

# Citrus VIEW

—LATEST NEWS FROM CITRUS COLLEGE—

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## Report reveals college's economic impact of nearly \$1 billion



According to a report titled, "The Economic Value of Citrus College," students who invest in a Citrus College education receive an annual return of 23.1%.

Thanks to the efforts of faculty and staff, Citrus College had an economic impact of \$947.2 million in Los Angeles County during the 2021-2022 fiscal year, according to a recent study conducted by a global analytic firm.

Lightcast, a provider of economic impact and labor market data, performed the comprehensive analysis of the economic impact Citrus College has in the region. In a report titled, "The Economic Value of Citrus College," the firm revealed that by totaling nearly \$1 billion, Citrus College's impact in the areas of construction spending, student spending and alumni spending supports 10,265 jobs in the county.

"Made possible through Strong Workforce Program regional funding and the support of the Los Angeles Regional Consortium, this study reinforces the tremendous importance of the programs and services we provide at Citrus College," said Dr. Greg Schulz, superintendent/president of Citrus College.

In addition to the economic analysis, Lighthouse performed a comparison of the costs and benefits of investing in Citrus College. In doing so, they found that for every dollar a student invests in Citrus College in the form of out-of-

pocket expenses and time, they receive a cumulative value of \$7.80 in higher future earnings.

Similarly, the investment analysis determined that Citrus College generates more in tax revenue than it receives. For every dollar of public money invested in Citrus College, taxpayers receive a cumulative value of \$1.40 over the course of the students' working lives.

The Lightcast study was based on several sources, including the 2021-2022 fiscal year and financial reports from Citrus College; institutional data supplied by the college's institutional research, planning and effectiveness office; industry and employment data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau; outputs of Lightcast's Multi-Regional Social Accounting Matrix model; and a variety of studies and surveys relating to education and social behavior.

"These results are both encouraging and inspiring," Superintendent/President Schulz said. "They affirm what those of us in the campus community have known for a long time: Investing your time and money in Citrus College is a wise decision."

# World-famous artwork featured in campus gallery



Billie Milam Weisman (right), director of the Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation, supervises the installation of "Crushed Orange" (1980) by José Luis Quiñones in the Citrus College Art Gallery.

Pieces from one of the most important art collections in the world are now on display in the Citrus College Art Gallery – and faculty and staff were among the first to view them!

Paintings and sculptures by artists such as Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein and Keith Haring, among others, are part of the "POP Art: Selections from the Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation" exhibit being held on campus through April 30, 2024. The exhibit opened on Flex Day, with faculty and staff attending breakout sections involving guided curated tours.

"Pop art was an important and culturally significant movement in art history, and this exhibition illustrates how it has influenced artistic production in our present cultural moment," said Mike Hillman, visual arts instructor. "By visiting the college's Art Gallery, guests will have the opportunity to view portions of one of the premier collections of contemporary, modern and pop art in existence."

Hillman is responsible for bringing the exhibit to the campus and believes it is an opportunity for faculty, staff, students and community members to view important works they may not have otherwise seen. "Our hope is that their visits inspire them to create, dream and educate others," he said.

Although "POP Art: Selections from the Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation" is open to the public, reservations are required. Visitors are asked to schedule viewing appointments at [www.citrusarts.org/exhibitions](http://www.citrusarts.org/exhibitions). Admission is free of charge, but donations to the Citrus College Visual Arts program are welcome.

"Citrus College is incredibly grateful to Mrs. Weisman and the Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation for bringing these masterpieces to our campus," said Superintendent/President Schulz. "This exhibit will provide our students with the opportunity to be inspired by the works of world-famous artists before walking into our Citrus College studio art classes and creating their own pieces."

## Citrus College marquees receive new look



Students, employees and neighbors driving to and from campus may have noticed something eye-catching at the corner of Foothill Boulevard and Barranca Avenue: The flashing lights, moving text and vivid images of Citrus College's newest LED marquee.

Debating in late December, the Foothill/Barranca fixture is one of two upgraded marquees recently added to campus.

The first marquee is located on the corner of Citrus Avenue and Foothill Boulevard/Campus Drive. Both marquees are produced by Optec and feature cell modem communication with lifetime data and cloud-based software.

"The old marquees were of vintage technology and had served well beyond their useful equipment life," said Fred Diamond, director of facilities and construction. "The new marquees use LED technology, are more efficient and support the Citrus College Sustainability Plan."

Two new LED marquees have been installed at the west (top) and east (bottom) sides of the campus.

# Campus welcomes four new leaders



Pictured (L-R): Simone Brown Thunder, Dr. Elaine Lipiz Gonzalez, Dr. Jack Beckham and Dr. Balaji Sethu Raja.

Citrus College recently welcomed four new faces to leadership roles across campus.

In November, Simone Brown Thunder was appointed executive director of human resources. A leader with significant experience in human resources, Brown Thunder previously served as the district director of human resources operations at the North Orange County Community College District.

A member of the Karuk tribe, one of the largest Native American tribes in California, Brown Thunder has also performed human resources-related work at the University of Minnesota and worked for the Indian Health Service, a federal agency that supports tribes and health clinics.

Since November, Citrus College has also welcomed three deans, including Elaine Lipiz Gonzalez, Ed.D., as dean of counseling programs and services.

Prior to obtaining the role, Dr. Gonzalez served as the dean of student support services and Title IX coordinator at Fullerton College. She also has past experience as the interim vice president of student services at Fullerton College, as well as the director of EOPS/CARE and CalWORKs at Cypress College.

In January, Jack Beckham, Ph.D., joined the campus community as dean of social and behavioral sciences and online education. Most recently, Dr. Beckham spent time in the South Orange County Community College District as the learning and development project lead, where he directed the district's leadership academy and professional development efforts.

The college also recently welcomed Balaji Sethu Raja, Ph.D., as dean of mathematics and business. Prior to accepting the role, he spent time in a variety of roles at California State University, Fresno, including full-time teaching, applied engineering research, and leadership oversight for the undergraduate and graduate programs in industrial technology and teacher credentialing.

"On behalf of the entire campus community, I would like to welcome and congratulate these four outstanding individuals," said Superintendent/President Schulz. "Each of them brings with them a wealth of knowledge and expertise, as well as a passion for helping students. As a college, we are extraordinarily lucky to have them."

## Resourceful team meets college's printing needs



Pictured (L-R): Jose Nunez, Gina Matta, Sonia Razo, Ryan Francisco and Brett McNamara.

Take a stroll across campus or step inside any office, and you're sure to see something produced by the Citrus College Reprographics team.

Located on the eastern end of campus between the Center for Innovation and the Mathematics/Sciences Building, reprographics is one of the most bustling environments at the college, filled with roaring machines that produce everything from banners and signs to postcards and letters.

"We make sure that the printing being done exceeds the expectations of our clients," said Brett McNamara, reprographics/mail services supervisor. "Each order is unique – we treat each project according to its uniqueness regardless of how big or small it may be."

McNamara, who joined the campus community in November 2023, brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his role. Born and raised in South Africa, McNamara moved to the United States in 2002 and has spent more than 20 years in the printing business, including as a printing services manager and owner of a small business specializing in digital marketing and printing.

A lot of work goes into each printing task, and McNamara enjoys it all.

"Guiding people on applicable paper, inks and finishing options and seeing the end result is very satisfying," McNamara said. "With emerging technologies like AI, it is very interesting to find ways of merging them with print."

In addition to black and white and full-color printing, reprographics can do bindery functions, including book binding, laminating and wide-format printing. The office can also drill, cut and fold printed materials.

McNamara supervises a staff of four: Ryan Francisco, reprographics technician II; Gina Matta, reprographics technician I; Jose Nunez, mailroom/reprographics technician; and Sonia Razo, reprographics technician II.

"We draw on each other's experiences to ensure we are producing orders and advising the campus community on the best paper and printing options available to them," McNamara said.

To learn more about reprographics, visit [www.citruscollege.edu/repro](http://www.citruscollege.edu/repro).

# Fighting Owls earn major victories and honors in fall campaign



Many of the college's athletic teams found success during the fall 2023 semester.

Citrus College Athletics enjoyed another successful fall semester with an individual state championship, a bowl victory and more than 40 scholar athletes earning all-conference honors.

One of the season's biggest moments occurred in November when golfer Isabelle Olivas-Lowell won the 2023 California Community College Athletic Association (3C2A) State Individual Championship, becoming the first Owl in college history to win the title. In January, the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees honored Olivas-Lowell during a board meeting.

Additionally, Olivas-Lowell won the Individual Western State Conference Championship. She and two others also competed in the SoCal Regional two-day tournament.

Another impressive moment during the fall season came when the football team earned its second consecutive bowl game victory after defeating College of the Canyons 42-13 in the Western State Bowl. After the season, 14 scholar athletes earned all-conference honors.

In the pool, both the men's and women's water polo teams posted impressive seasons.

The men's team closed out the year with a 14-11 record and took third in the Western State Conference. In his first year as head coach, Gavin Nolan was named the Western State Conference co-coach of the year. Additionally, seven scholar athletes earned all-conference honors.

The women's team ended with a 15-16 record and made an appearance in the 3C2A SoCal Regional tournament. Seven scholar athletes also earned all-conference honors.

The men's and women's cross country teams also saw success, with Ryleigh Larue earning All-State second-team recognition with a top-30 finish at the 3C2A championship.

On the pitch, men's and women's soccer had remarkable seasons. The women's team ended the season on a high note and picked up seven all-conference honors, and assistant coach Steve Jimenez was honored at the 18th annual Saluting Our Veterans event.

The men's team had its best season since 2016 after finishing with a record of 9-9-3. Six scholar athletes also earned all-conference honors.

Rounding out the season, women's volleyball enjoyed success after four players earned all-conference honors.

"The entire campus community is extremely proud of our scholar athletes for their incredible achievements on the field and in the classroom," Superintendent/President Schulz said. "It has truly been an honor to watch them excel."



# Students start semester with optimism, enthusiasm

After days of heavy rain, the sun broke through the clouds and shone on Citrus College just in time for the first day of spring semester instruction.

As of the second week of classes, the college's projected full-time equivalent students, or FTES, is up 6.9% for credit courses and 8.5% for noncredit courses. Spring semester unduplicated headcount enrollment is up to 9,621 students.

With goals ranging from pursuing an associate degree or earning a certificate to transferring to a four-year university or improving their skills, these students are optimistic and motivated to succeed.

"My plan this semester is to get all A's," said Tyrence Nanong-Rosano, an architecture major. "I don't want to be in debt when I go to a university, so that's why I enrolled [at Citrus College]. I want to get my associate degree and license in architecture design here so that it will be easier when I transfer to a university and only have two more years left to finish."

Theater arts major Xiana Cabral also has big plans for the semester.

"I want to get my foot in the door by learning how to act," she said. "My goal is to begin preparing to do it professionally."



Citrus College welcomed thousands of students to campus and online for the start of the spring 2024 semester in late February.

Overall, the mood on campus is positive.

"I am looking forward to meeting new people and learning new subjects," said Katelyn Wright, a child development major.

## Baseball team gets new field, scoreboard



The new upgrades include a synthetic all-turf field and Daktronics electronic scoreboard.

The Citrus College baseball field recently underwent its most significant upgrade in years.

Installed just in time for the start of the season, the new upgrades include a synthetic all-turf field and a Daktronics electronic scoreboard. The field installation was a collaborative effort between college administration, facilities, purchasing and athletics.

"The players seem to like it and are just happy to have the field back," said Julian "Trip" Horton, kinesiology/athletics facility supervisor. "It's turf now and not grass, so it plays a bit different and the team is still getting used to it."

There are certain benefits to turf over grass, Horton said, including how it can be used after rain and the fact that it doesn't need to be mowed.

"It has been reseeded every year, but a true field replacement is what it needed for the last decade," Horton said.

The new scoreboard, which replaced one that was in use for more than 20 years, was paid for by a local high

school coach and small business owner who has been a longtime supporter of the baseball program, said head coach Steve Gomez.

Gomez agreed with Horton about the many benefits of a synthetic turf field. However, in an effort to maintain some of the feel of playing on a natural field, the college stuck with clay for the pitcher's mound and hitting area.

To see the field for yourself, check out an upcoming baseball game and follow the team this season at [www.citrusowls.com/sports/bsb](http://www.citrusowls.com/sports/bsb).



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