

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

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CHC Celebrates the 'Diamonds' of its 103rd Paramedic Class During Program Graduation Ceremony



CHC's 103rd Paramedic Class shined bright during their graduation ceremony on Aug. 9.

Program Director Amanda Ward recognized her "diamonds in the rough" with remarks that encompassed each student's dedication to the program.

ceremony; remarks by Class Speaker Rudy Beltran and Guest Speaker Skylar Antoncew, also a program alumnus; and the presentation of a class plaque shaped like a diamond that will hang on program walls.

Four scholarships were awarded, including two newly endowed awards presented for the first time. The Wynona Duvall Endowed Scholarship was presented to River Casner and the Dr. Phong Nguyen Paramedic Scholarship was given to Rodolfo "RJ" Gonzalez. The other scholarships were The Beaver Medical Clinical Foundation Paramedic Scholarship to Kyle Wilhite and the Yucaipa Rotary Paramedic Scholarship to Jordon Castin.

Program Director Amanda Ward Ceremony highlights included a pinning

Photo: CHC 103rd Paramedic Class.

CHC Honors Students Continue to Get Invitations to Present Their Original Research

CHC's Honors students continue to impress with their student research projects. Most recently Dax Serrato, who graduated from CHC in May, and Sam Tuckett, who will graduate in May 2025, were invited to present their research at the Geological Society of America Conference in Anaheim on September 22.

Conference at the University of San Diego.

Serrato's research is a study of harmful algal blooms at Cabrillo Beach. Tuckett's research encompasses mapping the San Andreas fault in the Cajon Pass. CHC Earth Science Professor Richard Hughes provided guidance to both students. Serrato will study geoscience at UC San Diego in the fall.

Both students presented their research in June at the American Association for the Advancement of Science – Pacific Division

Photo: Sam Tuckett presents research.



How Charis Alexander’s CHC Experience Opened Doors to Med School



Charis Alexander cannot talk about her time at Crafton Hills College without talking about its student clubs.

“Having that grounding and community when everything was shut down [because of the Covid pandemic], they were a big

stress reliever and motivator for me,” said the Beaumont resident. “It was what I needed – self-care by building community through balance, boundaries, and volunteer work.”

Alexander was happy to reflect on her time at Crafton when asked, one that started when she was just 14. She then enrolled in one class to get a leg up on her college requirements and get a taste of college life. Her hard work paid off when she graduated with an associate degree in art history in 2021.

After graduating from Crafton, Alexander transferred to the University of Southern California, where she earned a bachelor’s in neuroscience just a few weeks ago. In the fall, she’ll begin her med school studies through the USC-Caltech MD-PhD Program.

You may wonder how Alexander went from art history to neuroscience to medicine?

“When I first started at Crafton, I was thinking about going into science because

I was very ‘science focused,’” she explained. “But when talking to my counselors, they encouraged me to think of the opportunities available at Crafton and I started thinking about what else I loved doing. That ended up being humanities and history.

“I eventually began studying neuroscience because I liked human behavior, and history provides a different angle of human behavior over time,” Alexander continued. “So, I was able to discover a new side to what I was passion about, and I don’t think I would have been able to do that had I started at a four-year university.”

For those looking to have the kind of success Alexander experienced, her biggest piece of advice is to get invested and get connected.

“Take the opportunity you have with the incredible support system available at Crafton to start something new and to create something new,” she said.

Photo: Charis Alexander.

CHC Respiratory Care Program Receives Distinguished RRT Credentialing Success Award



The Respiratory Care Program at CHC has been recognized by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) by receiving its Distinguished RRT Credentialing Success Award.

This award highlights CoARC’s ongoing

efforts to highlight the value of the RRT credential as a mark of professional achievement and is based on several key accreditation metrics including three or more years of outcomes data and RRT credentialing success of 90% or above.

“Thank you to our amazing team for all that you do to continue making this program one of the best programs in the state and nation,” said program director Michael Sheahan. “This program is what it is because of your dedication to the students and our profession,” he continued.

CHC’s respiratory care program has for many years been recognized as a top career/technical program in California. Last November a four-member team of CHC respiratory care students won the state championship in the humorously titled “Sputum Bowl” competition and went on to place third overall in the national event.

Photo: Respiratory Program Director and Faculty Co-Chair Michael Sheahan, Grant Program Analyst Veronica Arrowood, Respiratory Co-Chair Danny Rojas.

CHC Honors Students Accepted to Participate in Chautauqua Summer Scholars Program



Four CHC Honors students were accepted into this year's Chautauqua Summer Scholars Program in New York State. This program, funded by Community Compact, Inc., is in the small New York town of Chautauqua, which features 19th century Victorian houses and inviting green spaces.

The mission of the program is "to facilitate opportunities for under-resourced students to acquire the social capital they need to be successful in their future endeavors."

Summer Scholars have accommodation in a large house at the center of the property.

Each day they choose which of the several morning and afternoon lectures to attend. They spend the rest of their days going to their choice of art exhibits, musical and dance performances, poetry readings, a rich variety of classes, and post-lecture dialogs.

Mornings are spent on the front porch having coffee or tea and conversing with people interested in helping them expand their social capital. They also get to meet and talk with lecturers, teachers, authors, and artists.

According to historian David McCullough,

"There's no place like [Chautauqua]. No resort. No spa. It is at once a summer encampment and a small town, a college campus, an arts colony, a music festival, a religious retreat, and the village square."

Selected students attend one of two one-week sessions. Mina Garcia, who graduated from CHC in May, attended the first session in mid-July. She reports that she became close to others in the program in just a few short days. She includes the following evaluation: "It was electric - the love for the town radiated at every event I attended. I was happily enriching my social capital whilst also making lifelong friends (no kidding - I invited all the other Summer Scholars to my wedding)! I was able to make some incredible connections that I know will help me in my field, and I look forward to reaching out and staying in touch with them all - it was a fantastic experience!"

Three other CHC Honors Institute students attended the second session at the end of July: Mikaila Keck, Melanie Bernal, and Brooklyn Child.

Photo: Mikaila Keck far left Melanie Bernal far right with two other attendees at Chautauqua Summer Scholars Program.

CHC Announces New Fire Academy Scholarship in Memory of Longtime Program Supporter, Mentor



Crafton Hills College has announced a new scholarship endowment to support its longtime fire academy, The Chief Ed Kimbrough Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Named after longtime Big Bear Lake Fire Protection District Fire Chief and longtime academy supporter Ed Kimbrough, the scholarship was a long time coming for those who knew him.

"Some of the situations these kids deal with are really, really challenging. So, any help they can get to accomplish their goals is all we want for our young people," shared his widow, Pauline. "When they are inspired to complete a lofty goal like [joining] the

fire service, we want to help make that happen."

Kimbrough found joy in training the next generation of first responders, and his wife, Pauline was proud to give out the first award to Kaia Wilson in Academy I 10.

Scholarships will be awarded to future cadets who embody Kimbrough's whatever-it-takes spirit and attitude. To contribute to the fund, go to www.craftonhills.edu/kimbrough.

Photo: Jim Kimbrough (son), Pauline Kimbrough (widow) and Kaia Wilson (recipient).

CHC Celebrates Scholarship Recipients, Donors at Annual Reception



Crafton Hills College's annual Scholarship Reception on Aug. 8, in the Crafton Center brought together student scholars and donors who funded scholarships. This mid-morning celebration was filled with gratitude from scholarship recipients and pride from donors.

"We know you had to take time out of your work and school schedules and personal lives to be here, and that means a lot to us," said Michelle Riggs, Crafton's director of institutional advancement. "We're all so proud of you."

Riggs knows first-hand the impact of a

scholarships on a student, having been a recipient herself of the Re-entering Students Scholarship during her time as a student at Crafton. Today, she works with the Foundation to establish scholarship opportunities for those students who need a financial boost.

Donors Dwight Tate and Kathy Wright were invited to speak about their friend, Dr. Carla Thornton, an advocate of student success and the founder of Crafton's Veterans Center as well as a retired Air Force master sergeant. Tate and Wright endowed the scholarship created as a legacy after Thornton's death in 2021 at

the age of 42.

"The saddest part of this day is that you don't get to meet Carla, mainly because if you met her, you became friends with her and also immediately became part of her family," Tate recalled. "Her light was extinguished far too soon."

Sabrina Salazar was named this year's Dr. Carla Thornton Scholarship recipient, which she'll use to continue her studies at UCR. The single mom of six lives in Moreno Valley, the same city Dr. Thornton called home and where she served on its city council from 2018 until her passing.

For the 2023-2024 academic year, more than 600 scholarship applications were submitted for consideration to the Crafton Hills College Foundation, which oversees the allocation of monetary donations to deserving students. The nonprofit organization awarded more than \$253,000 in gifts to students in varying amounts and for different performance achievements.

Photo: Psychology Professor Dr. Diane Pfahler with Scholarship Recipients and Family Members.

CHC Recent Graduate Halle Aldrich Awarded Minerva Scholarship



CHC Honors Program 2024 graduate Halle Aldrich was awarded a \$3,000 Minerva Scholarship on July 15.

The Minerva Scholarship program was established in 2015 by Women in California Leadership, a foundation whose purpose is "empowering women and enhancing the lives of women and girls". The program awards up to 108 scholarships each year to women of promise who enroll full-time at an accredited California college or university.

This scholarship is not the only one Aldrich has received. She has also been awarded the \$2,500 Honors Raymond Pryke Achievement Scholarship this year and the Kiwanis Club of Yucaipa Valley's \$1,000

scholarship in 2023.

In addition, as a member of the CHC Honors Institute, she presented her research on pathogens on high-touch surfaces on the CHC campus at the CHC Student Research Conference in Fall 2023 and at the HTCC Conference at UCR in April 2024. She also won the Honors Research Fellow Award in May 2024.

Aldrich graduated from CHC in 2024 with distinction, earning her associate in science degree for transfer in both biology and chemistry. She will begin the next phase of her education at UC Irvine this fall.

Photo: Halle Aldrich.