

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

October 2024



Crafton Hills College Hosts Successful First CSUSB Admit Day



The inaugural CSUSB Admit Day at Crafton Hills College on August 20 was a resounding success, marking a significant achievement in mid-year transfer promotion.

The event, designed to encourage students to consider transferring for the Spring 2025 term, saw strong participation and enthusiasm.

California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) brought a team of 20 staff members to Crafton Hills College. The team came prepared with a range of props, a photo backdrop, and even the CSUSB mascot, Cody the Coyote, accompanied by Ryker, ensuring the event was lively and fun.

Forty-Six CHC students attended the event, and 43 were successfully admitted to CSUSB for the Spring 2025 term—a notable achievement considering that most students typically apply for the Fall semester. This event showcased a creative and effective way to promote mid-year transfers, offering students an alternative pathway to achieving their academic goals.

Photo: Ryker with CHC student accepted at CSUSB.

CHC Fine Arts Department Exhibits Creative Works by College Faculty and Staff

Art by Us! opened on August 21 in the CHC art gallery. This exhibition, which occurs every two years, showcases the creative spirit of the Crafton Hills College community: staff, faculty, and administrators.

Fine Arts Professor Renée Azenaro curated the items representing all creative media. Azenaro has also provided pieces on display.

knitted pieces, photography, mechanical/kinetic works, jewelry, painting, drawing, and sculpture.

A well-attended reception was held on August 28. Visitors were able to talk with many of the artists about their works. The exhibit ran through September 11.

Photo: Students enjoy artwork at reception.



Works include poetry, crocheted and

CHC Alumnus Michelle Ly Shares with AAUW



At the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Redlands dinner on Tuesday, September 10, attendees gathered to celebrate the inspiring journey of Michelle Ly, former Student Trustee at

Crafton Hills College.

The evening was filled with stories of leadership, empowerment, and personal growth as Ly recounted her experience attending the AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCWSSL) held at the University of Maryland in May.

Ly shared the impact the conference had on her. She reflected on how the workshops fueled her passion for leadership and women’s empowerment. Ly detailed her favorite sessions, which covered everything from breaking barriers in male-dominated industries to the importance of self-advocacy. These workshops not only opened her eyes to new perspectives

but also gave her practical tools to carry forward into her career.

Equally meaningful were the friendships she formed. At NCWSSL, Ly met like-minded young women from across the country, many of whom had similarly powerful stories and aspirations.

Ly acknowledged how her involvement in student government at Crafton Hills College prepared her for this experience. The leadership roles she held on campus gave her the confidence to seize the opportunities at NCWSSL and make the most of the resources and networks available.

Photo: Ericka Paddock and Michelle Ly.

Crafton Hills College Team Selected to Present at CCEMC Dual Enrollment Conference



Student Services members Belinda Navarette, Soutsakhone Xayaphanthong, and Willie Blackmon were selected to

present at the CCEMC Dual Enrollment Conference in Burlingame, CA.

Their presentation, titled “Empathy, Equity & Supportive Measures: Navigating Dual Enrollment from an Equity Lens,” focused on Crafton Hills College’s efforts to expand Dual Enrollment with an emphasis on equity.

The college has examined how policies, practices, and decision-making impact historically marginalized students. The team has implemented supportive measures to

ensure academic success in traditionally challenging courses and employed intrusive counseling practices to address underlying student issues, aiming to bridge equity gaps. This presentation allowed the Crafton team to share their strategies for developing empathy, addressing equity issues, and establishing supportive measures as the foundation of a thriving dual enrollment program.

Photo: Willie Blackmon, Soutsakhone Xayaphanthong, and Belinda Navarette.

CHC Launches Self-Evaluation for Accreditation, Focusing on Growth and Student Success



On September 5, over fifty faculty, staff, and administrators gathered for the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) Kick-Off meeting, led by Dr. Gohar Momjian, Vice

President of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). This meeting marked the start of Crafton’s journey toward accreditation, focusing on self-assessment and continuous improvement.

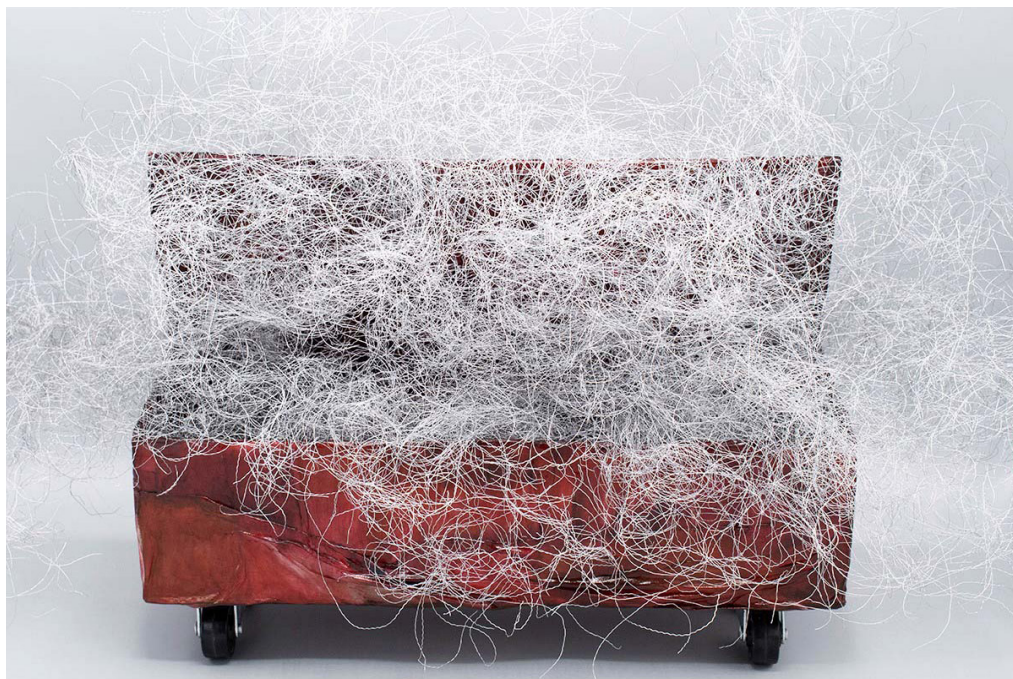
Dr. Momjian emphasized the importance of adopting a growth mindset—seeing challenges as opportunities for development. The group reviewed how Crafton uses data to improve student success and discussed the college’s Institutional Set Standards. They also examined how to interpret and

apply ACCJC standards to ensure alignment with accreditation guidelines.

The meeting highlighted that self-evaluation is not just a formality but a tool for identifying strengths and areas for growth. By embracing this process, Crafton reaffirms its commitment to enhancing student outcomes and ensuring institutional excellence, keeping the college responsive to the evolving needs of its community.

Photo: Dr. Keith Wurtz and Dr. Gohar Momjian.

Art work by Professor of Fine Arts Renée Azenaro featured in HYENA



Professor of Fine Arts Renée Azenaro has been a student-favorite art professor at Crafton Hills College since 2017, when she joined the CHC fine arts faculty. She

is also an accomplished practitioner; her creative work includes sculpture, paintings, printmaking, video, photography, curating exhibitions, and mixed media.

Recently her mixed media sculpture entitled “in my dreams i forgave myself” was selected for the publication HYENA to mark the centennial of André Breton’s first Surrealist Manifesto through a feminist lens represented in artworks and writings.

Azenaro explained that this piece is part of a series of pieces in which she mines the sense of healing and what remains outwardly invisible. She adds, “my work is influenced by the natural world, biology, feminism, music, contemporary issues, politics—the world around us.”

Azenaro’s diverse inspirations and multifaceted approach continue to make her a dynamic and influential figure both in the classroom and the contemporary art world.

Photo: Renée Azenaro’s featured art work published in HYENA.

CHC Hosts ‘Meet the Firm’ Event to Empower Future Accounting Professionals



On September 5, Crafton Hills College hosted a successful “Meet the Firm” event, bringing together accounting students and related majors with industry professionals eager to explore career opportunities, internships, and networking possibilities.

Four CPA firms had one-on-one conversation with students who were able to ask questions and discuss potential career paths while gaining insights into the culture, services, and opportunities at each firm.

This event was not only a chance for students to connect with potential employers, but it also offered CPA firms an invaluable opportunity to engage with the next generation of motivated and talented accounting professionals. The presence of these firms benefited both the students and the firms by offering exposure to a pool of bright, driven individuals who are eager to make their mark in the industry.

At Crafton Hills College, we are committed to supporting our students and the broader community through various initiatives. One of the firms, Smith Marion presented a check for \$1,000 to support our scholarship program and sponsor the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

This generous contribution will help provide vital resources for students, further enhancing their opportunities for hands-on experience in tax preparation.

Photo: Smith Marion with CHC representatives.

CHC Welcomes Deanna Brown as Director of the Child Development Center



Deanna Brown brings extensive experience to the field of Early Childhood Education and Child Development, having worked as a preschool teacher, childcare director, and adjunct faculty member teaching Child Development courses.

Her passion lies in supporting children, families, teaching staff, and college students, and she understands the importance of creating environments that nurture growth, learning, and development for all.

Deanna's academic journey began at Riverside City College, where she earned her AA in Early Childhood Studies. She then transferred to California State University, San Bernardino, where she obtained both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Child Development. Over the course of her career, she has taken on various roles, including children's program coordinator for a First 5 Early Intervention Project, adjunct lecturer, and program director for an infant/toddler lab school and state-funded preschool at CSUSB.

Deanna is excited to join Crafton Hills College and looks forward to meeting her new colleagues on the beautiful campus. In her spare time, she enjoys swimming with her children, spending time with family and friends, and visiting the beach.

Photo: Deanna Brown.

CHC Hosts Open House to Promote EOPS, CARE, CalWORKS, NextUp, and Dreamers Programs



Crafton Hills College's EOPS, CARE, CalWORKS, NextUp, and Dreamers programs hosted an open house event in the quad on September 17, bringing energy and excitement to campus.

The event featured food, a DJ, engaging games, and giveaways, drawing students in for a fun-filled afternoon. Designed to raise awareness about these essential support programs, the open house aimed

to encourage eligible students to apply.

EOPS provides educational opportunities for students facing economic and academic barriers, while CARE offers additional support for single parents. CalWORKS helps students receiving public assistance pursue education and training, and NextUp supports current and former foster youth. The Dreamers program serves undocumented students, offering resources to help them succeed in college.

With this event, the department sought to connect with students who may benefit from these programs, ensuring they have access to the support they need to thrive.

Photo: Attendees enjoy food at EOPS open house event.