Please see the attached message from Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D., Superintendent/President.
According to the California Community College Chancellor's Office, roughly half a million new students enroll in a community college every year. However, at least 70 percent are not prepared for college work.

Every year, the Hewlett Leaders in Student Success Program recognizes California community colleges that have made significant progress in basic skills education. Specifically, they focus on those schools that are using innovative and proven methods in foundational math and English.

On April 1, Hewlett representatives visited Citrus College because data has indicated an increase in the success rates of our basic skills students. During the visit, the Hewlett team learned about the our College Success Program, and the resources it provides for students who place into credit courses below college level in English, math and reading.

Sylvia Smythe, director of the College Success Program, arranged for the visiting team to meet with people who are involved with the program, including several faculty members; selected deans; Learning Community Coordinator Carsten Dau; College Success Counselor Marilyn Eng; Learning Center Coordinator Marcy Morris; and Academic Senate President John Vaughan. Superintendent/President Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, Vice President of Instruction Irene Malmgren, and Director of Institutional Research Lan Hao also met with the team to explain the unique and successful aspects of our College Success Program.

Winners of this prestigious designation will be announced mid-May.

-- Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D., Superintendent/President
Media Coverage Highlights Employees, Events

According to a media coverage report being prepared by the Office of External Relations, 188 articles referencing Citrus College appeared in the media from January 2009 through March 2009.

A highlight of the media coverage in January included the Glendora Highlander's article "Exhibit celebrates the U.S. Presidency," which recognized Citrus College's efforts to commemorate the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

Our February media coverage included an announcement in the San Gabriel Valley Tribune introducing our new EOPS/CARE and CalWORKs Director Sarah Gonzales-Tapia, and a brief mention of the Citrus College UMOJA Program in an Inland Valley Daily Bulletin article entitled, "Working Toward the Success Rates of Black Students."

March was an excellent month for Citrus College in the news. One high point was a Claremont Courier article entitled "Student Success Gives Citrus College a Greater Sense of Community," and focused on the new College Success Program. Another highlight was an article in the Community College Journal entitled "Home at Last," which quotes Dr. Bruce Solheim and mentions our Boots to Books Program.

If you see or hear Citrus College in the news, e-mail the information to the Office of External Relations at squllen@citruscollege.edu for inclusion in the next report.

Citrus Students Present Research at UC Irvine

While extensive research is common in higher education, few expect it to be conducted at the community college level. Perhaps this is why the work of Yvonne Chow, Joshua Gaglia, and Allen Tung is so impressive.

The three Citrus College students recently attended the Eighth Annual Building Bridges Research Conference for Community Colleges. This event, which is designed to allow honors students to gain experience with the academic process of presenting research findings, was held at the University of California, Irvine.

"The conference involved students from 26 community colleges throughout the state coming together and presenting the findings from research that they have conducted," said Chow. "Volunteers and mentors were also on hand to aid the students in preparing their presentations."

During the conference, both Chow and Gaglia were awarded Exceptional Achievement scholarships by the Honors Transfer Council of California. Chow credits her success to the Citrus College faculty members who helped her prepare for the conference.

"Brian Waddington and Bernie Lau were willing to work with each student to make sure they were 100 percent ready for their presentations," she said. "They met with us, e-mailed us, advised us, and helped us improve our work. It was insane how dedicated they were to our success."

In the end, each student feels that the conference was an overwhelming success.

"This was such a great experience to learn from," Chow said. "If I wasn't graduating this year, I would love to participate again!"

Classified Development Provides Tuition Reimbursement

As an educational institution, it seems only natural for Citrus College to support the professional development of its employees. This is accomplished in a variety of ways, from workshops and events to conferences and seminars. Another way is through tuition reimbursement for classified staff.

In 1992, the district-funded Classified Development Committee began providing tuition reimbursement. Since that time, many classified employees have completed their education with the help of this program. In fact, some recipients, such as Laura Villegas and Lisa Villa in Counseling, went on to become Citrus College faculty members.

This year, the committee will award three tuition reimbursements. Cynthia Audelo in the Mathematics Department, William "Chris" Riley in the TeCS Department, and Lorry Williams in the Library will each receive money from the committee. Congratulations to the three qualifying applicants!

To qualify, you must be a permanent full-time classified employee or a permanent 49 percent or more classified employee. Applicants must also complete a minimum of 24 months of employment during consecutive school years at Citrus College, be actively employed, and must have completed course work with a "C" or better at a four-year institution accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Participation is limited to one year, so applicants who have previously participated are not eligible.
Progress Being Made in Board Policy, Procedures Updates

Since October 2008, members of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees and others on campus have been busy updating the college’s policies and procedures. Now, these updates can be found online.

In commenting on these efforts, Board of Trustee President Susan M. Keith said, “I am very pleased at the progress that the college has made in updating our policies and procedures. The revised board regulations and administrative policies provide the blueprint by which we fulfill our mission, create our vision and promote our values.”

The process began by addressing the 38 policies and procedures required for Accreditation. Subcommittees were formed, and each group took the recommended language from the Community College League of California and then reviewed the information to ensure effective board governance and the implementation of state and federal law.

Although the District and Board procedures have been completed, the goal is to finish the remaining five sections (General Institution, Academic Affairs-Instruction, Student Services, Business and Fiscal Services, and Human Resources) by June 2010.

“Having board regulations and administrative policies that are current and relevant demonstrates our competency and efficiency as an institution and allows us to focus on educating our students and serving our community,” Keith said.

To access the updated policies and procedures, visit www.citruscollege.edu, click on the A to Z index, select Board of Trustees, and then select board library.

Student Worker of the Semester Award Info

Everyone likes to feel appreciated. This is one of the driving factors behind the Student Worker of the Semester Award issued by the Supervisor/Confidential group.

“We first started this award in spring 2006 as a way to acknowledge a group of workers in our Citrus College family who have never had any real recognition before,” said Tedd Goldstein, group treasurer.

Every semester, one exemplary on-campus student worker is selected to not only be publicly recognized at a meeting of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees, but to also receive a $150 award that is donated from Supervisor/Confidential monthly dues.

On May 1, a nomination form and a memo outlining the nomination requirements was distributed to all managers and supervisors.

“We are looking for a student worker who exceeds expectations,” Goldstein said. “The top candidate will be someone who is enthusiastic, reliable, takes initiative, and has the ability to solve problems. Basically, we are looking for a student worker who helps make Citrus College an exceptional institution.”

College Team Participates in Race for The Cure

Three years ago, Language Arts Instructor Holly Colville had finished her breast cancer treatment and was searching for a way to celebrate. So, she and some Citrus College friends formed a team and participated in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, a 5K walk/run that raises funds to support breast cancer research.

“The people who had supported me during my illness wanted to celebrate my recovery and return to work by walking in this event with me,” Colville says. “That was in 2007 and since then it has become a tradition.”

This year, Colville called Superintendent/President Dr. Geraldine M. Perri to request permission to once again enroll a Citrus College team in the event. Not only did Dr. Perri consent to a team, but she joined in the race.

“She was enthusiastic about the event from the beginning. In addition to registering as a team member, she raised a significant amount in donations,” Colville said. “I felt very honored that she lent her support in that way.”

The 21-person Citrus College team included Dr. Perri and Colville, as well as several other Citrus College faculty members, staff, and students. Together, the group raised nearly $2,000.

“As a participant in this event, I always feel inspired, hopeful, and grateful for the fellowship and support of my team,” Colville said. “Not only did this give us the opportunity to do something important for others, but it was a lot of fun!”
Transfer Center Hosts Workshop for Artists

An art portfolio can make or break an aspiring artist. Not only does a good portfolio set a student apart from the crowd, it is a must-have when applying to art schools.

For this reason, the Career/Transfer Center hosts an Art Portfolio Workshop every spring.

“The workshop allows students to speak with representatives from various art colleges,” said Paige Miyabe, educational advisor and event organizer.

According to Miyabe, approximately 13 schools attended the event that was held in the Campus Center.

“The event opens with each representative speaking about their school. Then, the students have two hours to meet with the representatives, who take time to review their portfolios and provide constructive feedback,” Miyabe said.

According to Miyabe, the event was a valuable experience for those who participated.

“It was a unique and important opportunity for our students to receive valuable input into the transfer process,” she said. “It also helps them find out what is needed to be accepted into the schools of their choice.”

Central Plant Design Earns Engineering Award

Citrus College’s new heating and cooling system has been recognized by the American Council of Engineering Companies, California (ACEC). During their annual convention, the ACEC presented the college’s Central Plant with a Merit Award in the Energy Project category.

“Our Central Plant uses state-of-the-art technology to cool and heat the buildings on campus,” explained Bob Bradshaw, Citrus College construction program manager.

Bradshaw attended the conference in Sacramento and accepted the award on behalf of Citrus College.

The Central Plant features 650 gallons of thermal energy storage, two chillers, a cooling tower, and five boilers. The concept behind its functionality is that the main mechanical cooling equipment operates at night, shifting energy use from peak demand periods to low demand periods. During peak periods, only the pump operates, providing chilled water to the buildings and meeting cooling requirements. When buildings need to be heated, the high efficiency boilers are used to provide hot water for heating requirements.

“The main advantage of this new system is the fact that we are not using mechanical equipment during peak electrical usage times,” Bradshaw said.