



PRESS RELEASE

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**DATE: FEBRUARY 8, 2016
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Charitable Gift Advances Citrus College's Efforts to Increase Completion Rates

GLENDORA, Calif. – A \$50,000 charitable gift from Citrus College alumnus, Dr. Ivan Misner and his wife, Elisabeth (Beth) Misner, has established the Misner Scholars Program at Citrus College. The Misner Scholars is the first academic support program to be offered by the newly established Citrus College Institute For Completion (IFC), established in fall 2015.

The IFC's mission is to "strengthen student completion at Citrus College," which is defined as achieving an associate degree, earning a career technical certificate, or transferring to a four-year college or university. The IFC supports "Citrus College: A College of Completion," a collegewide initiative introduced in 2012 as a response to the national challenge to increase the number of college graduates and regain the nation's international position as the leader in education.

"The Citrus College community is grateful to the Misners for their generous gift," said Citrus College Superintendent/President Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D. "Their support of community college education and, specifically, their generous support of Citrus College, will significantly increase students' ability to complete their education and achieve their life goals."

Dr. Ivan Misner is the founder and chair of BNI, the world's largest networking organization. He grew up in Azusa, attended Citrus College for two years, and received his bachelor's and master's degrees from California Polytechnic University, Pomona. Misner also holds a Ph.D. in organizational behavior from the University of Southern California. He is a recipient of the 2014 California Community Colleges Distinguished Alumni Award, and in 2011, Dr. Misner received Citrus College's Distinguished Alumni award.

Mrs. Beth Misner is the cofounder of the BNI Foundation, an organization that contributes to charities around the world. She has collaborated with her husband and other authors to write books on the topics of health, business, and spirituality. Mrs. Misner, who also holds degrees in theology and Spanish, also manages the Misner Family Foundation. She and Ivan have three adult children.

The Misner Scholars Program will fund a highly structured academic support initiative. It is open to full-time students at Citrus College who have signed a pledge to complete their associate degree, career technical certificate, or transfer requirements at the college. Misner Scholars must also maintain a 3.25 GPA; develop and complete an educational plan; work closely with their academic counselors; and participate in the workshops and activities that will ensure their completion. Students who fulfill the requirements of the program will receive stipends, and they will be honored at the end of their participation in the program.

Misner credits Citrus College as the foundation for his advanced degrees and professional success.

“This institution taught me the value of critical thinking and laid the groundwork for immersing and engaging in a lifelong culture of learning,” he said.

Ivan and Beth Misner are widely respected for their support of education programs, believing that education is the best investment businesses can make in strengthening the local economy.

“The Misner’s thoughtful gift is allowing the Institute For Completion to provide excellent opportunities for Citrus College students to achieve their educational goals,” said Mrs. Susan M. Keith, president of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees. “I look forward to celebrating the Misner Scholars’ success as they pursue post-baccalaureate degrees, enter the workforce, and contribute to their communities.