

CITRUS VIEW

SPECIAL EDITION



Superintendent/President Perri and Citrus College colleagues receive the 2019 AACCC Award of Excellence in the Student Success category.



Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D., superintendent/president of Citrus College.



Citrus College welcomes State Senator Anthony Portantino to his 13th annual Saluting Our Veterans ceremony (top), and the board of trustees wishes Superintendent/President Perri a happy retirement over Zoom in 2021 (bottom).

Reflecting on my Citrus College tenure with appreciation and pride

Every year, Citrus College acknowledges those members of the college community who have reached one of two significant moments in academia: either receiving tenure or concluding a successful career. Due to the ongoing pandemic, we are once again unable to meet in person for this special celebration. Instead, it is my pleasure to present the last Citrus View of the 2020-2021 academic year, which is dedicated to our deserving tenured faculty and retirees.

A longtime educator myself, I have always valued having the opportunity to applaud the accomplishments and contributions of my colleagues. For me, however, this year's celebration of tenured faculty and retirees is especially poignant. As I prepare for my own retirement, I find it bittersweet to leave a community I enjoy and to conclude a career spanning 40 years. Feelings of appreciation and pride fill my heart when I reflect on the college's impressive accomplishments over the past 13 years.

When I stepped into this role in 2008, I was eager to work alongside the dedicated professionals at Citrus College. I knew that the board of trustees, faculty and staff were ready to tackle ambitious goals. Since that time, we have strived to fulfill the objectives of two strategic plans, successfully navigated several accreditation cycles, developed two educational and facilities master plans, and have been at the forefront of the dual enrollment movement.

Among our most significant triumphs has been the College of Completion initiative, which supports students in their pursuit of higher education, leading to degree completion and transfer. The expansion of academic support programs is also noteworthy. These include the college's Veterans Success Center, which has consistently earned Citrus College the national Military Friendly School designation; and the STEM program, which has received multiple

federal grants and produced impressive student outcomes.

Most recently, Citrus College concluded work on the third strategic plan developed during my tenure. After an in-depth analysis of the college's current major plans, active initiatives, relevant student data, and regional and industry needs, the 2021-2026 Citrus College Strategic Plan was developed. Building on the college's previous plan, each section has been revised and enhanced. Implementation of the new plan will begin this fall.

It is important to note that our new five-year plan places a special emphasis on diversity, equity and inclusion, which has been an area of growth for Citrus College. The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force, which was formed in June 2020 in response to a charge from the board of trustees, has been reviewing the framework of Citrus College.

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Reflecting on my Citrus College tenure

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They have already reviewed all board policies and administrative procedures, and they are in the process of assessing college plans, curriculum, hiring practices, student support services and more.

Another recent accomplishment was the creation and submission of Citrus College's Institutional Self-Evaluation Report. Thanks to the hard work and input from all college constituent groups, we are currently preparing for the October 2021 accrediting team site visit. Our comprehensive report is extremely well-written, and I am confident that, by this time next year, the college will have learned that it has received a seven-year reaffirmation of accreditation.

These successes are only a few examples of the progress we have made together. On page 2 of this newsletter, we highlight some of the more memorable accolades Citrus College has received over the past 13 years. These awards and recognitions serve as a reminder of the hours of hard work, preparation and collaboration that we have collectively invested in the pursuit of our goals.

Whether advancing sustainability efforts; expanding innovative programs, such as Early Decision; or implementing new associate degrees for transfer, the entire college community has worked tirelessly to meet the evolving needs of our students and surrounding communities. At the same time, the steadfast assistance of our supporters and partners – from the Citrus College Foundation to the citizens and alumni of the surrounding communities – has been instrumental to our success. The transformation of the campus, creation of new educational opportunities, increased student success rates and other Citrus College achievements are proof that teamwork can move mountains.

As Citrus College prepares for its next chapter, I am confident that many new heights will be reached in the years ahead. The students, faculty, staff, community supporters, Foundation directors and members of the board of trustees are to be commended for the outstanding milestones and impressive student outcomes the college has achieved.

I will be forever grateful for the opportunity I have had to serve this incredible institution, and I am proud to transition the leadership of Citrus College over to the next superintendent/president on such strong footing.

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



Superintendent/President Perri with Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees members and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti at the groundbreaking of the Metro L Line (Gold) near Citrus College.



Glendora Mayor Karen K. Davis presents Superintendent/President Perri with a certificate of recognition upon her being sworn in as the college's seventh superintendent/president in 2008.



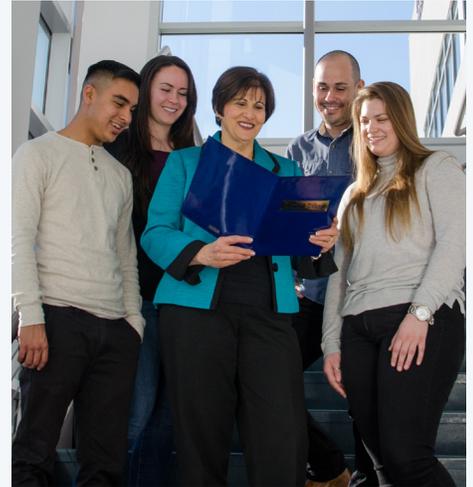
In full academic regalia, Superintendent/President Perri congratulates the Class of 2009.



The Citrus College Promise, a program that covers fees for first-time students, launches at the college's K-14 Education Forum in 2018.



In 2018, a Citrus College delegation attends the Champions of Higher Education celebration, hosted by the Campaign for College Opportunity.



Citrus College students meet with Superintendent/President Perri in the Center for Innovation.



Citrus College officials celebrate the opening of the new Visual Arts Building in 2016.



The college's 2019 K-14 Education Forum highlights dual enrollment, career/technical education and transfer degree opportunities.



The 2016 Strategic Planning Workgroup joins Superintendent/President Perri (far right) to display the 2016-2021 Strategic Plan.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

2008

- Top 100 Producer, Community College Week

2009

- Top 50 Community Colleges, Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education
- Top 100 Producer, Community College Week

2010

- Green Campus Award, Green California Community College Summit
- Top 50 Community Colleges, Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education
- Top 100 Producer, Community College Week

2011

- Environmental Innovation Award, Irwindale Chamber of Commerce
- Green Campus Award, Green California Community College Summit
- Military Friendly School, G.I. Jobs
- Top 50 Community Colleges, Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education
- Top 100 Producer, Community College Week

2012

- Energy and Sustainability Award, California Community Colleges Board of Governors
- JACC Pacesetter Award, Journalism Association of Community Colleges
- Military Friendly School, G.I. Jobs
- Top 50 Community Colleges, Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education
- Top 100 Producer, Community College Week

2013

- Champion of Higher Education, Campaign for College Opportunity
- Military Friendly School, G.I. Jobs
- Top 50 Community Colleges, Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education
- Top 100 Producer, Community College Week

2014

- 3rd Place for Awarding Associate Degrees for Transfer, Public Policy Institute of California
- Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence Nominee, Aspen Institute
- Best Community College, San Gabriel Valley Newsgroup
- Military Friendly School, G.I. Jobs
- Top 50 Community Colleges, Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education
- Top 100 Producer, Community College Week

2015

- 5th Fastest-Growing Community College, Community College Week
- Five-Star Chapter and Top 100 in United States, Phi Theta Kappa
- Military Friendly School, G.I. Jobs
- STEM Jobs Approved College, Victory Media
- Student Success Award, California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office

- Sustainability Champion, California Community Colleges Board of Governors
- Top 25 Community Colleges, Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education
- Top 50 Community Colleges, Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education
- Top 100 Producer, Community College Week

2016

- 1st in Nation for Awarding Associate Degrees in Fine and Performing Arts to Hispanic Students, Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education
- 12th in Nation for Number of Associate Degrees Awarded to Hispanic Students, Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education
- Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence Nominee, Aspen Institute
- Best Community College, San Gabriel Valley Newsgroup
- Champion of Higher Education, Campaign for College Opportunity
- Five-Star Chapter and Top 100 in United States, Phi Theta Kappa
- Military Friendly School, G.I. Jobs
- Most Affordable Community College in California, Obrella
- Top 100 Producer, Community College Week

2017

- 1st in Nation for Awarding Associate Degrees in Multidisciplinary Studies to Hispanic Students, Diverse: Issues in Higher Education
- Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence Nominee, Aspen Institute
- Best Community College, Beacon Media
- Best Community Colleges in California for Academic Quality and Affordability, BestColleges.com
- Champion of Higher Education, Campaign for College Opportunity
- Favorite Career College, Southern California News Group
- Favorite Community College, Southern California News Group
- Military Friendly School, G.I. Jobs
- Sustainability Champion, California Community Colleges Board of Governors
- STEM Jobs Approved College, Victory Media
- Top 10 Public Two-Year Colleges in Nation, PayScale
- Top 100 Producer, Community College Week

2018

- 1st in Nation for Awarding Associate Degrees in English and Literature to All Minority Students, Diverse: Issues in Higher Education
- 1st in California for Social Media Management, Community College Public Relations Organization
- 4th Best Community College for Transfer in California, Graduation and Student Retention, Schools.com
- 4th Best College for Online Courses in Los Angeles Area, GreatValueColleges.net
- 7th Best College for Online Courses Alongside Traditional Courses in California, TheBestColleges.org

- 7th in Nation for Awarding Associate Degrees to Hispanic Students, Hispanic Outlook on Education
- 14th Best College for Online Courses in California, AffordableCollegesOnline.org
- 15th Top Accredited, Nonprofit Community Colleges in Nation, BestColleges.com
- Best Community College, Southern California News Group
- Champion of Higher Education, Campaign for College Opportunity
- Favorite Community College, Beacon Media
- Five-Star Chapter, Phi Theta Kappa

2019

- AACC Award of Excellence in Student Success Category, American Association of Community Colleges
- 1st in Nation for Awarding Associate Degrees in English and Literature to All Minority Students, Diverse: Issues in Higher Education
- 3rd Best College to Receive an Online Degree in Los Angeles Area, GreatValueColleges.net
- 6th in Nation for Awarding English Language and Literature Degrees to Hispanic Students, Hispanic Outlook on Education
- 7th Best College to Obtain an Online Degree in California, TheBestColleges.org
- 7th in Nation for Awarding Social Science Degrees to Hispanic Students, Hispanic Outlook on Education
- 8th Best Community College in California, BestColleges.com
- 8th Best Institution in California to Earn an Online Associate Degree or Certificate, SR Education Group
- Best Community College, Beacon Media News
- Best Community College, Southern California News Group
- Champion of Higher Education, Campaign for College Opportunity
- Marketing and Social Media Medallion Awards, National Council for Marketing and Public Relations
- Military Friendly School, VIQTORY
- Top 150 Community Colleges in United States, Aspen Institute
- Top Producer: STEM Students; Greatest Growth: Associate's College; and Greatest Growth: STEM Students, Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program

2020

- 1st in California for Newsletter (Citrus View), Community College Public Relations Organization
- 2nd in Nation for Instagram Account, National Council for Marketing and Public Relations
- 3rd in California for Outdoor Media (Light Pole Banners), Community College Public Relations Organization
- 8th in Nation for Awarding Associate Degrees to Hispanic Students, Hispanic Outlook on Education
- Military Friendly School, VIQTORY

2021

- Energy and Sustainability Award, California Community Colleges Board of Governors
- Military Friendly School, VIQTORY



2021 CITRUS COLLEGE TENURED FACULTY



LELAINE ARREDONDO
CalWORKs Counseling

Although working remotely has been difficult, Lelaine Arredondo says meeting student needs during the pandemic has been her greatest professional accomplishment. "Something as small as a quick email or phone call can make a huge difference," she says. "I am thankful that I can create a safe place for my students

during these difficult times. Even if it is not a physical location, it helps them feel like someone cares." After serving in counseling positions at a variety of California community colleges, Ms. Arredondo joined the Citrus College California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program as a full-time counselor in 2017. Four years later, she says receiving tenure is a "true blessing." "I am so grateful for this experience and can't wait to continue shaping student lives," Ms. Arredondo says. She holds an associate degree from Mt. San Antonio College; a bachelor's degree from California State University, Fullerton; and a master's degree from the University of La Verne.



ELIZABETH COOK
Library

Elizabeth Cook says her favorite aspect of working in the Hayden Memorial Library is helping students. "I love watching their faces light up when they find what they need," she says. When Ms. Cook joined the Citrus College community as an instructional design librarian in 2017, she brought with her over a decade of

experience in library and information science. Her career began in 2004 when she started working at the Tinley Park Public Library in Illinois. She also worked as a library technician for Pierce College and as an adjunct librarian for the Los Angeles Community College District. "I believe that learning comes from finding out what works for you," she says. "As a librarian, I encourage my students to give themselves time to make mistakes and find the best path for them." Ms. Cook holds a bachelor's degree from Monmouth College in Illinois and a master's degree from San José State University.



JAMIE DINGMAN
English

Jamie Dingman's teaching style is active and collaborative. "I love having students work in small groups to discuss texts, critical thinking questions, writing and more," she says. "I want them to be actively engaged in their learning and to feel like they belong to a community of scholars." This approach is one Ms. Dingman

has taken since joining the Citrus College Language Arts and Library Division as a full-time English instructor in 2017. Prior to that, she worked as an associate faculty member at Irvine Valley College and held adjunct positions throughout California. Ms. Dingman says student growth has always been the most rewarding aspect of teaching. "When I read and evaluate their finals, I am always so proud of them," she says. "Their hard work, struggles and triumphs are on full display. It gives me the feels every semester." Ms. Dingman holds a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from California State University, Fullerton.



AMBER DURFIELD
English

Amber Durfield is thrilled to receive tenure. "It is an exhilarating milestone to crown four years of hard work as a full-time instructor," she says. Ms. Durfield was working as an adjunct faculty member at Citrus College when she received a full-time position in the college's English program in 2017. At the time, she had also held adjunct

positions at several other institutions. "The most rewarding part of being a teacher is seeing my students' mindsets change," she says. "Many come to my classes convinced that they are bad writers or that 'English is boring.' I enjoy helping them see that, most of the time, neither of those assumptions are true." Ms. Durfield holds a bachelor's degree in journalism and broadcasting from Oklahoma State University, a master's degree in international human rights from the University of Denver, and a master's degree in English from California State University, San Bernardino.

2021 CITRUS COLLEGE TENURED FACULTY



RINA GONZALES
Dental Assisting

Receiving tenure is just one of many personal milestones that Rina Gonzales has reached at Citrus College. Not only did she earn her associate degree after graduating from the college's registered dental assisting program, Ms. Gonzales also completed the esthetician program, served as an adjunct faculty member for

nine years and was hired full-time in 2017. "I think my greatest accomplishment is receiving tenure," she says. Prior to obtaining her full-time position at Citrus College, Ms. Gonzales worked for 16 years as a registered and certified dental assistant. However, her passion is teaching. "The most rewarding part of my job is watching students successfully accomplish what they set out to do," she says. "It brings me joy to think about their journeys, and knowing that I played a part in their success is priceless." In addition to her degree and certificates from Citrus College, Ms. Gonzales holds a bachelor's degree in organizational management from the University of La Verne.



GARY GRAMLING
Water Technology

Before the pandemic, Gary Gramling's greatest professional accomplishment had been completing his first semester as a full-time faculty member at Citrus College. Now, transitioning to a remote environment also ranks high on his list. "Moving all of my classes to an online format without much warning is my second greatest

accomplishment," Mr. Gramling says. Before becoming a full-time instructor in the water technology program, Mr. Gramling worked as an adjunct instructor for seven years. He also worked as a water treatment plant operator and as a system operator/treatment plant operator. Teaching, however, is where his heart has always been. "By far, the most rewarding part of my job is watching my students obtain state certification and gain employment," he says. Mr. Gramling holds associate degrees in water treatment, water distribution and wastewater/environmental sanitation from Santiago Canyon College. He also holds a bachelor's degree from California State University, Long Beach.



RAQUEL GUTIERREZ
Counseling

Raquel Gutierrez was recently invited to participate in assignments for two former students, one pursuing a bachelor's degree and the other pursuing a master's degree. "My greatest accomplishment as a faculty member has been helping students achieve their dreams," she says. "It is rewarding to have

students return and share their success with me." After working in an adjunct faculty position in the Citrus College Counseling and Advisement Department for several years, Ms. Gutierrez joined as a full-time faculty member in 2017. She serves as the STEM liaison and provides academic/transfer counseling while also teaching counseling classes. "I found my calling to be a counselor later in life," she says. "As a first-generation college student, I never in my life imagined getting a master's degree. So, to be tenured is a big accomplishment for me." Ms. Gutierrez holds a bachelor's degree from California State University, Los Angeles, and a master's degree from Azusa Pacific University.



SONIA KIBBE
Nursing

Sonia Kibbe is proud of the collaboration in the nursing program, especially during the pandemic. "We worked together to transition our students to a virtual simulation when our clinical partners temporarily suspended clinics," she says. "As a result, our associate degree in nursing students completed their programs

on time." Before becoming a full-time faculty member in 2017, Ms. Kibbe served in an adjunct position at Citrus College and California State University, San Bernardino. She also worked as a nurse for nearly two decades. These professional experiences are reflected in Ms. Kibbe's classroom. "Nursing is content heavy, so I like to combine demonstrations and critical thinking exercises with lectures," she says. Ms. Kibbe holds a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in nursing from California State University, Dominguez Hills. She also holds an associate degree in nursing from College of the Desert and a licensed vocational nursing diploma from Summit Career College.

2021 CITRUS COLLEGE TENURED FACULTY



NATHALIE MIRAMONTES
EOPS/CARE Counseling

As a former Citrus College Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) student, earning tenure is especially meaningful for Nathalie Miramontes. "When I started my education at Citrus College, I was intimidated and struggled with imposter syndrome because college was a whole new world

for me," she says. "Programs such as EOPS gave me the confidence to believe that I could be successful despite the challenges I faced." Now, Ms. Miramontes helps students who are just like her. "My students are resilient and inspiring. I feel very fortunate to be their counselor," she says. Before becoming a full-time counselor in EOPS/Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE) at Citrus College, Ms. Miramontes worked in the department in an adjunct position. She also held adjunct positions at other local colleges. She holds an associate degree from Citrus College, a bachelor's degree from California State University, Fullerton, and a master's degree from Azusa Pacific University.



ERIN TATE
Psychology

Erin Tate says the best part of working as a psychology instructor at Citrus College is the relationships she builds with students. "It's so gratifying to see them get excited about a topic or come to a new realization about themselves," she says. "Those occasions when a student sends an email or visits weeks, months or sometimes years

after a class to tell me that I've made an impact on their life are incredibly fulfilling." Before obtaining her full-time position, Ms. Tate served as an adjunct instructor for Citrus College, Mt. San Antonio College and the University of La Verne. "I try my best to make my teaching style varied and relatable," she says. "I intersperse relevant video, articles and podcasts into my lecture to try and reach all types of learners." Ms. Tate holds a bachelor's degree in industrial and organizational psychology and a master's degree in psychology from Pepperdine University.



DR. ELEANOR TSARK
Biology

Dr. Eleanor Tsark describes herself as a "nurturing instructor" who strives to encourage her students. "I set expectations in a way that guide students to success by giving learning opportunities that challenge them to grow academically and professionally," she says. "My goal is to create an educational environment where

students feel comfortable pushing themselves." This approach has led to success in Dr. Tsark's classroom. She first began teaching as an adjunct biology instructor at Citrus College in 2006 and obtained a full-time position in 2017. "The most rewarding part of my job is when a biotechnology graduate emails me to inform me that they have been hired to work with a biotech company using the skills they learned at Citrus College," she says. Dr. Tsark holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Arizona State University and a Ph.D. in cell and developmental biology from the University of California, Davis.



FRIDA VALDERRAMA PEREZ
Mathematics

Of all of the things Frida Valderrama Perez has accomplished since becoming a full-time mathematics instructor at Citrus College, she is most proud of the role she played in revamping MATH 160. "Previously known as Survey of Mathematics, Mathematics for Everyday Living is a liberal arts course that has been

offered since fall 2019," she says. "We worked tirelessly to develop a course that students say gives them confidence in math and helps them plan for their financial future." Before receiving a full-time position, Ms. Valderrama Perez taught as an adjunct faculty member at Citrus College and other local colleges. "I have always loved to learn about the lives of my students and to encourage them to pursue their dreams and advocate for themselves," she says. Ms. Valderrama Perez holds an associate degree from Chaffey College, a bachelor's degree from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and a master's degree from California State University, Long Beach.

2021 CITRUS COLLEGE TENURED FACULTY

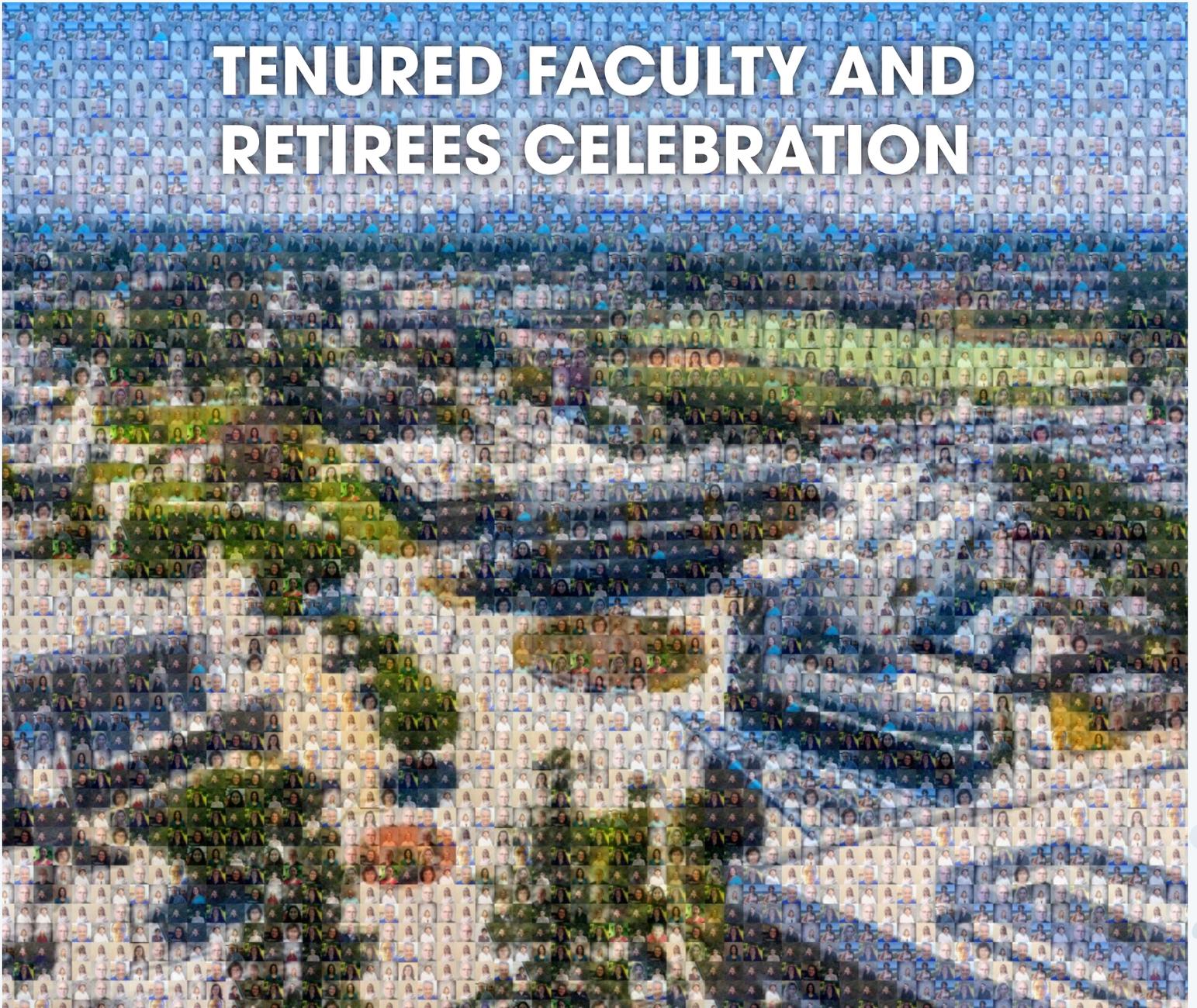


ANDREW WHEELER

Kinesiology

Andrew Wheeler says the four years he has worked as a full-time faculty member in the Citrus College Kinesiology and Athletics Division have been a blur. "I've participated in several committees and campus-wide initiatives. Being part of a fantastic division has been extremely fulfilling professionally and personally," he says. "However, I am hoping my greatest accomplishment is yet to come." Prior to obtaining his full-time faculty position, Mr. Wheeler held adjunct positions at Citrus College and Pasadena City College. He also worked as Citrus College's sports information coordinator for 11 years. "As someone who started working here at 22 years old, I've had opportunities to ply my trade at other campuses. But Citrus College is home, and I don't see myself going anywhere else," he says. "Receiving tenure just cements that I will be an Owl for the foreseeable future." Mr. Wheeler holds a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from Azusa Pacific University.

TENURED FACULTY AND RETIREES CELEBRATION



2021 CITRUS COLLEGE RETIREES

DENISE MARIE BEATTY

Classified Staff
Financial Aid Technician

Denise Beatty describes herself as a "happy, positive person." It is this cheerful demeanor that led to her success at Citrus College. "I have a great work ethic and I love working with students," she explains. Prior to joining the Citrus College community, Ms. Beatty held



positions in various school districts, worked at a women's gym and was busy raising her children. Upon her arrival at the college, she served the fiscal services department in a part-time on-call position. In January 2012, the associate director of fiscal services suggested that Ms. Beatty apply for a full-time position as an account clerk/cashier. She later joined the financial aid department as a financial aid technician. "At this late stage in life, I appreciated being given a chance," she says. "I will be forever grateful to those individuals at Citrus College who took a chance on me because they saw my potential."

MARY JO BRAWNER

Faculty
Kinesiology and Athletics

Hired as a full-time faculty member in 1990, Mary Brawner has served as an instructor, assistant athletic director and women's volleyball coach at Citrus College. Over the past 31 years, she has watched the college transform. For example, the fitness



center was housed in a different location, the track surface was brick dust and the practice football field used to serve a variety of purposes. While the campus looks different now, the college community hasn't changed. "The one thing that has stayed the same is the quality of the people at Citrus College," Ms. Brawner says. In fact, she will remember her colleagues long after retirement. "I have always worked with the most amazing faculty and staff who show the utmost dedication to their work," she says. "They are people who really care about each other and about the success of Citrus College students."

LEIGH J. BUCHWALD

Supervisor
Enterprise Systems Supervisor

Leigh Buchwald says he didn't choose to build a career at Citrus College; instead, the college chose him. "I owned my own business and was performing audio visual repairs for the college. I was also



teaching in the electronics program as an adjunct instructor," he remembers. "A full-time position opened up that involved repairing AV and computer equipment and, before I knew it, my career was on its way." During his time at Citrus College, Mr. Buchwald has worked as a computer information technician, information technology support specialist III, information technology supervisor, and network central computing and telecommunication systems supervisor. Just as his responsibilities have evolved over the years, so too has his passion for the job. "My enthusiasm for helping others has continued to grow," he says. Once he retires, Mr. Buchwald will miss Citrus College. "Working with the students and faculty members has been a professional highlight."

DAWN C. DINELEY

Classified Staff
Senior Buyer

"Citrus College was always the perfect place for me," says Dawn Dineley, buyer at Citrus College. "As a lifelong Glendora resident with children in local schools, Citrus offered me the best opportunity for a fulfilling career while maintaining a work-



life balance." Although Ms. Dineley began working for the college as a part-time employee, she received a full-time position as a mailroom coordinator in 1990. She also worked as a purchasing secretary and as a purchasing buyer before obtaining her current position. "The campus has physically changed so much with many new and remodeled buildings," she says. "Yet, in many ways, it has remained the same." Although Ms. Dineley says she initially hadn't planned on staying at Citrus College for more than a couple years, she is proud of the career she built here. "I have 31 years of many fond memories and I wouldn't change a thing."

2021 CITRUS COLLEGE RETIREES

DR. RICHARD J. FERNANDES

Faculty

Career, Technical and Continuing Education

The past 29 years have been busy for Dr. Richard Fernandes. "I continued to work in the industry while teaching full time," the architecture and drafting technology instructor says. "This allowed me to secure job placement

for many students." In addition to his role at Citrus College, Dr. Fernandes has spent 23 years as a building designer, 27 years as a licensed architect, and 50 years as a licensed contractor and general contractor. His professional experience includes time spent with Walt Disney Imagineering and serving as president of Art Architecture and Planning, Inc. "My Disney masters wanted their knowledge passed to a new generation," he explains. "They were the major force behind me teaching and working." In the end, Dr. Fernandes says that helping students transfer to universities or find jobs has been the highlight of his time at Citrus College. "Student success was my key motivator."



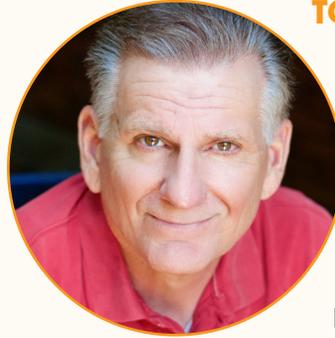
STEVE J. HARTMAN

Faculty

Kinesiology and Athletics

During the past 34 years, Steve Hartman has watched Citrus College evolve. The kinesiology instructor has seen new buildings constructed, the student population increase and technology transform campus life. However, his two favorite changes have been the

creation of the adapted physical education program and the development of a fitness center. Having played a key role in both of these, Mr. Hartman is proud of how much progress has been made. He is also proud of his long career at Citrus College, crediting his success to "excellent mentors, fantastic colleagues and amazing students." In addition to his work as a faculty member, Mr. Hartman has served as the fitness center coordinator, an assistant coach, the program representative for the Citrus College Faculty Association and as a lead instructor in the study abroad program. "There have been too many highlights to single out just one."



TOBY WAYNE GUEBERT

Faculty

Language Arts and Library

Toby Guebert's favorite thing about teaching English as a second language (ESL) at Citrus College is that his students sincerely want to learn. "Teaching success comes more easily when one has highly motivated students," he says. "Many

students come from cultures where teachers are highly respected. Others are grateful to be attending college later in life. They are all determined not to squander the opportunity." While he has enjoyed serving as a full-time instructor, Mr. Guebert says his greatest Citrus College highlight involves the theater. "In 2012, I was asked to audition for 'The Bronze Star,' a play the theater arts program was staging," he explains. "That experience changed my life." Since that time, Mr. Guebert has performed in several plays at a variety of venues. "When I retire, I will be able to pursue acting full time," he says. "I hope to sign with an agent and join SAG-AFTRA."



MATT FERNAND JACKSON

Faculty

Visual and Performing Arts

For the past 20 years, Matt Jackson has been known as "the computer graphics guy in the art program." Hired as a full-time faculty member in 2001, Mr. Jackson previously held adjunct positions at El Camino College, Cerritos College

and California State University, Fullerton. Immediately after joining the Citrus College community, he was tasked with building a digital media program from the bottom up. "All the stars aligned perfectly," Mr. Jackson says. "Citrus College chose me." During his tenure, Mr. Jackson was involved in a variety of activities, including directing Gumby Fest 2015, participating in multiple art exhibits and serving as an Academic Senate representative. However, he says the greatest highlight of his time at Citrus College has been the construction of the Visual Arts Building. He notes, "The college has become a modern, technically progressing institution that is placing a record number of graduates into competitive industries or appropriate transfer avenues."

2021 CITRUS COLLEGE RETIREES



ORLANDO PAUL LOPEZ

*Classified Staff
Facilities and
Construction*

As a member of the facilities and construction team, Orlando Lopez has played a role in many of Citrus College's most important events. From fundraisers to commencement ceremonies, he

has helped prepare and maintain the

college's grounds for nearly 25 years. However, Mr. Lopez was gardening long before he arrived at Citrus College. Prior to joining the college community, he had his own gardening business. "I chose to build my career here because it was a change of pace from my gardening route," he says. "I wanted to try something different." Since that time, Mr. Lopez says the college has transformed. "It has changed a whole lot," he says. "I would say it has gotten a lot better." As he prepares for retirement, Mr. Lopez says he is proud of his contributions to the college. "My greatest highlight has been working with the staff, knowing I was making a difference."



STEPHEN GLEN O'HARA

*Faculty
Visual and
Performing Arts*

Although Stephen O'Hara had a successful career in the music industry, his passion for teaching led him to Citrus College in 1998. "The opportunity to help build the recording technology program from its inception was

enough motivation for me to build my career here," Mr. O'Hara says. Over the past 23 years, he has watched Citrus College evolve. "The college has become more student-focused in its outlook and more devoted to facilitating student goals and degree completion," he says. "New construction and modernized facilities have allowed for many educational innovations." In addition to teaching recording arts, Mr. O'Hara has served in a variety of other roles on campus, including Citrus College Faculty Association secretary, Academic Senate at-large representative and emcee for several college events. "A tireless work ethic, experience in my field, and a true passion for my students and colleagues have all contributed to my success."



HEDDY PAEK

*Faculty
Mathematics Instructor*

It is not unusual for Hedly Paek to hear from former students long after they have moved on from Citrus College. "I still receive letters and emails announcing graduations and inviting me to weddings," she says. "These

moments have been the greatest

highlights of my career." Ms. Paek first came to Citrus College as an adjunct faculty member in 1990. "During that first year, I fell in love with the community of Glendora, my mathematics colleagues and the students," she says. So, it was no surprise when Ms. Paek accepted a full-time position a year later. Over the next three decades, she would be involved in a variety of college activities, including participating in curriculum review and serving on hiring committees. However, Ms. Paek says her greatest contributions have been to her students. "I think my success has largely depended on my students' success in their subsequent math courses."



LAURA ANN SHURTLEFF

*Classified Staff
Secretary, Student
Health Center*

Thirty-two years ago, Laura Shurtleff began working as a clerk typist at Citrus College. She later worked as a health services assistant before becoming the Student Health Center secretary. "I wanted to work

at the college because it was close to home and I had a young child," Ms. Shurtleff explains. "It also gave me the opportunity to change my work setting while still doing what I loved." As the years passed, she watched the college transform. "Since I was first hired, Citrus College greatly increased the services offered, and technology has dramatically changed," she says. During her time at the college, Ms. Shurtleff has been involved in many activities, served as a diversity monitor, received the ABCD Award from the Classified Development Committee and was named a CSEA Unsung Hero. "I attribute my success to enjoying my work, having an incredible staff to work with and enjoying the students."

2021 CITRUS COLLEGE RETIREES

CLAIRE MICHAEL STALLARD

*Classified Staff
Research Analyst*

A lot has changed during the nine years Claire Stallard has worked at Citrus College. Technology has advanced, progress has been made toward addressing student needs and student success has increased. One specific area of change has been institutional

research, planning and effectiveness. "We grew from a simple reporting-based team to being a more tenacious campus presence," Mr. Stallard says. The potential for growth is what inspired Mr. Stallard to apply for the research analyst position. "I saw the size of the college, the opportunities and challenges it faced, the spirit of its students, the talent of its faculty, and the skills of its staff and I knew it would be great to become part of this community," he says. Since that time, Mr. Stallard has been busy gathering institutional data, collaborating with colleagues and serving as a source of information. "I attribute my success to patience, perseverance and understanding."



DANIEL M. VILTER

*Technical Supervisor
Visual and
Performing Arts*

As the performing arts technical supervisor, Dan Vilter has played an important role in the Haugh Performing Arts Center. "I have been involved with virtually every production presented by the college on the Haugh stage," he

says. Although he has participated in many productions over the past 26 years, Mr. Vilter says his favorite was the 2011 production of "Ragtime." Of course, assuring that the theater arts productions are of the highest quality is just one of Mr. Vilter's contributions to Citrus College. He has also served as an adjunct faculty member, as president of the supervisors/confidential team and as a member of several hiring panels. While Mr. Vilter says the college has changed "considerably" since he was first hired, his love for the job remains the same. "This has been a wonderful position that has allowed me to work with extremely talented and creative artists, faculty and staff," he says.



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