Early last month, Citrus College celebrated the renovation of its oldest structure, Hayden Hall. This unique building, much like the college itself, is an interesting blend of the past and the future. Its ribbon-cutting ceremony served as a reminder that Citrus College is both well-established and always evolving.

This issue of Citrus View highlights several ways in which the college is moving toward the future. From the honors we have received for improving student outcomes to the impressive technological advancements taking place on campus, the fall semester has already been remarkably eventful. In the remaining weeks of 2017, the college community will continue to work together to advance our goal of increasing student success and completion.

While Citrus College is always growing and evolving, there is much that remains unchanged. A legacy of academic excellence, combined with the collaboration of our faculty, staff, and supporters, has provided a firm foundation for a promising future. Great things are in store for Citrus College, and I thank you for the role you will play in bringing them to fruition.
Citrus College ranks fifth among the state’s 114 community colleges for producing associate degrees for transfer – a fact that has once again earned the college recognition from the Campaign for College Opportunity.

Citrus College’s efforts to increase the number of students who earn associate degrees for transfer (ADT) will be honored at the end of the year by the Campaign for College Opportunity.

A California-based nonprofit research and advocacy organization, the Campaign for College Opportunity works to ensure that all Californians have an equal opportunity to attend and succeed in college. The organization recently announced that it will be hosting a celebration in December during which nine community colleges and four California State University campuses will be honored for excellence in implementing California’s ADT program.

Citrus College ranks fifth among the state’s 114 community colleges for producing ADTs, and second for the number of ADTs conferred relative to the college’s enrollment.

“Creating associate degrees for transfer and encouraging students to consider them as viable options is something Citrus College has been doing since transfer reform legislation first passed in 2010,” said Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, superintendent/president. “Our progress in this area is a source of pride for the entire college community, because it affirms that we are serving our students well.”

To date, a total of 2,675 transfer degrees have been awarded by Citrus College. The college first awarded transfer degrees during the 2011-2012 academic year, with 39 students choosing this academic path. Five years later, 803 transfer degrees were awarded to the Citrus College Class of 2017 – a new institutional record.

“To be one of California’s leading community colleges in terms of implementing associate degrees for transfer is a reflection of the college community’s hard work, dedication and enthusiasm,” said Dr. Barbara R. Dickerson, president of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees. “It is an honor for Citrus College to be recognized by the Campaign for College Opportunity, and we look forward to the celebration in Los Angeles in December.”

“New Portal Streamlines Access to College Resources”

“Innovation means replacing the best practices of today with those of tomorrow.” – Paul Sloane

On Wednesday, Nov. 1, Citrus College will launch its new my.citruscollege.edu portal. This innovative online interface makes it easier for students, staff and faculty to connect to critical resources, such as email, WingSpan and the Canvas learning management system. While this portal technology is in place at a number of prestigious institutions, such as the Ohio State University, the University of Notre Dame and the University of Michigan, Citrus College is among the first community colleges in California to offer this service.

“Introducing the new portal to the college community is a significant step toward realizing the Citrus College of tomorrow,” said Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, superintendent/president of Citrus College. “Progress has always been the direction of the college. The portal enhances our efficiency and connects the college community in greater ways. Kudos to Bob Hughes and the TeCS team for facilitating this innovative change.”

Designed to empower students’ success as they learn and prepare for their future academic and professional careers, the my.citruscollege.edu portal provides one-click access to all of the most important student resources.

“The portal streamlines search tasks and enhances the overall user experience,” said Bob Hughes, chief information services officer. “It’s simple, clean and easy to navigate. I am proud of my team for introducing this technology to the benefit of students and the greater college community.”
With Citrus College’s fall 2017 semester underway and the California State Legislature in adjournment for the year, two recently elected officials came to campus for a visit and tour.

A teacher by profession and a former school board member for the Baldwin Park Unified School District, Assemblymember Blanca E. Rubio (AD 48) visited Citrus College on Sept. 22. It was the first time Assemblymember Rubio had been on the Citrus College campus, and she was very impressed.

During a meeting with board members, Superintendent/President Dr. Geraldine M. Perri and members of the superintendent/president’s cabinet, Assemblymember Rubio had the opportunity to ask questions about courses and learn about several innovative college programs. The delegation then toured the college’s nursing, dental assisting and biotechnology labs. Upon leaving, Assemblymember Rubio said she was already planning a return visit to learn more about Citrus College.

On Oct. 6, State Senator Anthony Portantino (SD 25) toured the campus for a second time, his first visit having occurred more than a decade earlier as member of the California State Assembly. Senator Portantino discussed some of his successfully passed bills from the last legislative session, as well as bills he intends to bring back next year. He was provided with information about Citrus College students and many of the college’s cutting-edge programs.

Senator Portantino also toured the nursing, dental assisting and biotechnology labs, as well as the Veterans Success Center. He expressed his interest in introducing legislation that will benefit the college and its students in the future.

“These campus visits provide our representatives with first-hand experiences and information that would be impossible to relay to them through other means,” said Dr. Barbara R. Dickerson, president of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees. “They build support for Citrus College and create advocates in the California Legislature.”

The SRE is an eight-week program that affords Citrus College students the opportunity to conduct cutting-edge research at one of eight internationally respected research institutes. Under the guidance of professional mentors, the 2017 SRE cohort built unmanned aerial vehicles, measured wavelengths by various frequencies and conducted other impressive research. At the end of their internships, the students also received a $500 stipend for their work and the honor of including leading research institutes, such as NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the Oak Crest Institute of Science, on their résumés.

“Citrus College has a rich history of shaping exciting futures,” said Dr. Marianne Smith, director of the Institute for Completion and Grants Oversight. “Opportunities like the SRE are what allow Citrus College to help lead and guide students to discover their interests and passions. Many of these students return with renewed focus and energy after their eight weeks of research. Perhaps for the first time in their lives, they know exactly what they want to do.”
Citrus College recently hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to commemorate the renovation of Hayden Hall.

Citrus College Celebrates the Renovation of Hayden Hall

Citrus College recently hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to commemorate the renovation of Hayden Hall. Members of the college community joined dignitaries and civic leaders in celebrating the grand re-opening of the oldest structure on campus during the event on Oct. 3. The ceremony included remarks from Superintendent/President Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, Board of Trustees President Dr. Barbara R. Dickerson and Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services Ms. Claudette E. Dain.

“Ribbon cuttings, along with commencement, our achievement awards event and our scholarship reception, provide us all with the opportunity to come together to celebrate institutional growth and student achievement,” said Dr. Perri. “As it has in decades past, this warm and welcoming building will continue to serve as a gathering place for academic discourse for many decades to come. We anticipate it will become a hub for creativity and innovation by all college constituencies.”

Renovation of the 82-year-old building began in August 2016 and cost $2.3 million. Partially funded by Measure G, the 4,615 square-foot building will now serve as an “athenaeum,” a place of collaborative inquiry, discussion and learning. The building also includes office space for the Academic Senate and the Citrus College Faculty Association.

“The newly renovated Hayden Hall is one more example of Measure G dollars at work, and I express my sincere appreciation to our communities for supporting this important initiative,” Board President Dickerson said. “It is difficult to imagine what the Citrus College campus would look like today without the funding provided by this bond measure.”

Alumna Earns October ABCD Award

Recognized for going above and beyond expectations in fulfilling the responsibilities of her job, Ms. Denise Zamora, Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOP&S)/Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE) specialist and Citrus College alumna, is the latest recipient of the Above and Beyond Classified Development (ABCD) Award. The award, which recognizes classified employees who demonstrate collaboration, service, dedication and commitment to the college mission, was presented during the Oct. 17, 2017, meeting of the Citrus College Board of Trustees.

Denise was nominated for the ABCD Award by her supervisor, Sara Gonzales-Tapia, director of EOP&S, CARE and California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs). She was selected for the honor because of her exceptional work ethic and for consistently conducting herself in a professional manner. As an EOP&S/CARE specialist, Denise is responsible for reviewing hundreds of applications each semester and documenting students’ eligibility for the program. She understands the importance of providing timely service to students, and she works quickly and efficiently to inform them of their eligibility for the program.

Denise began her career at Citrus College in 2000 as a department aide in the EOP&S/CARE Department. In 2006, she was promoted to the specialist position she currently holds. Ms. Gonzales-Tapia states that, during Denise’s 17-year tenure, she has been an exemplary employee, and is organized, meticulous, reliable and a team player. In addition, Denise has consistently demonstrated her loyalty to the program and to Citrus College.