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Grammy Award Winner Delivers Keynote Remarks at Citrus College Women's History Luncheon

Glendora, Calif. (March 30, 2018) – Singer-Songwriter Melissa Manchester joined leaders from the San Gabriel Valley at a special luncheon hosted by Citrus College that celebrates the contributions women have made to society.

Manchester served as the featured speaker for the second annual Citrus College Women's History Month Luncheon, which was held in the college's Center for Innovation on March 30. The Grammy Award winner, who has been an honorary artist-in-residence at Citrus College since 2012, shared highlights of her life story with the audience.

"I am honored to have been asked to make the keynote speech at the Women's History Month Luncheon," Manchester said. "Citrus College has become a creative oasis for me based on its excellent studio facility as well as the fine faculty, alumni and students I've had the privilege of working closely with."

In addition to the remarks from Manchester, the luncheon featured a presentation by Citrus College student Manuel Torres, who conducted research on a pioneering woman in his life. The project was completed during the college's first "History of Women in the United States" class, which debuted during the fall 2017 semester.

"The purpose of the oral history assignment was to encourage students to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of local women who have shaped our history and culture," said Dr. Elisabeth Ritacca, Citrus College instructor. "Manuel interviewed Camille Levee, a local woman who has been very active in Girl Scouts, professional dental organizations and various women's political action groups for most of her adult life. He selected Ms. Levee because he admired her activism and engagement in the community."

Approximately 80 leaders attended the invitation-only event, which was designed to honor and celebrate the struggles and achievements of women. The audience consisted of several trailblazing women from Citrus College as well as throughout Southern California, including U.S. Rep. Grace Napolitano.

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“I extend my sincere gratitude to the many influential members of our community who took time out of their busy schedules to join us for this special event,” said Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, superintendent/president of Citrus College. “Women’s History Month provides Citrus College, and the world as a whole, with the opportunity to acknowledge the achievements of women throughout history. By hosting this luncheon, the college has highlighted positive female role models who have made a difference in their communities and honored local leaders who continue to contribute to the progress and growth of the region.”

Dr. Patricia A. Rasmussen, president of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees, echoed Dr. Perri’s statement.

“It is important to acknowledge the women in all aspects of society who have used their talent, skill and knowledge to improve the lives of others,” she said. “This luncheon celebrates success and hard work, while providing inspiration for future generations of strong leaders.”

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ABOUT CITRUS COLLEGE

Proudly serving the San Gabriel Valley for over 100 years, Citrus College educates approximately 20,000 students annually. The college offers 90 associate degrees and certificates of achievement, prepares students for transfer to four-year colleges and universities, and provides basic skills courses and workforce training. Located in Glendora, Calif., Citrus College is the oldest community college in Los Angeles County. Its 104-acre campus includes eight outdoor athletic facilities. A leader in higher education, Citrus College has received numerous accolades, including being ranked first in the nation for awarding associate degrees in visual and performance arts for Hispanic students, and 12th in the nation for the number of associate degrees awarded to Hispanic students. Citrus College is also designated a Military Friendly® school. For more information, visit www.citruscollege.edu.

Citrus College

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