

CITRUS VIEW

LATEST NEWS FROM CITRUS COLLEGE

Kicking Off a New Semester



Welcome to the spring 2020 semester!

This is an exciting time at Citrus College. Progress is being made on many significant projects, such as the Educational and Facilities Master Plan and the 2021-2026 Strategic Plan. The work being completed this semester will lay the groundwork for the college's future.

This first issue of the Citrus View for 2020 shines a light on some of the accomplishments and developments that have set the stage for a record-breaking spring term. From the introduction of a new mobile app and blue light emergency phones to the recognition of an outstanding employee and a group of impressive athletes, the semester is already off to a great start.

As vital members of the Citrus College community, you will be instrumental in making this spring a success. I thank you in advance for your many contributions, and I hope you have a great semester!

Dr. Geraldine M. Perri
Superintendent/President

Citrus College Once Again Recognized as a Top Associate Degree Producer for Minority Students

For the second consecutive year, *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* has ranked Citrus College among the nation's top 100 public two-year community colleges for awarding associate degrees to African American, Asian American, Hispanic and Native American students.

The national newsmagazine ranked the college first in the nation for the number of associate degrees in English language and literature/letters awarded to minority students; second for the number of associate degrees in social sciences awarded to minority students; fourth for the number of associate degrees in psychology awarded to minority students; and fifth for the number of associate degrees in multi/interdisciplinary studies awarded to minority students.

"It is truly an honor to be included in the annual 'Top 100 Associate Degree Producer' list produced by *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*. These rankings serve as a testament to the college's commitment to fostering an inclusive culture," said Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, superintendent/president of Citrus College.

The top 100 rankings are compiled using data from the 2017-2018 academic year that is provided by the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System. In total, Citrus College was recognized in more than 90 categories.

While the college was ranked among the top 100 for awarding associate degrees to all minority students in 19 different categories, it was also recognized for its success in serving specific minority groups. For example, Citrus College was ranked among the top 100 associate degree producers for awarding associate degrees to Hispanic students in 21 categories; for awarding associate degrees to Asian American students in 16 categories; for awarding associate degrees to African American students in eight categories; and for awarding associate degrees to Native American students in seven categories.



Citrus College has been ranked first in the nation for awarding associate degrees in English language and literature/letters.

Continuing Education, Health Sciences Welcome New Employees



Ivon McCraven is the new director of continuing education.

Ivon McCraven, who holds a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership from Azusa Pacific University and a master's degree in business administration from Hope International University, has served Citrus College's diverse student population for more than 15 years. Her career began in the college's office of academic affairs, where she worked as an administrative assistant. In March 2006, Ms. McCraven became the coordinator of school relations in the college's school relations and outreach program. She served in this role until 2016, at which time she was promoted to outreach supervisor.

"Citrus College is an amazing place to work," Ms. McCraven said. "I am excited to step into my new role as director of continuing education because it will give me the opportunity to further serve our community by helping adults gain access to education to improve their job marketability."



Lisa Kolber is a new full-time nursing faculty member.

After serving as an adjunct instructor for two years, Lisa Kolber is happy to be joining the Citrus College nursing program as a full-time faculty member. In addition to working at Citrus College, Ms. Kolber has worked as a registered nurse for more than 20 years. She holds a master's degree and a bachelor's degree in nursing from California State University, Fullerton, as well as an associate degree in nursing from Mt. San Antonio College. In addition to holding a registered nursing license, Ms. Kolber is also certified in critical care, advanced cardiovascular life support and basic life support for health care providers.

"I started my education at a community college, and I am so grateful for all the open doors that education provided me. I want to be part of making that possible for other individuals who may face struggles reaching their own goals," Ms. Kolber said.

New Emergency Phones Enhance Safety on Campus



Four blue light emergency phones were installed throughout campus during the fall 2019 semester.

An additional layer of safety has been added to Citrus College with the installation of four new blue light emergency phones.

The four phones were placed throughout campus at the end of the fall 2019 semester in accordance with Focus Area 6, "Safe Environment," of the 2016-2021 Strategic Plan. They are located at the Field House, Gate House, Adaptive Physical Education Building and in the Campus Center Mall.

Additional blue light emergency phones will be added throughout the campus in phases.

"By pressing the button on these blue light emergency phones, the college community can access campus safety 24 hours a day, seven days a week," said Ben Macias, director of campus safety. "This is an enhancement to the college's comprehensive emergency preparedness efforts, and it reflects a commitment to the safety of our students, faculty, staff and guests."

Designed to be used in an emergency, the phones feature a single red button. When this button is pressed, campus safety answers the call and sends an officer to the location.

The phones are also equipped with a wide-area emergency broadcast system (WEBS) that will transmit notifications during a campus-wide emergency, such as a lockdown or evacuation.

"The ability to broadcast emergency notifications is a huge benefit of the blue light emergency phones," Mr. Macias said. "We were looking to improve how we communicate emergency notifications outside of campus buildings, and these phones accomplish that goal."

Making Goals: Student Athletes Recognized for Earning Top Grades

On Jan. 18, the Citrus College Kinesiology, Health and Athletics Division recognized 118 student athletes for earning a GPA of 3.0 or higher at the annual Scholar Baller Night.

Scholar Ballers is a nationally recognized program that seeks to bridge the gap between education and sports. The program was introduced to Citrus College during the 2007-2008 academic year.

Student athletes who attended this year's event were treated to a barbecue and received public recognition for their efforts. Commemorative patches were also placed on their jerseys, indicating their academic accomplishments.

"Scholar Baller Night rewards our student athletes for recognizing that their performance in various arenas of life is equally important to their success on the field and court," said Junior Domingo, dean of kinesiology, health and athletics. "It is vital in today's world that athletes are fully prepared to excel in higher education, and these students are leading the way to success for others."



Student athletes pose with their coaches, instructors and college administrators to commemorate their academic achievements.

The following nine instructors were also acknowledged for playing a key role in the student athletes' success:

Nichole Ary, Ricky Brown, Timothy Durfield, Robert Everest, Shelly Hahn, Jaime Love, Traci Rodriguez, Bruce Solheim and Erin Tate.

Superintendent/President Perri; Dr. Patricia A. Rasmussen, president of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees; and Joanne Montgomery, clerk/secretary for the board of trustees, also attended the event, along with many Citrus College staff members and administrators.

"The Scholar Baller event is a unique occasion to reward those committed to improving their game, both athletically and academically," said Superintendent/President Perri. "On behalf of the entire college community, I wish these 118 student athletes the very best in their future endeavors!"

Citrus College Students to Join Top Researchers in Underwater Volcano Exploration



The first InVADER mission team meeting at Citrus College.

In August 2020, two Citrus College STEM students will join a team of cutting-edge scientists and engineers as they study underwater hydrothermal systems at Axial Seamount, the largest and most active volcano on the western boundary of the Juan de Fuca tectonic plate.

The project, known as InVADER (In-situ Vent Analysis Divebot for Exobiology Research), will transform the technological and operational arsenal available for studying the ocean floor and will ultimately help refine methods for exploring planetary vent systems on ocean worlds like Europa, one of Jupiter's moons.

Sponsored by NASA, the project will deploy the InVADER payload during a 14-day mission in international waters. One Citrus College student will work on the vessel while the other will assist from mission control at the University of Washington. The students were selected by Dr. Marianne Smith, director of the Institute for Completion and grant development/oversight, who was responsible for connecting the college with the scientists leading the InVADER project.

Citrus College is the only community college participating in this research effort.

"I am incredibly excited for these students. The opportunity to work alongside and learn from world-renowned experts in this type of setting will be completely life changing," said Dr. Smith. "I am confident our students will return with unparalleled enthusiasm for furthering their educations and future careers."

Adriana Quintana and Jazmine Robledo, the two Citrus College InVADER interns, have been working with the research team since January when they met the InVADER team at the first of two group meetings hosted at Citrus College.

"Hats off to Dr. Smith for making this fantastic opportunity a reality for our students," said Superintendent/President Perri. "I am proud to know that our students will accompany researchers from the SETI Institute and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, as well as professionals from other venerable institutions."

The Citrus College community can learn more about the project at www.invader-mission.org.

Olivia Canales Honored for Her Contributions to the Honors Program

Olivia Canales, administrative clerk III, is the first ABCD Award recipient for 2020. According to her supervisor, Dr. Gina Hogan, dean of language arts and library, Ms. Canales has consistently exhibited her ability to go “above and beyond” throughout her 33-year career at Citrus College.

“Olivia is exceptional at providing support for the honors transfer program. She is instrumental in creating a welcoming environment for honors students and always encourages them to persevere in their education,” said Dr. Hogan. “Students truly value her outstanding work ethic, supportive attitude and productive interactions.”

Ms. Canales began her career at Citrus College in 1986 as an aide in what was then called the Guiding, Testing and Counseling Department. She transferred to the Learning Center where she earned a Shining Star Award for her exceptional customer service and leadership within the Latina Leadership Network and the Latinos Unidos Student Association (LUSA). Since 2015, Ms. Canales has worked in the honors transfer program where she plans and coordinates events.

In her spare time, Ms. Canales enjoys gardening and reading non-fiction books. She also has amassed an impressive owl collection (a nod to the college’s mascot), which she displays in her office.

“Kudos to Olivia Canales for winning this much-deserved award,” said Superintendent/President Perri. “Her passion and dedication to students is exemplary. We applaud her many efforts to ensure the success of our students.”



Olivia Canales wins the ABCD Award after 33 years of service to the college.

Citrus Mobile App Enhances Student Experience

The new Citrus Mobile app is here! Launched on Jan. 18, the app already has 3,265 downloads and 2,690 registrations (as of Feb. 24).

An upgrade from the first app released in spring 2017, the new version features deeper integration with WingSpan and Canvas, links to the college portal, campus services and student employment opportunities, and a social media wall for community posting.

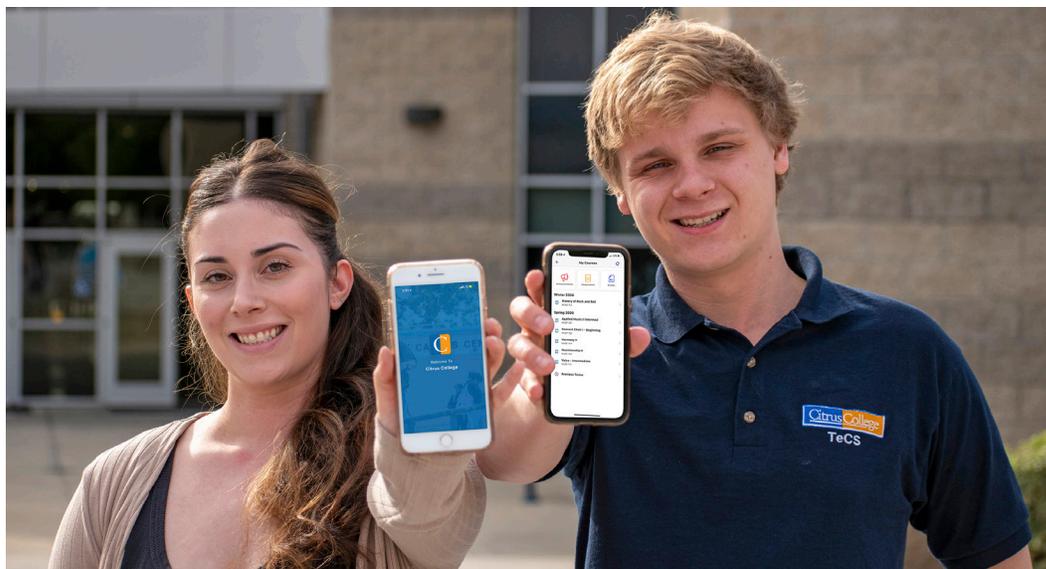
Users will continue to receive important notifications, course content information and the ability to manage registered classes.

The updated Citrus Mobile app is a new product by Ready Education, and technology and computer services (TeCS) programmers Sean Osborn and Bryun Sakaye worked with them to ensure that functionality from the former app would still be available in the new version.

“This was an exceptionally satisfying project to collaborate on,” said Mr. Osborn. “Most of the work we perform as programmers is back end, behind-the-scenes data processing, reporting and software fixes, but this new app is completely student facing. I am excited to hear that students are enjoying this resource.”

A top reason Mr. Osborn believes the app will continue to receive consistent use is due to its integrated social capabilities. Thanks to the campus wall, campus feeds and other social media style features, student interaction with the app is soaring. To date, 8,200 student-to-student messages have been sent within the app, and that number is expected to increase throughout the spring semester.

To download the app, search for “Citrus College” in the App Store from your Apple device or in Google Play from your Android device.



Two students show off the new app on their mobile devices.

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