

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

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Crafton Hills College Leads Region in Transfer Admission Rates to University of California



CHC was the top community college in the region for transfer admission rates to the University of California (UC) system during the 2023 application cycle. The success in achieving high transfer admission rates

is attributed to the dedication of CHC's Counseling Department and University Transfer Center, both of which play a pivotal role in guiding students through the complex transfer process.

Mariana Macamay, University Transfer Center Faculty Coordinator and counselor explains, "Our counselors are committed to staying up-to-date and current in transfer admission criteria, participating in regular training sessions to enhance their knowledge and skills." This commitment ensures that CHC students receive the most accurate and relevant information.

An integral component of CHC's success is the noteworthy performance of its Latinx and African American/Black students. These students not only met but exceeded the achievements of other ethnic groups in successfully applying and being admitted to UC campuses.

Photo: 2023 CHC transfer graduates.



Foundation Director Receives Volunteer of the Year Award

June Yamamoto, who served as CHC's dean of career education and human development before retirement and continues to serve on the CHC Foundation Board of Directors, has won the Highland Area Chamber of Commerce's Volunteer of the Year award.

June worked to develop career education and human development programs that rank as top notch among community colleges. These include RadTech, Resp Care, Fire Academy, and Emergency Medical

Services.

Known among her colleagues for her boundless energy, intelligence, compassion, and dedication to education, June continues to volunteer her time and skills for the betterment of her community.

In her work for the Highland Area Chamber of Commerce, she promotes higher education opportunities at CHC.

Photo: June Yamamoto.

Annual Crafton STEM Career Fair Connects Roadrunners to Employers



San Bernardino County Fire, Garner Holt Productions, and Esri, to name a few.

“The STEM community here at Crafton is small but mighty, and our biggest goal is to help spread the word of STEM any way we can,” explained Krysten Audibert, the College’s director of MESA and STEM education.

Career fairs at Crafton often bring out a big crop of Roadrunners seeking information about their career paths. And with the field of STEM growing at a rapid pace, career fairs are vital in helping to fill employment gaps in industries. “We want to create opportunities of success here and we want to continue to build that bridge,” Audibert said.

Crafton Hills College’s first annual STEM Career Fair connected Roadrunners to the people and organizations that offer employment or educational programs in

STEM-related fields.

This year’s event included representatives from the University of California, Riverside,

Photo: Attendees at STEM Career Fair.

Transforming EMS Education: Prof. Laurie Green’s Innovative Approach to Increase Student Success



Green categorized students as completers, repeaters, or defeaters, focusing on transforming the latter two groups. Identifying self-confidence issues, she introduced Kristin Neff’s Self-Compassion scale to enhance students’ self-awareness. Recognizing students’ tendency to respond to perceived expectations, Green began referring to students as EMTs from day one, fostering a positive self-image.

To boost confidence, Green scattered equipment without instructions, encouraging collaboration and problem-solving. This hands-on experience revealed students’ capabilities and sparked enthusiasm for learning.

CHC Professor Laurie Green is revolutionizing EMS education to combat high drop-out rates. Noticing a trend in high attrition for students in the EMT program, especially for first-time college students, Green has taken a unique approach. Green delved into students’ challenges, modifying the program based on successful student experiences.

Incorporating traits of students who are successful, Green has revised the first day of instruction to streamline access to online tools and reduce technical barriers. She emphasized the importance of scheduled study time outside the classroom and secured funding for additional skill practice with professional tutors. Survey results highlighted the effectiveness of these practices.

Continually refining the program based on student feedback, surveys, and success metrics, Green actively shares her findings at conferences and seeks insights from fellow educators and experts. Her commitment to improvement extends to participating in conventions, ensuring a holistic and dynamic EMS education approach.

Photo: EMS students.

Celebrating Nine Years of Success and Growth in Sign Language Education



CHC and SBVC joined forces for the 9th annual ASL Educators Conference on March 2. This collaborative effort drew 111 participants, exceeding expectations. The event focused on professional development and networking for American Sign Language educators, featuring diverse

workshops, dynamic presentations, and interactive networking sessions.

Keynote speaker Dr. Lissa Ramirez-Stapleton addressed equity in the classroom, emphasizing connections and support for Black students and the broader

BIPOC community. As the founder of the Black Deaf Project, her impactful message resonated, leaving educators inspired and committed to fostering inclusivity.

The conference provided a platform for educators to exchange ideas and explore innovative teaching methodologies. Interactive networking opportunities allowed participants to build lasting connections, turning the event into an annual reunion for the ASL community.

Organizers expressed immense pride in the conference's success, thanking attendees, presenters, sponsors, and volunteers. The momentum gained will be carried into next year's conference, promising continued support for the growth and development of ASL education.

Photo: Attendees at the ASL Educators Conference.

From Foster Care to a Respected Position with the County, CHC Alumni Returns to Inspire Current Students

Dustin Keefe's inspiring journey exemplifies the transformative influence of educational opportunities, determination, and community support. From a child in foster care to a fulfilling career with San Bernardino County, his path was shaped by the disciplined life in the US Navy and his experience at Crafton Hills College (CHC).

Keefe's educational journey began unexpectedly at a gas station in Highland, where a chance encounter with a CHC faculty member ignited his curiosity. Intrigued by the faculty member's passion, he took the first step towards transformation by exploring what the college had to offer.

As a student at CHC, Keefe not only set academic goals but also discovered a welcoming community. Joining the Business Club proved pivotal, providing him with academic support, a sense of belonging, mentorship, and opportunities to develop

leadership skills.

His journey continued as he earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of La Verne, conveniently offered on the CHC campus. This academic achievement opened doors to further success, including a valuable internship with San Bernardino County secured while still at CHC.

Today, Keefe thrives in a full-time role with San Bernardino County, allowing him to give back to the community that supported him. Recently Keefe returned to CHC as a speaker for the Business Club, sharing his journey and emphasizing the club's profound impact on his life. His act of gratitude serves as a powerful message to current students about the endless possibilities within their reach.

Photo: Dustin Keefe.



First Endowment Fund to Support Crafton Hills College’s Paramedic Program

Crafton Hills College’s Paramedic Program has received a brand-new endowment fund to support its students – thanks to a familiar program supporter, Dr. Phong Nguyen, the program’s medical director and president of the College’s Foundation.

Dr. Nguyen created the scholarship fund that will provide a \$500 award each year for a student graduating from the Paramedic program to use toward post-program costs. “I just want to give back,” explained Nguyen when asked why he created the endowment. “Paramedicine is really close to my heart, and so, it made a lot of sense to start a scholarship for our students.”

Nguyen also hopes his message of giving back sparks an interest with the community, especially for program alumni, so the scholarship fund can increase each year. “My hope is that once these students receive the scholarship and are successful in their journey, they will return and give back in the form of a scholarship themselves, or maybe three or four [program alumni] get together to form one in support of their fellow paramedics,” Nguyen concluded.

Photo: Dr. Nguyen.



Crafton Hills College Counselor Invited to Take Part in CALPRO Webinar on Student Success



A panel discussion highlighting the role college career navigators and transition specialists play in helping adult learners succeed was the focus of a recent California Adult Literacy Professional Development Project (CALPRO) webinar.

Field professionals were invited to share their expertise in a welcoming, friendly setting. The discussion included remarks by Herberth “Alex” Jaco, a Crafton Hills College transition counselor.

This special event –Career Counseling Models and Approaches – A Panel

Discussion with Career Navigators and Transition Specialists – was intended to highlight the role these professionals play in the success of adult learners. Jaco works with adult learners from Redlands and Yucaipa, helping them settle into a whole new environment.

“The beauty of community college is the flexibility,” he explained, “and while Crafton is a small college, it continues to expand offerings for our adult learners.”

Photo: Herberth “Alex” Jaco.

CHC Welcomes Demian Brunty as New Director of Facilities



Crafton Hills College has a new director of facilities management: Demian Brunty. Demian began a career as a Journeyman Ironworker, working in steel mills, refineries, and railroads. He also brings experience in numerous construction management positions, all this while completing his advanced degree work.

He received his bachelor’s degree at Indiana University and an MBA at Cal State, San Bernardino. He also enjoys following the stock markets and discussing business.

Demian is excited about taking on

the challenges of his new position and contributing to the betterment of the campus. He looks forward to playing many roles, large and small --from advising on building projects to touching up paint on a scuffed wall. He understands that it’s often the little things that matter.

Demian enjoys spending what little free time he has with his wife Sue and their seven children and contributing to his church worship team.

Photo: Demian Brunty.