Citrus College Voted Valley’s Best

Citrus College has once again been recognized as the region’s “Best Community College” in a poll conducted by the San Gabriel Valley News Group.

Readers of the Pasadena Star-News, Whittier Daily News, and San Gabriel Valley Tribune newspapers and websites submitted print and online ballots throughout the month of March. Approximately 28,000 people indicated that they preferred Citrus College over Mt. San Antonio College, Pasadena City College, and Rio Hondo College.

“This honor is particularly meaningful because it was made possible by the people we serve,” said Superintendent/President Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D. “For 100 years, Citrus College has been committed to providing our communities with a welcoming environment in which learning thrives. Having local residents select this institution as the area’s best community college serves as an affirmation that we are fulfilling our mission.”

The poll was held as part of the annual “Readers’ Choice Awards,” presented by the San Gabriel Valley News Group. As part of the poll, readers of the organization’s three newspapers are asked to indicate which San Gabriel Valley people, places, and things they consider to be “the best of the best.”

This is the second consecutive year Citrus College has been named the “San Gabriel Valley’s Best.”

The results of the poll were published in the San Gabriel Valley News Group’s “Readers’ Choice Magazine” on Sunday, May 24, 2015.

Concluding Our Centennial Year

Inspiration and celebration have been abundant at Citrus College throughout the 2014-2015 academic year. In addition to the incredible progress and success we have seen, our Centennial year has also provided us with the opportunity to reflect on our past.

Over the next couple of weeks, we will wrap up the spring semester and conclude the commemoration of our 100th anniversary. At Citrus College, the upcoming days will be filled with activity, enthusiasm, and much-deserved pride.

In this, the final issue of the Citrus View for the academic year, we highlight several recent events and achievements. These stories serve as reminders of all we have accomplished this year. Together, we have made Citrus College’s Centennial year unforgettable.

Sincerely,
Dr. Geraldine M. Perri
Superintendent/President
Citrus College Staff Honored at Music Filled Breakfast

Members of the Citrus College community serenaded colleagues with lip-synced Broadway tunes during the Annual Staff Appreciation Breakfast, held on Friday, May 15, 2015.

Beginning at 7 a.m., the first "act" of the morning was a delicious breakfast. After stomachs were full and the crowd had been welcomed by Superintendent/President Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D., the spotlight was turned on the performers.

Seven different groups took to the stage: The Dreamsicles, who performed a medley from Motown the Musical; The Greasers, who also performed a number from Grease; ER, who performed a number from Wanted Dead or Alive; Olivilla and John Reboot, who performed a number from Grease; The Chain Gang, who performed the song "Jailhouse Rock," Campus Safety who performed the song "Ghostbusters," and the Von Owl Family, who performed a number from The Sound of Music.

Performances were made even more memorable thanks to the help of Tim Jacquette, audio technology supervisor; Dan Volonte, technical theater instructor, and a student team from the Emerging Theater Technologies program.

When the music was over and the applause had faded, it was time for "The Phony Awards." Olivilla and John Reboot, otherwise known as faculty members Lisa Villa and John Vaughan, won awards for best choreography and best musical number.

The award for best ensemble was presented to The Chain Gang, which included staff members Olivia Canales, Lupe Cazares, Clarence Cernal, Robert Coutts, Cheryl Hall, Sujae Lopez, and Kai Wattrree-Jackson.

Best costume design honors were given to The Dreamsicles, which included Carol Thomas, Patricia Robidoux, Christine Link, and Tedd Goldstein (as manager "Barry Gordie").

Of course, the real stars of the morning were the staff members who were being honored.

"Whether they work backstage or at the front of the house, Citrus College's staff members are vital to the institution's box office success," Dr. Perri wrote in the event's playbook. "Their commitment to creating remarkable performers and their dedication to giving our students top billing deserves a standing ovation."

It was a celebration a hundred years in the making, but it will soon be a fond memory.

The final event in the year-long commemoration of Citrus College's 100th anniversary is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, 2015. "The Next 100 Years: Happy Birthday Citrus College" will be a fun-filled affair involving music, special presentations, and birthday cake.

The festivities will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the Campus Center Quad. As guests arrive, they will be treated to music performed by students from the Fine and Performing Arts Department. After Superintendent/President Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D. welcomes the crowd, state, local and national officials will have the opportunity to present the institution with special proclamations. They will also be invited to make congratulatory remarks.

The program will conclude with a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday" and the serving of birthday cake.

"The Next 100 Years: Happy Birthday Citrus College" will mark the end of Citrus College's action-packed Centennial year.

"This has been a special time in the history of Citrus College as we have celebrated the 100th anniversary of serving our communities through education," Dr. Perri said. "I am incredibly grateful to the many people who have invested their time and effort into making this year so memorable."
Citrus College students Fanny Cordova and Yi Ting (Joy) Liu were recently honored by the Community College League of California (CCLC) as part of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) All-State Academic Team Program.

Selection to the team is the culmination of a lengthy process that begins with the faculty of each of the state’s community college reviewing possible candidates, verifying their grade point averages, and inviting them to apply for the team. Candidates then fill out applications outlining their contributions to their college and service to their community.

These applications are evaluated by PTK and compared with other nominees from the honors society’s chapters throughout the state. Each candidate receives a score, which determines whether they are placed on the first, second, or third team.

Cordova, an economics major, was included on the 2015 All-California Academic 2nd Team. A writer for the Citrus College Clarion newspaper and a Citrus College Student Ambassador, she is extremely active on campus. She plans to transfer to the University of California, Los Angeles or the University of California, Berkeley.

Liu, a psychology major, was named to the 2015 All-California Academic 3rd Team. She is vice president of communications for Citrus College's Beta Nu Eta Chapter of PTK and is active in the college's Honors Program. She plans to transfer to the University of California, Berkeley or the University of Washington.

In April, both recipients were honored at a special luncheon hosted by the CCLC. “On behalf of the Citrus College community, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to these exceptional students,” said Mrs. Joanne Montgomery, president of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees. “By receiving these honors, they have distinguished themselves as outstanding student leaders and have brought recognition to Citrus College and its academic programs.”

Citrus College Students Make Academic Teams

More than 100 Citrus College students were recently recognized for their outstanding achievement in academics, athletics, and leadership during the 52nd Annual Academic Achievement Awards Ceremony held at the Haugh Performing Arts Center.

The top honors of the evening went to Farihah Chowdhury, the 2015 Woman of the Year, and Manuel Ramirez, the 2015 Man of the Year. Both students were commended for their academic accomplishments, leadership, and contributions to the Citrus College community.

In addition, ten Keys of Knowledge were presented during the ceremony. Every year, these prestigious awards are bestowed on those individuals who have achieved the institution's highest academic performances.

The 2015 Key of Knowledge recipients were Ian Andrade, Arielle Del Rosario, Parker Genoway, Yuriana Hou, Robin Jones, Jeremiah Knight, Paola Pajares, Alma Plunk, Matthew Soto, and Sierra Sutton.

Rose Takeuchi (water polo) and Diego Lopez (cross country) received the 2015 Athletes of the Year awards. In addition, more than 90 students who demonstrated high academic performances in Citrus College programs were presented with the Distinguished Student Award.

"On behalf of the Citrus College community, I congratulate these outstanding students who have achieved such remarkable success both in and out of the classroom," said Superintendent/President Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D. "They have earned an important place in the institution's legacy."
Retirees Celebrated at Special Reception

The Citrus College community recently gathered to celebrate a significant professional accomplishment: retirement.

The Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees and Superintendent/President Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D. hosted a special event to honor the 21 employees who have concluded, or will soon conclude, their careers at Citrus College.

The 2015 Retirees Reception was held in the Louis E. Zellers Center for Innovation Community Room on May 19, 2015. Friends, family, and co-workers were present as proclamations were read and distributed to 10 classified employees, six faculty members, four supervisor/confidential team members, and one manager.

This year’s retirees were: Lucia Blades, Connie Boquiren, Carol Cone, Ruth Erbe, Brian Fawcett, Terry Gallegos, Alexander Galvan, Tedd Goldstein, Ann Heming, Nestor Hernandez, Lynn Jamison, Bill King, Stephen Lindsey, Marian Manfre-Winchester, Nancy Martin, Rita Miller, Carolyn Perry, Maureen Renaghan, Bruce Stoner, Linda Swan, Connie Tucker, and Lucio Villaneda.

Together, these dedicated and committed professionals have invested 475 years into advancing our institutional mission. Although they hail from different disciplines and areas of the college, they have each helped ensure student success.

"On behalf of the entire college community, I thank these retirees for their many years of service and for the numerous contributions they have made to Citrus College and its students," said Mrs. Joanne Montgomery, president of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees. "We wish you the very best in the years ahead."

Financial Aid Technician Receives Recognition

The Citrus College Board of Trustees presented staff member Barry Kuan with the Above and Beyond Classified Development (ABCD) Award at their April 7, 2015 meeting.

Kuan is the tenth recipient of the quarterly ABCD award. This special recognition program was introduced in January 2013 as a way to acknowledge the significant contributions classified employees make to the institution.

The Classified Development Committee, under the leadership of Dr. Eric Rabitoy, dean of natural and physical sciences and library services, and Clarence Cernal, administrative assistant for the Citrus College Foundation and committee chair, oversaw the selection process.

Kuan currently serves as a Citrus College financial aid technician and is responsible for overseeing the institution’s Work Study Program. In this role, he helped develop the Citrus College Federal Work Study Supervisor’s Handbook.

College financial aid technician and is responsible for overseeing the institution’s Work Study Program. In this role, he helped develop the Citrus College Federal Work Study Supervisor’s Handbook. He also created a Federal Work Study student referral form, which is now used during the student worker hiring process.

A veteran of the United States armed forces, Kuan also proudly serves the Veterans Success Center. He has helped improve workflow by streamlining certification processes and assists with the distribution of veterans’ benefits, among other things.

"Barry is very helpful to the staff and students. He takes initiative, and frequently goes above and beyond expectations," said nominator Carol Thomas, director of financial aid.

As the most recent ABCD award recipient, Kuan’s name was engraved on a perpetual plaque. He was also presented with the travelling “We Give A Hoot” Hootie owl statue to proudly display until the next recipient is announced.
Gold Line to be Completed Next Year

Personnel from the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority met with representatives from Citrus College last month to discuss the opening of the Foothill Extension of the Metro Gold Line, which is scheduled for sometime next year.

The impending completion of the rail line’s Pasadena to Azusa segment is great news for Citrus College. Recognizing its value and importance to the future of students, the institution has actively advocated for the project since 2004.

Over the past 11 years, Citrus College has played an important role in ensuring the completion of the extension. Efforts have included meeting with (then) Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, lobbying elected officials in Sacramento and Washington D.C. for funding and support, proposing that the line terminus be moved to the station at Citrus Avenue and speaking before the Metro Board in downtown Los Angeles.

In addition, Superintendent/President Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D. was interviewed for a video by the Gold Line Construction Authority, and she recently provided input for an upcoming book on the history and future of rail travel in San Gabriel Valley.

Citrus College has also hosted several events in support of the Gold Line Extension project. From organizing an “I Will Ride” rally on campus to holding a sign unveiling ceremony for the APU/Citrus College station, the institution and its students have enthusiastically supported the project from the very beginning.

“It takes a great deal of time to go from vision to reality on a project of this magnitude,” Dr. Perri said. “When the station opens next year, access to higher education will be significantly increased for thousands of residents in the communities we serve. This is definitely something to celebrate.”

Outreach Activities Serve and Inform the Community

For 100 years, Citrus College has been a driving force in the San Gabriel Valley. Whether it is through education, community partnerships or cultural opportunities, the institution has long been committed to meeting the needs of the cities it serves.

One way this commitment manifests itself is through outreach. This year, Citrus College participated in more than 250 community events and activities. These outreach efforts included activities with local school districts, involvement with community organizations, participation on advisory boards and councils, college and community events, and interaction with elected officials.

A wide variety of Citrus College programs and departments have participated in these outreach activities.

The Centennial Celebration in October 2014 was one of more than 250 community events that Citrus College was involved with during the 2014-2015 academic year.

They include the Veterans Success Center, Student Health Center, Campus Safety, Foster Care and Kinship Program, and Athletics. Employees from Counseling, Financial Aid, the Transfer Center, the Citrus College Foundation and many other areas of the college regularly utilize their expertise, knowledge, and skill to inform the community about Citrus College and its many services.

Citrus College students have also been involved in outreach. From the Student Ambassador and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) programs to Cosmetology and the Associated Students of Citrus College, students represent the institution both on and off campus.

“It takes enthusiasm for faculty, staff and students to go out into the community and share information about Citrus College,” said Superintendent/President Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D. “This same enthusiasm has been critical to our institutional success.”