



## Press Release

**For Immediate Release:**

December 10, 2014

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### Citrus College Named a STEM Jobs<sup>SM</sup>-Approved College

Citrus College has been ranked among the top tier of U.S. colleges and universities as a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) Jobs<sup>SM</sup> Approved College for 2015 by Victory Media, a privately-owned company specializing in higher education and employment recruitment.

This honor places Citrus College among the top 125 of the 1,600 U.S. colleges and universities that participated in the company's STEM Jobs' survey. The company ranked participating institutions based on its publicly available data and its responses to proprietary questions concerning three key indicators of success: STEM job alignment, STEM job placement, and diversity in a school's STEM programs.

Citrus College, currently celebrating 100 years of providing educational excellence, is the only California community college included in the ranking. The college will receive a web profile on Victory Media's STEM Jobs Type online tool, and a listing in the 2015 STEM Jobs Approved Colleges Guide in the inaugural *STEM Jobs* magazine.

"Citrus College is truly honored to receive national recognition for its successful STEM Program," said Superintendent/President Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D. "This wonderful accolade is the result of the innovative efforts of faculty and staff who continue to develop stellar academic programs that lead to student success."

Since its inception in 2008, the Citrus College STEM Program has placed a countless number of students on the path towards academic achievement, while helping to meet the nation's need for skilled workers in the STEM fields. The college received several U.S. Department of Education grants that have resulted in the creation of comprehensive academic programs and resources such as the STEM Academy, the STEM Center, and the Math Success Center.

Citrus College STEM students have excelled on several levels. According to a study released by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, Citrus College ranked first place in the number of Associate in Science Degrees for Transfer awarded, an accomplishment supported by the college's STEM program. An exciting component of the STEM Program, the Summer Research Experience, offers paid internships at well-known institutions such as City of Hope and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

The college's STEM student research teams—the Rocket Owls, Space Owls, and CAPE (Citrus Automotive and Physics Eco-marathon) Owls—have garnered national recognition for research efforts allowing them to compete in national and international intercollegiate competitions, such as the NASA Student Launch Project and the Shell Eco-marathon. In addition, STEM students have been selected for prestigious internships with organizations that include the Rancho Santa Anita Gardens and the Oak Crest Institute of Science.

"It has been very gratifying to watch the Citrus College STEM Program develop into the prestigious, nationally-recognized program it is today," said Mrs. Joanne Montgomery, president of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees. "The college does an amazing job of preparing students for the high-demand science and technology careers that will enhance the quality of our lives."

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