

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

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CHC Paramedic Class 104 Graduation Highlights Commitment, Excellence, and Community



On January 17, CHC celebrated the graduation of Paramedic Class 104 in a ceremony that honored the graduates' dedication, resilience, and compassion. Friends, family, faculty, and staff gathered to commemorate the graduates' achievements and welcome them into the profession of paramedicine.

Paramedic Field Coordinator Glen Thronson expressed gratitude for the unwavering support of Dr. Phong Nguyen, the program's medical director since 1988. Nguyen reflected on the graduates' transformation from overwhelmed students to confident paramedics. "You are now part of a tradition of excellence," he stated, emphasizing the importance of lifelong learning and adaptability in medicine. Dr. Nguyen concluded his remarks with a playful singing of a song

adapted for the event, now a local tradition for Dr. Nguyen's ceremonial duties.

Simulation Lab Technician Craig Eilander, chosen by the class as their guest speaker, delivered an emotional and empowering address. As a skilled paramedic and lab tech, Eilander has been a pillar of support for students, offering encouragement and wisdom throughout their journey. "You are intelligent, skilled, compassionate, and brave," he told the graduates. "Lay your brick on the foundation of those who came before you and make your mark."

Class President Armand Crisol and Vice President Bryce Coatney addressed their peers highlighting the perseverance and the transformative journey the class undertook together. "We began this program as individuals, but we leave as a team, ready to

make a difference," Crisol said, reminding classmates of their responsibility to serve with humility and integrity.

Coatney urged graduates to embrace their calling with courage and resilience. He ended his remarks with three powerful words, also the adopted class motto: "Decide, Commit, Succeed."

The ceremony included the following awards recognizing outstanding achievements:

Medical Director Award: Ashton Chaconas
Paramedic Achievement Award: Roland Thissen and Anthony Medina

Dr. Nguyen Scholarship Award: Konner Beardsley

Cardiology Award: Sebastian Lopez-Vega

Field Award: Armand Crisol

Theory Award: Alexander Williams

Clinical Award: Konner Beardsley

Pharmacology Award: Eduardo Sanchez

Skills Award: Bryce Coatney and Konner Beardsley

Patient Assessment Award: Peter Houle

Yucaipa Rotary Scholarship: Lucas Esquer.

Photo: Paramedic Class 104 with program faculty and administrators.

Crafton Hills College Expands Nursing Program, Offering Three Certifications in One Semester



Crafton Hills College launched a new Nursing Services Career Pathway to help bridge the gap between patient care and provider services.

The Yucaipa-based college opened registration for the program’s Spring cohort, offering current and future Roadrunners the opportunity to earn three nursing-related certificates in one semester and begin their careers in an entry-level position.

“Students will leave the program with a broad range of training skills in either long-term care facilities, clients homes or a hospital setting,” said Heather Jasso, a Crafton instructor and assistant for the College’s Nursing Services program. “It’s a low-risk program that allows for students to try something new and see if healthcare and nursing is for them.”

Crafton’s Nursing Services program is not new but rather has expanded from its original 2021 curriculum. Then, students were able to earn certificates only as certified nursing assistants (CNAs). Today, the pathway open doors for students to walk away with not only a CNA certificate but two additional certificates: home health aide and acute care nursing assistant.

“So far, the program has been successful as we currently maintain an 80% employment rate after [students] finish the program,” said Jasso. We emphasize professionalism and building a strong workforce.

Certified nursing assistants, home health aides, and acute care nursing assistants are not only highly sought-after in health care settings but are also considered essential

critical health care occupations. It is estimated that employment in these three fields is expected to increase by 13% by the end of the year.

That need is expected to increase over time as the region’s population expands due to several contributing factors such as affordable housing. An article by the Southern California News Group (SCNG) published earlier this year projects the Inland Empire’s population is expected to grow 20% by 2048 — that’s 5.5 million more people residing in the area in just over two decades.

“There’s always going to be a growing need for CNAs. There’s no risk for [students choosing] our pathway because Crafton tries to keep costs low, and fees are normally covered by a grant, which means students only have minimal costs.

“From my point of view, Crafton is a good place for some to launch their careers,” she said.

Photo: Students in the Nursing Services Pathway Practice Assessments.

Crafton Hills College Professor Iris Kern-Foster Shines in Solo Art Exhibition at West End Gallery



In February 2025, Crafton Hills College Multimedia professor Iris Kern-Foster captivated audiences with her solo art exhibition, *Ink & Hues: A Vibrant Exploration of Line, Color, and Connection*, held at the West End Gallery in Huntington Beach. Spanning the entire month, the exhibition showcased a stunning array of drawings and paintings that explored themes of connection, introspection, and transformation.

Kern-Foster’s signature style, a harmonious fusion of bold ink strokes and expressive colors, drew praise for its ability to convey both vulnerability and resilience. Each piece offered a unique narrative, with titles inspired by iconic song lyrics, such as “You Are Waiting for Someone to Perform With” and “Rebel, My New Last Name.”

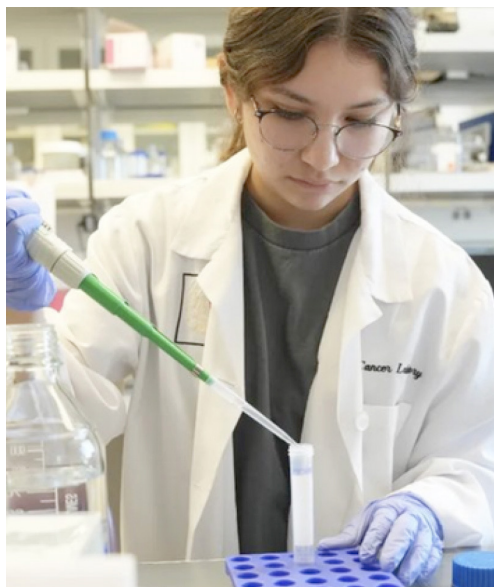
These works invited visitors to reflect on their own experiences of creativity, identity, and reinvention.

The exhibition focused on two-dimensional art, highlighting Kern-Foster’s mastery of traditional mediums and her ability to evoke profound emotional responses. While known for her innovative integration of art and technology, this showcase celebrated the timeless appeal of line, texture, and color, further cementing her reputation as a versatile and thought-provoking artist.

Iris Kern-Foster’s solo exhibition was a testament to the talent and creativity thriving within the Crafton Hills College community.

Photo: Iris Kern-Foster art.

Women in Crafton Hills College STEM Programs



As we celebrate Women’s History Month in March, we recognize the achievements of women who continue to break barriers in education and beyond.

Since 2006, women have outperformed men in college degree attainment

across California. Despite this growing educational advantage, women remain underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—commonly known as STEM.

At Crafton Hills College, four exceptional Roadrunner women are breaking barriers and pursuing degrees in STEM: Yakira Huff, Jazmyn Garcia, Katherine Granados, and Jo-Ann Lumintang.

When asked what motivates them, Yakira Huff shared, “As a woman in STEM, pushing the boundaries of what people think is possible for women to accomplish—while being my true self—motivates me to keep working hard at my goals.” She hopes to expand knowledge in her field of interest, the study of fungi, and inspire other women to pursue the discipline.

Jazmyn Garcia finds motivation in her “passion for discovery, knowledge, and

the potential impact of [her] work on others.” Jo-Ann Lumintang expressed excitement about entering a traditionally male-dominated field, saying it “would be crazy and really cool” to make discoveries that could benefit the world. Katherine Granados, driven by her enthusiasm for science, aims to build a career in a field that excites her.

These dedicated STEM scholars also have advice for women considering STEM studies. All four encourage future students to pursue their interests confidently, even in the face of challenges or opposition. They emphasize that success in STEM does not require sacrificing individuality. As Jazmyn Garcia put it, “You can be both emotional and analytical and have an impact. Your personality doesn’t need to go away to prosper in STEM—if anything, it can enhance your journey.”

Photo: STEM student, Katherine Granados.

Paramedic students at Crafton Hills College get a boost of support from The Duvall Family



Uplifting the next generation of first responders is the goal behind the recently established Duvall Endowed Scholarship through the Crafton Hills College Foundation.

This scholarship will support paramedic firefighters who complete the Crafton Hills

College’s year-long training program.

“We just want to be able to help anybody seeking an opportunity to fulfill their dreams,” shared Wynona Duvall, who established the scholarship along with her husband Ken, a retired U.S. Forest Service air attack firefighter chief and Crafton alumnus.

This endowment will provide funds to paramedic student graduates who meet scholarship criteria. Financial awards will cover fees for testing and licensing required before paramedics can become fully employed with an agency or hospital. The endowment will be fully funded by 2032.

“Ken and I want to help any student seeking a career in the field who is experiencing a challenge to get certified,” Duvall said. “We saw what a successful career Ken was able to have through the doors that were opened up at Crafton. That’s why it was important for us as a family unit to support

the college that gave him so much.”

Ken Duvall graduated from Crafton in 1987 before he began a career with the Forest Service. He credits the college for providing him with the necessary training to handle emergency situations from all levels, Wynona said.

Wynona Duvall is no stranger herself to the Crafton community. She is the current vice president of the Foundation’s Board of Directors and is often seen on campus supporting the college’s many year-round endeavors. When not spending time with family or traveling, Duvall volunteers for Habitat for Humanity, the Calimesa Chamber of Commerce, and other area nonprofits.

Wynona awarded the inaugural Duvall scholarship to paramedic graduate River Casner in August.

Photo: River Casner and Wynona Duvall.

Crafton Hills College Celebrates Equity Champion Awards During Opening Day



During Crafton Hills College's Spring in-service day, the campus came together to celebrate its commitment to equity by recognizing individuals and a department with the inaugural Equity Champion Awards.

These awards highlight extraordinary efforts by students, faculty, and staff to make Crafton a more equitable and inclusive community. The ceremony also acknowledged the collective contributions of those who nominated candidates and the broader campus community for fostering a culture of equity and inclusion.

Student Equity Champion: Jarred Shaw

The first recipient of the Student Equity Champion Award was Jarred Shaw, a student who has made a significant impact on campus equity initiatives. Jarred works for the Research Department and is an active member of the Art and Honors

programs. The award reads: "2024 Equity Champion Award presented to Jarred Shaw in recognition of your leadership to promote equity within Crafton Hills College."

Jarred's dedication to fostering a more inclusive environment exemplifies the spirit of equity and leadership that this award seeks to honor.

Faculty Equity Champion: Chloe De los Reyes

The Faculty Equity Champion Award was presented to Professor Chloe De los Reyes, a multilingual faculty member in the English Department. Chloe is also an active member of the SEEP Committee and serves as secretary for the API (Asian and Pacific Islander) group.

One of the nominations described Chloe as "a role model on campus for how to be

an equity champion." Her work both in and outside the classroom demonstrates her unwavering commitment to supporting students and colleagues in their pursuit of equity and success.

Department Equity Champion: Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Research, and Planning (OIERP).

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Research, and Planning (OIERP) received the Department Equity Champion Award for their essential role in advancing equity at Crafton Hills College. Their work with USC faculty training, the Vision Alignment Report, and the provision of critical data has been instrumental in identifying and closing equity gaps.

The award recognized their efforts as a cornerstone of the campus's equity work, enabling faculty, staff, and leadership to make informed decisions and create impactful programs.

The Equity Champion Awards not only celebrate individual and departmental accomplishments but also highlight the collaborative spirit of the Crafton Hills College community. Congratulations to all nominees, winners, and participants who embody the college's commitment to equity and inclusion.

This year's recipients set a high standard for the future, inspiring others to continue working toward an equitable campus for all.

Photo: OIERP Team.

Club Rush: A Journey Through the Ages



Despite the rain, Crafton Hills College's Through-the-Ages Club Rush on February 13 brought history to life inside the Roadrunner Café.

Over 650 students, many in era-inspired costumes, connected with 29 clubs, enjoyed food, and engaged with the campus community.

The event showcased Crafton's vibrant student life, proving that no matter the time period—or the weather—students can always find their place to belong.

Photo: Students show off their costumes at Club Rush.