

Citrus VIEW

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California Community Colleges Chancellor visits campus to discuss Vision 2030

Dr. Sonya Christian, chancellor of the California Community Colleges System, is joined by the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees and members of the campus community in March.

For the first time since being appointed chancellor of the California Community Colleges System in June 2023, Dr. Sonya Christian visited Citrus College to discuss Vision 2030: A Roadmap for California Community Colleges.

The event kicked off on March 19 in the Visual Arts Building with a welcome and introductions from Dr. Greg Schulz, superintendent/president of Citrus College. Dr. Christian then gave a presentation about Vision 2030, a collaborative action plan providing focus, equity and direction to 116 community colleges across the state.

The three goals of Vision 2030 are equity in success, access and support. Within those three goals, there are six outcomes that will be used for tracking progress and ensuring continuous improvement.

After Dr. Christian took questions from audience members, she listened to Citrus College students and faculty discuss their passion and connection to the college, as well as the importance of workforce development and career technical education.

Moderated by Sarah Bosler, public services librarian, a panel of six students and alumni talked about their fields of study. Panelists included Cecilia Doria, Ryan Francisco, Ezequiel (Gus) Gonzalez, Laela Gonzales, Omar Ocegueda and Lucy Zurita-Osorio (pictured bottom left).

Next, a panel of five faculty members – moderated by Jim Woolum, administration of justice instructor – reflected on their teaching experiences and talked about how the college is preparing students for their future careers. Panelists included Ryan Woolford, Dan Volonte, Dr. Eleanor Tsark, Tommy Reyes and Nicholas Paulson (pictured bottom right).

“On behalf of the entire campus community, I want to thank Dr. Christian for the taking the time from her busy schedule to visit Citrus College,” Superintendent/President Schulz said. “We are eager to engage and collaborate with her moving forward and, through Vision 2030, anticipate finding even more ways to support our students on their academic journey.”



Hootie's Closet prepares students for career success

Professional work attire, resumes, headshots – Hootie's Closet had it all!

For the second year in a row, Hootie's Closet connected more than 200 students to resources designed to prepare them for career success.

Held inside the Campus Center, the event was sponsored by CTE employment services in collaboration with the college's student life and leadership development and basic needs programs.

In the weeks leading up to the event, event organizers hosted a clothing drive, where individuals donated professional clothing, including blazers, suit coats, dresses, blouses and more. At the event, students were able to try the items on and take them home.

To get students ready for future job and internship opportunities, Hootie's Closet also offered free professional headshots and digital business cards, as well as help with resumes and strategies for interviewing. Additionally, multiple programs and departments on campus, including human resources and the Dream Resource Center, had booths at the event, informing students about the resources available to them.

Elizabeth Montellano, CTE employment specialist, has been instrumental in making the event possible over the past two years.

"This year, thanks to the generous support of an innovation grant from the Citrus College Foundation, we expanded the event's offerings, providing new



Citrus College instructor Tommy Reyes helps a student adjust his tie at Hootie's Closet.

professional clothing options and gift cards for students," Montellano said. "It's been incredibly fulfilling to plan and enhance Hootie's Closet, and I'm deeply grateful for the support that made it possible."

Montellano said the event will most likely return in spring 2025. In the meantime, students can look forward to the CTE career fair taking place in the Campus Center on April 25.

Professional learning provides employees with assistance, opportunities

Citrus College faculty and staff can strengthen their skills and cultivate their talents with the help of the new Professional Learning Committee.

Launched at the start of the 2023-2024 academic year, the committee was formed following the dissolution of the Faculty Learning Institute and Classified Development Committee. It falls under the umbrella of the college's diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility+ (DEIA+) office and includes representation from all campus constituency groups.

"As the central hub for all training and development on campus, professional learning serves adjunct faculty, classified staff, confidential/supervisors, full-time faculty and managers," said Sarah Bosler, professional learning faculty



Established at the start of the 2023-2024 academic year, professional learning is part of the college's DEIA+ office.

coordinator. "Professional learning enables and empowers Citrus College employees to learn more about the roles they play in their unique areas on campus, as well as to gain access to current and relevant resources and information in various disciplines and studies."

One way the Professional Learning Committee helps employees is by funding work-related travel. This year, the committee improved the travel request process by developing a simplified funding request form, revising funding request deadlines and increasing the amount of travel funding available for all constituency groups.

"Because we've been able to increase the travel allowance to \$850 per employee per academic year, we've seen an increase in travel requests as more employees are encouraged to apply for financial assistance," Bosler said. "Specifically, we're excited to have seen significant growth with classified professionals and adjunct faculty who have taken advantage of the program."

Another way professional learning helps is through events. For example, the committee is sponsoring a speaker series this spring. Beginning in April, guests will present on a variety of topics, such as facilitating a sense of belonging for formerly incarcerated students, engaging and supporting Latinx students, and supporting BIQTPOC at community colleges via Zoom.

In the days ahead, the Professional Learning Committee will begin implementing a vision resource center. This tool will enable employees to find professional development opportunities, register for events and keep track of trainings they have completed.

"We're working hard to develop and grow a variety of offerings, and we are always open to feedback, suggestions, ideas and solutions to best provide assistance and opportunities to the entire campus community," Bosler said.

College sets new record for most Scholar Ballers



Citrus College honored 158 student athletes as Scholar Ballers in early March.

For nearly 20 years, Citrus College has recognized student athletes who achieve academic success as Scholar Ballers.

On March 6, the college continued its tradition by honoring 158 student athletes from the 2022-2023 academic year who maintained a GPA of at least 3.0, a new record for most Scholar Ballers in a single year.

The ceremony took place before a home softball game against East Los Angeles College. Prior to being honored on the field, the student athletes were treated to a lunch from Raising Cane's.

"The entire campus community is so proud of our Scholar Ballers for their outstanding achievements," said Superintendent/President Schulz. "It takes a

tremendous amount of sacrifice and dedication to do what they have done. On behalf of the entire campus community, we wish these students the best as they continue to take on new challenges at Citrus College and beyond."

2024 Scholar Ballers

BASEBALL

Adam Abboud
Mayson Baez
Tyler Carmona
Mario Catalan
Joshua Cortinas
Jake Entrup
George Gonzalez
Sean Gonzalez
Roman Huizar
Derek Leader
Jonathan Maldonado
Nathan Marquez
Daniel Rios
Sean Rooney
Matthew Santiago
Aiden Taylor
Luke Willison

FOOTBALL

Anthony Alvarado
Devin Amphone
Julian Borrayo
Nolan Byrd
Jonathan Calderon
Jesse Carmona
Deion Carter

Colin Corbin
Hunter Corbin
Jacob De Lazzaro
Joshua Garcia
Ruben Jimenez Lopez
Jaidyn Jones
Logan Juggert
Kannon Katzer
Kosuke Kayahara
Alexander Lopez
Solomon Macneil
Fred Martin
Drew Merrill
Tayvonne Miller
Emmanuel Mogbolu
Koy Riggan
Anthony Sanchez
Gagneet Sidhu
Ashton Smith
Sani Tuala

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Xerian Anderson
Myles Blackman

Noach Bloch
EJ Bryson
Marlon Haggard
Malik Khouzam
JJ Mitchell
Zeke Pannell
Zaye Salgado
Noah Smith
Brenick Soliday
Rudy Suarez
Brandon Suber
Kam Washington

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Eddie Castillo
Adrian Martinez
Aaron Zamarron
Rolando Zerimar

MEN'S GOLF

Kei Arafune
Matthew Carbajal
Carter Gauthier
Alex Morales
Ashtin Mount
Christian Natividad

Daichi Nishisu
Seungbuhm Oh
Armando Palacio
Damien Perez
Nathan Vi

MEN'S SOCCER

Jacob Deroyal
Sammy Ghandour
Takechika Ito
Anthony Martinez
Jacob Mendoza
Isaac Ochoa
Jacob Ponce
Yves Puplampu
Ty Robnett
Christian Sanchez
Andrew Witrago

MEN'S WATER POLO

Riley Bagley
Brian de Lama
Devon Dow
Roberto Guerra
Milton Gutierrez
Logan Haberle
Adam Herald

Aiden Herald
Gavin Tanner
Colton Vale
Jack Wilson

SOFTBALL

Bailey Aguilar
Adri Bonilla
Torie Brewer
Tatyanna Campos
Madelyn Hajj
Paige Horvat
Caitlin Kelley
Samantha Meyndert
Nicole Moore
Nesali Parra
Serena Rodriguez

VOLLEYBALL

Danielle Erlandson
Raegan Johnson
Isabel Luna
Jamie Murphy
Julia Pitre
Kiera Vermillion
Lauren Wesley

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Leilani Argueta
Liz Camargo
Sammy Martinez
Dejja Mitchell
Kristin Morella
Jolleen Olia
Bianca Robles
Gabby Valdez
Kaylana Viray

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Ryleigh Larue
Talia Saldana
Lucy Zarita Osorio

WOMEN'S GOLF

Cora Averweg
Lidia Cuevas
Isabelle Olivas-Lowell

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Lucy Bower
Samantha Casas
Emily Cherry

Dianna Garcia
Julianna Gasca
Maddy Moris
Jasmine Rodarte
Megan Sewell
Stevie Spencer
Isabella Villalobos

WOMEN'S WATER POLO

Sierra Beltran
Xiana Cabral
Bianca Casas
Charlie Figueroa
Andrea Hayler
Trinity Hulet
Sarah Jurado
Delaney Latham
Zoey Mendoza
Genesis Moradel
Makayla Navarrette
Anika Nichols
Arianna Pacheco
Elizabeth Walls
Katelyn Wright
Hannah Wu

Honoring Black History Month



A musical performance, employee mixer and library display were among the activities Citrus College organized to commemorate Black History Month.

Citrus College students, faculty and staff joined together to honor and elevate the history, culture and significance of the Black community at campus events in late February.

Hosted in recognition of Black History Month, these events were designed to celebrate the contributions and achievements of Black Americans. The festivities kicked off with a performance by Night Shift, the high-energy student music group directed by Gino Munoz.

"The group performed music celebrating Black artists – some of the best American music written," the Citrus College music instructor said. "A crowd gathered to watch the show and everyone had a great time."

Later in the week, the Citrus College Black Scholars program hosted a movie night, and the student life and leadership development team organized a Black History Month-themed painting activity.

"Participants were given paint-by-number kits featuring designs of Black icons, such as Rosa Parks, Langston Hughes and Michelle Obama," explained Rosario Garcia, student life supervisor. "The event was well attended and well received."

Other Black History Month events included a workshop titled, "Progress or Performance? Becoming True Advocates for Black Student Success," facilitated by Dr. Antonio Banks and organized by the student affairs and DEIA+ teams, and an employee lunch and mingle sponsored by the Citrus College Black Employee Resource Group.

"The Black History Month employee lunch and mingle was a way for all Citrus College faculty and staff to celebrate our Black community's rich culture and contributions to American history," explained Kai Wattree-Jackson, president of the college's Black Faculty and Staff Association. "Our motto is, 'As We Rise, We Lift,' so we want to lift and empower all voices at Citrus College by embracing and celebrating our differences through events such as this one."

The Hayden Memorial Library also featured a Black History Month literary display and offered other resources throughout the month.

"Black history can teach us so much about our past, present and future," said Superintendent/President Schulz. "I'm so thankful that these activities provided our campus with the opportunity to celebrate the many achievements of and contributions from the Black community."



Foundation raises funds with donor wall plaques



The Citrus College Foundation plans to raise \$100,000 through the campaign by June 2024.

Tucked between the Haugh Performing Arts Center and Student Services Building, the Citrus College Foundation Legacy and Promise Courtyard will soon undergo a major transformation.

Benefactors who donate between \$1,000 and \$5,000 to the Foundation will be rewarded with honorary plaques on the donor recognition walls.

Currently, the courtyard consists of a circular bench and memorial tree honoring Joyce McClendon Dill, a longtime Foundation supporter who graduated from Citrus Union High School and worked at Citrus College for several decades.

The Citrus College Foundation Board of Directors initiated the project as a means to raise undesignated funding, which supports innovation grants and funding for on-campus events and activities.

So far, the Foundation has raised \$60,000 through the project. They ultimately hope to raise \$100,000 by June.

To support the project, visit www.citruscollege.edu/foundation or contact the Foundation at 626-914-8825 or foundation@citruscollege.edu.

Longtime educator recognized for excellence in teaching



Citrus College instructor Cherie Brown was honored during the annual Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival in February.

Cherie Brown wasn't expecting to receive the national Acting Teacher of Excellence. Even as she watched a former student walk to the stage to make the presentation, the Citrus College theater arts instructor said it didn't click.

"I was stunned," she said. "I can be so naïve about these things."

Presented by the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival in association with the National Alliance of Acting Teachers, the Acting Teacher of Excellence award is given to eight recipients throughout the United States each year. Brown was nominated and awarded the honor by her theater colleagues throughout Region 8, which serves theater arts students and educators from California, Utah, Nevada, Arizona and Hawaii.

"I had no idea that the administrators for our region had nominated me until I was presented with the award during the Gold Medallion Awards dinner," Brown explained.

The dinner was the culminating event of the region's annual festival. Held at Glendale Community College in February, the five-day event involved workshops, competitions and scholarships in playwriting, acting, dramatic criticism, theater management, directing and design.

"There were about 1,000 students who competed in all of the categories," Brown explained. "People traveled from several states to participate."

Among this year's competitors were several Citrus College students. In fact, theater arts student Vanessa Jimenez received this year's Student Choice Award, as well as a national award for her lighting design of the college's fall production of "Dracula." This victory allows her to move on and compete at the national level in Washington D.C.

"I'm proud of all of my students, whether they get nominated or not. Citrus College has the nicest and most respectful students on the planet," Brown said. "It was a wonderful week and I am happy that Citrus College was represented so well."



Vanessa Jimenez, right.

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