



Citrus College

ANNUAL REPORT

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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

Throughout our beautiful campus, I am reminded that Citrus College is more than just a collection of classrooms and a place where people come together as a community to learn and grow. From the staff member going the extra mile and the faculty member providing personalized guidance to the community partner offering vital support and the student working toward their goals, the Citrus College experience is one of compassion, innovation and unwavering focus. We are a vibrant community that comes together to achieve extraordinary things.

It is my pleasure to share with you the 2023-2024 Citrus College Annual Report, which demonstrates the power of collaboration and synergy that takes place on our campus. This publication is more than just a summary of our success. In addition to providing a comprehensive review of the college's activities and achievements, it serves as a testament to the diligence and dedication of our faculty, staff and students.

As you will discover, Citrus College had an extraordinary year. Highlights include the grand opening of our newly remodeled Educational Development Center, a visit from California Community Colleges Chancellor Dr. Sonya Christian and an economic impact study demonstrating the value of Citrus College in the region. Whether it was by welcoming new faculty members, introducing new

programs or expanding available resources, we have continued to evolve in an effort to meet the changing needs of our student body.

Not surprisingly, the college's progress has been fueled by the tireless efforts of our faculty and staff. As superintendent/president, I find constant inspiration in the commitment and passion that each of our employees bring to their role. They think big, act boldly and constantly strive to sharpen their knowledge and skills in an effort to better serve our students. As evidenced throughout this report, their hard work and expertise create a learning environment in which innovation flourishes.

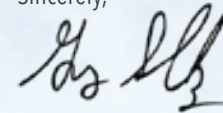
Equally impressive are the students of Citrus College. Day after day, they overcome incredible obstacles and push themselves to new heights. You will read about scholar-athletes who have broken records, leaders who have transformed our campus, scientists exploring new ideas and so much more. These stories show how our students are excelling in their academic, extracurricular and creative endeavors – and we are so proud of all they have achieved!

Citrus College students and employees are shaping the future, but they aren't doing it alone. Our advancement as an institution wouldn't be possible without the

positive relationships we have formed with those who live and work in the communities we serve. The feedback and encouragement we receive from our neighbors, elected officials and generous Foundation donors play an integral role in providing our region with access to higher education and increased opportunities. We thank you for your continued connection to, and support for, the work we do.

As I reflect on the past year, I am overcome with pride and gratitude for all that has been accomplished. My hope is that our 2023-2024 report gives you a glimpse of the exceptional work being done at Citrus College every day.

Sincerely,



Greg Schulz, Ed.D.
Superintendent/President



EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

reopens with significant upgrades





With the reopening of the Educational Development (ED) Center in fall 2023, Citrus College reaffirmed its commitment to student success and sustainability.

The campus community celebrated the reopening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Aug. 10 that included several dozen guests, including U.S. Rep. Judy Chu and dignitaries from several legislative offices. Additional attendees included members of the campus community as well as the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees.

The new building's features include modernized classrooms, state-of-the-art science laboratories and large art displays on the first- and second-floor walls. In addition, numerous improvements were made to the facility's energy footprint.

Thanks to sustainable design, as well as building automation and energy management systems, the modernized building exceeds California Energy Commission standards and saves more than 170,000 kilowatt-hours of energy per year.

Prior to the reopening, Citrus College earned an Excellence in Energy and Sustainability Award from the California Community Colleges Board of Governors. For the ED Center upgrades, the college won Best Innovative Project for a medium-sized community college district.

Citrus College worked with Westberg White Architecture and Pezeshki Engineering, Inc., on the \$14.4 million project. Approximately two-thirds of the project was funded from the Citrus Community College District's capital outlay fund, with the rest of the funds coming from the Measure G general obligation bond.

The ED Center modernization was the final project funded by Measure G, a \$121 million general obligation bond that voters passed in 2004. Many other campus upgrades were funded through Measure G, including the Administration Building, athletic facilities, the Ross L. Handy Campus Center, the Campus Safety Building, the Center for Innovation, Hayden Hall, the Student Services Building and the Visual Arts Building.

Chancellor visits campus to discuss **VISION 2030**

One of the year's most significant moments occurred when Dr. Sonya Christian, chancellor of the California Community Colleges System, visited Citrus College.

Dr. Christian, who was appointed chancellor in June 2023, arrived on March 19 to discuss Vision 2030: A Roadmap for California Community Colleges.

The event kicked off in the Visual Arts Building with a welcome and introductions from Dr. Greg Schulz, superintendent/president of Citrus College. Dr. Christian then gave a presentation about Vision 2030, a collaborative action plan providing focus, equity and direction to the 116 community colleges across the state.

A veteran of the California Community Colleges System, Dr. Christian previously served as an adjunct mathematics instructor at Citrus College. She has also been a faculty member, division chair and dean at Bakersfield College, and chancellor of the Kern Community College District.

After taking multiple questions from audience members, Dr. Christian listened to Citrus College students and

faculty as they discussed their passion and connection to the college, as well as the importance of workforce development and career technical education.

Moderated by Sarah Bosler, public services librarian, a panel of six students and alumni talked about their fields of study. Panelists included Cecilia Doria, Ryan Francisco, Ezequiel (Gus) Gonzalez, Laela Gonzales, Omar Ocegueda and Lucy Zurita-Osorio.

Next, a panel of five faculty members – moderated by Jim Woolum, administration of justice instructor – reflected on their teaching experiences and talked about how the college is preparing students for their future careers. Panelists included Ryan Woolford, Dan Volonte, Dr. Eleanor Tsark, Tommy Reyes and Nicholas Paulson.

"The entire campus community was thrilled to meet Dr. Christian and listen to her vision for the California Community Colleges System," said Superintendent/President Schulz. "As an institution, we are eager to work together to ensure students of all backgrounds have increased access to higher education."







Scholar-athletes continue

From a state championship and bowl victory to a handful of postseason appearances and a new Scholar Baller record, Citrus College Athletics posted another incredible year, both on and off the field.

One of the year's most significant moments occurred in November 2023 when golfer Isabelle Olivas-Lowell won the 2023 California Community College Athletics Association (3C2A) State Individual Championship, becoming the first Owl in college history to win the title. Additionally, Olivas-Lowell, who accepted a scholarship offer from CSU Long Beach, won the Individual Western State Conference Championship.

Another memorable accomplishment came when the football team earned its second consecutive bowl game victory after defeating College of the Canyons 42-13 in the Western State Bowl. Once the season concluded, 14 student-athletes earned all-conference honors.

During the fall semester, several other teams enjoyed a great deal of success.

The men's water polo team took third in the Western State Conference, and coach Gavin Nolan was named the Western State Conference Co-Coach of the Year. The women's water polo team also had a great season,

finishing with an appearance in the 3C2A SoCal Regional tournament.

The women's and men's cross country athletes also saw terrific seasons, with Ryleigh Larue earning All-State second-team recognition with a top-30 finish at the 3C2A championship.

On the pitch, women's and men's soccer excelled. The women's team picked up seven all-conference honors and assistant coach Steve Jimenez was honored at the 18th annual Saluting Our Veterans event. For the men, six players earned all-conference honors.



STREAK OF EXCELLENCE

Women's volleyball had a great run in the fall with four players securing all-conference honors.

In the spring, the college honored 158 students from the 2022-2023 academic year who maintained a GPA of at least 3.0, setting a new record for most Scholar Ballers in a single year.

On the court, both the women's and men's basketball teams shined.

The women's team notched their first 20-win season since 2008-2009 and advanced to the second round of the 3C2A SoCal Regional. Additionally, Jolleen Olia

became the first Owl to score 600 points in a single season since records started being kept in 2007.

She was also named Conference Player of the Year.

On the men's side, the basketball team earned its sixth conference championship in the past seven seasons, ending the season with a 21-8 record and second-round trip in the 3C2A SoCal Regional tournament.

On the diamond, the baseball and softball teams also prospered. The softball team finished the season with a 25-16 record and their first playoff appearance since 2019. For the men, four players continued their collegiate

careers, transferring to four-year institutions to play baseball.

Rounding out the spring sports, men's and women's swimming competed in the Western State Conference Championships, with the women finishing sixth and the men taking ninth.





DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD

Priscilla Englert

Priscilla Englert, an automotive technology instructor and Citrus College alumna, was the 2024 recipient of the Citrus College Distinguished Faculty Award.

Since becoming a full-time instructor in 2019, Englert has made a significant impact on the Citrus College Career, Technical and Continuing Education Division. In addition to teaching in the classroom, Englert has served on several campus committees, organized automotive open house and high school outreach events, and supported key industry connections to help students receive jobs after graduation.

Englert has also made a difference in the larger Citrus College community. In April 2024, she helped organize a Lowrider Culture and Community event, which

featured several brightly colored lowriders, attracted more than 300 people and served as a celebration of local Chicano culture.

For as long as she can remember, Englert, who grew up in Monterey Park, loved performance cars and driving. Some of her first car crushes were lowriders, hot rods, muscle cars and high-performance imports.

Upon earning her associate degree from Citrus College, Englert transferred to CSU Los Angeles to study industrial technology with an emphasis in manufacturing design. As a student, she also worked with the Society of Automotive Engineers and assisted with many automobile-related projects.

Once she earned her bachelor's degree, Englert became a design engineer working on internal combustion engine performance pistons. She then returned to college at the University of La Verne to earn a teaching credential and master's degree before becoming an automotive technology teacher at Bonita High School in La Verne for 10 years.

Going from teaching high school to college has allowed Englert to get more involved in helping students get employed in the automotive industry.

"They are the reason I want to do things better every day," Englert said. "They inspire and encourage me."

AUTOMOTIVE AND
MEDIUM/HEAVY-DUTY
TRUCK TECHNOLOGY

Citrus

AUTOMOTIVE AND
MEDIUM/HEAVY-DUTY
TRUCK TECHNOLOGY

Citrus College





Report reveals nearly **\$1 BILLION** impact on regional economy

Citrus College had a positive economic impact of \$947.2 million in Los Angeles County during the 2021-2022 fiscal year, according to a study conducted by a global analytics firm in November 2023.

Lightcast, a provider of economic impact and labor market data, performed the comprehensive analysis of the economic impact Citrus College has in the region. In a report titled, "The Economic Value of Citrus College," the firm revealed that by totaling nearly \$1 billion, the college's impact in the areas of construction spending, student spending and alumni spending supports 10,265 jobs in the county.

Made possible through Strong Workforce Program regional funding and the support of the Los Angeles Regional Consortium, the study was based on several sources. These include the 2021-2022 fiscal year and financial reports from Citrus College; institutional data supplied by the college's institutional research, planning and effectiveness office; industry and employment data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau; outputs of Lightcast's Multi-Regional Social Accounting Matrix model; and a variety of studies and surveys relating to education and social behavior.

In addition to the economic analysis, Lightcast performed a comparison of the costs and benefits of investing in Citrus College. In doing so, they found that for every dollar a student invests in Citrus College in the form of out-of-pocket expenses and time, they receive

a cumulative value of \$7.80 in higher future earnings. The average annual return of student investment is 23.1%.

Similarly, the investment analysis determined that Citrus College generates more in tax revenue than it receives. For every dollar of public money invested in Citrus College, taxpayers will receive a cumulative value of \$1.40 over the course of the students' working lives. The benefits to taxpayers also consist of savings generated by the improved lifestyles of Citrus College students and its corresponding reduction in the use of government services.

"I am both encouraged and inspired by these analyses," said Superintendent/President Schulz. "The results affirm what those of us in the campus community have known for a long time: Investing your time and money in Citrus College is a wise decision. This study reinforces the tremendous importance of the programs and services provided by Citrus College."

"Our faculty and staff are committed to providing the education and training that will enable students to achieve professional and personal success," Superintendent/President Schulz added. "In turn, Citrus College students enter the workforce and contribute to their communities. As this study shows, the college's value to taxpayers, students and the region as a whole is extraordinary."

To read this economic impact report, visit www.citruscollege.edu/admin/research and click the "Other Resources" tab.

Support program **HELPS** students with disabilities achieve **SUCCESS**



Citrus College students who have medical conditions and other disabilities have been reaching their goals in increased numbers with help from the Citrus College Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) Department.

Created in 1976 by California Assembly Bill 77, DSPS provides support services, accommodations and specialized instruction to community college students with disabilities. To qualify for services, a student must have a verified disability that inhibits their ability to participate in the college's general education program. These can include brain injury, attention deficit disorder, autism spectrum, deaf/hard of hearing, learning disability, mental health, mobility issues, vision and others.

At Citrus College, the DSPS department seeks to provide a welcoming environment. It is staffed by a team of individuals who care about the wellbeing and success of students. A department director, two full-time counselors, one part-time counselor, a DSPS specialist, an alternative media specialist, an interpreter specialist and a secretary work together to advocate for each individual and help them achieve academic success.

According to the DSPS team, the program has experienced a 10% increase in enrollment every year since July 2021. In fact, more than 800 students received services each semester during the 2023-2024 academic year. These include test proctoring, learning disability assessment, specialized counseling, interpreter or captioning services, scribe services, reader services, access to adaptive equipment, and specialized instruction called educational assistance courses.

Looking to the future, the program is expected to grow even more. An additional counselor will be added to provide more appointment availability, outreach activities will be scheduled to increase awareness of DSPS services and new assistive technology options will be explored.

With the DSPS team's passionate advocacy and unwavering commitment, many more students will receive full and equitable access to the Citrus College experience in the years ahead.

Beloved educator celebrates

50 YEARS of teaching



Dr. Dale Salwak began the 2023-2024 academic year celebrating a professional milestone few community college educators reach. Having joined the Citrus College community in 1973, this year marks his 50th in the classroom.

Teaching classes such as Shakespeare, Literature of the Bible, Advanced Rhetoric and English Literature, Dr. Salwak has maintained high standards for himself and high expectations for his students throughout the past five decades. "I have continued to work at Citrus College because I love the courses I teach and the people with whom I work, and I derive great fulfillment from helping students who are all teeming with enormous potential," he said. "This is an ideal working environment with supportive management and very smart, dedicated colleagues."

According to Dr. Salwak, one of the benefits of working at Citrus College is that he has never encountered the "publish or perish" pressure that can be common in academia. As a result, he has had the freedom to write about topics that interest him. A prolific author, Dr. Salwak has published 28 books. He is also an internationally celebrated magician whose performances have taken him across several continents to dozens of countries, including North Korea.

Not surprisingly, Dr. Salwak has accumulated many honors and recognitions throughout his career. From being named the 2018 Citrus College Distinguished Faculty Award recipient and receiving the Purdue University Distinguished Alumni Award to serving as a frequent contributor to the London Times Higher Education magazine and the Times Educational Supplement, the teacher/author/magician has made his mark.

"The level of success Dr. Salwak has achieved in his various professional endeavors is quite impressive, and we are incredibly fortunate he has chosen to share his talents and skills with Citrus College for the past 50 years," said Superintendent/President Schulz.



NEW COMMITTEE PROVIDES EMPLOYEES

with assistance, opportunities

Launched at the start of the 2023-2024 academic year, the Citrus College Professional Learning Committee was formed following the dissolution of the Faculty Learning Institute and Classified Development Committee. Falling under the umbrella of the college's diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility+ (DEIA+) office, the committee includes representation from all campus constituency groups and serves as the central hub for all training and development on campus.

"Professional learning enables and empowers Citrus College employees to learn more about the roles they play in their unique areas on campus, as well as provides access to current and relevant resources and information in various

disciplines and studies," said Sarah Bosler, public services librarian and professional learning faculty coordinator.

One way the committee helps employees is by funding work-related travel. This year, it improved the travel request process by developing a simplified funding request form, revising funding request deadlines and increasing the amount of travel funding available for all adjunct faculty, classified staff, confidential/supervisors, full-time faculty and managers.

Another way professional learning helps is through events. For example, the committee sponsored a spring 2024 speaker series on a variety of topics. These included facilitating a sense of belonging for formerly incarcerated

students, engaging and supporting Latinx students and supporting BIQPOC (Black, Indigenous, Queer, Trans, People of Color) at community colleges.

Next on the Professional Learning Committee's agenda is the implementation of a Vision Resource Center. This tool will enable employees to find professional development opportunities, register for events and keep track of trainings they have completed.

"We're working hard to develop and grow a variety of offerings, and we are always open to feedback, suggestions, ideas and solutions to best provide assistance and opportunities to the entire campus community," Bosler said.





Textbook alternatives **DECREASE STUDENT COSTS**

With rising higher education expenses and inflation impacting the cost of living, many students are finding it increasingly difficult to pursue their academic goals. In an effort to remove one of the financial obstacles facing students, Citrus College faculty members have begun using open educational resources/zero textbook cost (OER/ZTC) options in their classrooms. In fact, these alternatives to traditional textbooks saved students an estimated \$479,808 during the fall 2023 semester alone.

According to the California Education Code, OER/ZTCs are defined as high-quality teaching, learning and research resources that reside in the public domain, have been released under intellectual property licenses that permit free use, or are legally available and free-of-cost for students. OER/ZTCs include textbooks, faculty-created content, streaming videos and texts, among other items.

Over the years, the use of OER at Citrus College has grown exponentially. Between the fall 2022 semester and the fall 2023 semester, the number of courses marked "OER" increased by 50.8%. Additionally, nearly 4,900 students enrolled in ZTC sections last semester.

The college's OER/ZTC offerings are expected to expand even more in the years ahead. College personnel have worked to identify degree programs that were the closest to being 100% ZTC. As a result, plans for the first full ZTC associate degree for transfer pathways are currently underway. The first phase will involve the college's history and sociology transfer degrees, which are expected to be implemented by fall 2025.

According to Sarah Bosler, public services librarian and former OER liaison to the Academic Senate, providing students with the opportunity to earn a degree without having to purchase textbooks will be beneficial.

"Last year, a survey revealed that 84% of our students decided against buying or renting a textbook because of cost, while 87% found that the cost of textbooks impacted their course selection," Bosler said. "Not only do these OER/ZTC courses save students money that they can use for things like food and housing, they also make it easier for students to be prepared for class on day one."

READY, SET, LEAD:

Welcome to our new managers

Five individuals with extensive experience in higher education joined the Citrus College management team during the 2023-2024 academic year. These new leaders are committed to helping educate and prepare our students to become the leaders of tomorrow.



Jack Beckham, Ph.D.

Dean of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Online Education

Jack Beckham, Ph.D., began serving as the college's dean of social and behavioral sciences and online education in January 2024. Before this, he served as the learning and development project lead for the South Orange County Community College District, directing the district's EXCEL Leadership Academy and professional development efforts. Dr. Beckham also spent nearly a decade in leadership roles at Saddleback College. He holds an associate degree from Bakersfield College; a Bachelor's Degree in English and Liberal Studies from CSU Bakersfield; and a Ph.D. in English from UC Riverside.



Simone Brown Thunder

Executive Director of Human Resources

Simone Brown Thunder joined the Citrus College community in December 2023 as executive director of human resources. Prior to accepting the role, Brown Thunder served five years as the district director of human resources operations for the North Orange County Community College District. She has also served as a lead human resources consultant at the University of Minnesota and management analyst with the Indian Health Service, an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and a Master's Degree in Human Resources Development from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.



Nilda Chavez
Director of Outreach

Nilda Chavez started her new role as director of outreach in May 2024. In this position, she provides leadership and supervision to school relations and outreach staff. Before accepting this role, Chavez served as the outreach supervisor in an interim and permanent basis for more than four years. While at Citrus College, Chavez has been an outreach liaison, student services assistant and college promotions specialist. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from the University of La Verne and a Master's Degree in College Counseling and Student Development from Azusa Pacific University.



Elaine Lipiz Gonzalez, Ed.D.
Dean of Counseling Programs and Services

Elaine Lipiz Gonzalez, Ed.D., joined the Citrus College community in December 2023 as dean of counseling programs and services. Prior to accepting this role, Dr. Lipiz Gonzalez was the dean of student support services and Title IX coordinator at Fullerton College for nearly seven years. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from UC Irvine; a Master's Degree in Counseling with an emphasis in student development in higher education from CSU Long Beach; and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from CSU Fullerton.



Bala Sethua Raja, Ph.D.
Dean of Mathematics, Sciences and Business

Bala Sethu Raja, Ph.D., joined the Citrus College community in January 2024 as dean of mathematics, sciences and business. Before accepting the position, Dr. Sethu Raja had full-time teaching experience in applied engineering research, as well as leadership oversight for the undergraduate and graduate programs in industrial technology and teacher credentialing at CSU Fresno. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Madras in India; a Master's Degree in Industrial Engineering from the University of Cincinnati; and a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Biological Systems Engineering from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

READY, SET, *TEACH:*

Welcome to our new faculty

Three new faculty members were among those who celebrated the start of the fall 2023 semester at Citrus College. These accomplished professionals join the 165 other full-time instructors who enrich the campus community through their guidance, instruction and leadership on a daily basis.



Marius Beltran
Vocal Music

Marius Beltran's impressive resume includes more than a decade of experience in musical theater, dance and professional musical direction, as well as 21 years of experience in vocal music. He brings this extensive knowledge to his new role as a full-time faculty member in the Citrus College Visual and Performing Arts Division. Prior to joining the campus community as an instructor and as the new director of the Citrus Singers, Beltran served in an adjunct role for five years.



Roberto Loya
Construction Management

Roberto Loya may be a new full-time faculty member, but he is not new to the college. In fact, he has held a variety of positions on campus over the past eight years, including adjunct instructor, professional expert, subject matter expert and program coordinator. In his newest role, Loya is a full-time construction management faculty member. Prior to joining Citrus College, he worked as an instructor and graduate research assistant at Old Dominion University and as an instructor/lecturer for Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.



Claudia Ramirez
Mathematics

Claudia Ramirez always wanted to be part of a team that inspires, supports and promotes student success in mathematics. This longtime career goal led her to the Citrus College Mathematics, Sciences and Business Division, where she now works as a full-time mathematics instructor. Prior to joining the campus community, Ramirez spent two years as a part-time lecturer in the mathematics department at Cal Poly Pomona. She also worked as an adjunct instructor for nearly a decade, serving both Mt. SAC and Rio Hondo College.

NEWS BRIEFS

Marquees receive new look



When driving by campus, it's hard to miss the flashing lights and vivid images of the college's new electronic marquee message boards. Produced by Optec, the signs use LED technology and feature cell modem communication with lifetime data and cloud-based software. One of the upgraded fixtures is located at the corner of Foothill Boulevard and Barranca Avenue, while the other is located at the corner of Citrus Avenue and Campus Drive. These more efficient marquees support the Citrus College Sustainability Plan.

Foster and kinship care office reopens



In September 2023, the Citrus College Foster and Kinship Care Education (FKCE) program office reopened after undergoing several improvements. The new space includes a computer lab, kitchen, classroom and student lounge. Designed to provide students with a safe and comfortable area to relax, the student lounge features contemporary furniture as well as a large TV and phone-charging station. "We hope that this new facility will empower students and help them earn associate degrees, career technical certificates, and transfer to a college or university," said Jorge Razo, FKCE supervisor.

Transfer Fair, Alma Mater Day celebrate students



The Citrus College Career/Transfer Center hosted a Transfer Fair and Alma Mater Day in September 2023 to provide new and returning students with the chance to meet representatives from more than 40 four-year colleges and universities. Throughout the afternoon, more than 350 students learned about admission requirements, campus life and the transfer process. During Alma Mater Day, staff wore clothing from the university they attended, took photos and enjoyed refreshments from Kona Ice.

Community gets together for Homecoming



In October 2023, Citrus College hosted a Homecoming celebration at the Citrus Stadium. The event included a handful of fun and engaging activities to coincide with the Fighting Owls football game against San Bernardino Valley College. Prior to the game, guests listened to live music from Night Shift, played cornhole and enjoyed face painting courtesy of esthetician students. Additionally, several student clubs and honors societies in attendance held opportunity drawings where guests purchased raffle tickets in hopes of earning a prize.

College honored for expanding access



In November 2023, Citrus College was recognized for its efforts to increase transfer degree completion and advance racial equity for Black and Latinx students. The Campaign for College Opportunity, an organization dedicated to expanding college access and improving college completion rates, presented Citrus College with the honors. "I am grateful to the entire campus community for the work they have done to increase inclusivity and equity at the college, as well as for their efforts to promote transfer degree attainment," Superintendent/President Schulz said.

NEWS BRIEFS

Invitation to compete for Aspen Prize



Citrus College was once again recognized as one of the top 150 community colleges in the United States by the Aspen Institute College Experience Program. As a result, the college received its sixth consecutive invitation to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. "I am extremely proud of the efforts of our faculty and staff, which have led to this distinction. I am also grateful for the strong student-centered leadership and support of our board of trustees," Superintendent/President Schulz said.

Student publications earn several honors



The college's award-winning publications kept their hot streak going in fall 2023 by earning seven forms of recognition at the Journalism Association of Community Colleges (JACC) SoCal Regional Conference. Of the seven awards, five were given to individuals from the Clarion newspaper and Logos Magazine. The other two honors included an on-the-spot copy editing award and the Clarion's print edition taking home the "General Excellence" recognition, the highest honor awarded at the JACC competition.

Students explore Death Valley



Twenty-four students and two faculty members spent a weekend exploring the unique ecosystem of Death Valley during the fall 2023 semester. The group spent three days learning and experiencing the topography, climate, geology, ecology, life zones, wildlife, plant life and human history of the region as part of the college's NAT 180A Natural History Series – Death Valley course. The trip included visits to Badwater Basin, Devils Golf Course, Artists Palette, Zabriskie Point and more.

NEWS BRIEFS

Colleges unite to honor veterans



Citrus College and Azusa Pacific University jointly honored local military heroes for their service during the 18th annual Saluting Our Veterans ceremony. Event honorees included Steve Jimenez, assistant coach for the Citrus College women's soccer team, and Ariel Williams, military and veteran education benefits manager at APU. After Jimenez and Williams were recognized, Citrus College alumnus and U.S. Air Force Reserve Staff Sergeant Oscar Hernandez gave the event's keynote address.

Baseball team gets new field, scoreboard



The Citrus College baseball field received several important upgrades prior to the start of the 2024 season, including a synthetic all-turf field and a Daktronics electronic scoreboard. Compared to grass, the new turf has several benefits, including how it can be used after the rain and the fact that it doesn't need to be mowed or watered, saving precious resources. The project was a collaboration between college administration, facilities, purchasing and athletics, with a longtime supporter of the baseball program paying for the new scoreboard.

Longtime educator recognized for excellence



In February 2024, theater arts instructor Cherie Brown received the national Acting Teacher of Excellence Award. Presented by the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival in association with the National Alliance of Acting Teachers, this honor was given to eight recipients throughout the United States. Brown was nominated and awarded the honor by her theater colleagues throughout Region 8, which serves theater arts students and educators from California, Utah, Nevada, Arizona and Hawaii.

NEWS BRIEFS

World-famous artwork featured in gallery



Portions of one of the premier collections of contemporary, modern and pop art in existence were displayed in the Citrus College Art Gallery for several months during the spring 2024 semester. Paintings and sculptures by artists such as Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein and Keith Haring, among others, were part of the "POP Art: Selections from the Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation" exhibit that was held on campus from February through April.

New Scholar Ballers record set



Every year, Citrus College honors student-athletes who achieve academic success as Scholar Ballers. In March 2024, the college recognized 158 student-athletes from the 2022-2023 academic year who maintained a GPA of at least 3.0, setting a new record for most Scholar Ballers in a single year. Prior to being honored, guests and honorees were treated to a lunch from Raising Cane's. "The entire campus community is so proud of our Scholar Ballers for their outstanding achievements," Superintendent/President Schulz said.

Hootie's Closet returns for second year



More than 200 students attended the second annual Hootie's Closet event in March 2024. Held inside the Campus Center, the event provided attendees with business clothing, digital business cards and professional headshots. In addition, several programs and departments on campus, including human resources and the Dream Resource Center, had booths at the event. "It's been incredibly fulfilling to plan and enhance Hootie's Closet, and I'm deeply grateful for the support that made it possible," CTE Employment Specialist Elizabeth Velazquez said.

NEWS BRIEFS

FKCE supervisor receives top honor



Jorge Razo, FKCE supervisor, was selected as one of the 2024 Children Deserve Success Award recipients. Each year, the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools gives the awards to individuals who demonstrate outstanding dedication and commitment to meeting the needs of K-12 and post-secondary students in San Bernardino County. "Being recognized for the work I do with foster youth in achieving higher education means a lot to me," Razo said.

Students encouraged to use GoPass



In April 2024, community members and stakeholders from across the San Gabriel Valley convened at Citrus College to encourage students to take advantage of GoPass. The service gives students free rides on Metro bus and rail, Foothill Transit, and other transportation services. Event speakers included Superintendent/President Schulz, Pomona Mayor and Metro Board Member Tim Sandoval, and two students who benefited from using GoPass. "GoPass has allowed me and my friends to go to places otherwise unreachable for us without a car," student Lorenzo Desiderio said.

Campus celebrates Chicano culture



More than 300 members of the campus community attended a Lowrider Culture and Community event held in the Campus Mall in April 2024. Organized by the automotive technology and student life and leadership development programs, the event served as a celebration of Chicano culture and featured brightly colored lowriders, upbeat music and free tacos. "Lowrider enthusiasts are a historically marginalized subculture, so activities like this one are great because they show allyship," said Priscilla Englert, automotive technology instructor.

NEWS BRIEFS

Inaugural Hall of Fame class celebrated



In April 2024, the Citrus College Kinesiology and Athletics Division launched an Athletics Hall of Fame in honor of the scholar-athletes, coaches and staff who have made outstanding contributions to the athletics program. The inaugural class of inductees included the 2000 men's water polo team; Kerry Carter, basketball; Aubriana Gilchrist (née Lockett), softball; Steve Handy, athletic trainer; Bill Kilmer, football; Bill Ralls, men's water polo (coach); Kelly Rios (née Fink), volleyball; John Strycula, football (coach); Jasmine Williams, women's soccer; and Ruth Wysocki (née Caldwell), women's cross country/track.

Ceremony spotlights queer student success



In May 2024, the personal, professional and academic accomplishments of LGBTQIA+ students at Citrus College were honored during the first-ever Lavender celebration. During the event, five students who identify as part of the college's queer community were celebrated for earning either an associate degree or certificate, or for transferring in the fall. In addition, Laura J. Bollinger, member of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees, was named the Ally of the Year.

College celebrates graduates at commencement



The entire campus community came together on June 14 to honor the Class of 2024 at the 108th annual commencement ceremony. In addition to recognizing graduates, the event honored Ron Husband as the Distinguished Alumni Award recipient and Priscilla Englert as the Distinguished Faculty Award recipient. For the Class of 2024, the college awarded 1,694 degrees and 1,988 certificates. Thirty-two student-veterans earned degrees and 559 students graduated with honors.

STUDENT PROFILES

Alumna pursues international business passion

As an Owl, **Yesenia Bugarin** excelled in the classroom, earning a degree in business administration and a Key of Knowledge award for her academic success. While at Citrus College, she also worked in the Counseling and Advisement Center and co-founded the First Generation Club. After graduating, Yesenia transferred to Cal Poly Pomona to study business with hopes of one day working internationally. "The idea of traveling to someplace new and getting hands-on experience is exciting to me," she said.





STUDENT

Editor-in-chief transfers to top UC

When **Abiodun Collins** moved to the United States from Nigeria, attending college was his top priority. After overcoming initial obstacles, he enrolled at Citrus College and became an active member of the campus community. In addition to completing the college's honors transfer program, Abiodun also served as editor-in-chief of the Clarion student newspaper. Not surprisingly, he earned many recognitions before graduating in June 2024. Now, Abiodun is pursuing his bachelor's degree at UC Berkeley.

PROFILES

Biotechnology alumna hired as microscopist

Cecilia Doria shined in the classroom and laboratory as a student, earning two degrees in biotechnology and pre-allied health, as well as a Certificate in Biomanufacturing. In March 2024, she began working as a microscopist at the Oak Crest Institute of Science. "What I love most about my job is how I am learning new skills and techniques every day," Cecilia said. "I am constantly challenged to think outside the box and find different ways to tackle situations."





STUDENT

Recent grad achieves gaming success

In addition to being a member of the Citrus College Class of 2023 and a product of the college's outstanding honors transfer program, **Quangnhan "Q" Duong** is also a successful game developer. In 2022, he received his first monthly "five-figure payout" from Roblox, a popular gaming platform. Q is currently working toward his bachelor's degree at UC Berkeley. His goal is to pursue a career that combines his interest in engineering and business.

PROFILES

Aspiring park ranger finds success

Since becoming an Owl, **Sidney Esparza** has stayed busy completing internships and getting involved in on-campus programs, including TRIO STEM and Pathways to STEM, all while maintaining a 3.93 GPA. Sidney, a wildland resources and forestry major whose dream is to be a park ranger, also spent the summer at the California Botanic Garden in Claremont as part of the college's Summer Research Experience program.



STUDENT

Alumna earns bachelor's degree

Julia Martinez, Citrus College Class of 2016, excelled in the classroom and lab, earning an Associate Degree in Biotechnology and a Certificate in Biomanufacturing. After graduation, she began working at Prolacta Bioscience, the world's leading hospital provider of 100% human milk-based products. While working there and raising her children, Julia went back to school and earned her bachelor's degree from Cal Poly Pomona. "Earning my degree as a single mother – it meant everything to me," she said.



PROFILES

Architecture students further studies

Several Citrus College architecture students accepted offers to attend Cal Poly Pomona and California Baptist University. **Omar Ocegueda** (left), who transferred to Cal Poly Pomona to study architecture, said he enjoyed taking classes on campus. "Citrus College provides a great opportunity to decide where you want to be and what you want to be in the future," he said.



STUDENT



Student connects to career resources

Liz Osborn (right) began her Citrus College journey after many years of self-employment. With the goal of pursuing an industrial engineering degree, she benefited from using the Handshake app, which connects students and recent graduates with job opportunities. "Handshake lets me see what employers are looking for and what types of jobs and internships are available," she said. Thanks to the app, Liz realized her knowledge can be used in specialized areas that she hadn't previously considered.

PROFILES

Owl heading to Cambridge

After graduating with three degrees from Citrus College in 2021, **Paulina Pimentel-Mora** transferred to Yale University to study political science. Her undergraduate experience proved to be an amazing one, as she also worked at the Yale University Art Gallery and spent a semester abroad. In fall 2024, Paulina began pursuing her master's degree at the University of Cambridge in England. "One of the most valuable pieces of advice I can offer to current students, often dismissed as cliché, is to embrace your authentic self," she said.



STUDENT



Student appreciates Black Scholars

Kenn Salazar (left) studied sociology and got involved with the Black Scholars program at Citrus College. One of their favorite experiences at Citrus College was attending the African American Male Education Network and Development (A²MEND) with other Black Scholars students. "I have never had such an experience with just so much Black excellence, joy and love," Kenn said. After graduation, they transferred to Cal Poly Pomona to study gender, ethnic and multicultural studies.

PROFILES

Student trustee transfers to Yale

Sabrina Soriano accomplished a great deal in only two years. In addition to serving as student trustee, she also succeeded in the classroom and earned two top honors at the 61st annual Achievement Awards ceremony – Service Leader of the Year and a Key of Knowledge award. Near the end of the academic year, Sabrina accepted a full-ride scholarship to Yale University. "While I recognize I am just one person, I hold a strong desire to effect change within the educational pipeline," she said.



STUDENT



Architecture student gives back

During the summer of 2023, **Sebastian Stjernbo** volunteered to build a solar-powered mobile shower trailer with his instructor and fellow students. A member of the Citrus College Architecture Club, Sebastian hopes to become a licensed architect. Following graduation, he transferred to Cal Poly Pomona to pursue that dream. "Looking back over the years, I am glad to have made meaningful friendships with both educators and fellow students," he said.

PROFILES

ASCC president heads to Berkeley

Brian Tong enrolled at Citrus College after moving to the United States from Hong Kong. Although initially anxious about starting his academic journey, he quickly adapted. However, the real turning point for Brian was joining the Associated Students of Citrus College (ASCC) Executive Board. In fact, he served as ASCC president during the 2023-2024 academic year and was also part of the honors transfer program. After graduating from Citrus College with multiple recognitions, Brian transferred to UC Berkeley.



STUDENT

Alumna continues photography passion

Citrus College alumna **Kim Toth** showed off her photography skills while earning her bachelor's degree at the University of La Verne. During the spring 2024 semester, she curated a photography exhibit while also having her own photography displayed on campus. Kim said she is grateful for all the support she received, especially from photography instructor Amanda Keller Konya. "She is so supportive of her students and always provides resources and shares information on opportunities to help propel them forward with photography."

PROFILES

Service leader continues studies at UCLA

From launching the Citrus Engineering Club to serving on a variety of student committees, **Charles Zhu** made his mark on Citrus College. Before graduating in June 2024, he was part of the college's TRIO STEM and honors transfer programs. Charles also served on the Associated Students of Citrus College Executive Board. As a result, he earned numerous honors, including the 2024 Citrus College Service Leader of the Year Award. Charles is now a computer science major at UCLA.



STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



DEGREES

1,694

Total degrees awarded



CERTIFICATES

1,988

Total certificates awarded



VETERANS

32

Student veterans graduated



HONORS STUDENTS

559

Students graduated with an honors designation

AGE



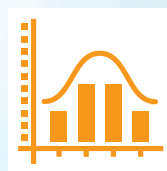
Oldest graduate is

70



Youngest graduate is

18



Average age is

26

TOP MAJORS

1



Business Administration

2



Psychology

3



Pre-Allied Health

4



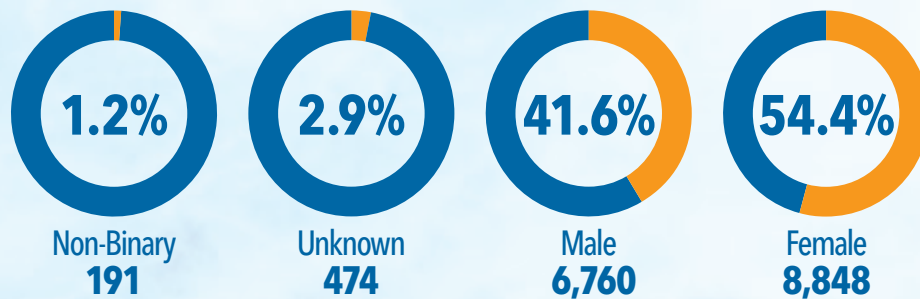
Sociology

5

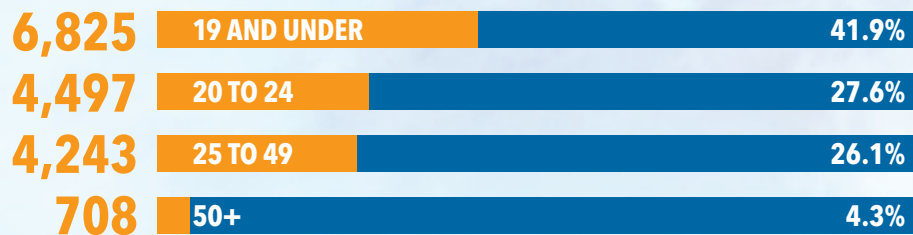


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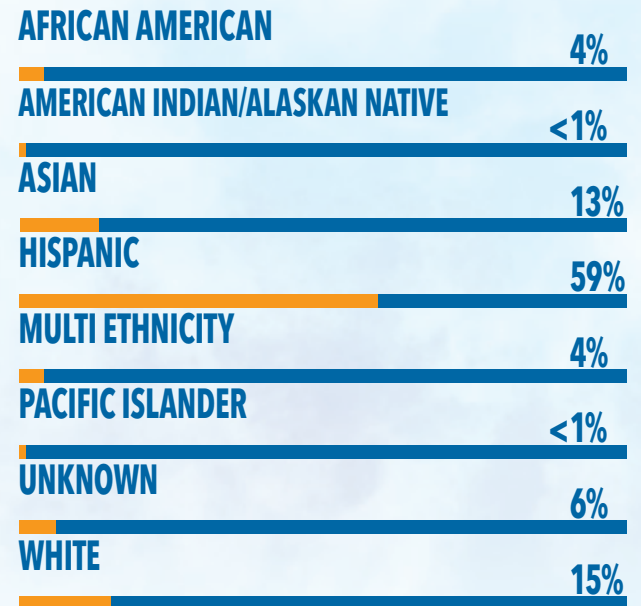
GENDER



AGE



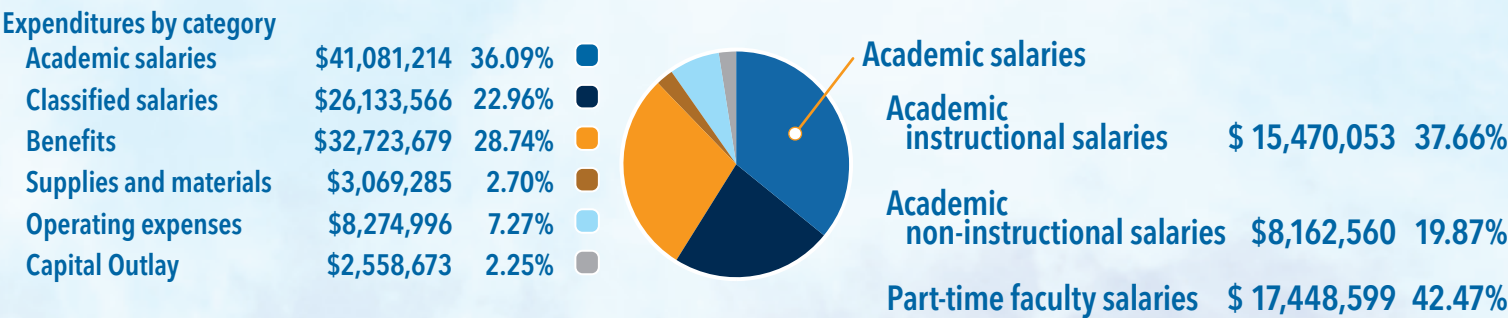
ETHNICITY



CITRUS COLLEGE

2023-2024 financial budget highlights

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$113,841,416



TOTAL REVENUES \$132,910,294

Federal	\$1,303,784
State	\$111,775,634
Local	\$19,830,874





MESSAGE from the Foundation president

In the corporate world, an annual report typically provides a comprehensive overview of a company's fiscal year achievements. However, the 2023-2024 Citrus College Annual Report transcends this conventional framework. When you delve into its pages, you'll discover a compelling narrative of transformation, determination and dreams fulfilled.

As president of the Foundation Board of Directors during the 2023-2024 academic year, I had the opportunity to witness the life-changing difference Citrus College makes for its students and surrounding communities firsthand. Whether it was while attending special events, strategizing during meetings or facilitating community engagement, my fellow board members and I have been inspired by the many stories of triumph and accomplishment we have heard. Knowing that the Foundation often plays a role in these stories is incredibly rewarding.

Of course, the many donors, alumni, community members and employees who have chosen to support the Citrus College Foundation have also contributed to these tales of success. The campus community had an amazing year, with programs expanding, services increasing and students reaching even greater heights. Bridging the gap between potential and reality,

the Foundation and its supporters have helped make it possible for Citrus College to experience this impressive growth.

Throughout the past year, the Foundation hosted events, managed initiatives and fostered relationships in support of Citrus College. As a result of these efforts, several significant objectives were accomplished. These include:

- Increasing access to education by awarding approximately \$100,000 in scholarships to 150 students at the 2023 Scholarship Reception and Donor Appreciation Celebration.
- Celebrating outstanding alumni at events such as the Citrus Union High School Alumni Reunion and the 2024 Distinguish Alumni Award reception.
- Creating community connections during our annual Community Day event, during which guests from our local communities toured the campus and learned more about the college's programs and services.

You can read more about this progress in the pages ahead. At the same time, you can review a financial update and see a list of our valued donors. When absorbing all of this information, keep in mind that none of this success would be possible without you –

our friends and donors. I offer a heartfelt thanks for your support. Your trust in our mission and investment in our students' future is truly inspiring. With your continued assistance, we will empower even more students to reach their educational goals in the years ahead.

Sincerely,



Phyllis Fritz, President
Citrus College Foundation Board of Directors
July 2023-June 2024



HONORING *Success*

AT THE 2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION

Positive energy filled the Ross L. Handy Campus Center when students, donors and members of the campus community attended the 2023 Scholarship Reception and Donor Appreciation Celebration on Aug. 10, 2023.

Hosted by the Citrus College Foundation, this year's event underscored the vital relationship between students and the supportive individuals and organizations who contribute to their success. This commitment was tangibly demonstrated by the approximately \$100,000 in scholarships ranging from \$250 to \$2,500, which were awarded to 150 students.

"For our students, these scholarships do not mark the end of their journeys. Instead, they will drive you to learn more, dream more, do more and be more," said Dr. Greg Schulz, superintendent/president of Citrus College. "And, for our donors, each scholarship recipient serves as a reminder of the importance of your ongoing support."

The theme for the 2023 Scholarship Reception and Donor Appreciation Celebration was, "Honoring Success." It opened with an outstanding musical introduction by Citrus College Visual and Performing Arts students, a land acknowledgement read by Citrus College alumna Jessie San, and welcome remarks from Superintendent/President Schulz. Additional remarks were provided by Foundation Board of Directors President Phyllis Fritz, transfer student Serina Mummert and continuing student Alay Ordaz.

"In honoring success, we honor everything it takes to bring success to fruition," said Superintendent/President Schulz said. "We honor the determination, perseverance and passion that our students invest in their studies. We also honor the generosity, optimism and confidence that drive our donors to offer their support."





DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Ron Husband

Ron Husband, the first African American supervising animator to work for Walt Disney Studios, was selected to receive the 2024 Citrus College Distinguished Alumni Award.

A longtime San Gabriel Valley resident, Husband attended Monrovia High School. After graduating in 1968, he enrolled at Citrus College and began pursuing an associate degree in art. At the same time, Husband was active in the Citrus College Athletics program. He joined the Owls football and track teams, ultimately lettering in both sports. When Husband graduated from Citrus College in 1971, his accomplishments on the football field had earned him a scholarship to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in art in 1973.

Husband's career with Walt Disney Studios began in 1975,

when he was accepted into their apprentice program. After serving as an "in-betweener" and an animating assistant, Husband was promoted to animator in 1978. He would later be named an animating supervisor.

During his decades-long career, Husband would accrue a remarkable list of credits, including "The Fox and the Hound," "The Great Mouse Detective," "Oliver and Company," "The Little Mermaid," "The Rescuers Down Under," "Beauty and the Beast," "Aladdin," "The Lion King," "Pocahontas," "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," "Hercules," and "Fantasia 2000." He retired from Walt Disney Studios in 2013.

Husband's career also includes illustrating numerous children's books and magazines. In addition, he uses his background and experiences to educate others. Although

he doesn't teach at Citrus College, Husband is an adjunct instructor at the Art Center College of Design, Cal Poly Pomona and Mt. SAC. In addition, he conducts workshops throughout the country, using his status as Disney's first Black supervising animator to open opportunities for young Black artists.

Husband has received numerous recognitions throughout his career, including President Joe Biden's 2023 Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award. His impressive achievements following his Citrus College education makes him the ideal candidate for the Distinguished Alumni Award.

Happily married for 52 years, Husband and his wife LaVonne reside in San Dimas. They have three adult children and six grandchildren.



Photo courtesy Darius Carter

A BLAST FROM THE PAST: CITRUS UNION HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI RETURN FOR CLASS REUNION

Old friends reconnected, memories were shared and a toast was made when alumni from Citrus Union High School gathered for a multi-class reunion in the spring.

Citrus Union High School was founded on July 14, 1891. Twenty-four years later – in 1915 – Citrus Junior College was established on the same site.

On July 1, 1961, the Citrus Union High School District disbanded and Citrus Junior College became an independent entity serving Azusa and Glendora.

By 1970, the Citrus Community College District was formed to serve the areas we know today.

Sixty Citrus Union High School graduates from the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s gathered at the Glendora Country Club on May 19, 2024, for an afternoon filled with good food, great music and a lot of laughter.

"It was a very intimate, special event," said Christina M. Garcia, director of the Citrus College Foundation. "Our alumni and their guests were thrilled."

The reunion festivities included door prizes, an opportunity drawing and a Citrus College update provided by Superintendent/President Schulz.

One of the event's special highlights was a Citrus Union High School archive provided by the Glendora Historical Society. Yearbooks, photos and other memorabilia were on display for guests to view and enjoy.

"Events like this are so important because they bring together graduates from a pivotal time in our rich institutional history," Garcia said. "This reunion was a living history lesson. My hope is that we will have many more opportunities to celebrate our shared experiences with the Citrus College community in the future."

Citrus Alumni &
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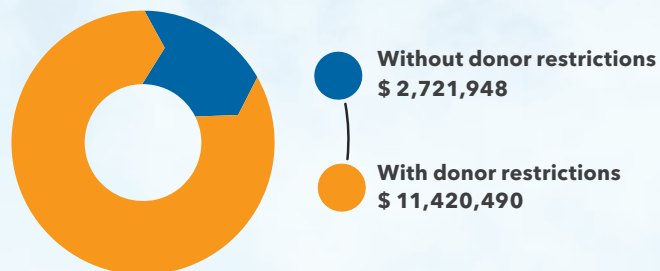
CITRUS COLLEGE FOUNDATION

statement of financial position

ASSETS

Current assets	
Cash	\$ 550,631
Accounts receivable	17,860
Prepaid expenses	<u>4,405</u>
Total current assets	572,896
Noncurrent assets	
Investment in land - mineral rights	7,500
Investments	<u>13,671,618</u>
Total noncurrent assets	13,679,118
Total assets	\$ 14,252,014

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

honor roll of donors

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