Walking across the beautiful Citrus College campus, it is easy to understand why spring is often described as a season of hope and promise. Our parking lots, classrooms, and courtyards are full of students who dream of accomplishing their educational and professional goals. At Citrus College, we are committed to turning these dreams into reality!

In this issue of the Citrus View, we highlight some of the many ways that Citrus College faculty, staff, and students are doing just this. From institutional accomplishments to individual successes, the college community continues to achieve academic excellence.

As we celebrate our 100th Anniversary and settle into the new semester, the weeks ahead will be full of activity and progress. I look forward to seeing what the spring semester holds. Thank you for your commitment to college completion and student success!

Sincerely,

Dr. Geraldine M. Perri
Superintendent/President
Citrus College Honored by STEM Jobs Magazine

Citrus College has been ranked among the top tier of U.S. colleges and universities as a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) JobsSM Approved College for 2015 by Victory Media, a privately-owned company specializing in higher education and employment recruitment.

This honor places Citrus College among the top 125 of the 1,600 U.S. colleges and universities that participated in the company’s STEM Jobs survey. The company ranked participating institutions based on their publicly available data and their responses to proprietary questions concerning three key indicators of success: STEM job alignment, STEM job placement, and diversity in the college’s STEM programs.

Citrus College, currently celebrating 100 years of providing educational excellence, is the only California community college included in the ranking. The college will receive a web profile on Victory Media’s STEM Jobs online tool, and a listing in the 2015 STEM Jobs Approved Colleges Guide in the inaugural STEM Jobs magazine.

“Citrus College is truly honored to receive national recognition for its successful STEM Program,” said Superintendent/President Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D. “This wonderful accolade is the result of the innovative efforts of faculty and staff who continue to develop stellar academic programs that lead to student success.”

Early Engineering Program Earned Aerojet Honors

In recent years, the students of Citrus College’s innovative STEM Program have been making headlines. Whether they are conducting pioneering research projects or participating in prestigious competitions, these outstanding individuals have continued the college’s tradition of student success in the STEM fields—a success that dates as far back as the 1960s.

When the Soviet Union’s 1957 launch of the Sputnik satellite led to a national emphasis on science and technology in higher education, Citrus College responded by developing cutting edge programs. From nuclear physics to computer programming, the course offerings were extremely advanced for a community college in the 1960s.

“Scholarships and recruitment were an important part of our program,” remembered Robert McDonnell, a former Citrus College physics and engineering instructor, in the book Citrus Speaks.

According to McDonnell, one major scholarship program during the 1960s was run by the American rocket and missile propulsion manufacturer, Aerojet.

“They would give full engineering scholarships to the two or three top students from the surrounding colleges,” he said. “They selected the winners based on how they did on the UCLA Junior Engineering Exam, a test all scholarship applicants had to take. During the five years or so this was available, our Citrus students completely dominated the competition, taking the majority of the awards.”

The Aerojet scholarships were worth several thousand dollars each and the ceremony was known to draw VIPs. One particular guest at the 1962 ceremony would later go on to make international headlines. That year, not only did rising political star Ronald Reagan present the keynote address, he also took time to pose with scholarship recipients.
Citrus College’s student trustee, Farihah Chowdhury, was selected to serve on the Community College League of California’s (CCLC) Advisory Committee on Education Services (ACES). As part of this prestigious yearlong position, Chowdhury joins committee members during regular meetings and conferences.

The work of the committee is to design programs, events, and conferences for trustees and CEOs in the California community college system that focus on leadership development and ways to better serve their respective college communities. The committee also plans the annual CCLC convention and other education services.

All of the committee’s tasks are based on what will best support college students, and Chowdhury’s responsibility is to provide a student’s perspective on how the committee’s projects can best serve the needs of community college students. Drawing from her own experiences as Citrus College’s student trustee, she will share with other committee members the practices she’s found most effective.

“I hope that my input will strengthen understanding and unison between student trustees and members of the board,” said Chowdhury. “Ultimately, I hope that through my perspective of the challenges and rewards of the community college system, I will have a positive impact on the development programs and CCLC conferences.”

Yuriana Hou, a student worker from RACE to STEM, was recently honored as the Student Worker of the Semester for fall 2014.

Every semester, the Supervisor/Confidential Team sponsors this unique honor. Departments across campus submit student worker nominations, which are then reviewed by a committee. While several honorable mentions can be awarded, only one person is selected to receive the Student Worker of the Semester designation.

A STEM Supplemental Instruction (SI) leader, Yuriana’s name was submitted for consideration because of her love for science and her enthusiasm for sharing her passion with other students. According to her supervisor, Yuriana is an exceptional, model student.

“Yuriana is always on time for her SI sessions,” the nomination stated. “She can effortless change the activities planned for an SI session to accommodate a small or large group of students.”

Yuriana is known for her excellent lesson plans, which are very thorough and will be used as examples for other SI leaders in the future.

She is also recognized for taking initiative, a criterion for receiving the award. When another SI leader had to stop working in the middle of the semester, Yuriana took it upon herself to go to that SI leader’s classes to inform the students about her own SI sessions. She then held extra SI sessions for the students in these classes.

Yuriana is a biology major at Citrus College. She was born in Burma and immigrated to the United States in 2007. She plans to transfer to the University of California, San Diego, where she intends to focus on a career in biomedical research or health care.

As the Student Worker of the Semester, Yuriana has received a check for $150 from the Supervisor/Confidential Team. She was also honored at the January 20, 2015 meeting of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees.

“Yuriana has executed her duties as a student worker with professionalism and dedication,” said Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, Citrus College superintendent/president. “On behalf of the entire Citrus College community, I congratulate her on receiving this honor and express my sincere gratitude for her many contributions to Citrus College.”
Every year, the Citrus College Facilities Department presents two high-performing employees with their Most Valuable Professional (MVP) Award. This recognition is given to individuals who have fulfilled their duties with professionalism and have contributed to the advancement of the institutional mission.

Grounds Worker Jorge Cortez and Custodian Ken Broomfield were selected to receive the 2014 honors. Cortez, an irrigation specialist, was presented with the 2014 Day MVP Award because of his willingness to help, and for being a team player.

“From cleaning up trash to moving parking meters in our lots, Jorge is always willing and able to get the task done with a positive attitude and great enthusiasm,” said Fred Diamond, director of facilities and construction. “Jorge always makes himself available to work and demonstrates an exemplary work ethic. His easygoing, yet hard-working manner makes him an asset to the department.”

Ken Broomfield, custodian, was posthumously awarded the 2014 Evening MVP Award. A dedicated Citrus College employee for nearly 30 years, Broomfield served in a variety of areas during his tenure. This included serving as a custodian for the men’s gym and automotive technology department, as well as working with the grounds team.

“Ken was always early to work and was the first on site whenever there was any type of emergency. He was known as our ‘Mr. Fix-it’ and would always have his tools ready to fix anything, from dispensers to vacuums,” Diamond remembered. “Anytime anyone needed anything, Ken would always heed the call for help. We all depended on him and he was definitely a valuable person in our department. He will truly be missed.”

The awards were presented on December 19, 2014. A family member for Ken Broomfield received the honor on his behalf.

Kinesiology Employee Receives Award

Helen Jeng, program coordinator for the Citrus College Adapted PE Program, was recently honored by the Citrus College Board of Trustees as the ninth recipient of the Above and Beyond Classified Development (ABCD) Award. The quarterly honor, established by the Classified Development Committee, is presented to a classified staff member who exemplifies Citrus College’s mission through their collaboration and service while demonstrating an outstanding work ethic.

As program coordinator for the college’s Adapted PE Program, Helen assists students with college procedures that include online registration, processing medical release forms, and scheduling counseling appointments. She is described as a mentor to her colleagues and as someone who makes Citrus College’s adaptive PE classes “a special and enjoyable place for students.”

“Helen has a great personality, is very energetic, and she always makes our students feel comfortable and supported,” said nominator Jody Wise, dean of kinesiology, health & athletics. “We are very fortunate to have her as a member of our kinesiology team.”

ABCD Award: Helen Jeng, Citrus College Adapted PE Program Coordinator, was recently honored at a meeting of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees.
The winter rainstorm of Saturday, January 10 did not stop Citrus College’s well-wishers and supporters from celebrating the college’s 100th anniversary at the Superintendent/President’s Centennial Gala.

Claremont’s DoubleTree Hotel served as an elegant setting for the evening, which drew 154 guests.

The Citrus College Board of Trustees, Superintendent/President, faculty and staff were joined by local government officials, community leaders, and supporters of Citrus College as they socialized during the cocktail hour, then enjoyed a delicious dinner and outstanding entertainment. Highlights of the evening included performances by the Citrus Singers and impressionist Jim Meskimen.

After the banquet, dinner guests joined members of the college community at the Gala After Dark party, where they danced to the sounds of the college’s Pop Rock Band and took the fun to another level.

“The Centennial Gala was an outstanding event and the proceeds will directly benefit Citrus College students,” said Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, superintendent/president. “I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the many people who made this special evening possible.”

Many Citrus College faculty and staff helped with planning and organizing the gala.

“While the evening was clearly about celebrating our incredible legacy of success, it was also about preparing for the Citrus College of tomorrow,” Dr. Perri said. “It was an honor to celebrate such an important milestone with so many of Citrus College’s friends, supporters and well-wishers.”