

A Taste of Citrus

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Campus Serves as Ideal Setting for College Events

American actor and writer Ben Stein once said, "Relationships are the fertile soil from which all advancement, all success, and all achievement in life grow." As the oldest community college in Los Angeles County, Citrus College understands how true this statement is. During our long history, we have cultivated relationships throughout the community that have proven to be influential to our growth and progress. Nearly 95 years later, these relationships are more valuable than ever.

In this issue of *A Taste of Citrus*, we highlight recent examples of Citrus College's community and campus outreach efforts. Events such as these allow the college to include the community in activities that foster learning and student success, and provide for the opportunity for us to be good neighbors. From returning veterans and the parents of high school students to government officials and industry leaders, our goal is to ensure that everyone views Citrus College as a place where they will be welcomed with open arms. Our hope is to not only be a community college, but to be the community's college.

---Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D., Superintendent/President

Campus Celebrates Opening of Veterans Center

For three years, Citrus College has been building a program to serve its growing veterans population. Now, that program has a home. The Citrus College Veterans Center opened on Thursday, May 14. In celebration, the college hosted an open house from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on campus in room ED 248.

"The Veterans Center serves as the hub for our campus's Veterans Program. It is a natural extension of the services that we provide for our veteran students," said Dr. Bruce Solheim, volunteer veterans coordinator. "In terms of services and atmosphere, our center is state of the art. Our goal was for it to resemble a mini-USO on campus."

Some of the services that the Citrus College Veterans Center provides include GI Bill processing and information, the Veterans Network student club, information on counseling, peer to peer support groups, workshops, and much more. According to Solheim, the majority of the funding for the center comes from a \$100,000 grant that the college received from Wal Mart last fall.

"One of the biggest issues facing combat veterans is social isolation. Many of them have difficulty adjusting to civilian life, especially college," Dr. Solheim said. "We have over one hundred veterans on our campus and most have just recently returned from Iraq or Afghanistan."

Our Veterans Center provides a relaxing place for them to meet with one another, receive the latest information regarding veteran benefits, attend workshops, participate in the Veterans Network, and meet with veteran service organizations. It also allows us to manage our Veterans Book Fund and Boots to Books transition course from one central location."



Wal Mart Representative Sal Lopez, Citrus College Veterans Coordinator Dr. Bruce Solheim, Wal Mart Representative Randy Wine, and Citrus College Veterans Network President and Iraq War veteran Greg Rizk cut the ribbon on the new Veterans Center.

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STEM Grant Hosts Special Guest Speaker

Dr. Arthur Riggs, chair of diabetes and metabolic diseases research at the City of Hope, recently spoke to Citrus College students on the subject of "The Birth of Modern Biotechnology" on Wednesday, May 13. His appearance was part of the college's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Grant Guest Speaker Series.



Dr. Arthur Riggs (center) poses with a group of students who attended his presentation.

During his presentation, Dr. Riggs reflected enthusiastically on the integral role he and fellow scientists played in the bacterial production of human somatostatin and human insulin, which was the first time scientists were able to express human genes in bacteria. These experiments jump-started Genentech and the biotechnology industry because they led to the large-scale production of human drugs such as insulin.

This presentation was a wonderful opportunity for Citrus College students to get a glimpse into the exciting world of science.

School Relations, Outreach Office Hosts Parent Orientation

The end of high school is not just a time to celebrate a student's academic achievement; it is also a time to acknowledge the accomplishments of that student's parents. And while graduation means that they have successfully guided their children through the difficult high school years, it also means that they will soon be the parents of college students.

In order to answer the questions and address the concerns of prospective students - and their parents - the Citrus College School Relations and Outreach Office organized the annual Parent Orientation Night. The event, which was held on May 7 from 5:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., successfully provided information that would help families navigate the complexities of college.

The annual Parent Orientation Night was a success, having done much to alleviate concerns and provide information that will set our prospective students on the path to higher education.



From left to right: Terry Nichols, Ed Hernandez, Jim Lancaster, and Jeff Norton comprised the Greening of California's Workforce expert panel.

"Greening of California's Workforce" Event

Everyone is aware of the tremendous economic crisis that is currently gripping our nation and state. As our business leaders and elected officials search for ways to ease this crisis and turn our economy around, there is much discussion about the economic promise of clean energy and green jobs.

Citrus College hosted a "Greening of California Workforce" summit on May 22 for individuals from workforce and career technical education, community colleges, and the K-12 educational system. A number of experts were also in attendance, including those from the California Green Collar Jobs Council, Toyota Motor Sales, and the Southern California Gas Company. Assemblyman Ed Hernandez even served as an expert during the panel discussion.

Everyone attended the event with the goal of identifying new and emerging green occupations, and the corresponding training and career ladders that will be required for these occupations. The group also set out to identify labor market demand for such jobs in California, particularly in the San Gabriel Valley.

As a result of this successful summit, a position paper will be written with the intention of letting policy makers know what resources are needed to prepare California's Green Workforce.