



# CONNECTING...

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2020-2021**

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## MISSION

Citrus College provides students with quality educational experiences and support services that lead to the successful completion of degrees, transfer, certificates, career/technical education and basic skills proficiency. The college fosters academic and career success through the development of critical thinking, effective communication, creativity, and cultural awareness in a safe, accessible and affordable learning environment. In meeting the needs of our demographically diverse student population, we embrace equity and accountability through measurable learning outcomes, ethical data-driven decisions and student achievement.

## VISION

Citrus College is driven to provide excellent educational opportunities that are responsive to the needs of our students, and empower them to meet and exceed challenges as active participants in shaping the future of our world.

## VALUES

- Student Success and Completion
- Excellence
- Collaboration
- Diversity
- Life-Long Learning
- Integrity
- Technological Advancement

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# MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT



When I began serving as superintendent/president on July 1, 2021, I was eager to learn everything I could about Citrus College's culture, past successes and future plans. The more I met with faculty, staff and students, the more this hard-working community impressed me. In the midst of a global pandemic, they continued

to provide students with a high-quality education while working toward college-wide goals.

For this reason, I am proud to present this annual report, which provides an overview of the many outstanding things the Citrus College community accomplished during the 2020-2021 academic year.

At first glance, the theme of this year's report might seem a bit ironic. After all, making and maintaining connections is challenging when you have to practice social distancing and operate in a primarily virtual environment. However, positive interaction and productive remote collaboration made it possible for Citrus College to reach new heights and experience significant progress this year. Aptly titled "Connecting...", this report is a testament to the formidable bonds the campus community has forged, as well as to the many achievements these bonds helped make possible.

From online events to new technology, the creativity of our employees has ensured that students maintain their connection to Citrus College despite the ongoing public health crisis.

Zoom workshops, helpful videos on a variety of topics and virtual orientations are all examples of the ingenuity on display at Citrus College. At the same time, faculty, staff and administrators have worked together to create and update return-to-campus plans based on public health and safety guidelines.

In addition to navigating COVID-19, Citrus College also experienced program growth, reached planning milestones and prepared for its upcoming accreditation site visit. One particular highlight this year was the approval of Measure Y by local voters. This \$298 million general obligation bond will continue to ensure that students in the region have access to affordable, high-quality education.

Having served in a variety of leadership roles in the California community colleges system, I understand the unique challenges that higher education professionals face. For this reason, I want to recognize and congratulate Dr. Geraldine M. Perri on her much-deserved retirement as Citrus College's seventh superintendent/president. The many exciting developments featured in this report are a testament to her commitment to excellence, as well as her collaborative work with the faculty and staff of Citrus College.

I would also like to acknowledge our local communities, elected officials, generous Foundation donors and all those we call friends of Citrus College. Our campus community is motivated and inspired by your support! We hope you enjoy reading the 2020-2021 annual report and that it gives you a glimpse of the exceptional work being done at Citrus College every day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Schulz". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue circular graphic element.

Greg Schulz, Ed.D.  
Superintendent/President



Citrus College

# CITRUS COLLEGE FOSTERS STUDENT SUCCESS IN A REMOTE ENVIRONMENT

**With the majority of its students enrolled in remote classes during the 2020-2021 academic year, Citrus College found new and creative ways to support student success.**

To ensure students could successfully complete their courses from home, the college distributed Chromebooks or \$250 Best Buy vouchers to eligible students with funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.



Throughout the year, the college organized multiple Chromebook distribution events where students drove onto campus to safely pick up their items. Students who received these grants met several requirements, including being enrolled in the active semester, meeting unit requirements and having applied for financial aid prior to applying for the grant.

During the 2020-2021 academic year, 359 Chromebooks were awarded.

Other groups on campus organized similar distribution events. In September 2020, for example, the Citrus College Mathematics and Business Division hosted a statistics textbook and calculator loan drive-up distribution.

In addition to providing students with physical materials, the college also connected students to online resources through the Owl Success Hub. The webpage offered students tips on computer-based learning and studying in the home environment, as well as how to maintain health and wellness. The site also made it easier for students to schedule

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## 2020-2021 VIRTUAL EVENTS: HIGHLIGHTS

- A handful of current and former Citrus College women's basketball players participated in a Zoom call with WNBA superstar Breanna Stewart in August 2020.
- The Foundation Scholarship Reception was held on Aug. 14, 2020, in which more than \$115,000 in scholarships were awarded to 150 students.
- Citrus College kicked off the 2020-2021 academic year with Convocation on Aug. 21, 2020.
- The Career/Transfer Center held its first-ever virtual Transfer Fair on Sept. 30, 2020.
- A virtual Saluting Our Veterans celebration was held on Nov. 9, 2020, in which counselor and reservist with the U.S. Air Force David Rodriguez was honored.
- Two "Dose of Movement Medicine" virtual workouts were held in November and December 2020.
- More than 70 high school counselors participated in the annual High School Counselor Conference on Feb. 11, 2021.
- Five Citrus College faculty members discussed what they learned during their sabbatical leaves at an online forum on March 25, 2021.
- Citrus College students and employees attended the inaugural Men of Color Conference on March 26, 2021.
- Citrus College student Caitlin Griffin's "Mad to Live," a screenplay set during World War II, was performed online June 4-6, 2021, by performing arts students. Other performances throughout the year included "The 39 Steps," "A Christmas Carol" and "Don't Shelve the Elves!"
- The college's 105th commencement ceremony was held on June 12, 2021.



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appointments with academic counselors. From the Career/Transfer Center and DSPS to EOPS/CARE and CalWORKs, campus departments rose to the challenge posed by the pandemic and offered virtual counseling, drop-in hours and phone assistance to students.

The Veterans Success Center was also resourceful during these unprecedented times. They provided new students with virtual orientations and virtual tours, maintained

communication with students via drop-in virtual lounge hours and Canvas postings, and continued to provide all services (e.g., mental health, VetSuccess on Campus counseling, etc.) through the use of technology.

Additionally, student life and leadership development continued to process basic needs applications, while the Student Health Center provided virtual services, such as the "Ask a Nurse" program and personal online counseling visits. 🍊

# MEASURE Y PAVES WAY FOR IMPROVEMENTS



**During the Nov. 3, 2020, general election, voters in the Citrus Community College District approved Measure Y, a \$298 million general obligation bond.**

Known as the Citrus College Career Education, Repair, Affordable Higher Education Measure, Measure Y passed with 57.67% of the vote. Its approval allows Citrus College to retain well-qualified teachers and improve the quality of education by upgrading job training; science and technology classrooms; meeting earthquake and fire safety standards; and continuing to provide clean drinking water in buildings.

The facilities improvements were identified following an 18-month process where college stakeholders, along with a team of external consultants, assessed the facilities needs of the college. This resulted in a series of recommendations identified

in the college's 2020-2030 Educational and Facilities Master Plan.

As of June 2021, significant progress has been made in the planning phase of Measure Y.

In addition to the California Environmental Quality Act process getting underway, the college has started to secure additional potential funding for projects identified in the master plan. Two of the college's higher priority projects – the new career technical education and science/STEM buildings – have a high probability of qualifying for state funding.

"Current and future students at Citrus College will benefit tremendously from the improvements made possible through Measure Y," said Claudette E. Dain, vice president of finance and administrative services at Citrus College, in December 2020. "We will be able to expand the college's training partnerships with local employers, which will help create local jobs and boost our regional economy."

Measure Y includes strict fiscal safeguards, including citizen oversight, public disclosure of all spending, and annual financial and performance audits. No money from Measure Y will be spent on administrators' salaries or pensions, and all funds will be spent by the

college and cannot be taken by the county, state or federal government.

Citrus College's long history of fiscal responsibility and sound business practices have already led to a reaffirmation of its AA bond rating from S&P Global Ratings (previously Standard & Poor's) for Measure G, the \$121 million general obligation bond measure, which was approved by voters in March 2004. S&P Global Ratings noted that the college is well-equipped to navigate the nation's current pandemic and its resulting economic environment.

Moreover, Moody's Investors Service upgraded the district's credit rating from Aa2 to Aa1 in July 2020 – the second highest level possible. This move further signifies that Citrus College is financially sound and has adequate revenues and cash reserves to pay off its debts.

"The community's long-standing support of the college's mission, vision and values will continue to make a difference for future generations of students," said Dr. Patricia A. Rasmussen, president of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees. "The success of Measure Y will ensure that students have access to an affordable, high-quality education." 🍊



Trustee Contreras



Trustee Bollinger



Trustee Lutz

# CHANGES ON BOARD OF TRUSTEES USHER IN NEW ERA OF LEADERSHIP

**With the resignation of one trustee and the retirement of two others, the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees experienced a significant transformation during the 2020-2021 academic year, as three vacant seats were filled.**

The first new member of the board was Anthony Contreras, Ed.D., who was unanimously appointed to serve as a provisional trustee in October 2020. Dr. Contreras assumed the seat of Dr. Barbara R. Dickerson, who stepped down in September 2020. He now represents trustee area 1, which includes Azusa and portions of Duarte.

Dr. Contreras attended Citrus College before earning a bachelor's degree in business administration with an emphasis in finance from the University of Southern California (USC); a master's degree in cross-cultural

education from National University; and a doctorate in education, specializing in teacher education in multicultural societies, from USC. He has worked for the Azusa Unified School District for more than 30 years, including six years as an administrator.

Two months later, the board welcomed two more new trustees. Laura J. Bollinger and Mary Ann Lutz were elected in November and sworn in during the annual organization meeting of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees in December. They filled the seats of longtime trustees Susan M. Keith and the late Joanne Montgomery, who both retired in November 2020 after more than 20 years of service each.

Citrus College alumna Laura J. Bollinger was elected to serve as the representative for trustee area 2, which encompasses Claremont and portions of La Verne and Pomona.

A Claremont resident for 25 years, Ms. Bollinger has participated in numerous community organizations, holding leadership roles on several occasions. She has also continued to be involved with Citrus College and has been very active with the Citrus College Foundation.

Mary Ann Lutz, a long-time public servant, ran unopposed in this year's election and now serves as the representative for trustee area 5, which encompasses Monrovia, Bradbury and portions of Duarte. Ms. Lutz brings extensive knowledge and expertise to her new role, having previously served in a variety of government positions. Most recently, she was the government liaison/policy advisor to U.S. Rep. Grace F. Napolitano. She also spent six years as the mayor of Monrovia and six years as a member of the Monrovia City Council. ●





## IN MEMORIAM:

# JOANNE MONTGOMERY (1933-2020)

Joanne Montgomery, a long-serving member of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees, passed away on Dec. 14, 2020. An experienced educator and visionary leader, Mrs. Montgomery served as a board member for 22 years before officially retiring on Dec. 11, 2020. During her tenure, she demonstrated a passion for student success, tirelessly promoting Citrus College. She also advocated for a variety of higher education initiatives, including AB 288, which allowed California students to take college-credit courses while still in high school. Prior to serving

as a trustee, Mrs. Montgomery served 32 years as an elementary school teacher for the Monrovia Unified School District. She also served as a master teacher for several universities and participated on numerous school committees. Mrs. Montgomery also earned countless awards as an educator and community leader throughout her career. "Joanne dedicated her life to helping others, and this loss is not only felt at the college, but throughout the San Gabriel Valley," said Dr. Patricia A. Rasmussen, president of the board of trustees. "She is definitely missed." 🍊

# FIRST FEMALE SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT RETIRES AFTER 13 YEARS OF SUCCESS



**When Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D., stepped into her leadership role in July 2008, she became the first woman and the seventh superintendent/president in Citrus College history. A dedicated educator with extensive experience in community college administration, she was well-equipped for her position as the college's chief executive.**

Over the next 13 years, an impressive amount of work was accomplished. This included tackling the objectives of three strategic plans, successfully navigating several accreditation cycles, developing two educational and facilities master plans, and being at the forefront of the dual enrollment movement.

Under Dr. Perri's leadership, the campus community worked tirelessly to meet evolving student needs, with the expansion of support programs being a top priority. The Citrus College Promise, a program designed to cover enrollment fees for first-time students; Early Decision, which assists students as they progress from high school to college; and I Will Complete College, a program that provides first-time students with individual guidance, are all examples of how Citrus College has worked to create a culture where student success thrives.

This commitment to student success had remarkable outcomes during Dr. Perri's tenure. Citrus College students completed their academic goals in record numbers. As a result, the college received consistent recognition as a top producer of associate degrees by Community College Week magazine and Hispanic Outlook on Education magazine. In addition, the college was nominated for the prestigious Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence four consecutive times, received the 2015 California Community College Chancellor's Student Success Award and was presented with the American Association for Community Colleges 2019 Award of Excellence in the Student Success category.

"Citrus College was very fortunate to have someone with Dr. Perri's talent and insight serve as its superintendent/president during a time of immense change and unprecedented challenges for community colleges," said Dr. Patricia A. Rasmussen, president of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees. "She created a rich legacy of student success and college completion at Citrus College, ensuring that the leadership of the college was handed over to the next superintendent/president on strong footing." 🍊

# DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD

**Senya Lubisich, Ph.D., was selected to receive the 2021 Citrus College Distinguished Faculty Award, an honor for which she is both grateful and deeply touched. "In my opinion, every faculty member has distinguished themselves this year," she said. "I am humbled that they chose me for this recognition."**

For nearly two decades, Dr. Lubisich has served the Citrus College Social and Behavioral Sciences and Online Education Division. Teaching history and humanities courses since 2004, she credits her success to the "incredible support" she has received. "I have benefitted greatly from mentorship and guidance," she said.

Dr. Lubisich holds a doctorate in European history from the University of California, Riverside (UCR), and is a certified online instructor. Prior to joining the Citrus College community, she taught at a variety of community colleges throughout California, as well as several private universities.

Since coming to Citrus College, Dr. Lubisich has served as an executive board member on the college's Academic Senate and as a member of the Curriculum Committee. She has also served as an advisor for the Chess Club and the History Club, and she is an avid supporter of the college's study abroad program. Currently, she holds an executive board position with the Citrus College Faculty Association and serves as the online education faculty coordinator.

When she is not at Citrus College, Dr. Lubisich is very involved in her community. She is an active reader and docent at the Huntington Library in San Marino. In addition, she serves the city of San Gabriel as chair of the Historic Preservation and Cultural Resources Commission and is the founder of the nonprofit, Friends of La Laguna. In her free time, Dr. Lubisich also loves to travel with her husband and five children. They enjoy cooking, reading and hiking together. 🍊



# WELCOMING NEW FACULTY

While Citrus College's faculty have always been an impressive group, the 2020-2021 academic year revealed just how outstanding they really are. Charged with the extraordinary task of transforming the delivery of education into a remote format, they rose to the occasion and continued to provide high-quality instruction in the midst of the global pandemic. Three new faculty members were among those who worked to ensure the academic success of Citrus College students throughout the year. These dedicated professionals helped create a welcoming environment – both virtual and in person – in which learning thrived.



**Martha Delgadillo**  
Nursing

Martha Delgadillo's dynamic career experience was instrumental to her new role as a full-time faculty member in the Citrus College Nursing program. Prior to joining the campus community, she worked as a licensed vocational nursing instructor for the North Orange County Regional Occupational Program and as a registered nurse at West Anaheim Medical Center. She holds multiple certifications, an associate degree from Mt. San Antonio College, a bachelor's degree from California State University, Long Beach, and a master's degree from California State University, Dominguez Hills.



**Lisa Kolber**  
Nursing

After serving as an adjunct instructor for two years and as a registered nurse for more than 20 years, Lisa Kolber joined the Citrus College Nursing program as a full-time faculty member. She holds an associate degree from Mt. San Antonio College, as well as a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in nursing from California State University, Fullerton. She also has a registered nursing license and is certified in critical care, advanced cardiovascular life support and basic life support for health care providers.



**Matthew Parsons**  
Information Technology  
and Information Systems

Matthew Parsons brings more than two decades of experience to his new role as a full-time faculty member at Citrus College. In the fall of 2020, he began teaching information technology and information systems. Prior to joining the campus community, Mr. Parsons served 12 years at City of Hope and held a variety of positions, including programmer/analyst, project manager and senior manager. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Houston and a master's degree in health care administration from Louisiana State University.

# INTRODUCING NEW MANAGERS

The role of a community college administrator can be complex. As leaders on campus, they are tasked with developing a climate of trust and mutual support. In addition, they are responsible for implementing established policies and procedures, communicating clearly with the college's constituent groups, and remaining informed regarding evolving student needs. During the 2020-2021 academic year, Citrus College was fortunate to fill three key administrative positions with experienced professionals who are committed to doing just this. Sharing a commitment to student success, the talented managers who stepped into these important roles are ready to educate, guide and shape students into the leaders of tomorrow. Their professional acumen, impressive knowledge and genuine concern for students make them excellent additions to the Citrus College community.



## ***Dr. Joumana McGowan, Vice President of Academic Affairs***

A leader with more than 21 years of experience in higher education, Joumana McGowan, Ed.D., was named vice president of academic affairs in December 2020. She came to Citrus College from Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. SAC), where she served as the associate vice president of instructional services. Dr. McGowan holds an associate degree from Mt. SAC, as well as a bachelor's degree and master's degree from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and a doctorate in community college leadership from the University of Southern California.



## ***Dr. Richard F. Rams, Vice President of Student Services***

When Richard F. Rams, Ed.D., joined Citrus College as vice president of student services in February 2021, he brought with him more than two decades of experience in higher education. Prior to this new role, he served as the dean of student support services, kinesiology and athletics at Cypress College. Dr. Rams holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California, Riverside, a master's degree in education from the University of Kansas and a doctorate in education from the University of California, Irvine.



## ***Marie Noriega, Associate Director of Fiscal Services***

With 15 years of accounting experience, Marie Noriega is well-equipped for her new role as the associate director of fiscal services at Citrus College. Before joining the campus community, Ms. Noriega served as the interim director of business services at the Gavilan Joint Community College District. Prior to this, she served three years as the supervisor of budget and accounting for the same institution. Ms. Noriega holds an associate degree in accounting from the San José-Evergreen District and a bachelor's degree in business studies and accounting from Southern New Hampshire University.

# ABCD AWARD RECIPIENTS

**Citrus College honors outstanding classified employees with the Above and Beyond - Classified Development (ABCD) Award, which is presented quarterly at board of trustees meetings. The award is given to staff members who demonstrate exceptional vision, collaboration, service and dedication to the college community.**



***Chuong Tran***

Throughout his 23-year career, Chuong Tran, information technology support specialist, has always worked with a smile and a kind demeanor. Nominated by his supervisor Dr. Dana Hester, dean of social and behavioral sciences and online education, Mr. Tran was commended for helping faculty troubleshoot and understand the technology needed to reach students online. Mr. Tran started at Citrus College as a student assistant in 1998 before taking his current position in 2008. In his spare time, Mr. Tran enjoys drawing, watching "American Horror Story" and playing video games.

Cathy Day, administrative secretary II, received the ABCD Award in October 2020. According to Dr. Gina Hogan, dean of language arts and library, Ms. Day is an exceptional staff member who always exhibits a courteous, approachable and professional disposition.

She also has a great rapport with faculty and students, finding practical solutions to their concerns. An integral part to the function and success of the language arts and library division, Ms. Day has worked for Citrus College since 2000. She enjoys gardening, home renovation and spending time with family.



***Cathy Day***



**John Patrick**

For more than 20 years, John Patrick has served as the performing arts shop coordinator for the Haugh Performing Arts Center. According to Tiina Mittler, director of the Haugh, Mr. Patrick constantly challenges himself to employ new techniques and tools to ensure the scene shop is a place where students can practice and master new skills. Mr. Patrick, who enjoys being near the ocean and painting, has been involved in countless campus productions, including convocations and the holiday spectacular, "Christmas Is..."

Nominated by Dr. Dana Hester, John Morris received the ABCD Award in April 2021. A study abroad specialist, Mr. Morris was honored for making the study abroad program a success and working to ensure that all students find an affordable pathway to participate. When study abroad was put on hold due to COVID-19, Mr. Morris also stepped up to support counseling faculty and staff. He assisted with virtual counseling lobbies, answered questions and directed students to appropriate services. In his free time, Mr. Morris enjoys cycling, snowboarding and traveling.



**John Morris**

# YEAR IN REVIEW

## NEWS BRIEFS



### STRONG FINANCIAL STANDING

Two financial developments affirmed the Citrus Community College District's reputation for prudently managing resources. First, in a move estimated to save taxpayers over \$7.7 million, the board of trustees approved a plan to refinance outstanding general obligation bonds. Several weeks later, the district's strong financial outlook resulted in its credit rating being upgraded to Aa1, the second highest level possible, by Moody's Investor Service.



### NEW STEM GRANTS

In August 2020, Citrus College's STEM program received two new federal grants. The first was a five-year, \$1.3 million STEM TRiO Student Support Services grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The second grant, \$2.2 million from the National Science Foundation, will be used to fund a Track 1 Capacity Building project that will engage a total of 300 STEM students over five years.



### ONLINE STUDENT NEWSPAPER DATABASE

More than 1,000 issues of Citrus College's student newspaper have been archived online, thanks to a collaboration between the faculty and staff of the college's journalism program, the Hayden Memorial Library, and the Citrus College Foundation. In September 2020, the Clarion archive, which consists of 9,461 pages, went live at <https://libguides.citruscollege.edu/az.php?a=c&t=14715>. Visitors to the website can search through any issues published from 1964 through 2018.



### ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS INSTALLED

New electric vehicle charging stations were installed in the E2 parking lot, just south of the Student Services Building. The stations, which are available to all, join 25 others in the S9 parking lot that were made possible by a grant from the Southern California Edison Charge Ready program. The program, which supports the state's zero-emission policies, makes the installation of charging stations simpler and more cost-effective for customers.



### **BIOLOGY AT HOME**

During the fall 2020 semester, biology instructors Dr. June Han and Dr. Nora Sullivan provided students with vital hands-on laboratory experiences, despite Citrus College's remote learning environment. Those enrolled in BIOL 124 were mailed mini at-home lab kits containing materials for three exercises: a concentration lab, a microscopy lab and a biochemistry lab. The kits included pipettes, test tubes, paper fold-scope microscope and other supplies.



### **ELECTRIC BUS TECHNOLOGY**

Citrus College, in partnership with Proterra and several other organizations, introduced a unique workforce training opportunity during the fall 2020 semester. The electric bus manufacturing technology program is a customized, nine-week program offered through the college's continuing education department. Designed to advance diversity, equity and inclusion in the green manufacturing sector, the program provides students with hands-on, real-world job training.



### **DEI TASK FORCE CONTINUES IMPORTANT WORK**

Throughout the year, the Citrus College Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force has met with the purpose of determining how the college community can influence the social change required to make a difference in removing structural racism. The group reviewed the college's board policies and administrative procedures, focusing on potential gaps in how access, services and support are provided within the college community.



### **COLLEGE RECEIVES SUSTAINABILITY AWARD**

In January 2021, Citrus College received a California Community Colleges Board of Governors Energy and Sustainability Award. Praised for its retro-commissioning projects, which reduced energy usage and costs, the college won Best Overall Innovative Project for a medium-sized community college district. The projects helped save nearly 1.5 million kilowatt-hours and 40,000 therms each year, leading to an annual cost savings of approximately \$225,000.

# YEAR IN REVIEW

## NEWS BRIEFS



### DREAM RESOURCE CENTER OPENS

Dedicated to fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment for undocumented students, the Dream Resource Center began offering services in 2021. Staffed by UndocuLiaison Amayrani Ochoa Almeida, the center provides individualized guidance and assistance related to financial aid, in-state tuition and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). The center can also promote and connect students to free legal services, including education and outreach activities.



### ATHLETICS, ARTS STUDENTS RETURN TO CAMPUS

More than a year after the Citrus College campus initially closed due to COVID-19, dozens of students returned for in-person activities in spring 2021. The experience allowed visual and performing arts students to learn in a hands-on environment, and student athletes to prepare for their competitive seasons in the 2021-2022 academic year.



### BLACK SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The inaugural Citrus College Men of Color Conference, which was designed to introduce male students of color to the college's employees, was held virtually in March 2021. During the event, the Black Scholars program debuted. The goal of the program, which is facilitated by the Counseling and Advisement Center, is to increase retention within the college's Black population, while also building a community of support.



### STUDENT ATHLETES' SUCCESS

Citrus College's student athletes continued to shine in the midst of a global pandemic. In early March 2021, it was announced that a record 143 students had earned Scholar Baller honors. In addition, the men's basketball team was recognized as a Scholar Team by the California Community College Athletic Association for the second time in a row and the third time in four years.



### **AUTOMOTIVE PROGRAM DONATION**

The Citrus College Automotive Technology program received a \$10,000 donation from the Greater Los Angeles New Car Dealers Association for the third consecutive year. The college plans to use the funds on new laptops and vehicle communication interfaces to improve the program's ability to connect to vehicles for diagnostics and network communication. The goal is to prepare students to work in new car service centers.



### **COLLEGE EARNS MILITARY FRIENDLY AWARD**

In May 2021, veteran-owned VIQORY named Citrus College both a Military Friendly School and a Military Friendly Spouse School. As a result, Citrus College was included in the complete list of 2021-2022 Military Friendly Schools in the G.I. Jobs magazine and Military Spouse magazines.



### **ANONYMOUS GRANT ASSISTS STUDENT VETERANS**

In May 2021, the Citrus College Veterans Success Center received an anonymous \$26,500 grant to support student veterans and their families, including the launch of a peer mentor program. The new opportunity will train current student veterans on how to provide assistance to veterans entering college for the first time.



### **FIRST-EVER VIRTUAL COMMENCEMENTS HELD**

The commencement ceremonies for the classes of 2020 and 2021 were held virtually – a first in the college's history. Thousands tuned in to both YouTube ceremonies to cheer on the graduates. To help make the at-home celebrations more festive, "grad packs" were mailed to graduates and included license plate frames, stickers and more.

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



**Brooke Arellano**  
Class of 2021

Brooke Arellano's final year at Citrus College was incredibly successful. She was elected president of the Beta Nu Eta chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society and later received the Walgreens Pharmacy Technician Certification Scholarship. Several months later, Ms. Arellano was one of only 50 community college students in the nation to be named a 2021 Coca-Cola Academic Team Gold Scholar. She concluded the academic year by earning her associate degree and transferring to the University of California, Irvine. Her ultimate goal is to become a physician's assistant or physician.



**Alexis Elder**  
Class of 2021

Not only did Alexis Elder receive the 2019 Distinguished Student Award in wildland resources and spend a month in Costa Rica as part of the forestry program, she also attained a job in her field of choice. Most recently, Ms. Elder was selected to receive the Temecula Valley Garden Club's annual \$1,000 scholarship. After graduating in June 2021, Ms. Elder transferred to California State University, Fullerton, as an evolutionary biology and ecology major.



**Matthew Serna**  
Class of 2020

In 2020, Citrus College student Matthew Serna participated in faculty-mentored research through the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, Office of Undergraduate Research. He was one of 15 community college students who took part in an eight-week Summer Undergraduate Research Experience program. Mr. Serna's project was on studying data analysis of dioxo-molybdenum complexes as a catalyst of deoxydehydration reactions of vicinal diols to olefins.



**T.A. Meridian McDonald**  
Class of 2003

Nearly two decades after graduating from Citrus College, T.A. Meridian McDonald, Ph.D., addressed some of the biggest questions surrounding autism in a theoretical model published in the journal "Medical Hypotheses." Her model focused on a sub-population of people who have a combination of certain traits. When people with these traits have children, according to Dr. McDonald's research, the traits can intensify or occur with a different disability and, thus, lead to autism.



**Veronica Kirton**  
**Class of 2020**

At the age of 72, Monrovia resident Veronica Kirton fulfilled her dream and graduated from Citrus College in June 2020 with an associate degree for transfer in sociology. Ms. Kirton chose to study sociology because of her interest in people and her passion for children and the elderly. Her journey to Citrus College began after she struck a deal with her daughter, Ronnese Glover: if Ms. Glover started a master's degree program, Ms. Kirton would enroll at Citrus College. "I found out that I could do more than I thought I could do," Ms. Kirton said.



**Harvey Guillen**  
**Class of 2005**

Long before Harvey Guillen was a Critic's Choice Award nominee or GLAAD award recipient, he was a member of the Citrus Singers. Since that time, Mr. Guillen has gone on to star in "The Magicians" on Syfy, "Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist" on NBC/Peacock, and the Emmy-nominated vampire mockumentary "What We Do in the Shadows" on FX. His role in the latter earned him a Critic's Choice Award nomination and a GLAAD Award in early 2021.

*Photo courtesy DFree/Shutterstock.com*



**Matthew Rogers**  
**1996-1997 Football Team Alumnus**

As a member of Citrus College's football team, Matthew Rogers was a star. Not only did he earn First Team All-Foothill Conference honors during his first and second years as an Owl, he was also named an All-American at the end of his second season. In addition to playing football for the University of Iowa and the University of Washington, Mr. Rogers has had a successful career in the entertainment industry. Beginning with the 2021 NFL season, he was named the new public address announcer for the Tennessee Titans, calling all home games at Nissan Stadium.



**Raul Roa**  
**Class of 1994**

In March 2021, Citrus College alumnus Raul Roa was named photo editor for Times Community News, a division of the Los Angeles Times. Mr. Roa, who has spent more than two decades as a Southern California journalist, has covered food, sports, wildfires, mudslides and more throughout his career.

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



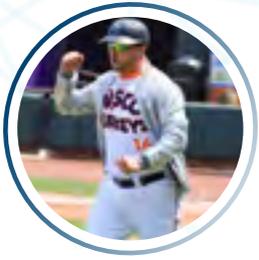
## **Paulina Gabriela Pimentel-Mora** Class of 2021

Paulina Gabriela Pimentel-Mora was one of a handful of students to receive the Key of Knowledge in 2021. During her time at Citrus College, she was involved in student government, worked at the Student Health Center, and was part of the honors transfer and STEM TRiO programs. She plans to double major in political science and history and minor in Spanish at Yale University.



## **Linda Bermudez** Class of 2008

Since graduating from Citrus College, Linda Bermudez has acquired more than 10 years of experience at a variety of public, nonprofit and community organizations. Most recently, she was named the K-14 technical assistance provider for Rancho Santiago Community College District. In this role, she provides leadership for the K-12 pathway improvement initiatives for Los Angeles County. She also serves as the region's representative for the Los Angeles/Orange County Regional Consortium's Strong Workforce program.



## **Kirk Cabana** Class of 2018

A former Citrus College student athlete, Kirk Cabana became the inaugural manager of the Carolina Disco Turkeys, a baseball team located in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Mr. Cabana played for the Citrus College baseball team during the 2017-2018 season, hitting .318 and driving in six runs – roughly a decade after he was a kicker on the college's football team!



## **Rebecca Gio** Class of 2020

Soon after graduating from Citrus College in June 2020 with an associate degree in computer science, Rebecca Gio presented research at a virtual symposium. Her project, titled "Synthetic Data Generation for Deep Learning-Based Object Detection," was completed at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, as part of Citrus College's Summer Research Experience. Since that time, she has developed an interest in aerospace and defense. In fact, she currently serves as a software engineering intern at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory.



**Jacqueline Torres**  
**Class of 2019**

In September 2020, Citrus College alumna Jacqueline Torres was awarded a 2020 Minerva Scholarship from Women in California Leadership (WCIL). Out of 1,059 applicants nationwide, she was one of 88 women who were selected to receive a scholarship due to her "intellectual energy, scholastic achievement, community involvement and work history." When she received the \$2,500 award, Ms. Torres became part of the very first class of WCIL. Now in her second year at California State University, East Bay, Ms. Torres is studying photography.



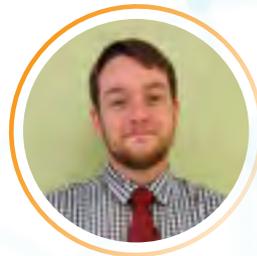
**Kaitlyn Espinoza**  
**Class of 2018**

Kaitlyn Espinoza, who graduated from Citrus College in 2018, was featured in an alumni spotlight in early 2021. She discussed working as a professional and how graduating from Citrus College's Biotechnology program helped her gain knowledge that she applied in her everyday work life. "I owe my success to the biotechnology program at Citrus, without which I would have never known this world even existed," Ms. Espinoza said.



**Matthew Levitt**  
**Class of 2019**

In June, Citrus College alumnus Matthew Levitt graduated from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, with a degree in computer science. During his final semester, he participated in a research project funded by Lockheed Martin that involved creating a collision avoidance system on a multicopter. As a result of his involvement, Mr. Levitt was offered a full-time software engineering position with Lockheed Martin Space once he graduated.



**Matthew McCarthy**  
**Class of 2020**

In the spring of 2021, Citrus College Summer Research Experience alumnus Matthew McCarthy co-authored an academic paper about the evolutionary patterns of flower color in monkeyflowers. But this wasn't his first success as a young scientist: in July 2019, Mr. McCarthy was the first community college student to ever be awarded a Botanical Society of America PLANTS (Preparing Leaders and Nurturing Tomorrow's Scientist) travel grant, which is cosponsored by the National Science Foundation.

# STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

## DEGREES



**2,585**

Total degrees awarded

## HONORS STUDENTS



**699**

Students graduated with an honors designation

## CERTIFICATES



**2,408**

Total certificates awarded

## AGE



Oldest graduate is

**62**



Youngest graduate is

**19**



Average age is

**26**

## VETERANS



**63**

Student veterans graduated

## TOP MAJORS

1



Business Administration

2



Psychology

3



Sociology

4



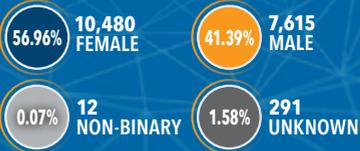
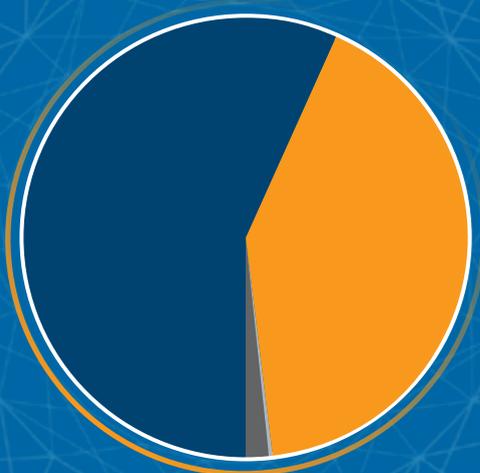
Pre-Allied Health

5

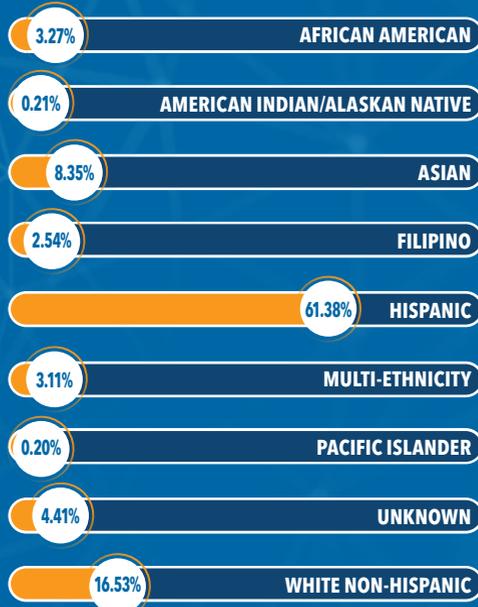


Social and Behavioral Sciences/Social Science

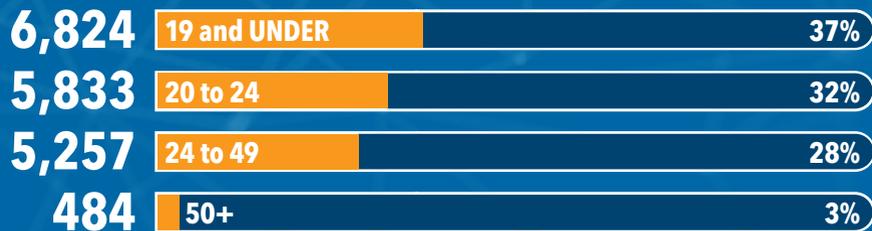
## GENDER



## ETHNICITY



## AGE





# CITRUS COLLEGE

## 2020-2021 FINANCIAL BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

\$100,307,363

### Expenditures by category

Academic salaries	\$33,421,749	33.32%	
Classified salaries	\$22,636,942	22.57%	
Benefits	\$24,370,428	24.30%	
Supplies and materials	\$4,871,605	4.86%	
Operating expenses	\$9,607,777	9.58%	
Capital Outlay	\$5,398,862	5.38%	



### Academic salaries

Academic instructional salaries	\$15,331,966	45.87%
Academic non-instructional salaries	\$6,346,698	18.99%
Part-time faculty salaries	\$11,743,085	35.14%

TOTAL REVENUES

\$102,859,958

Federal	\$6,566,679
State	\$80,478,544
Local	\$15,814,735

# MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

It was my pleasure to serve as the 2020-2021 president of the Citrus College

Foundation Board of Directors. In the midst of

unprecedented and challenging times, my fellow board members and I had the honor of witnessing the important role Citrus College plays in the lives of students. Meeting regularly to organize and plan how we could best support the campus community, we helped ensure that students receive the resources they need to achieve their goals.

With nearly all Citrus College activities taking place in a remote environment for the duration of the academic year, creativity and collaboration were necessary to survive and thrive. Early on, the Foundation knew that one of our highest priorities would be to help faculty, staff and students maintain their connection to the college. For this reason, the 2020-2021 annual report is especially relevant. Not only does the publication's theme of "Connecting..." reflect our efforts, it also emphasizes our successes. The Foundation's importance has never been more

apparent than during this global pandemic. Although we operated in a different manner, we continued to have an active presence at Citrus College. Committed to providing tangible assistance to students, we worked diligently to help the college community adapt to a situation that was constantly evolving. Several of our innovative efforts are touched on in this report. Additional highlights include:

- Facilitating noteworthy gifts that have enhanced academic and student support programs. This includes a \$25,000 gift to the Veterans Success Center, a \$5,000 grant from the Southern California Gas Company to fund sustainability scholarships through our forestry program and the donation of high-performance heavy-engine vehicles to the automotive technology program.
- Funding the purchase and installation of additional blue light emergency towers on campus. These safety towers include one-button access to connect to campus safety officers, as well as the ability of the college to communicate with the public in common areas during an emergency through a broadcasting system.
- Creating several new scholarships, including the Marie E. Ransom Endowed Memorial Scholarship, the Louie Pompei Memorial Scholarship, the Desmond M. Clark Memorial Scholarship and the Dr. Kenneth Guttman Memorial Scholarship.

As you read about these and the other exciting developments that took place this year, please remember that none of this would have been possible without our friends and supporters. Your generosity and goodwill have positively impacted the college and its students throughout 2020-2021. With your continued assistance, we will continue to help even more students reach their educational goals in the years ahead.

On behalf of the Citrus College Foundation Board of Directors, thank you for your investment in higher education.

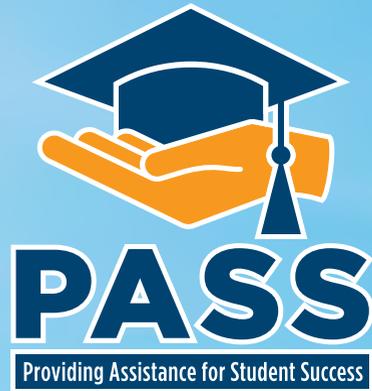
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Ralph".

Aaron Ralph  
President, Citrus College Foundation  
July 2020-June 2022



# STUDENTS IN NEED RECEIVE ASSISTANCE



When Citrus College suddenly transitioned to a remote environment in March 2020, many students found themselves facing unexpected challenges. The Citrus College Foundation was quick to offer support and provide resources to those in need.

Not long after the shutdown, the Foundation continued its ongoing support, but increased volume to award emergency grants. It also introduced the PASS (Providing Assistance for Student Success) initiative, which was designed to help students who are challenged to reach their academic goals as a result of the ongoing public health crisis.

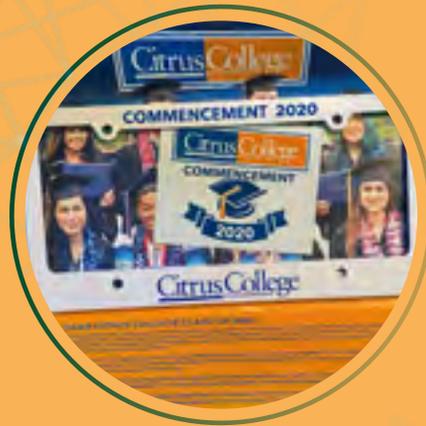
Throughout the 2020-2021 academic year, the Foundation continued awarding emergency grants. These one-time funds were available to students who encountered catastrophic and/or unforeseen situations that may have jeopardized their ability to complete their program of study. The grant application process itself was very collaborative. When a student expressed a need to a faculty or staff member, that employee shared the need with their dean. In turn, the dean contacted the student life and leadership development program, and the student was provided with an emergency grant application.

After the application was completed, it was submitted to financial aid for review.

To qualify for an emergency grant, the student must have been currently enrolled and registered in at least six units during the fall/spring semesters, or three units during the winter/summer sessions. They must have been in good academic, financial and disciplinary standing, have had no hold on their college accounts, have had no outstanding debt from previous semesters, and have not previously received student support funding during their time at Citrus College. They also had to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form or a California Dream Act application. After review, the Foundation mailed a check to students who met the requirements.

According to Christina M. Garcia, director of the Citrus College Foundation, numerous grants were awarded throughout the year: "Awards were especially important, as the impact of the pandemic was felt by families who were being forced to make hard economic choices," she said. "This was a joint effort across campus. When a need was identified, the campus community would unite to provide support."

# FOUNDATION MAILINGS FOSTER CONNECTION DURING PANDEMIC



Ms. Garcia (foreground) is assisted by Ryan Francisco (left) and Leandra Ale (right).



Rose Sayre (left) and Gina Matta (right) assemble special mailings filled with commemorative and functional items.

When COVID-19 health concerns made it necessary for organizations to operate remotely, the impact on learning and work environments was profound. At Citrus College, staying engaged was difficult for students and employees alike. Using creativity and innovation, the college found ways to celebrate successes, mark milestones and observe occasions in safe and responsible ways.

“These mailings allowed us to applaud the campus community’s hard work while making sure that everyone was kept safe and healthy.”

- Christina M. Garcia, director of the Citrus College Foundation

Likewise, the Citrus College Foundation remained committed to promoting a sense of community for faculty and staff throughout the 2020-2021 academic year.

One way the Foundation fostered connection between the college, its students and its employees was through special mailings, which were designed to enhance the remote work environment, as well as the experience of graduating. Several mailings were distributed by the Foundation during 2020-2021: a mailing to employees kicking off the start of the academic year; a mailing to graduating students celebrating the Citrus College Class of 2020; and a holiday mailing to all faculty, classified staff, supervisors and managers.

In August 2020, volunteers met on campus to assemble more than 400 packages designed to help

Citrus College employees launch the start of a new academic year. Although the mailings were funded by the Foundation and supported by the superintendent/president’s office, the idea originated with the Citrus College Faculty Association. Permanent classified staff members, supervisors and managers received envelopes filled with a variety of items that would assist them as they worked from home, including USB lights, privacy camera lens blockers and power bank chargers. Full-time faculty members received similar boxes, as well as a few items that were more specific to the delivery of remote instruction, including microphones and portable whiteboards.

A few months later, the Foundation facilitated the distribution of a commemorative mailing to the Citrus College Class of 2020. Graduates were sent care packages prior to the virtual commencement

ceremony held in December. Commencement had been postponed from June 2020, and the Foundation wanted to help capture the sentiment that a traditional, in-person ceremony would cultivate. The package included a license plate frame imprinted with the college logo, a commencement decal, a commencement magnet and several other festive items. Also in December, a mailing celebrating the holidays was sent to employees, which consisted of a Citrus College face mask and a commencement pin.

“We wanted to demonstrate our appreciation and honor the perseverance, resilience and positivity of the college’s students and employees,” said Christina M. Garcia, director of the Citrus College Foundation. “These mailings allowed us to applaud the campus community’s hard work while making sure that everyone was kept safe and healthy.”

# FOUNDATION HOSTS FIRST VIRTUAL SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION



Mr. Ralph addresses the online audience during the virtual presentation on YouTube.



Ms. Garcia thanks the generosity of donors during the ceremony.

Outstanding music, inspirational speeches and the presentation of more than 100 scholarships have long been characteristics of the Citrus College Foundation's annual scholarship event. Remote delivery, however, was something entirely new.

On Aug. 14, 2020, the 11th annual Citrus College Foundation Scholarship Reception and Donor Appreciation Celebration debuted on the college's YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/citruscollegetv](http://www.youtube.com/citruscollegetv)). The prerecorded video was broadcast live, while an online event program was also available to provide additional information for honorees and guests.

More than \$115,000 in scholarships were awarded to 150 students during the reception, which was declared the college's "biggest virtual event of the summer."

The celebration opened with a touching performance of the song "We Sing" by the Citrus Singers, followed by welcome remarks from emcee John Vaughan, dean of visual and performing arts. Superintendent/President Perri also addressed the viewers, as did Aaron Ralph, the incoming president of the Citrus College Foundation's board of directors.

"This is one of my very first official activities, and I think it's a pretty good way to start my term," Mr. Ralph said during the reception. "The reason everyone absolutely loves this event is because it's full of celebration and joy for what people have accomplished. It is also full of hope and promise for the many great things that the scholarship recipients will accomplish in the future."

Before the event concluded with another performance by the Citrus Singers, Christina M. Garcia, director of the Citrus College Foundation, also provided remarks:

"I am so thankful for the memories of the last several years of very special scholarship reception events," Ms. Garcia said in the video. "Whether we were under a big white tent at the west end of campus in the August morning sun or gathered together in the cooler feel of the Ross L. Handy Campus Center, those memories carry us in spirit until we can be in person again."

# DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD



**ART** VASQUEZ

Art Vasquez – successful entrepreneur, owner of Rancho Vasquez organic avocado orchard and former Citrus College student – was selected to receive the 2021 Distinguished Alumni Award.

Born in Azusa, Mr. Vasquez grew up in the 1950s and '60s and learned from his grandfather about avocado trees, irrigation practices, fertilizing and everything else required to maintain land.

In his teens, Mr. Vasquez began working at a service station pumping gas, cleaning windshields and performing basic car repairs. The experience, as well as working at his family's restaurant, taught him how to run a business and treat customers fairly.

Following his high school graduation, Mr. Vasquez continued working as a mechanic. After marrying his wife, Geri, and becoming a father in 1970, Mr. Vasquez was drafted by the U.S. Army and served at Fort Richardson (now Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson) in Alaska.

Upon completing his military service, Mr. Vasquez returned home, simultaneously working as a mechanic 60 hours a week and taking automotive technology classes at Citrus College. He recalled not being able to see nearby mountains due to smog and felt inspired to clean the air in Southern California.

After attending Citrus College, Mr. Vasquez took real estate and business courses at California State University, Los Angeles. He later opened a gas station in the mid-1970s before working for several decades in the smog equipment business. This smog company later became Worldwide Environmental Products, which did business throughout the world.

In the early 2000s, Mr. Vasquez purchased 100-plus acres that contained hundreds of avocado trees. After getting serious about the avocado orchard, he began working the land, which is now known as Rancho Vasquez. Today, the farm is home to approximately 3,700 trees.

Mr. Vasquez, who is now a great-grandfather, has five children and lives in Azusa. He and Geri have been happily married for more than 50 years.

# CITRUS COLLEGE FOUNDATION

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

### ASSETS

<b>Current assets</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 597,909
Accounts receivable	3,816
Prepaid expenses	<u>300</u>
Total current assets	602,025
<b>Non-current assets</b>	
Investment in land - mineral rights	7,500
Investments	<u>12,717,331</u>
Total non-current assets	12,724,831
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 13,326,856</b>

### NET ASSET DISTRIBUTION



The Citrus College Foundation audited financial statements are available upon request. Please contact the Citrus College Foundation at 626-914-8825 for more information.

# CITRUS COLLEGE FOUNDATION

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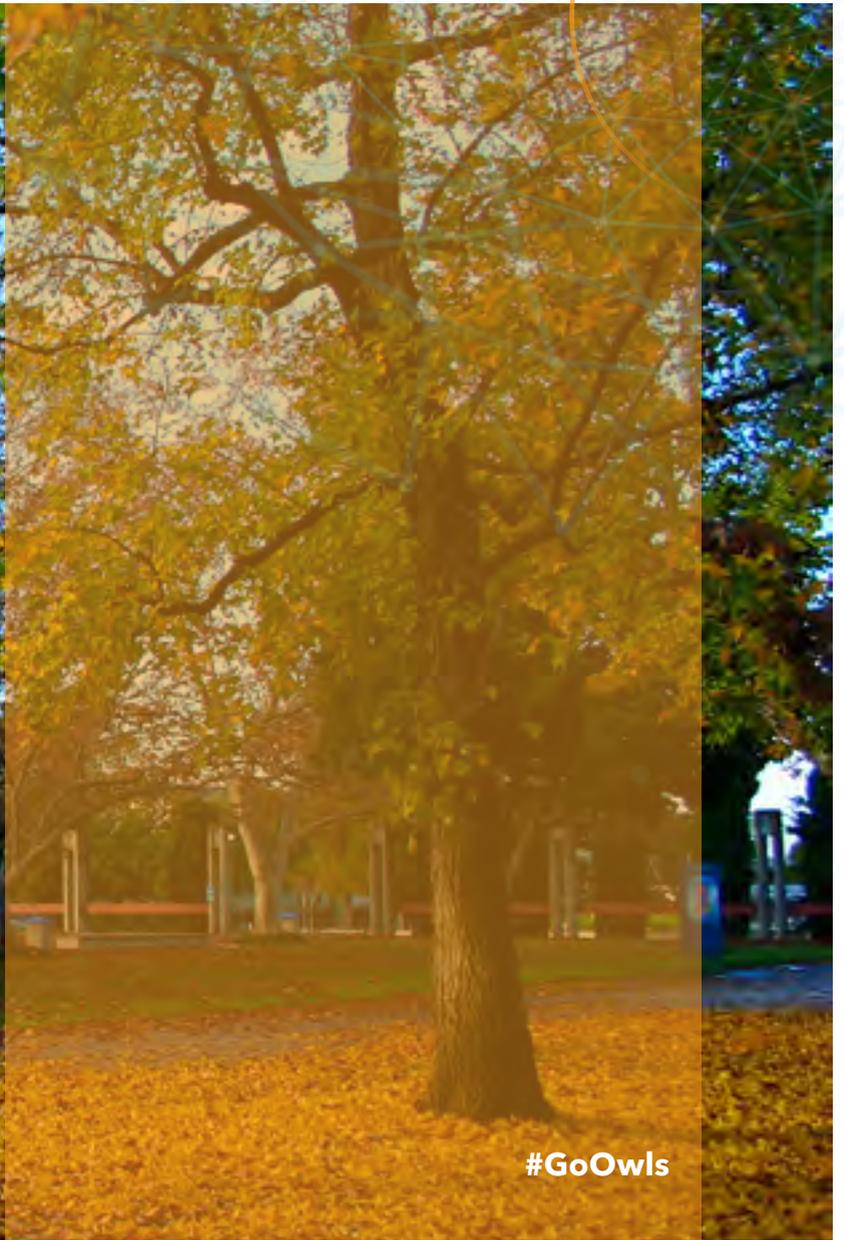
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