



PRESS RELEASE

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PAULA GREEN (626) 914-8873**

Citrus College Veterans Success Director Receives Honor

Glendora, Calif.—The director of Citrus College’s Veterans Success Center has been named a Woman of the Year by Assemblymember Roger Hernandez.

Dr. Monica Christianson was honored at a special ceremony designed to recognize strong and inspirational women who have made lasting contributions within the 48th assembly district. She received her award alongside 14 other women from the communities of Azusa, Baldwin Park, Covina, El Monte, Glendora, Irwindale, and West Covina.

One of two honorees from Glendora, Dr. Christianson was selected because of her dedicated leadership and commitment to empowering students and veterans at Citrus College.

“On behalf of the entire college community, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Dr. Christianson,” said Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, superintendent/president. “As the director of our Veterans Success Center, she has played an instrumental role in expanding the services offered to student veterans. Her commitment to this important population and continued contributions to Citrus College are greatly appreciated.”

Under Christianson’s guidance, the Veterans Success Center has grown to offer counseling and peer support groups for veterans and their families. It also provides a place for student veterans to receive benefits information; get involved with the Veterans Network, a student organization; attend workshops; and meet with other veterans organizations.

In recent years, Citrus College’s efforts to promote the success of student veterans have received national recognition. In addition to being voted a Military Friendly School® for six consecutive years by *G.I. Jobs* magazine, the institution’s veterans program was also featured in a video shown at the White House Summit on Community

Colleges, and was selected to receive a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Citrus College also created the nation's first student veteran transitional course, "Strategies for College Success – Veterans Emphasis."

As a result, the enrollment of student veterans at Citrus College and the number of student veterans who are completing college has increased dramatically over the past ten years.

"I am a product of a community college, and I believe in everything that community colleges are able to do for students," Christianson said. "Citrus College is a student-serving institution, and working here connects me with many veterans and students who need help and advocacy. That's what I do best: I advocate for those in need of support."

Christianson has assisted diverse, underserved populations for several decades. Holding a doctorate degree in psychology, she worked as an educator and counselor in jails, where she taught classes and facilitated support groups to help inmates overcome difficult experiences and pursue future success. She has also served as a counselor in substance abuse treatment facilities, guiding patients through the pain and rewards of rehabilitation.

"Dr. Christianson's strong desire to meet the needs of the community is inspirational," said Mrs. Susan M. Keith, president of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees. "The fact that students from the Veterans Success Center nominated her for this incredible honor speaks volumes about the contributions she has made to Citrus College. Dr. Christianson's continued service to the institution and its student veterans is invaluable."



Monica Christianson receives her Woman of the Year award from Assemblyman Roger Hernandez of the 48th Assembly District. (Courtesy photo)