

Citrus Community College District 1000 W. Foothill Blvd., Glendora, CA 91741



May 2, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

As we approach the last few weeks of the spring semester, I hope you are doing well. I am looking forward to the many end-of-year celebrations and ceremonies that have been planned to celebrate our students, including our 2024 commencement ceremony that will take place in our Citrus Stadium on Friday, June 14, at 6 p.m.

On a personal note, next week a member of my family will be graduating from college as well, and I know that many of you also have family or close friends who will be celebrating an educational milestone in the coming weeks.

Thank you for all that you do to help our students dream and achieve their goals. I am so grateful to work alongside each of you to carry out our educational mission.

### **Faculty Appreciation Week**

Across the country, May 6-10, 2024, is recognized as Teacher Appreciation Week. On April 9, 2024, the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees voted unanimously to declare the week of May 6-10 as Faculty Appreciation Week. They adopted a proclamation to recognize and honor the contributions of faculty and to express their appreciation for our faculty and the positive impact they have on the lives of our students. The board's proclamation can be found as part of their April board meeting agenda at:

https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/citruscollege/Board.nsf/files/D3TMPE5C30C3/\$file/2024%2004%209%20-%20Proclamation%20Faculty%20Appreciation%20Week.pdf

As we approach Faculty Appreciation Week, I want to join our students, staff and trustees and express my appreciation for each one of our dedicated faculty members. Thank you for doing your best each day to support our students and help them develop a strong sense of belonging as they pursue their academic and career goals. Since joining the campus community almost three years ago, I've had the privilege of meeting and getting to know many of our outstanding instructors, librarians and counselors who are part of the faculty at Citrus College. With each interaction, I am reminded about how much you care about the well-being and success of our students. Your equity-minded and student-centered approach to facilitating learning and support helps to create the "Citrus College Experience" for our students. It makes our college unique, and our campus community is grateful.

### Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Each year throughout our nation, Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month is observed during the month of May. Although some of these details have been shared in other announcements, I wanted to provide information about AAPI Heritage Month events, activities and resources:

- As part of our spring 2024 semester, our DEIA+ Office invites you to attend a session on Monday, May 6, led by Dr. Melissa Vang titled *The Role of Identity in DEI Praxis: Addressing* the (in)visibility of Asian Americans in Higher Education. This session will be offered in a Zoom format and is scheduled to begin at 2:40 p.m. For more information, please see the attached flyer.
- The Associated Students of Citrus College (ASCC) and the college's student life and leadership development team will host a movie screening of *Everything Everywhere All at Once* on Tuesday, May 28, from 2:30-5 p.m. in the Campus Center, east wing.
- With thanks to our Citrus College librarians and staff, the Hayden Memorial Library invites you
  to read a variety of resources that have been organized in the form of a Library Resource
  Guide as we celebrate AAPI Heritage Month. I encourage you to access these educational
  resources by visiting https://libguides.citruscollege.edu/aapi

## **Enrollment Update**

As of this morning, our spring 2024 semester unduplicated headcount enrollment is 9,949 students, compared to 9,740 at this time one year ago. Registration for our upcoming fall and summer terms will begin in the near future, and we will share updates as we continue to closely monitor our enrollment.

#### **Opportunities to Connect**

Each semester, I host a gathering known as the *Superintendent/President's Open Forum*. This is an opportunity for me to share college-wide updates and to invite open dialogue in the form of questions and answers during our time together. The next Open Forum is scheduled to take place on Monday, May 13, at 2:45 p.m. in CI 159. It will be held in person, and Zoom access will be available as well. I invite you to join me at this event.

I have continued to appreciate the many students, faculty and staff who have visited each one of my *Superintendent/President's Open Office Hours*. I host an Open Office Hour each month, and the next one is scheduled to take place in my office on Thursday, May 23, at 2:45 p.m. Zoom opportunities are also available. All students, faculty, staff and community members are welcome.

## State Budget Update and Tentative Budget Forum

As the state budget planning and development process continues, we know that the state of California has a structural deficit that will need to be addressed. Our fiscal team, led by Vice President Claudette Dain, along with our Financial Resources Committee, are closely monitoring the status of the state budget as the tentative budget for Citrus College is developed in accordance with our adopted budget calendar. You can learn more about the status of the state budget and Citrus College's tentative budget by attending the Tentative Budget Forum scheduled for Thursday, June 13, at 2:45 p.m. in CI 159. This forum will be held in person, and Zoom access will be available as well. I hope you will join us at this event.

# **Support for Students and Employees**

I would like to acknowledge that, as we work together to serve our students, we are doing so at a time when there are many difficult and heartbreaking things happening in our state, our nation and throughout the world. In challenging times like this, one thing that gives me hope is the strong sense of community that exists on our own campus. The Citrus College campus community that I have come to know and appreciate so much is filled with students, faculty and staff who care deeply about each other. Please continue to take care of yourself, our fellow employees and our students. Together, we can model the sense of community that is needed throughout our nation.

As a reminder, I want to share that we currently have resources in place to support both our students and employees.

For students, our Student Wellness Center is open and ready to provide a variety of services and support. Students seeking assistance may set up an appointment by calling 626-914-8671 or emailing <a href="mailto:mentalhealth@citruscollege.edu">mentalhealth@citruscollege.edu</a>. A complete list of the various resources that we have available for students can be found at

www.citruscollege.edu/stdntsrv/studentaffairs/Pages/ResourcesInNeed.aspx

For faculty and staff, we have access to the Employee Assistance Service for Education (EASE) program. Services and support are available by calling 800-882-1341. Additional information about EASE and its services can be found online at <a href="https://lacoe.edu/services/staff-support/ease">https://lacoe.edu/services/staff-support/ease</a>. Please also refer to your individual health insurance plan for additional resources.

Once again, thank you for the empathy, care and compassion that you show to our students, faculty and staff every day.

Sincerely,

Greg Schulz, Ed.D.

Superintendent/President