

Citrus VIEW

— LATEST NEWS FROM CITRUS COLLEGE —

citruscollege.edu



Chicano culture celebrated at recent event

The Campus Mall was filled with live music, free refreshments and colorful cars during a recent celebration hosted by the automotive technology and student life and leadership development programs.

When Damien Palacios took a break after his science lab on April 11, he was surprised by the sounds coming from the Campus Mall.

"This is great," the pre-engineering major said after investigating the festive noise. "I have lecture in a few minutes, so it's nice to admire the cars and enjoy the music while I wait."

Damien and more than 300 members of the Citrus College community attended the Lowrider Culture and Community event recently organized by the automotive technology and student life and leadership programs.

"This was an idea I had during a DEIA+ committee meeting where we discussed events we could host in order to bring specific cultural awareness," explained Priscilla Englert, automotive technology instructor. "Lowrider owners and enthusiasts are a historically marginalized subculture, so activities like this one are great because they celebrate culture, community and show allyship. We should

always embrace the opportunity to celebrate culture in any way possible and to encourage representation."

"The response was positive," added Rosario Garcia, student life supervisor. "Many employees shared with me that they enjoyed the event and thanked us for hosting it."

A celebration of Chicano culture, the Lowrider Culture and Community event featured brightly colored lowriders, upbeat music performed by Night Shift and free tacos for 325 people.

"I heard about this event through an email and decided to stop by because it seemed really cool," said Alexa Tapia, a journalism major. "The musicians were really talented and the cars were cool. Events like this are important because they bring the community together and take the stress out of every day student life."



Three students in the running for prestigious scholarship



Picture (L-R): Citrus College students Brian Tong, Charles Zhu and Abiodun Collins.

Citrus College students Abiodun Collins, Brian Tong and Yuxiang (Charles) Zhu are semifinalists for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's highly selective transfer scholarship. They have been selected from a competitive pool of nearly 1,600 applicants.

According to the foundation, the Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship aims to help community college students who have demonstrated exceptional academic ability, leadership and service transfer to four-year institutions and avoid student debt. The award, which serves as last-dollar funding after all other institutional aid, can provide as much as \$55,000 per year for two to three years. This year, the foundation selected 459 semifinalists from 194 community colleges in 37 states, plus Washington, D.C., and the Northern Mariana Islands. The finalists are expected to be announced this month.

Brian Tong

Brian Tong was surprised to learn he was in the running for a Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. "It was definitely a shock to me," he said. "However, I was even more shocked and proud that we have three Owls this year, including me, who are semifinalists."

Brian enrolled at Citrus College after immigrating from Hong Kong. "I had my early education in Hong Kong, but my ambition to excel in the field of chemical engineering and my vision to maximize my potential prompted a change from the familiar to this exciting Citrus community," he said.

Brian has had amazing experiences on campus and has built incredible friendships. "Especially my time in ASCC," he added. "They have become my second family."

When he graduates this June, Brian will transfer to a four-year university to study chemical engineering, with an emphasis on nanotechnology. His ultimate goal is to "find solutions for climate justice, bridge the digital divide and provide a more accessible education."

Charles Zhu

When Charles Zhu graduated from Arcadia High School, he knew what his next step would be. "My sister graduated from Citrus College in 2015," he explained. "After hearing about her many great experiences, I decided to become an Owl myself."

During his two years at Citrus College, Charles has made his mark. From launching the Citrus Engineering Club to serving two terms as an officer for the Associated Students of Citrus College, he was committed to giving back.

"Together, we orchestrated bonding events and organized volunteering opportunities, fostering a stronger connection with our community beyond the campus," Charles said. "Collaboratively, we transformed our college into more than just an academic institution; it was a community where we could find a sense of belonging among students."

Preparing for the next stage of his academic journey, Charles said he is grateful for the opportunity he had to "grow past the capacity [he] had predicted." After graduating this June, he will pursue a bachelor's degree in computer science. Charles hopes to become a robotic researcher.

Abiodun Collins

When Abiodun Collins first moved to the United States from Nigeria, he was disappointed to find himself in "immigration limbo" and unable to attend college.

"In my country, there is a saying that education is the best inheritance a parent could give a child and that it is a sure way out of poverty," he said. "Getting higher education has always been a priority of mine and my family. So, upon legal consultation, I discovered I could attend college as an out-of-state student."

Now nearing the end of his time at Citrus College, Abiodun has made the most of his time on campus. He even served as editor-in-chief of the Clarion student newspaper. "My Citrus experience has been great," he added.

After graduating this June, Abiodun plans to transfer to the University of California, Los Angeles, to study communications and political science. His ultimate goal is to attend law school and work for a nonprofit to highlight societal problems, such as human trafficking and immigration.

DEIA+ activities aim to create understanding, increase support



Accessibility workshops, speaker series and student discussion groups will help advance the college's DEIA+ goals this semester.

This spring, the Citrus College Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility+ (DEIA+) Office has moved forward with its efforts to provide insight and guidance into the needs of students and employees.

One particular area of progress has been with accessibility. Over 40 faculty and staff members attended the office's Accessibility Workshop Series. Beginning March 1, these six workshops helped participants create and transform college content, flyers and other visual materials into more accessible documents for students and staff with varying disabilities.

"Since there is not a centralized place at the college for checking accessibility, we have the shared

responsibility – and the ability – to create documents that are accessible to as wide of an audience as possible," said Dr. Ty Thomas, director of diversity, equity and inclusion. "By making small changes to how we create documents like syllabi, meeting minutes and flyers, we can ensure that users across the continuum of physical and cognitive abilities can share in the information."

The DEIA+ office is also presenting a speaker series this semester. Opening with a presentation by Dr. Antonio Banks on Feb. 29 titled, "Progress or Performance: Becoming True Advocates for Black Students Success," several guests speakers have shared their insight into engaging and supporting diverse and unique student communities.

"With a student population that is growing increasingly diverse, it is important to learn how to connect with the distinct communities of identity and culture that have chosen Citrus College to help guide them through their educational journey," Dr. Thomas said. "Our incredible lineup of guest speakers will share their understanding and practices to highlight the barriers and challenges unique to these populations, and to instruct us on how to close gaps to further engage with, teach, inspire and nurture students to success."

Additionally, a new round of student discussion groups began last month.

"Fifty students signed up to participate in last semester's groups, and the goal is to reach even more this semester," Dr. Thomas said. "We want to learn from all of the students that apply, and if any students are not able to attend the sessions, we have measures in place to reach out to them individually."

Interested participants went online and selected the communities that aligned with their identities, then signed up for the available days and times for those particular groups. Employees across campus have also volunteered to be trained to facilitate the groups.

"It is important for our research team to collect as much feedback as possible to learn where we can improve, and to strengthen what we already do well," Dr. Thomas said.

FKCE supervisor honored for helping foster youth

On a recent weekday afternoon, Jorge Razo opened his email to find a pleasant surprise.

"San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools ... would like to congratulate you on being selected as one of the 2024 Children Deserve Success Award recipients!" the message read.

For Razo, who serves as the supervisor of the Citrus College Foster and Kinship Care Education (FKCE)/Guardian Scholars programs, the award was a meaningful honor.

"Being recognized for the work I do with foster youth in achieving higher education means a lot to me," Razo said. "Foster youth face many barriers when it comes to education, and knowing that I can help improve the educational outcomes for students in foster care means a lot."

Each year, the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools gives the Children Deserve Success awards to individuals who demonstrate outstanding dedication and commitment to meeting the needs of K-12 and post-secondary students in San Bernardino County.



Razo recently received a 2024 Children Deserve Success Award.

To help more foster youth gain access to higher education, Razo has partnered with the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools in recent years and attended many foster youth events in the area.

"This has allowed me to introduce Citrus College to more students who would not necessarily know about the school or the support services we provide for foster youth," Razo said.

As a result of the partnership, San Bernardino County foster youth are invited to attend the annual Citrus College Guardian Scholars

orientation, which introduces them to Citrus College and provides them with school supplies, meals and educational materials.

In addition to informing prospective students about the college, Razo oversees the college's programs that support foster youth currently attending Citrus College, as well as their families. Students receive priority registration, academic counseling, and access to a computer lab, lounge and kitchen.

To learn more about these programs, visit www.citruscollege.edu/fkce.



Athletics welcomes inaugural *Hall of Fame* class



Over the years, many Citrus College scholar-athletes, coaches and staff have made outstanding contributions to the athletics program. To honor these individuals, the Citrus College Kinesiology and Athletics Division recently launched the Hall of Fame, which welcomed its inaugural class on April 12. Honorees include:



2000 Men's Water Polo Team

Finishing the season with a 26-9-1 record, the Fighting Owls team was the first in Citrus College history to win a 3C2A State Championship. The championship match was also 1,000th game in Citrus College water polo history.



Kerry Carter, Men's Basketball

Carter played basketball for the Fighting Owls from 2011-2013 before transferring to the NCAA Division I St. Mary's College. Carter ranks near the top of multiple categories in the history book, including third-most points scored in a single game (37) and third-most points in a career (932).



Aubriana Gilchrist (née Lockett), Softball

Gilchrist played on the softball team during the 2012 and 2013 seasons. She sits in the top 10 of multiple categories in the program record book. During her two-year career, she scored 63 runs, hit nine home runs and finished with a lifetime batting average of .344.

Hall of Fame honorees *(continued)*



Steve Handy, Athletic Trainer

A Glendora native and Citrus College alumnus, Handy was an athletic trainer from 1983 to 2019. He also worked major events, including the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.



Bill Kilmer, Football

Kilmer played on both the football and basketball teams in 1957 and 1958. He holds the record for most yards gained in a game after rushing for 560 yards against Monterey Peninsula in 1957. In 1987, Kilmer was inducted into the 3C2A Hall of Fame.



Bill Ralls, Men's Water Polo (Coach)

Ralls coached the men's water polo team from 1965 to 2003. In 2000, he led the Fighting Owls to a victory over West Valley College for the 3C2A State Championship.



Kelly Rios (née Fink), Volleyball

Rios played on the volleyball team from 2005 to 2006 and holds multiple school records, including for most kills in a single match (40), most kills in a season (511) and most kills in a career (1,013).



John Strycula, Football (Coach)

From 1967 to 1985, Strycula led the Fighting Owls to 10 conference championships, two playoff appearance and three bowl games. Over 19 seasons, Strycula posted an impressive 120-60-7 record.



Jasmine Williams, Women's Soccer

Williams played on the women's soccer team in 2010 and 2012. She is the program's all-time leading scorer with 34 goals. Additionally, she was the first-ever Conference Player of the Year in the program's history.



Ruth Wysocki (née Caldwell), Women's Cross Country/Track

Wysocki won back-to-back State Championships in 1977 and 1978 in cross-country, 800-meter and 1500-meter. A two-time Most Outstanding Athlete, she also competed in the 1984 Summer Olympics.

Citrus College joins statewide exchange of online classes

Starting next fall, community college students from across the state can enroll in online classes at Citrus College as part of the California Virtual Campus – Online Education Initiative (CVC-OEI). In turn, Citrus College students have access to thousands of additional online classes offered through the California Community Colleges System.

Designed to ensure more students successfully complete their educational goals by increasing access to valuable online classes, the CVC-OEI is a collaborative project among California community colleges.

It works by allowing students who are currently enrolled in one of the state’s 116 community colleges to instantly register for online classes offered at other eligible colleges without filling out a separate application.



Citrus College will soon become a CVC-OEI Teaching College in the CVC Exchange.

During the winter of 2023, Citrus College completed requirements to become a Home College within the CVC-OEI. This allowed Citrus College students to take classes at other colleges in the CVC Exchange. Beginning in the fall of 2024, Citrus College will become a CVC-OEI Teaching College, which will allow students at other colleges to enroll in high-quality online classes at Citrus College.

“Citrus College has been interested in the California Virtual Campus Exchange for quite some time, and we recently began working in earnest to join this important effort,” said Dr. Greg Schulz, superintendent/president of Citrus College. “This is an exciting and unique opportunity to promote our programs and courses, while also providing students with the flexibility, opportunity and choices they need to complete their academic goals.”

Students encouraged to get on board with GoPass



A GoPass promotional event was held in the Campus Mall in early April.

Getting back and forth to campus can be challenging. Thankfully, GoPass is here to make things easier.

On April 8, campus community members joined representatives from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), Foothill Transit and surrounding cities to promote GoPass, which gives Citrus College students free rides on Metro bus and rail, Foothill Transit, and many other transportation services throughout Southern California.

The event kicked off with a short welcome from Dr. Richard Rams, vice president of student services. Dr. Greg Schulz, superintendent/president of Citrus College, then talked about important resources offered on campus and how GoPass makes a big difference in the lives of students.

In his remarks, Superintendent/President Schulz highlighted how nearly 1,900 students used GoPass for more than 56,000 boardings during the 2022-2023 academic year. As of March 1, nearly

1,400 students had already accounted for more than 44,000 boardings.

“With the rest of the spring semester remaining, I’m confident that these numbers will continue to rise,” Superintendent/President Schulz added.

Other speakers included Pomona mayor and Metro board member Tim Sandoval, as well as Jennifer Vides, Metro’s chief customer experience officer. The event concluded with Citrus College students Lorenzo Desiderio and Abiodun Collins sharing personal stories of how GoPass has been beneficial for them.

“In the past two years, GoPass has allowed me and my friends to go to places otherwise unreachable for us without a car, giving us the opportunity to enjoy nice days out or visit parts of the Los Angeles area that we never had a chance to see,” Desiderio said. “I find this a great strength of the program, as it allows for limitless uses that can come in handy in so many different situations.”

Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees

Dr. Anthony Contreras
President
Azusa and portions of Duarte Representative

Ms. Cheryl Alexander
Vice President
Duarte and portions of Azusa, Monrovia, Arcadia, Covina and Irwindale Representative

Ms. Mary Ann Lutz
Clerk/Secretary
Monrovia/Bradbury and portions of Duarte Representative

Dr. Patricia A. Rasmussen
Member
Glendora and portions of San Dimas Representative

Ms. Laura J. Bollinger
Member
Claremont and portions of Pomona and La Verne Representative

Ms. Sabrina Soriano
Student Trustee

Dr. Greg Schulz
Superintendent/President



citruscollege.edu