

“ Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation. ”

JOHN F. KENNEDY  
35th President of the U.S.

## Transfer Remains The Best Option

### Community College Students Receive Benefits, Rewards

The year 2009 was one of the most uncertain for college admissions in California’s recent history. It is safe to say, with the current state budget shortfall at \$19.9 billion, 2010 doesn’t look like it will be much better.

Spending for the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) systems has been cut. The result is lower admission caps, higher tuition costs, and a shrinking number of available classes.

This past fall, the CSUs received a record number of undergraduate applications. In fact, there was an increase of 160,000 from the year before. However, they also announced plans to cut enrollment by 40,000 over the next two years.

The situation is no different with UCs. They have reduced freshman enrollment by 6 percent and announced a staggering 32 percent hike in fees.

“Less monetary support translates into less enrollment numbers,” said Justina Rivadeneyra, coordinator of the Citrus College Career/Transfer Center. “Even if they are



first choice campus out of high school, your chances improve after completing general education at a community college.”

The CSU system has confirmed that transfer students who have met the minimum requirements for admission will not be as affected by their pending enrollment cap as new freshman.

The UC system also gives transfer students priority. They even have a special program that provides guaranteed admission at seven UC campuses to well-qualified students.

The Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) Program is a formal, written agreement guaranteeing transfer admission to a UC campus for a specific term in the student’s chosen major. Written a year before transferring as an upper division student, the TAG defines specific community college coursework and the grade point average that must be achieved to guarantee transfer admission.

“Providing that the student meets all terms

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fortunate enough to secure admission, freshman will find it difficult to register for classes due to class shortages.”

While universities are raising tuition and cutting enrollment, many families are struggling with personal economic setbacks. As a result, prospective students may find the college admission process hopeless. However, California’s community colleges are a ray of light during

these dark times.

Community colleges are affordable. At an average of \$780 a year, community colleges are approximately \$4,000 less than a CSU and \$8,500 less than a UC. And price isn’t the only benefit.

“CSU and UC campuses give transfer preference to upper division transfers from California community colleges,” Rivadeneyra said. “If you don’t get into your

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of the agreement and applies for admission during the specified application filing period, the TAG is a binding agreement that can secure you a spot in 7 of the 9 UC campuses,” said Rivadeneyra. “The really amazing thing about the program is that it guarantees student access. The contract established between the student and the school gives the student an edge over others who are trying to enroll during the regular application cycle.”

TAG gives community college transfers an upper

hand when applying to a UC and many Citrus College students have chosen to take advantage of this option. In 2009, 119 students applied and 81 were granted guaranteed admission at UC campuses. This is a 138 percent increase from the previous year!

Not only do community college students receive priority when transferring, but they also succeed at their four-year schools. In 2009, the majority of community college transfers had a grade point average equal to or better

than their UC and CSU peers who were native to the campus.

While community colleges are not immune to the state’s budget woes and have experienced a reduction in course offerings, the benefits of a community college education still make it the best option.

“Don’t assume a community college education is second class,” Rivadeneyra said. “Do your own research about the benefits and rewards of attending a community college.”

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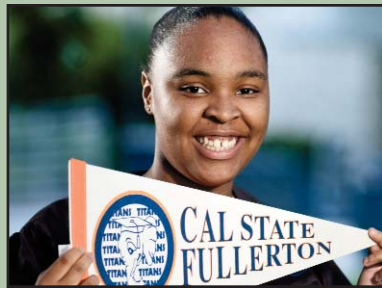
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# Student Life

*Studies indicate that students involved in extracurricular activities have a higher rate of academic success than those who are not involved. These are the stories of three Citrus College transfer students whose campus involvement enhanced their educational experience.*

## ASHLEY WOODARD



TRANSFERRED TO  
CAL STATE FULLERTON  
*Citrus College Class of 2009*

Ashley Woodard says she originally thought community colleges were a joke. “I believed they were schools you went to when you were rejected from a university,” the 19-year-old West Covina resident admits. Despite her perception, she decided to enroll at Citrus College. “I liked the peace and quiet of the campus,” she said. Soon, Ashley was an active member of the student body. “I was involved in student government, Alpha Gamma Sigma, and Phi Theta Kappa,” she says. “I soon discovered that the college offered many amazing programs and they all made me feel as if I was important.” Now, three years after first enrolling in Citrus College, Ashley is in her second semester at California State University, Fullerton as a radio/television/film major. “I took the road less travelled and lost a lot along the way, but I didn’t let people tell me who I would be or what I would do,” she said. “At Citrus College, I finally started to believe that my dreams were worth fighting for.” Ashley hopes to use her education to encourage others. “I want to show people that having an education is important, and to never give up on yourself, even when others have already given up on you.”

## KASUN GOONETILLEKE



TRANSFERRED TO  
UC DAVIS  
*Citrus College Class of 2009*

When Kasun Goonetilleke enrolled in classes at Citrus College, his main priority was not campus involvement. Instead, the 30-year-old West Covina resident was focused on something more important. “My primary interest lies with my kids,” he said. “I am a dedicated father who wants to provide my children with the best future possible, so going back to school was a choice I had to make.” However, despite his family obligations, Kasun found the time to pursue his extracurricular interests. “I was a senator on the Associated Students of Citrus College Executive Board, served as the marketing vice president and the president of the Citrus Business Association (CBA), and I was also part of the textbook committee,” he said. “I also was chosen as the Member of the Year for the CBA, was one of the top one hundred students, and completed the Honors Program.” Obviously, Kasun’s hard work paid off. He is now an economics major at the University of California, Davis. “I plan on using everything I learned through my Citrus College education and extracurricular involvement to change the attitudes of big business, who I believe have a responsibility to their communities,” he said. “I would like to heighten social consciousness.”

## JAZMIN VELAZCO



TRANSFERRED TO  
UC SANTA BARBARA  
*Citrus College Class of 2009*

Nobody wanted Jazmin Velazco to enroll in classes at Citrus College. “My parents and peers led me to believe that community college wasn’t for me,” the 19-year-old El Monte resident said. Despite the opposition, Jazmin took a chance. “I was impressed by Citrus College’s student to faculty ratio and had heard many great things about the campus,” she said. Now in her second semester at the University of California at Santa Barbara, the business major says she has no regrets. “I encourage everyone to give Citrus a chance,” Jazmin said. “There are many opportunities here and the staff and faculty are great.” Some of the opportunities Jazmin took advantage of were in the form of extracurricular activities. “I played on the Citrus College softball team and have been part of the Latinos Unidos Student Association and Citrus Business Association. I even received a ‘scholar baller’ award.” Jazmin says that her Citrus College experience was life changing. “I came in with no direction and felt intimidated by the idea of transferring. I would never have pursued such lofty academic goals if it weren’t for my counselors,” she said. “Thanks to Citrus College, I am now equipped to live life with just a little more grace.”

## New Administrator Has Community College Roots

Edward Trickey has an impressive resume. The new executive director of development and external relations, and director of the Citrus College Foundation holds four degrees and one certificate, is completing his doctorate in education, and has extensive professional experience.

While some may find it hard to believe, Trickey says his success all began at a community college.

The Oceanside resident is a graduate of Modesto Junior College, and his experiences there are near and dear to his heart. For this reason, he knew Citrus College would be a good fit for him.

“In addition to my educational and professional cre-

dentials, my heart and passion lies with community colleges,” he explains. “As a first generation college graduate – whose true adult life journey began at a community college – perhaps my greatest strength has been my interest in, and ability to work with, seek to understand, and actively advocate in support of students.”

Prior to coming to Citrus College in November, Trickey worked as the president and chief executive officer of the 11-99 Foundation, which provides

emergency and death benefits, as well as scholarships, to California Highway Patrol families in times of crisis. He has also served as the director of annual giving and alumni relations for Marymount College, held several different positions at the University of Southern California, and worked as an economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Now, Trickey is looking forward to investing time at Citrus College.

“I am committed to assur-



ing that the Citrus Community College District will progress and realize significant tangible institutional advancement gains during my tenure,” he said.

When he isn’t working, Trickey enjoys spending time with his wife Barbara and children Sydney, Conal, and Spencer. He also enjoys reading, running, walking with his dogs Maisy and Simba, and working on his doctoral dissertation.

“I am a life-long learner and I love higher education,” he explains. “I know that education, and specifically educational leadership, have made me the productive person I am today.”

## Complex to Help Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Majors

America’s economic vitality and competitive advantage is dependent upon the level of skill its workforce has in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics – otherwise known as STEM.

Recognizing this, Citrus College proudly hosted an open house for its new STEM Complex during the fall 2009 semester.

The new complex, which is comprised of three rooms on the first floor of the Math/Science Building, was funded by the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) STEM Grant that the college received in 2008. The purpose of this grant is to encourage under represented students in STEM majors and to help Citrus College improve its offerings to students who plan on entering the STEM fields.

“The open house was a wonderful opportunity to see students in action, while also becoming acquainted with the wonderful work being completed through the CCRAA STEM Grant,” said

Sylvia Smythe, director of Citrus College’s College Success Program. “Our goal is to empower our students by equipping them with the skills that are needed for the emerging professions of the 21st century.”

The STEM Center officially opened on the first day of the fall 2009 semester. Since that time, over 500 students a week have utilized its many important, interactive resources. These include free tutoring for science and math, calculus workshops, STEM counselors and transfer coaches, human anatomy models, DNA models, chemistry model sets, science DVDs, periodicals for class assignments, and computers.

“The STEM complex provides academic assistance to all students enrolled in science and math courses at Citrus College,” said Eric Rabitoy, dean of Physical and Natural Sciences. “The open house provided an opportunity for students, faculty, staff, and members of the public to become familiar with the opportunities the center provides.”

### Spring 2010 STEM Events

UCR STEM  
Transfer Day  
April 23, 2010

Engineering Workshop  
May 13, 2010

STEM Days  
May 22, 2010  
June 4, 2010  
June 11, 2010

The STEM Center is open  
Monday through Friday  
and is located in MA 130.  
For more info, or to make an  
appointment with a STEM Success  
Coach, call (626) 852-6436.

To make an appointment for  
STEM counseling, please call  
(626) 852-6419 or (626) 914-8530.