

# Men of Color Conference gives students a chance to connect



Several Citrus College faculty and staff members serve as mentors in the Men of Color Mentor Program.



Citrus College's Dean of Counseling Nicole Smith, Ph.D., served as the event co-lead with Raul Sanchez, a counselor/instructor in the EOPS/CARE department.

To provide encouragement and support to male students of color, Citrus College welcomed nearly 30 students to the Campus Center on Oct. 13 for the third Men of Color Conference.

Organized by the college's Men of Color Mentor Program, the conference featured networking opportunities and remarks from inspirational speakers, such as Tyesha Thomas, director of diversity, equity and inclusion; and Justin Arce, a financial planner. Many staff members, board members and administrators, including Superintendent/President Schulz, were in attendance.

During the event, students also took part in a Q&A with five Citrus College mentors, including Rafael Herrera, Dr. Levi Richard, Erick Sanzon, Gino Munoz and Raul Sanchez. The group discussed their higher education experiences and the importance of mentorship.

One of the major highlights came when five students were awarded \$500 scholarships and several others took home gift cards.

Following the event, students were encouraged to stay connected by filling out a mentee interest form. The mentor program later followed up with mentees to ensure their questions were answered.

The Men of Color Mentor Program will be hosting a roundtable mixer for mentors and mentees in spring 2023. To learn more, download a mentee form or donate to the Men of Color Student Scholarship Award, visit [www.citruscollege.edu/stdntsrvc](http://www.citruscollege.edu/stdntsrvc).



Students network during the Men of Color Conference.



Superintendent/President Schulz (left), Trustee Cheryl Alexander (second from left), Trustee Mary Ann Lutz (third from left), Student Trustee Serina Mummert (second from right) and Vice President of Student Services Richard Rams, Ed.D., (right) celebrate scholarship recipients at the event.



Approximately 30 students attended the event.