Citrus Grad Transfers to U.C. Berkeley

After graduating from Claremont High School in 2003, Aaron Cadore knew he wanted to enroll in a community college. “I understood that two-year colleges were not only a great way to save money, but also prepared you for the rigorous demands of a university,” he said.

He began attending classes at Citrus College part-time and was undecided about his course of study. But, it wasn’t long before Aaron was a full-time student with a 3.5 grade point average and was thinking about transferring to a four-year school. “I went from being an undecided part-time student who had no idea of where I wanted to transfer to a full-time English major who had received admission letters from UC Berkeley, UCLA and UC Davis,” he said.

The 21-year-old Pomona resident credits his success to the help of the Citrus College Career/Transfer Center. “It played a crucial role in my successful transfer,” he said. “Without the friendly and knowledgeable counseling staff, I would have been truly lost.”

Student Transfers Using TAG

UC Campuses Use Same Name, Form for Transfer Guarantees

As a student at Claremont High School, Elizabeth Goldhammer wasn’t very motivated. Because of this, she chose not to apply to any four-year colleges or universities during her senior year. Instead, she enrolled at Citrus College after graduation. “In truth, I was initially ashamed to enroll at a community college because I felt that it was proof that I had not achieved academic success in high school,” she said.

Although she may have felt ill-prepared for a four-year school, Goldhammer knew that Citrus College would provide her with a good “transition period.” “I knew that Citrus was affordable and conveniently located,” she said. “I just didn’t expect it to provide me with so many phenomenal opportunities.”

Soon after enrolling, Goldhammer began applying herself academically and became a more serious student. She also decided to become involved in campus activities. “Becoming part of the Honors Program and the college’s chapter of the National Organization for Women were two of the big highlights for me at Citrus College,” she said. “These two things have shaped me as an individual and have aided me in discovering what is important to me.”

One thing that was important to Goldhammer was transferring to a four-year school. She looked to the Career/Transfer Center to aid her in the process. “After visiting the Career/Transfer Center, I learned about Transfer Admission Guarantees (TAG), which offer guaranteed admission to several University of California (UC) campuses,” she said. Seven UC campuses participate in the TAG program. These include UC Irvine, UC Merced, UC Riverside, UC San Diego, UC Davis and, Goldhammer’s choice, UC Santa Cruz.

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“The TAG agreement with UC Santa Cruz provided me with a very great opportunity,” she said. “It was simple and easy to fulfill.”

To fulfill the TAG requirements, Goldhammer had to complete all the remaining coursework and grade point average requirements that the agreement designated. She also had to apply to UC Santa Cruz during the appropriate filing period.

The TAG process recently became even simpler. The seven UC campuses that participate in the program have adopted a common name and application form. California community college students can now complete the common TAG application and submit it to their target campuses. The form and details about each campus’s requirements can be found online at www.UCTransfer.org.

Students interested in learning more about the TAG program can visit the Career/Transfer Center and make an appointment to see a counselor or advisor. Goldhammer is happy that the Career/Transfer Center helped point her in the right direction. “This fall, she will begin classes at UC Santa Cruz.”

“I am unsure where my own path will lead, but I have a great foundation and a newfound love for education,” she said.
In 1998, Azusa City Council member and mayor pro-tem Joe Rocha approached Azusa Pacific University administrators with the idea for a new scholarship. Rocha suggested that the university establish a special program designed to attract the best graduating seniors from Azusa High School and Gladstone High School. Soon after the partnership between APU and the City of Azusa was established, the Nancy Moore/Celebrate Azusa Citizens Scholarship Program was launched. The scholarship’s name reflects and commemorates the 15-year partnership that Nancy Moore, associate superintendent of the Azusa Unified School District, had developed with the university.

Each year, APU awards $25,000 in scholarships to five graduates from Azusa High School or Gladstone High School. These graduates must have impressive academic records and a history of community-minded involvement. This year, two Citrus College students were among the five students chosen to receive this prestigious $5,000 scholarship.

The Citrus College Career/Transfer Center would like to congratulate Florenz Asucan and Joshua Vergara for receiving the 2007-2008 Nancy Moore/Celebrate Azusa Citizens Scholarship from Azusa Pacific University.

**FLORENZ ASUCAN**

**Gladstone High School Graduate**

Florenz Asucan decided to enroll in classes at Citrus College because of its reputation. “I had heard excellent remarks from both current students and previous students,” she said.

Florenz says that she learned a lot about herself during her three years as a Citrus College student. “I know my abilities and my weaknesses,” she said. “When people think that I can’t do certain things, I not only feel challenged, but I also feel more motivated to reach beyond my limitations.”

The West Covina resident will soon be challenging herself at a four-year university. She will begin studying at Azusa Pacific University in the fall of 2007. “I want to get a bachelor’s degree in business and a master’s degree in nursing,” she said. “Eventually, I plan to open up my own facility.”

**JOSEPH VERGARA**

**Gladstone High School Graduate**

When Joshua Vergara told people he was a student at Citrus College, he would almost always get the same response. “People usually ask me where it is,” he said.

Coincidently, location is one of the reasons why Joshua chose to attend Citrus. “I knew I wanted to transfer to Azusa Pacific University (APU),” he said. “I decided to enroll at Citrus College because it was right next door.”

The Azusa resident will see his plans come to fruition next fall when he transfers to APU. “I plan to finish in 2 to 3 years and get a degree in Christian ministries,” he said.

“My goal is to become a pastor and help the youth of today,” Joshua says that he hopes to use the knowledge he receives in college to help others. “I will utilize my education on a practical level to reach out to the community,” he said.

Cathleen Amado originally enrolled at Citrus College because it was close to home. However, the Covina resident stayed at Citrus College because of the services it offers its students. “Citrus College has a great tutorial center that helped me when any of my studies got to be difficult,” she said. “I also found the teachers to be very student oriented and caring.”

As an Azusa Unified School District program that Cathleen found helpful was the Career/Transfer Center. “They offered me a chance to talk to admission counselors from different universities, helping me find one that compliments me,” she says. “They also helped me by setting up a curriculum to follow which enabled me to meet the requirements.”

After graduating from Citrus College in 2004, Cathleen transferred to California State Polytechnic University where she earned her bachelor’s degree in a Behavioral Health Science major. However, she says her education will not end when she earns her bachelor’s degree. “I would ultimately like to attend graduate school and receive a master’s degree in social work, using it to help counsel at-risk youth in choosing alternatives,” she said.

Cathleen says that her life has changed since she first enrolled at Citrus. “My character has strengthened and I am becoming a better person, conversing with other scholars,” she said. The 48-year-old feels that she is a Citrus College success story because she made the most of her education. “I used the knowledge and discipline gained at Citrus to further my education,” she said.

The Career/Transfer Center at Citrus College provides comprehensive career and transfer services to assist you in choosing the classes you need today to successfully transfer to a university or get training for a new career. We are located in the Educational Development Center (ED 129).