

CITRUSVIEW

LATEST NEWS FROM CITRUS COLLEGE

Anticipating a month of impressive progress, positive energy



With its sunny days and blooming flowers, May is arguably the most beautiful month of the year. In fact, a public opinion poll conducted by Gallup revealed that a majority of Americans prefer this month more than any other. As I reflect on all Citrus College has accomplished in recent weeks and think about the many exciting activities scheduled for the days ahead, I would have to agree.

This issue of the Citrus View is chock full of wonderful news. Whether it is a recap of our recent Sabbatical Forum, the debut of a new athletics website or an overview of the many honors received from Phi Theta Kappa, each article reflects the progress and optimism that has come to define this semester.

Perhaps the most exciting article featured in this issue is the return of some programs to the Citrus College campus. My hope is that, as you read about athletics and performing arts programs coming back in person, you are filled with hope for the days ahead.

Collectively, these positive developments are a great way to kick off a new month and wrap up a successful semester. Great things are happening at Citrus College, and I thank you for your contributions!

Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President

Some arts, athletics students return to campus



Visual and performing arts students take part in a conditioning class taught by Renee Liskey on campus on April 19.

More than a year after the Citrus College campus closed, some visual and performing arts and athletics students have returned for in-person activities.

This exciting development comes several months after the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health allowed for essential workforce sectors, including the college's nursing, dental and automotive technology programs, to resume in-person instruction last year.

The new phased return to campus has been spearheaded by the Citrus College COVID-19 Workgroup, which meets on a regular basis to discuss pandemic-related issues and review the college's reopening plan.

"I am excited that dozens of students have returned to campus for instruction and conditioning," said Superintendent/President Perri. "This would not have been possible without our faculty and staff, who have devoted much of their time and energy to working on a plan that allows students to return while prioritizing health and safety."

For visual and performing arts, approximately 50 students will now be on campus every week. Most courses will be held outdoors, but recording arts students will be indoors, with only one student allowed in each studio room. Given the difficulty of teaching performance classes remotely, the return to in-person instruction will give students a chance to learn in a hands-on environment with the resources they need.

For athletics, the spring sports of baseball, softball and swimming began their conditioning on April 19. Conditioning for fall sports, such as basketball, cross country, football, soccer, volleyball and water polo, will begin in mid-May. This conditioning will give coaches the ability to properly prepare student athletes for the upcoming competitive seasons during the 2021-2022 academic year.

The visual and performing arts and athletics divisions praised the return as a way to prepare students and expose them to a support system that inspires them to be successful.

Virtual forum shines spotlight on faculty members' sabbatical work



Brian Anderson, Rudy Gonzalez, Steve Hartman, Robin McBurney and Rebecca Rudd presented information during a recent event hosted online.

Five faculty members recently presented findings from their sabbatical leaves during a forum hosted on Zoom.

Approximately 65 members of the Citrus College community and other guests attended the forum, which provided an overview of the sabbatical work completed from fall 2018 through spring 2020. Each of the five presenters shared a brief PowerPoint presentation describing their research and answered questions from the audience.

"This forum showcased a wide range of research and projects from several disciplines across campus, all with the same goal of promoting student success," said Dr. Joumana McGowan,

vice president of academic affairs. "Although the forum was postponed last year because of the pandemic, the presenters noted that their research projects have remained relevant."

Mathematics instructor Brian Anderson outlined a rationale for why trigonometry should not be a requirement for STEM students; mathematics instructor Rudy Gonzalez discussed his efforts to develop contextualized classroom materials and activities in support of student learning; kinesiology instructor Steve Hartman provided an overview of his project comparing the adapted physical education program at Citrus College with those at other community colleges; counselor Robin McBurney shared study skills strategies that can be applied to

student success in specific STEM subject areas; and English instructor Rebecca Rudd presented her research on the value and implementation of contextualized learning in order to design engaging activities and assignments.

"The work these faculty members invested in their sabbaticals is impressive. Their projects are leading to new understandings, and it is inspiring to see new strategies and techniques that could be implemented at Citrus College," said Superintendent/President Perri. "I want to congratulate Brian, Rudy, Steve, Robin and Becky on their sabbatical work and thank them for their commitment to scholarly advancement."

Men of Color Conference held; Black Scholars program launches

Nearly 30 Citrus College students and employees recently attended the inaugural Men of Color Conference. Held virtually on March 26, the event served as a platform to introduce male students of color to Citrus College faculty, staff and administrators. The event also provided a safe space for male students to share their voices.

The conference panel was composed of male employees from various disciplines across campus. During the event, each panelist talked about their background and answered questions about their personal journeys. In the second portion of the conference, participants went into breakout rooms with one to two panelists to facilitate more personal discussions about their experiences.

Ultimately, four students were awarded a \$500 scholarship. Gift cards and Google Pixel Buds were also given out during the event.

"I want to commend our faculty, staff and students for making this successful event possible," said Superintendent/President Perri. "Making sure that all students have

an accessible and supportive environment to discuss their experiences is an important college priority."

The event also marked the debut of the Black Scholars program, which is facilitated by the Counseling and Advisement Center. The program's goal is to increase retention within the college's Black population while also building a community of support and celebrating Black history and culture. The program will host several academic and social events throughout the year and all students are encouraged to join.

For more information about the Citrus College Men of Color Mentor Program, email menofcolor@citruscollege.edu, visit citruscollege.edu/stdntsrv/moc or check out the program's Instagram account at [instagram.com/menofcolorcc](https://www.instagram.com/menofcolorcc).

More information about the Black Scholars Program can be found by emailing blackscholars@citruscollege.edu or visiting [instagram.com/black_scholars.cc](https://www.instagram.com/black_scholars.cc).



The Men of Color Planning Committee, whose members include faculty and managers, organized the first Men of Color Conference.

Art pieces created by students help those in need

For nearly two decades, Citrus College ceramics students have been using their talent to support local food banks. At no time have their efforts seemed more necessary than during the current global pandemic.

Recently, bowls crafted by ceramics instructor Mike Hillman and his students were sold during the 2021 Empty Bowls fundraiser. Hosted by the First Christian Church of Glendora, participants paid \$20 a ticket to pick up a beautiful, handmade ceramic bowl and a coupon for a bowl of soup at a local restaurant during the drive-thru event. In the end, more than \$3,000 was raised for those in need.

"Last year, we were all set to go. The bowls were made and soup donations were set up, but then COVID 19 hit and we had to cancel two days prior to the event. Needless to say, we had a ton of bowls," Mr. Hillman said. "So, First Christian Church organized this year's event and Citrus College provided the bowls that were made last year."

The pieces that were distributed this year were created by Citrus College students, the Tri Community Adult Education's Pioneer Potters and several local artists.



Ceramic bowls created by Citrus College students were distributed during an event at First Christian Church in Glendora.

In addition to choosing from green, blue, brown or mystery bowls, participants were gifted reusable bags and hand sanitizer donated by Athens Services. Among the 30 volunteers who set up and ran the event were Citrus College students and alumni, the Glendora Police Auxiliary, and youth from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

"I am grateful to Mike Hillman and the many students who helped fight hunger and serve those in need by participating in this event," said Superintendent/President Perri. "It is very heartwarming to see students use the skills they developed at Citrus College to make a positive difference in the lives of others."

Proceeds from this year's Empty Bowls fundraiser will benefit food assistance programs administered by Shepherd's Pantry, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the Glendora Police Department.

Citrus College leaders, students honored at virtual PTK conventions



The Citrus College chapter of Phi Theta Kappa received recognition during the organization's national and regional conventions.

This has been a banner year for Beta Nu Eta, the Citrus College chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) international honor society.

Last month, students and advisors from the college attended Catalyst, the annual convention where PTK students and faculty from around the globe gather for several days of information, inspiration and celebration. Citrus College received several special recognitions during the virtual convention's award ceremony.

Beta Nu Eta was recognized as one of the top 100 PTK chapters in the United States, it was named a Distinguished Chapter due to its college project and it was designated a Five Star Chapter, which is the highest level a chapter can attain.

In addition to the group recognitions, two Citrus College individuals were presented with awards during the conference. First, pre-allied health major Brooke Arellano was one of only 50 community college students in the United States to be named a 2021 Coca-Cola Academic Team Gold Scholar by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation.

"Citrus College students have received several high-profile Phi Theta Kappa scholarships in the past. However, I believe this is the first time that a Citrus College student has been recognized as a Gold Scholar," said Brian Waddington, honors transfer coordinator and co-advisor for Beta Nu Eta.

Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D., superintendent/president of Citrus College, was also recognized during Catalyst. She was presented with the prestigious Michael Bennett Lifetime Achievement Award, which honors retiring college presidents who have shown strong support of student success on their campus.

"Dr. Perri has always been a supporter of our Beta Nu Eta chapter," Mr. Waddington said. "I believe she appreciates how PTK recognizes the academic excellence of our two-year college students and encourages them to apply their scholarship toward service to better their campus and community."

Beta Nu Eta's success at the convention came on the heels of several regional victories. Three weeks prior to Catalyst, Beta Nu Eta received numerous honors during a conference for PTK chapters from California and Nevada. The group received first place for chapter leadership, first place for their Honors in Action project, second place for their college project and second place for their chapter website.

In addition, Citrus College student Jessie San was elected to the regional office of vice president of technology. Beta Nu Eta's co-advisors also received individual recognitions: Brian Waddington received the Distinguished Advisor Award and Areej Qasqas, adjunct faculty member, received a Paragon Award for Distinguished New Advisor.

"I have always been impressed by the students of Beta Nu Eta and was not surprised to learn of their continued success. The hard work they invest in their academic and service pursuits is commendable," Superintendent/President Perri said. "I am grateful to Mr. Waddington and Ms. Qasqas for leading these outstanding scholars, and I congratulate them on the much-deserved recognitions they received."

She added, "I am also incredibly moved that these inspiring students nominated me for the Michael Bennett Lifetime Achievement Award. It is an honor to be acknowledged alongside these outstanding individuals."

Athletics website redesign shines



The new athletics website features expanded content showcasing coaches and student athletes.

The Citrus College Athletics website recently received an upgrade that puts a greater emphasis on larger photos and social media feeds.

The first redesign in nearly a decade, the new website, citrusowls.com, features a rotating

carousel of news stories at the top of the page. There's also a scoreboard, "Recent News" tab and a list of current Owl social media posts. Much brighter than the previous version, the website utilizes soft grays and orange as the primary colors, delivering a professional overall look.

On the top right side of the site, visitors can easily access the Owls' Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Snapchat accounts. There are also several tabs that direct visitors to individual sports, academics, support and game-day info.

"I am thrilled about this upgrade to the Citrus College Owls website that puts an even greater spotlight on our athletics program," said Superintendent/President Perri. "I am looking forward to the return of athletic competitions

so that the college community can see our student athletes shine."

"The new athletics website gives us a chance to feature the student athletes and staff who help make Citrus College one of the best places to go to school and work," said Andrew Wheeler, assistant athletic director. "The website also serves as a one-stop shop for fans who are looking to read about an athlete, check a score or see when a team is playing."

Recently, some athletics programs have begun returning to campus for conditioning. See cover story for more details!

To check out the new website, visit citrusowls.com.

Two classified staff members recognized for outstanding work



John Patrick and John Morris were recently named the first and second Above and Beyond Classified Development (ABCD) Award recipients for 2021.

For more than two decades, Mr. Patrick has served as the performing arts shop coordinator for the Haugh Performing Arts Center. His work conducted backstage is viewed by thousands of people every year.

According to his peers, Mr. Patrick constantly challenges himself to use new techniques and technology to ensure that the college's scene shop is a place where students can practice and master new skills. He also begins every project with "yes" and keeps that attitude throughout productions, including the holiday spectacular "Christmas Is ..." and the annual Convocation event.

In addition to his role at Citrus College, Mr. Patrick enjoys being near the ocean, painting, sculpting and collecting anime figures. He also performed puppetry for the 1985 sci-fi horror film, "LifeForce," starring Patrick Stewart, and he carved the oversized puppets for the opening ceremonies of the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

The second quarter recipient, Mr. Morris, study abroad specialist, works with many departments across campus – as well as other colleges – to make the study abroad program a success. He helps ensure that all students can find an affordable pathway to participate in studying abroad. Under his leadership, Mr. Morris has successfully added six new locations and expanded the schedule to offer study abroad every term.

While the study abroad program has been put on hold due to COVID-19, Mr. Morris has been reassigned to support counseling faculty and staff. Mr. Morris routinely assists the virtual counseling lobbies to welcome

students, answer questions and direct students to an appropriate counselor as needed.

In his free time, Mr. Morris likes cycling, snowboarding, traveling, hiking, watching movies and reading books.

"I wish to congratulate Mr. Patrick and Mr. Morris on these well-deserved accomplishments," said Superintendent/President Perri. "These two incredible employees have shown tremendous dedication and passion for Citrus College and its mission to advance student success."

Mr. Patrick, top, was the recipient of the 2021 first quarter ABCD Award, while Mr. Morris, bottom, was the recipient of the 2021 second quarter ABCD Award.

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