

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

July 2024



Crafton Hills College Celebrates Class of 2024 at Annual Commencement Ceremony



On May 21, graduates and their families gathered in the college's quad to celebrate CHC's class of 2024. President Kevin Horan

kicked off the event with his traditional selfie with the audience. Notable facts include:

The 806 graduates earned 787 degrees and 624 certificates.

- 333 graduates had a GPA of 3.5 or higher, with 75 achieving a 4.0.
- 16 graduates were military veterans.
- The class included a married couple, two sets of sisters, and a set of cousins.
- The youngest graduate was 16, and the oldest was 67-year-old Christine Bell-Beath, who delivered the student address.

Bell-Beath overcame a learning disability and speech impediment, inspired by Sia's song "Unstoppable," which she referenced

in her speech. "We have overcome a lot of obstacles to earn our degrees," she said. "We are what?... Unstoppable!"

The ceremony featured the presentation of degrees, the National Anthem by David Patino, and speeches by Academic Senate President Meridyth McLaren and Trustee Board Chair Stephanie Houston, who advised graduates to remember to use:

- Your head, to find your mission, passion, and purpose.
- Your heart, to reevaluate roadblocks while preserving your mission.
- Your hands, to help others.

Photo: Kevin Horan at commencement.

Crafton Hills College Fire Academy Graduates 33 New Firefighters Ready to Serve

Thirty-three graduates celebrated the 110th Fire Academy on May 17 at the Finkelstein Performing Arts Center. This Spring Academy was the first to train in the new Public Safety Building which opened in January.

The graduation featured traditions like unveiling a class plaque and paying tribute to those lost with a moment of silence and the playing of "Amazing Grace" on bagpipes.

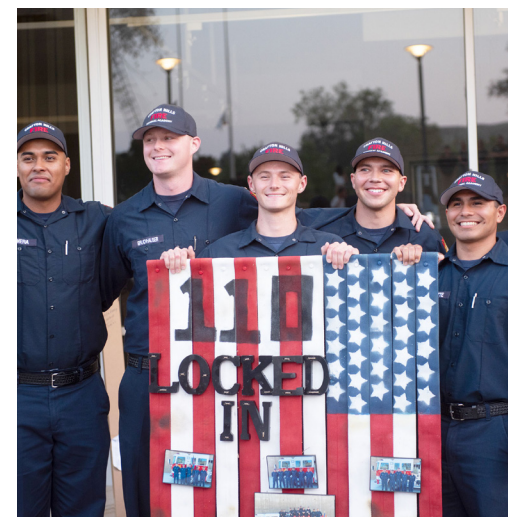
Frederick Velez delivered the Cadet's address, sharing highlights and

encouragement. "Our academy's motto is 'Locked In,' representing our dedication," Velez said.

Six cadets received special awards:

- Academic Achievement Award: Christian Welcker
- Michael Orland Scholarship: Jose Ocha Jr.
- Most Inspirational Cadet Award: Ryan Trudeau
- Paul Lagace Hazmat Challenge Coin Award: Artine Zilifan and Tristian Rennie
- Instructor's Award: Erick Bruchhauser

Photo: Fire Academy graduates.



Crafton Hills College Students Celebrate Radiologic Technology Graduation at ARMC



Twenty-two months ago, eight CHC students began their journey at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center toward a career in radiologic technology. Initially strangers, they quickly bonded over their shared goal of completing the rigorous program.

“Today we gather to celebrate years of

hard work, dedication, and determination,” announced Dr. Jennifer Bringhurst, director of ARMC’s School of Radiological Technology, during the ceremony on June 6. “These graduates have faced challenges and triumphs, and today we honor their achievements.”

Radiology Technology demands precision, compassion, and expertise. It transforms lives through diagnosing illnesses, guiding treatments, and providing peace of mind. Crafton partners with ARMC to teach cohorts of future radiologic technologists the fundamentals of diagnostic imaging examinations, including anatomy, patient positioning, examination techniques, equipment protocols, radiation safety, and patient care.

The intimacy of the small graduating class

allowed each student’s unique background and traits to be celebrated. Graduate Andy Gollihar highlighted his classmates with recognition of attributes ranging from humor to cooking skills.

“I will miss you all,” Gollihar said. “You’re all going to be amazing radiologic technologists and create positive work environments.” The following awards and scholarships were presented.

- Clinical Award: Marcus Stoddard
- Academic Award: Sara El-Sayed
- Beaver Medical Clinical Foundation Scholarship: Caitlin Svob
- Michael Scott Scholarship and Christi Hall Award of Excellence: Nathanael Righter

Photo: Radiologic Technology graduates.

CHC Celebrates EOPS, NextUP, CARE, CalWORKS, and Dreamers Graduates



The Class of 2024 will always have a friend in Crafton Hills College. This was the message at the EOPS, NextUP, CARE, CalWORKS, and Dreamers graduation on May 10. The

ceremony, themed after Disney/Pixar’s “Toy Story,” featured faculty and staff as “action figures” from “Ryker’s Toybox.”

“To our graduates, today is not the end of your story but a chapter in your ongoing journey,” said Dr. LaTasha Hagler, associate dean of student services.

Crafton’s EOPS, CARE, NextUP, CARE, CalWORKS, and Dreamers department supports first-generation, low-income, foster youth, and single-parent students. This year’s 100 scholars include 74 graduates, 24 honors students, and seven with the highest distinction, like Brianne Flores

(business administration) and Cynthia De Los Santos (mathematics).

The ceremony honored professor T.L. Brink, and retiree, Tina Gimple and included inspiring remarks from Chief Royal Ramey, a former EOPS student who co-launched a nonprofit to help formerly incarcerated adults become firefighters.

“You will get to where you need to be,” Ramey said. “Focus on what you can control and embrace the power of choice in shaping your destiny.”

Photo: EOPS graduate and family.

Redlands Couple Shares Their Journey to Graduation from Crafton Hills College



George and Stephanie Renteria, graduated together from CHC as part of the class of 2024. Their story began when George noticed Stephanie’s Instagram profile. Both were students at the College, so he reached out, and the rest is history.

They completed their associate degrees—Stephanie in social science and George in business administration. Realizing they were only a few credits shy of earning a

second AA degree in each other’s majors, they took online classes to finish this next chapter.

CHC played a pivotal role in their love story. George, initially drawn to the college’s beauty, found the place where he could “figure it all out.” “We eventually started figuring it out together,” Stephanie added.

Photo: George and Stephanie Renteria.

CHC Student Michelle Ly Presents Research at Stanford University



Michelle Ly represented the College's Honors Institute at Stanford University's Honors Research Symposium on Saturday, May 4. Her paper, ironically titled "I

Somewhat Matter," was one of 85 research papers chosen out of 241 submitted by student honors organizations at California community colleges. Ly's research analyzes perceptions of the College's racial diversity efforts correlated with course success rates of different racial and ethnic groups.

Ly has worked as a student research scholar at CHC's Office of Institutional Research and Planning (OIERP), under Dean Dr. Giovanni Sosa, who was her mentor for her project. When asked about what she considers the value of her research, she said she hopes it provides insight into CHC's campus climate regarding racial differences and contributes to its efforts to increase a sense of inclusion among its

diverse student groups.

She credits the CHC Honors Institute with giving her opportunities to develop her research skills and learn about the student research position in the OIERP. Being an honors student also helped her get accepted for transfer to UCLA.

Ly hopes to earn a bachelor's degree in cognitive science with a minor in statistics/data science. She enjoys working with data that provides understanding of the inner struggles common to underserved populations.

Photo: Michelle Ly.

Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebrates Diversity and Culture with Performances, Workshops, and Exhibits



This year's Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month (APIHM) celebrated the rich diversity, perspectives, and histories within the Asian and Pacific Islander community. The opening ceremony at SBVC featured Vietnamese cuisine, a Siva Samoa performance by the Pasefika Student Union, and Taiko drumming by Taiko Mix.

Throughout the month, various events were held, including book and film discussions, a racial solidarity workshop, and presentations by CHC counselor Souts Xayapanthong, former Associate

Chancellor Dr. Pat Hayashi, actor Sam Puefua, local business Viva La Boba, and Lao poet Bryan Thao Worra. Additionally, there was an API history exhibit at the CHC Library and a paint-and-snack event for Taytayan mentors and mentees at SBVC.

The celebrations concluded with a closing event at Crafton Hills College, featuring cultural practitioner Nicole Kanahele-Stutz and the Lao dance troupe Dok Kulap.

Photo: Attendees at APIHM closing ceremony.

Col. David E. Raley was Dedicated to Serving his Country and Community



David E. Raley served as a U.S. Air Force pilot during the Viet Nam War. Later he was stationed at the Norton Airforce Base and, after retiring from military service, served as CEO of the base credit union.

David continued to serve his country and community as a Safety officer for the USAF, director of the Crafton Hills College Foundation (for 29 years), director of the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District, and patrolman for the Redlands Police Department's Citizen Volunteer Patrol.

David passed away after a short illness on June 2, at the age of 92. He and his wife of 60 years, Diane, an alumna of Crafton, are survived by their three children, eight grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

David and Diane's children have established an endowed scholarship as a lasting tribute to their parents. Donations to the endowment will provide an annual scholarship for a student at Crafton Hills College.

Photo: David E. Raley.

Crafton Hills College Champions Equity at GIA Summit: Transforming Policies for Student Success



On May 9, Crafton Hills College representatives from the Student Services team participated in the Growing Inland Achievement (GIA) Equity Summit, immersing themselves in reviewing and revising campus policies through an equity lens.

The group explored how institutional policies can drive equitable and sustainable transformation. They examined existing policies from a student perspective,

identifying barriers and deficit-language, and discovered strategies to design policies that promote equitable outcomes and boost student success.

The team will make recommendations for revising policies that affect students to help them overcome barriers to success.

Photo: Student Services Representatives.

Dr. Ericka Paddock Honored with Centennial Award for Transformative Impact on Diverse Communities



On May 23, Ericka Paddock, associate dean of student services at Crafton Hills College was recognized by the University of Redlands for creating meaningful change in the lives of the diverse community she serves.

Paddock remarked, "It's an incredible honor to be recognized alongside all the other amazing recipients, who like me, are working hard to create more inclusive

and welcoming communities. Heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported and mentored me on my journey."

The Centennial award was presented to Paddock in a celebration to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the School of Education at the University of Redlands.

Photo: Dr. Ericka Paddock.

CHC Psychology Club Shines at Western Psychological Association Conference



Twenty-one CHC Psychology Club students attended the Western Psychological Association conference in San Francisco, where two students presented. Students funded their trip through various fundraising activities.

Danielle Oh, one of the presenters, enjoyed seeing trending ideas in the field

of psychology. The experience helped her shape her future research direction and connect with peers from Cal State San Bernardino, where she will transfer in the fall.

Photo: CHC Psychology students at Western Psychological Association Conference.

New Solar Farm Funded by Measure CC Goes Live



On May 31, Crafton Hills College officially went live with the 2.3 MW solar farm, moving the campus toward Net Zero Energy. This project, funded by Measure CC, reflects CHC's commitment to sustainability.

The solar farm, approved in October 2021, includes fixed tilt ground-mounted panels and Tesla Megapack battery storage. It is expected to save \$550,000 in the first year

and \$18 million over 25 years, with net savings of \$10.5 million.

These savings will be used to enhance student education. The taxpayer investment in Measure CC is providing a greener future and offers students firsthand experience with renewable energy systems at the college.

Photo: CHC Solar Farm.