

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

January 2025



## Celebrating the Paul and Joann Barich Terrace: A Legacy of Commitment and Community



On November 20, attendees gathered to celebrate the unveiling of the Paul and Joann Barich Terrace, a newly named space honoring an endowed legacy gift to the Crafton Hills College Foundation.

The naming was formally approved by the SBCCD Board of Trustees, recognizing the Barichs' investment in the College and their decades of dedication to the greater Redlands community.

Paul Barich, Mayor Pro-Tem for the City of Redlands and a Crafton Hills College alumnus, shares a special bond with the College. A member of Crafton's inaugural

class, Paul transferred to UCLA, where he earned his bachelor's degree. In 2022, he was celebrated as the Outstanding Alumnus during Crafton's 50th anniversary gala, recognizing a career deeply rooted in service to education and the community.

For more than 40 years, Paul and Joann have owned and operated Barich and Associates, an insurance business. The Barichs are advocates for community colleges, particularly Crafton's public safety programs. Paul frequently highlights the outstanding quality of Redlands' fire and police departments, attributing their excellence to training received at Crafton.

As a long-serving member of the Redlands City Council and former Planning Commissioner, Paul has consistently championed the importance of CHC's Fire Academy and its role in producing highly trained firefighters and paramedics for the region.

Paul and Joann have established an endowment to support Fire Academy cadets at Crafton Hills College. With out-of-pocket costs exceeding \$3,000 for uniforms, turnout gear, breathing apparatus rentals, certifications, and testing, many public safety students are stretched beyond their limits. The Barichs' endowment aims to alleviate such challenges, ensuring aspiring first responders have the resources they need.

The naming of the Paul and Joann Barich Terrace is a tribute to the couple's enduring dedication to education, public safety, and community enrichment. Their support will have a lasting impact on Crafton Hills College students, fostering a legacy of well-trained professionals who will serve and protect the community for generations to come.

*Photo: Paul and Joann Barich.*

## STEM/MESA Open House Shows How Student Find Academic Support in a Comfortable Atmosphere



On November 5, Crafton Hills College's Henry Stone STEM Center welcomed members of the college community to an open house that showed off how MESA (Math, Engineering, Science Achievement) Director Krysten Audibert and her staff have developed the Center with the comfort of CHC students foremost in mind.

The event highlighted some of the accomplishments of students who used this facility to work together with colleagues to

produce original scientific projects.

CHC President Kevin Horan began the program by welcoming attendees and pointing out how the center was funded with state support and a very generous donation from Henry Stone, who taught mathematics at CHC. Stone's wife, Elaine Rosen, added her welcome and recalled her late husband's desire to help support STEM education.

Engineering major Tyler Travis presented

the project he and his lab partner, Justin Desoucy, completed including their research on how drone technology and GIS can measure impacts on the quality of our local drinking water and watersheds.

The STEM Center provides students with one-on-one or group tutoring. Small rooms are available for group work. The walls of the entrance lobby celebrate STEM disciplines with photos and biographical notes of science pioneers.

Director Krysten Audibert explained that the Center attracts not only STEM majors but other students who come for support. The financial support of the Center for STEM student services comes from the state's Title Five funding. But funding for support for non-STEM students is provided by the CHC Foundation.

The STEM/MESA Center is truly a campus gem, providing CHC students with a comfortable, supportive place to learn.

*Photo: STEM/MESA students and staff.*

## Highlighting Inspiration: Dr. Michael Sheahan's TEDxTemecula Talk



Crafton Hills College is proud to celebrate the achievements of Dr. Michael Sheahan, Director of the Respiratory Therapy Program, who recently delivered a TEDx Talk titled "How Using Perspective Transformed My World" at TEDxTemecula.

In this engaging and heartfelt presentation, Dr. Sheahan shared transformative insights on how shifting perspectives can profoundly influence personal and professional growth.

Drawing from his experiences as an

educator and healthcare professional, Dr. Sheahan captivated the audience with stories that illustrated the power of reframing challenges and embracing different viewpoints. His talk emphasized the significance of resilience, empathy, and adaptability in navigating life's complexities.

This opportunity underscores the exceptional caliber of leadership and inspiration Dr. Sheahan brings to Crafton Hills College, as well as his commitment to fostering critical thinking and compassionate care among students and colleagues alike. His participation in such a prestigious event not only highlights his individual achievements but also elevates the college's reputation for excellence and innovation.

*Photo: Michael Sheahan.*

## From Roadrunner to Small Business Owner: How Brooke Blake Built a Foundation for Success at Crafton Hills College



Brooke Blake once believed school wasn't for her. But that changed thanks to the tight-knit community at Crafton Hills College.

The year was 2014 when the now 33-year-old Mentone resident began her studies at Yucaipa's little college on the hill with no clue of what she was going to study or where her education would take her. But now, in 2024, Blake owns her own successful business—Brooke Blake Mobile

Notary—and is a shining example for her two children, ages 15 and 5.

"I am working with doctors, attorneys, business owners, teachers, you name it," she shared.

Blake began looking into programs at Crafton Hills College to help build a better life for her and her then young son. She knew at the time that as a single mother diagnosed with attention deficit disorder, things wouldn't be easy.

"This was the first time I strived to do well in school," she said. "It was all new to me because I was the first in my immediate family to attend college. Crafton and its staff were my mentors. They were people who believed in me more than I did myself."

She left Crafton with a degree in sociology and is proud to talk about how the College helped shape her journey. She called the campus her personal "safety blanket" and uses the kindness and compassion she received from the Crafton community as motivation to keep going as "Brooke the Notary."

In a blog post on her company's website,

Blake shared that she had no idea the impact her work in the field would have on her, adding that her profession has helped her provide for her family, and she gets to meet so many different people. "It's quite fascinating," she wrote.

Blake is also very passionate about sharing her experience with others as motivation for others to take a chance and pursue a higher education.

"Another student might be going through what I went through, and I want those students to know you can be successful no matter what," she said. "Find what you are good at and never stop learning. Do not let your failures define you. You are special, unique and loved. Keep going."

"Crafton gave me confidence, work experience, social exposure and knowledge," she continued. "Going to Crafton is one of my proudest moments."

Unlock what drives you. Go to [craftonhills.edu](http://craftonhills.edu) to get started. Information about the College is on its website: [craftonhills.edu](http://craftonhills.edu).

*Photo: Brooke Blake.*

## Local Elementary Students Celebrate Indigenous Cultures at Crafton Hills College



Crafton Hills College hosted its annual Waa't Celebration, California's First Cultures: A Celebration, on Nov. 6 and 7, highlighting the traditions and heritage of local Native American communities. Elementary students from Redlands, Calimesa, Banning, and Yucaipa engaged with San Manuel Education Department educators, learning through crafts, stories, and songs shared by tribal members of the San Manuel, Cahuilla, and Morongo reservations.

Waa't, named after the Serrano word for juniper, was established in 2005 as a collaboration between Crafton Hills College, the San Manuel Tribal Unity and

Cultural Awareness Program, the Yucaipa Historical Society, and the Dorothy Ramon Learning Center. The annual event provides third and fourth grade students opportunities to learn about the Serrano and Cahuilla cultures while fostering understanding of the diversity among California's Native peoples.

Students explored indigenous music, language, and crafts, while educators addressed misconceptions about local cultures and emphasize the tribes deep connection between culture and nature.

*Photo: Waa't song leaders.*

## Crafton Hills College Cross Country Team Shines at IEAC Conference Championships



CHC's Cross Country team continues to make strides as it achieved a significant milestone at the Inland Empire Athletic Conference (IEAC) Championships on November 8, hosted by Chaffey Community College.

Two CHC student athletes proudly represented the college, with Elizabeth Garcia delivering an outstanding performance that has advanced her to the 3C2A State Championships.

130 competing athletes, demonstrating her remarkable skill and determination. She outpaced nearly all her rivals in the conference, finishing ahead of all but two athletes from regional colleges, one from San Bernardino Valley College and another from Chaffey College. Her achievement is particularly notable as she becomes the first athlete in the program's three-year history to qualify for the state championships.

*Photo: Elizabeth Garcia and Madysen Juarez.*

Garcia placed 40th overall out of more than

## Crafton Hills College Celebrates First-Generation College Students with National First-Gen Day Event and Resource Fair



The EOPS Department at Crafton Hills College hosted this year's National First-Generation College Day Celebration, an annual event designed to honor and support first-generation college students,

those who are the first in their immediate families to attend college. The celebration aimed to raise awareness about the unique challenges and achievements of first-generation students while providing them with valuable resources, guidance, and networking opportunities.

The EOPS Department welcomed more than 400 attendees and held a resource fair alongside the luncheon, that offered students access to a variety of on-campus and community resources designed to support their academic, personal, and professional success. Representatives from EOPS, Health and Wellness, Library and Tutoring Services, Student Accessibility Services, Transfer Center, and Student Life were present to provide information and

answer questions. The luncheon was an opportunity for participants to engage in discussions about the importance of higher education, share personal stories, and celebrate the accomplishments of first-generation students.

These events highlight the importance of first-generation students in higher education, fostering an inclusive and supportive community. By celebrating their achievements and providing access to supportive resources, the event helped empower first-generation students to thrive academically and professionally.

*Photo: Attendees at First-Gen Resource Fair.*

## Exploring Cahuilla Heritage: Crafton Visits the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum



In honor of Native American Heritage Month, Crafton Hills College faculty, staff, and students visited the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum in Palm Springs on November 15. The group explored curated exhibits showcasing the rich history of the Cahuilla Tribe.

experience was a multimedia presentation of the Tribe's Creation Story, which brought the narrative to life and deepened participants' understanding of the Cahuilla culture and heritage.

*Photo: CHC students at Agua Caliente Cultural Museum.*

Highlights included intricate handwoven baskets, traditional clothing, historical documents, and artwork. A standout