time faculty across disciplines to learn strategies from each other by discussing their challenges and successes.

This year's discussions included ideas about the changes inside and outside of the classroom as a result of remote instruction along with promising pedagogical practices as students and professors transition back to in-person classes.

The seminar provided faculty the opportunity to meet (many for the first time) and build community. The event opened with activities lead by Valley professor Melinda Moneymaker that focused on faculty sharing personal experiences of who we are and where we come from before moving to topics such as alternative ways of grading and concerns regarding returning to campus.

Crafton faculty members Tina Gimple, Breanna Andrews, and Chris Olivera served as group facilitators. The team plans to offer the seminar again next year.



Photo: Honors students present research.

## From Foreign Policy to Environmental Issues: Honors Students Share Research at Conference

What do the impact of Judeo-Christian values on U.S.-Israeli relations, a statistical analysis of police brutality, and an

investigation of algal blooms at Cabrillo Beach have in common? They were all topics at the recent CHC Student Research

Conference.

Eleven students, all members of the College Honors Institute, gave a diverse range of oral presentations at the conference on Friday, April 29, in LRC 226. One group of three students even created and shared a podcast episode on migration and culture shock.

Students also moderated the conference, introducing each speaker and presentation and facilitating a question-and-answer period after each presentation.

Sponsored by the Honors Institute, this semi-annual conference highlights student research completed during fall and spring semesters and prepares presenters for future student research conferences held annually at UC Irvine and other locations.

Although the presenters at this conference were all members of the Honors Institute, students who are not members are invited to participate in future conferences.



Photo: Honors graduates.

## College Honors Institute Recognizes Completers, Research Fellows, and Volunteers

Twenty-eight CHC students who have completed all the requirements for the College Honors Institute were recognized at a luncheon held in Crafton Hall on Friday, May 6.

President Kevin Horan was on hand to place a purple Honors stole on each completer, and Division Dean Van Muse presented them with completion certificates.

Every recipient completed at least 15 Honors credits with a grade of A or B, maintained a minimum 3.25 cumulative GPA, completed 15 community service hours, and participated in Honors activities.

Eleven students were also recognized as "Honors Research Fellows." To receive this designation, students had to attend research workshops and give a research presentation at one or more conferences. These students have an additional research patch on their Honors stoles.

The College Honors Institute is a certifying institution for the President's Volunteer Service Award, a national recognition of individuals whose service positively impacts their communities. Five students and one faculty member were awarded bronze medals for 100-174 hours of service during the past 12 months. One student received a silver medal for 175-249 hours of service, and four received gold medals for over 250 hours.



Photo: CHC and SBVC faculty members.

## Twenty-two Faculty Recognized for Completion of Effective Teaching Practices Training

The Pinning Ceremony of the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) was held on Friday, May 20, at Crafton Hills College. The event honored 22 full-time and part-time faculty members from Crafton Hills College and San Bernardino Valley College who completed a 25-week Effective Teaching Practices program.

The ACUE effective practice framework includes five core competencies grounded

in evidence-based research: creating an inclusive and supportive environment, designing student-centered courses, promoting active learning, inspiring inquiry, and preparing life-long learners.

The Effective Teaching Practices program is offered online in a cohort model. The Crafton/Valley ACUE cohort had the highest national implementation rate. Each week as faculty completed their modules,

they were asked to demonstrate when and how they will implement the material learned into their classes. While most faculty hold off on implementing material as they are learning it, this cohort started implementation immediately, a practice that set the bar for all ACUE cohorts.

The 22 faculty were commended for the time and effort it took to complete this program while already balancing teaching, family, and personal obligations. Throughout the program some of the faculty members also dealt with health issues, extending care to spouses, and the death of loved ones, yet they continued to push through and complete assignment after assignment.

During their acceptance speeches, several faculty members noted how the ACUE course transformed their teaching style and practices. CHC Professor of American Sign Language Breanna Andrews was highlighted by colleagues for leading the way with discussion posts and feedback. New part-time Respiratory therapy instructor Nicholas Morris shared that the professional development opportunity provided him with actual teaching skills that he had not learned in his master's program.



Photo: Dr. Diane Pfahler.

## PRIDE Event Celebrates LGBTQ+ Community at CHC

The Crafton Hills College Psychology and Research Club hosted an extraordinary campus PRIDE event on April 28.

The goal of the event was to engage with students and provide information while creating a safe space for all. The club had the idea after attending a Gay-Pril event in the Quad. There they saw real interest and felt the need to do more to help students struggling with their identity and/or sexuality.

The event also honored and celebrated the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of the LGBTQ+ community. The club handed out educational materials on topics like terminology, coming out, being

an ally, LGBTQ+ history, timelines, trans remembrance, and additional resources available to Crafton Students online or on campus.

Participants were entered into a raffle where they had the opportunity to win a gas card, monitor and television as prizes. The event was created, coordinated, and executed entirely by students under the tutelage of Dr. Diane Pfahler showing great initiative and follow-through. Dr. Pfahler shared how proud she was of the group for their perseverance and accomplishments. Several students shared what an impact Dr. Pfahler and being a part of the club have had on their self-acceptance.



Photo: EOPS, CARE, and CalWORKS graduates.

## Crafton Celebration Shines Light on EOPS, CARE and CalWORKs Grads

The spotlight continues to shine bright on the class of 2022 as commencement season rolls on at Crafton Hills College.

This time, Roadrunners from the Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOP&S), CARE and CalWORKs programs took center stage inside the Finkelstein Performing Arts Center (PAC) on May 13, as more than 150 students were recognized during the in-person celebration.

“Graduating,” remarked Dr. Delmy Spencer, Crafton’s vice president of student services, “shows you the dedication that you have and the commitment to your journey. You can now tell yourself, ‘I did this’ during a pandemic [and] ‘I can do it again.’”

All three on-campus programs focus on Crafton students who come from educationally and financially disadvantaged backgrounds. Services through these programs are offered to each participant during their time at the college – and sometimes beyond – and include counseling,

child-care, and textbook assistance.

A few hundred friends and family members filled the PAC to cheer their respective students on, all of whom were introduced individually with personal information, including their majors and goals.

In addition, all who spoke before and after Spencer’s remarks praised the graduates

**“I encourage you to take any opportunity that you have. I hope you crush all of your goals and your dreams.”**

for their dedication to their studies, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic when classes went online, and uncertainty loomed.

“You did it with the support of an incredible

staff,” said Crafton President Kevin Horan. “They are incredible support systems for our students. Please let them know how much you appreciate them. That makes their year.”

Jorge Alamilla, a Crafton alumnus and former program participant, also spoke highly of program staffers, telling all in attendance that they are not in it for the money, but “they do it because they enjoy watching people succeed.”

“Somebody here at Crafton is there to help post-graduation,” he continued. “Just know all of the staff at EOPS are always going to remember you and will always be happy to see you come back to Crafton.”

Alamilla also took time to share a little bit about his story, including transferring to Cal State San Bernardino to continue his studies and then moving abroad to teach English to students in Korea. His goal then was to return to the U.S. after a year, but life had other plans as he now works full-time in Korea with his wife.

“There are many doors that can open like in my case,” Alamilla said. “I encourage you to take any opportunity that you have. I hope you crush all of your goals and [achieve] your dreams.”

Before the ceremony ended, each student also received a stole embossed in program colors and a medal recognizing their accomplishments. They were also able to take a photo with Horan and Spencer before heading back to their seats.

A reception took place in front of the PAC with food and refreshments and plenty of hugs and congratulatory remarks immediately following the ceremony.

To learn more about each program, please visit [www.craftonhills.edu/eops](http://www.craftonhills.edu/eops) or contact the EOP&S/CARE/CalWORKs office by email at [eops@craftonhills.edu](mailto:eops@craftonhills.edu) or call 909-389-3239 for more information.



Photo: Fire Academy graduates.

## 106th Fire Academy Graduates at Crafton Hills College Recognized for Hard Work, Tenacity

After 18 weeks of grueling training and coursework, Crafton Hills College's 106th Fire Academy graduates were recognized during a graduation ceremony inside the Finkelstein Performing Arts Center on May 20.

Twenty-eight graduates made up this round of cadets, all of whom varied in ages and backgrounds and included one woman cadet.

When it came to sharing a few words about the 106th Class, Academy Chief Mike Alder looked to keep it brief, but also wanted his remarks to come from the heart, leaving grads and those in attendance with what he liked to call "The Big Four" – remember the importance of your immediate and fire families; remain humble and nice; always be optimistic and have a positive attitude; and have vision and be demanding.

"Understanding and living these principles as a public servant is how you can leave the place better than you found it," he said. "(This) is the greatest job in the world, and you are all better people than you were four months ago. We wish you all the best."

Tradition and honor were key highlights of the hour-long ceremony, from a moment of silence for fallen military personnel and

first responders to a plaque presentation celebrating the group's accomplishments.

The 106th class started out with 28 cadets and ended with 28, Alder said, all thanks to the support of academy staff and its five squad leaders, Branden Christensen, Andrew Shade, Indiana Palmer, Ryan Lopez and Andrew Martinez.

**"Remember the importance of your immediate and fire families; remain humble and nice; always be optimistic and have a positive attitude; and have vision and be demanding."**

To highlight the training that went in to help mold this crop of cadets, a video by Lopez played inside the PAC with an inspiring sermon and music to complement its visuals.

When it was his time to address the class, Shade spoke about the hard work that went in to becoming a program success story, remarking that he went in with more confidence than he truly had and joked he

had to "fake it" until he made it.

Shade also talked briefly about the long hours away from home and the importance of supporting one another.

"There was a 22-year age gap from oldest to youngest," he said. "But the one thing we had in common was every one of us had no idea what we were doing..., and if you faked it too well, you might have to end up giving a graduation speech."

Each cadet was personally recognized by staff before and during the celebration. As each cadet's name was read out loud, so were their nicknames, some of which got a few laughs from those in the audience.

Many were also given individual scholarships and honors during the ceremony, including awards for Most Inspirational Cadet – Jaden Teel – and Highest Academic Achievement and the Instructor Award, which went to Shade.

Before cadets were released to mingle with friends and family, Academy leaders held one last dismissal ceremony – "All fight. No quit!" shouted the cadets in chorus before throwing their hats into the air.



Photo: Delegates from Serbia visit campus.

## Educators From Serbia Visit Crafton Hills College with Redlands Sunrise Rotary Club

On Tuesday, May 3, Crafton Hills College provided a campus tour for six delegates from Serbia as part of the Congressional Open World program. The delegates consisted of university-level educators visiting the United States to engage, interact, and collaborate internationally. They were hosted locally by the Redlands Sunrise Rotary as they visited various colleges and other sites in the region.

The campus tour was part of their overall US tour to compare and learn

about international teaching strategies and approaches at various institutions of higher education. The educators were accompanied by Dragana Obradovic, the U.S. Studies Coordinator at the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade, as well as members of the Redlands Sunrise Rotary Club.

After welcoming the group, Crafton's Development Coordinator, Carrie Audet took the group on a campus tour including a visit to the Child Development Center, Public Safety & Allied Health building,

and the campus solar farm. The Disabled Student Services office and Technology Success Center demonstrated assistive technology access and technology ergonomics resources available to students.

Dr. Ivan Peña, dean of student equity and success, talked with the group about the higher education system in the United States, explaining the roles of community colleges, state, and private institutions. Professor Gwen DiPonio connected via Zoom to present degree and certification requirements, curriculum development, and courses offered at Crafton.

In the spirit of collaboration, two delegates Ljiljana Markovich and Ivana Markovic, provided an overview of the Serbian education system and the history of teachers' education dating back to The Teacher's College in Subotica, the first European-style institution of higher education, which was founded in 1689.

The tour concluded with Sunrise Rotarian and Redlands Police Department Commander Rachel Tolber presenting Dr. Ivan Peña and Carrie Audet with plaques from the Congressional Office for International Leadership in appreciation for contributing to the Open World Program. Participating in programs that create opportunities for participants to learn and work with others is what makes Crafton such a unique place to work and study.



Photo: Paramedic students with Richard Lopez.

## Paramedic Students Appreciate Richard Lopez

There is an added feeling of comradery and inclusion within the Public Safety and Allied Health building, thanks to Lead Custodian, Richard Lopez.

Paramedic Program Director, Amanda Ward noted that beyond the detailed attention he pays to the facility itself, he cares for the students who are in it, taking time to learn their names and stories.

“As students are heading out from a long day of instruction in the Paramedic program, you will find Richard wishing

them a good rest of their day and checking on how they are doing,” Ward commented.

As students moved to the next phase of the program, which is largely held off-campus, class 97 made sure to find their VIP team member and get a photo with him. “Thank you, Richard, for being such an amazing member of our program,” concluded Ward.



Photo: Students performing on stage.

The stage production felt interactive throughout, with the performers using the house stairs to enter, at one point even climbing over the house seats bringing the audience to hysterics.

Jackson Nagata gave an outstanding performance as Nick Bottom, providing comic relief any time he was on stage. The entire cast gave such riveting performances the ensemble garnered applause and ample laughter throughout the show with the audience never missing a beat, even though the actors spoke in all Shakespearean/Elizabethan English dialect.

The cast took turns in the spotlight showcasing the talented students' wide range of experience. Grace McCray gave her last performance at Crafton as Titania, Queen of the Fairies truly working her magic on stage. The Crafton Theatre Department gave a delightful show leaving the audience buzzing and excited for future performances.

## A Midsummer Night's Dream is a Hit at CHC!

Crafton Hills College once again showcased the talent of the theatre program with the performance of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* directed by Paul Jacques.

of the College's Finkelstein Performing Arts Center on April 29, 30, and May 1.

The production was a distinctive rendition as the costumes and backdrops were set in a Steampunk-Victorian era.

Three performances took place on stage



Photo: Student Senate members.

## May the 4th be with You at CHC's Art Daze

Crafton traveled to a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away for May the 4th Day with Art Daze!!

May the 4th has become an official Star Wars holiday as a play on words for the famous Star Wars line "May the Force be with you," a phrase used to wish others well.

Art Daze was a collaboration of the College's Art Club, Student Senate, Crafton Library and Theatre Club to celebrate the various art programs on campus. The group coordinated the event in the quad and chose May 4th to make the celebration even more galactic.

Student Senate held their annual elections asking students to vote for the '22 to '23 student senate elected positions and to

approve the Omnitrans referendum to continue free bus service for students. Seventy-seven students cast their votes for the 14 positions, and received a free burrito for doing so. Sean Ceballos will be taking the helm as President and Robert Alexander serving as Student Trustee.

Library staff held a Zine making workshop, the art department had painting and drawing sessions including spun art. The theatre department incorporated improv acting as well as a set and prop showcase.

Students entered a Star Wars costume contest and Grogu or "Baby Yoda," as he is commonly known, was spotted on campus. Viva la Boba provided delicious, handcrafted drinks and a DJ kept the energy and atmosphere on beat.





Photo: Promise graduates.

## Crafton Promise Grads Honored at Special Ceremony

Friends and family of more than 100 Promise Graduates of Crafton Hills College were honored at a special ceremony on Wednesday, May 13.

Held in the Crafton Center, the ceremony honored graduating Promise students by awarding them with a certificate of completion and a Promise Grad sash embossed in program colors – green and white.

“As a community college alumnus myself, I know what it feels like as a student to make it to this point,” said Dr. Ivan Peña, dean of student equity and success at Crafton. “The education you have received here at Crafton has prepared you for the next steps.”

Both Crafton Hills College and its sister site, San Bernardino Valley College, offered the Promise Program on their respective campuses for new students who began their education in 2019 and 2020. The program provided students with two years of zero tuition, free textbooks, assistance with college expenses and a laptop for coursework. They are also paired up with student advisers to help them achieve their

educational goals: earning a certificate or an associate degree and/or transferring to a four-year university.

Dr. Kevin Horan, president of the Yucaipa-based college, told attendees the program was partially created to combat low graduation numbers in the Inland Empire.

“Congrats on this accomplishment in light of the last two years,” he continued, “you navigated through that and persevered, and we are so proud of you.”

**“The education you have received here at Crafton has prepared you for the next steps.”**

In addition to their certificates and sashes, each student also received a cap and gown to wear during Crafton’s campus-wide commencement ceremony on May 25. And as each student in attendance was introduced, an inspirational quotation of their choice was read out loud, as were thank you’s to those who supported their

Roadrunner journey from start to finish. Of the 100 Promise students graduating, 11 are transferring to a four-year university with a 4.0 GPA.

“We are so proud that you are part of our team,” said Dr. Delmy Montenegro Spencer, Crafton’s vice president of student services, before the presentation of students. “Now that you are going to be transitioning to the next step, we hope you’ll continue being part of our team by being a member of our Crafton alumni.”

