

Achievement Awards

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Miranda Qian Wen Law
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Jinni Chen

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Ziwei Zhang
Site Wei

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Elliott Diaz

MUSIC - EDUCATION

Marc Angelo Camilo

MUSIC - PERFORMANCE

Sean Mark Gurguis
Stephanie Chavez

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Chuqi Zeng
Qingqing Zhang

NURSING - VOCATIONAL

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Achievement Awards ATHLETES OF THE YEAR



ZEANNA SILVA

Major: **Pre-Allied Health and Psychology**

Transfer Institution: **Currently applying to nursing programs**

High School: **New Harvest Christian School**

Women's Soccer

Zeanna Silva led the Fighting Owls' women's soccer team to a historic finish, winning their first-ever Western State Conference (WSC) South Championship with a 15-6-1 overall record and a 12-2 conference record. She was named the WSC South Defensive Player of the Year, received California Community College Soccer Coaches Association (CCCSCA) All-Southern California honors – only the third Owl to do so – and capped things off by being named to the CCCSCA All-State team – the first honoree in the program's history. "Zeanna has been a mentor to her teammates and a role model to the entire athletic program, but, most importantly, she is a quality human being," said head women's soccer coach Tim Tracey.



TOBY OKWUOKEI

Major: **Business Administration**

Transfer Institution: **San Francisco State University**

High School: **Etiwanda High School**

Men's Basketball

Toby Okwuokei led the Fighting Owls' men's basketball team to its fourth-straight Western State Conference (WSC) Championship, finishing the year with a 20-10 overall record and a 11-3 conference record. The sophomore guard from Rancho Cucamonga was named to the All-California Community College Men's Basketball Coaches Association team and earned All-WSC South Division first team honors following the season. "Toby has been one of the best competitors to ever put on a Citrus jersey," said head men's basketball coach Brett Lauer. "Over the last two years, he consistently led our team by example on the court and, more importantly, in the classroom. I am excited to watch him as he continues his career in San Francisco."

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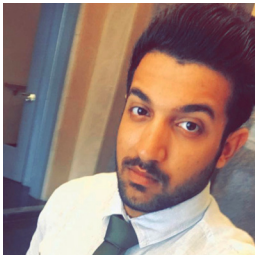
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HAMZAH MAED ABBAS

Major: **Biology**

Transfer Institution: **UCLA**

High School: **International**

Honors Transfer Program, STEM TRiO, Doctors of Tomorrow

Hamzah Maed Abbas is an international student from Iraq. When he arrived in the United States three years ago, he faced multiple barriers, but he persevered by working two jobs and improving his English skills. He had the option of choosing from multiple community colleges in the area, but it was the support and diverse environment he found at Citrus College that led him to enroll in classes and pursue an education. He will be transferring to UCLA to obtain a biology degree, and he plans to eventually apply for a Ph.D. or Ph.D./M.D. program to be a researcher. "Believing in yourself," says Hamzah, "is the true key of knowledge."



RHONNIE DE GUZMAN

Major: **Pre-Allied Health and Psychology**

Transfer Institution: **Cal State San Bernardino**

High School: **Glendora High School**

Phi Theta Kappa, Alpha Gamma Sigma

When Rhonnie De Guzman began her journey at Citrus College after immigrating to the United States, she was convinced that she would experience many obstacles on her path to success. She was proved wrong, however, when she found that Citrus College had helped her transition smoothly and provided a framework for achieving her goals. In fall 2020, Rhonnie will be transferring to Cal State San Bernardino to attend the pre-nursing program to prepare her for a career as a registered nurse. She would also like to continue her passion of serving others. "I plan to continue giving back to the communities I am indebted to," she says.

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RACHEL GOODRICH

Major: **Computer Science**

Transfer Institution: **Cal Poly Pomona**

High School: **California Virtual Academy**

Honors Transfer Program, Alpha Gamma Sigma, Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Treble Choir, Concert Choir, Women's Ensemble, Campus Center Host

Rachel Goodrich enrolled at Citrus College after learning more about the performing arts program while attending the Citrus College Summer Conservatory in high school. While working toward her degree, Rachel found a supportive community in the vocal music program, where she participated in various choir groups led by instructor Sean Fitzpatrick. She says that, through his classes, she learned about the importance of professionalism and a strong work ethic, which has helped her grow and succeed. Rachel will be transferring to Cal Poly Pomona to pursue a degree in computer science. Her goal is to work for a creative company, such as Disney or Netflix.



NOOR RACHID HALABI

Major: **Chemical Engineering**

Transfer Institution: **Cal Poly Pomona**

High School: **Glendora High School**

Alpha Gamma Sigma, Math Owls, Rocket Owls, Rocketry and Robotics Team, Women in Engineering Program

When Noor Rachid Halabi found out that she would be receiving a Key of Knowledge, she said, "If someone had told me as a young lady in the Middle East four years ago that I would one day earn the highest academic honor at a college in the United States, I would never have believed them!" Yet Noor was motivated when she came to Citrus College, heavily involving herself in the engineering program and tutoring in the STEM Center. She will be attending Cal Poly Pomona to pursue a degree in chemical engineering and would like to eventually obtain a Ph.D. or M.D.

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MAZEL HIGA-KAZUMA

Major: Communications
Transfer Institution: Cal Poly Pomona
High School: West Covina High School
Honors Transfer Program

Mazel Higa-Kazuma is a returning student who came to Citrus College with "two small kids, a full-time job and so many other hats to wear," as she puts it. Her determination to succeed stems from her desire to be an example for her children and from the encouragement and support she received while in the college's honors transfer program. Mazel looks forward to furthering her undergraduate education by pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Communications at Cal Poly Pomona and, in doing so, moving up in the company where she currently works. For Mazel, receiving this award has shown her that it is never too late to go back to school.



LAYLA SOPHIA JIMENEZ

Major: Philosophy
Transfer Institution: UCLA
High School: Santa Monica High School
**Wise Owls Philosophy Club, Alpha Gamma Sigma,
Honors Transfer Program**

Layla Sophia Jimenez credits much of her success to her love of learning, hard work and commitment. "Doing well academically is not easy," she says. "It demands creating good habits when choices present themselves." The other component to her success is the people and programs she was introduced to while at Citrus College. The honors transfer program helped her find community, and instructor Jamie Love's classes compelled her to pursue an education in philosophy. Layla will be transferring to UCLA to obtain her bachelor's degree. After that, she would like to attend law school and use her knowledge of philosophy in her career as an attorney.

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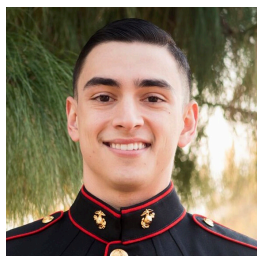
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AN NGUYEN

Major: **Chemical Engineering**
Transfer Institution: **Cal Poly Pomona**
High School: **International**
Logical Thinker Club, Math Club, Peer-Friendship Program, Honors Transfer Program, Phi Theta Kappa, STEM Center, International Student Center

An Nguyen is an international student from Vietnam who chose to attend Citrus College because of the intensive ESL courses that would help him prepare for future academic success. An eventually joined the peer-friendship program and worked in the STEM Center where he used his knowledge of math and science to tutor students while also practicing his English skills. He continued to thrive in his math and science classes, earning a Distinguished Student Award in both disciplines. An plans to transfer to Cal Poly Pomona to pursue a degree in chemical engineering and eventually work toward finding clean energy sources and other solutions to protect the environment.



BRANDON JULIAN PEDROZA

Major: **Physics**
Transfer Institution: **Pomona College**
High School: **Gladstone High School**
Honors Transfer Program, STEM TRiO

Brandon Julian Pedroza worked in the White House from 2014 to 2017 while serving in the U.S. Marine Corps. In 2018, he enrolled at Citrus College, working hard to maintain a 4.0 GPA while attending classes full time in pursuit of a physics degree. Thanks to the guidance and encouragement of David Rodriguez, a veterans counselor at Citrus College, Brandon will be transferring to Pomona College in Claremont in fall 2020. In the future, Brandon would like to further his education by attending graduate school and involving himself in a groundbreaking scientific project.

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JENNIFER ZHAO

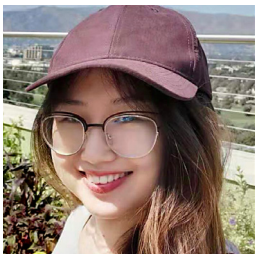
Major: Psychology

Transfer Institution: UC Berkeley

High School: Arcadia High High

Associated Students of Citrus College (Senator), Alpha Gamma Sigma, Honors Transfer Program, Doctors of Tomorrow

Jennifer Zhao came to Citrus College with the intent of pursuing an education and, through that, developing her passion and interests. She currently serves on the Associated Student of Citrus College Executive Board as a senator and is involved in numerous clubs and organizations on campus. Due, in part, to the numerous people she has encountered at Citrus College, such as honors counselor Eileen Sin and instructor Jamie Love, Jennifer has been able to find her voice and realize her potential. Her goal is to study pre-med at UC Berkeley and eventually become a plastic surgeon.



ANGELE YEHE ZHENG

Major: Philosophy

Transfer Institution: UC Berkeley

High School: International

Alpha Gamma Sigma, Philosophy Club

Angele Yehe Zheng's journey at Citrus College began when she enrolled in Dr. Cathrine Besancon's art history class. "She taught with such enthusiasm that it made me want to study with just as much passion," says Angele. It was through this encounter that Angele developed a driven approach to knowledge and research, to the point that her first research paper was accepted for the UCI/HTCC Community College Honors Research Conference. She thanks instructors Rudy Saldana and Jamie Love for introducing her to philosophy, which she will be pursuing at UC Berkeley. Ultimately, Angele would like to achieve a master's degree and a Ph.D. in the same field of study.

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SERVICE LEADER OF THE YEAR



LAUREN THIELEN

Major: **Political Science**
Transfer Institution: **UCLA**

Lauren Thielen is the president and founder of the first Model United Nations club at Citrus College. Her goal in establishing the club was to provide a platform for students to engage in conversations about topics that impact the global community. During the fall 2019 semester, Lauren interned for U.S.

Rep. Grace Napolitano, the representative of California's 32nd district, where she learned about the Congressional Mental Health Caucus. Lauren went on to work for the Mental Health Consortium at City of Hope in Duarte, where she learned more about the mental health struggles facing military families. She will be attending UCLA in the fall to pursue a degree in political science. "My end goal is to use the abundance of resources available at the university to inspire others and acquire the knowledge I need to continue helping others," says Lauren.

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