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Citrus College Student Transfers Reach an All-Time High

By Paula Green

Glendora, Calif.—Citrus College has again achieved a new record for the number of students who transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

A report from the college's Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Effectiveness revealed that 1,234 Citrus College students transferred to the University of California; California State University; private four-year institutions located in California; and out of state colleges or universities during the 2014-2015 academic year. The number of transferring students reflects a 67 percent increase compared to students who transferred during the 2002-2003 academic year, the first year the data was recorded.

"The recent report concerning Citrus College's transfers is wonderful news for the institution," said Superintendent/President Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D. "Many students enter the college with transfer as their educational goal, and the college community is dedicated to providing the academic preparation and support services that allow these students to transfer to the colleges of their choice."

Citrus College's success in educating students who transfer to four-year colleges and universities is a byproduct of its longstanding commitment to college completion. From its earliest days, the college has held a statewide reputation for preparing students for transfer. In recent years, the provisions of the Student Transfer Achievement Reform (STAR) Act provided a pathway for California's community college students to earn Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADTs), increasing opportunities for them to enter a California State University with junior status. College faculty and staff readily responded to the STAR Act mandate, and Citrus College became a leading California community college in the development of ADTs, as well as the state leader in offering Associate Degrees in Science for Transfer in 2013-2014. Today, Citrus College offers associate degrees for transfer in 18 programs of study.

In 2012, Citrus College responded to a challenge to help the United States restore its global position as the leader in the number of college graduates and pledged to become a College of Completion. Since then, the college has implemented new strategies and strengthened its existing programs to increase the number of students who transfer to four-year institutions, as well as those who earn associate degrees and career technical certificates—breaking institutional records every year since 2011.

Donna Phillips is one of the many students who has benefitted from the academic programs and student services that allow Citrus College students to transfer. Phillips, who graduated from the college in 2007,

transferred to Pitzer College and is currently completing a master's degree in English literature from Claremont Graduate University.

"Citrus College provided me with the academic skills I needed to thrive in the challenging realms of higher education," Phillips said. "The college presents a welcoming atmosphere for students who have made the important decision to empower their lives and futures through education."

"The Citrus College community is immensely proud of the students who have completed the first phase of their educational journey and have transferred to the four-year institutions of their choice," said Mrs. Susan M. Keith, president of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees. "I commend them for their accomplishments, and I thank the faculty and staff who have worked so diligently to ensure student success."