

Citrus VIEW

—LATEST NEWS FROM CITRUS COLLEGE—

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Volunteers spruce up VSC garden with wildflowers, patriotic décor



More than 25 Citrus College students and employees recently spent a Saturday morning sprucing up the garden behind the Veterans Success Center (VSC).

The collaborative effort featured contributions from multiple groups, including the Citrus College Beta Nu Eta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, as well as the college's water polo and cross country teams.

The cleanup originated after Beta Nu Eta met earlier this semester with Dr. Greg Schulz, superintendent/president of Citrus College, to discuss how the group could do something special for the college. After getting others involved, they decided to organize a cleanup, themed "A Day of Service for Those Who Serve Us," to renovate the sandbox area on the east side of the VSC garden.

The organizers then worked with forestry instructor Robert Goodman and Maria Buffo, director of the Veterans Success Center, to identify native wildflowers and patriotic décor to place in the garden. By adding native plants, the garden will attract native birds and require less maintenance.

On Nov. 6, the volunteers got to work, with the water polo scholar athletes taking the lead in cleaning up the area, adding new soil to the sandbox and planting wildflowers. Their effort was made even more impressive considering that both water polo teams volunteered on the same day as their conference championships.

The project was funded through a Citrus College Foundation grant and donation from the California School Employees Association.



Citrus College to compete for prestigious Aspen Prize



Citrus College graduates pose in front of a media wall during a free on-campus photo opportunity in May 2021.

Citrus College recently received its fifth consecutive invitation to compete among the nation's top 150 community colleges for the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.

Awarded every two years by the Aspen Institute College Excellence program, the \$1 million prize is the nation's top recognition of high achievement among community colleges. Citrus College was chosen among a field of approximately 1,000 community colleges in the United States and is one of only 28 California

institutions of higher education that are invited to compete for the 2023 prize. Selection criteria included institutional performance, improvement, and equity in student retention and completion.

From the current field of 150 competitors, 10 finalists and, ultimately, one winner will be chosen. The \$1 million prize purse will be split between the winner, finalists with distinction and rising star winners.

Citrus College earns 'Equity Champion' designation

The Campaign for College Opportunity, an organization dedicated to expanding college access and improving college completion rates, recently acknowledged Citrus College's efforts to help Latinx students reach their academic goals.

The California-based research and advocacy nonprofit presented the college with an Equity Champion of Higher Education Award during a virtual celebration in mid-November. This is the second year that the Campaign for College Opportunity has recognized California community colleges that are leading the state in conferring associate degrees for transfer (ADT) to Black and/or Latinx students on their campus.

ADTs were first awarded at Citrus College in 2012, two years after the Campaign for College Opportunity and then-State Senator Alex Padilla co-sponsored historic transfer reform legislation. The college currently offers 32 ADTs in a broad range of subjects, including administration of justice, biology, communication studies, economics, history, mathematics, philosophy and theatre arts.

Of California's 116 community colleges, Citrus College was one of 60 to receive the "Excellence in Transfer for Latinx Students" distinction.

"This is an honor that we are especially proud to receive," said Superintendent/President Schulz. "The faculty, staff and administrators of Citrus College are committed to providing every student with a quality, inclusive education. This recognition inspires us to continue investing in resources and programs that will help us meet the diverse needs of our entire student body."



Citrus College was one of 60 California community colleges that were recognized for excellence in helping Latinx students transfer to California State University institutions.

Student services employee celebrated during annual veterans' event

The 16th annual Saluting Our Veterans celebration was held virtually on Nov. 4. Co-hosted by Citrus College and Azusa Pacific University (APU), the event honors local heroes who have bravely served in our nation's armed forces.

This year's ceremony opened with a welcome from Superintendent/President Schulz, followed by a presentation of colors from the APU Army ROTC, the singing of the national anthem by an APU alumnus, a salute to fallen veterans, and keynote remarks from Citrus College alumnus and U.S. Marine Corps veteran Missael Cuevas-Chavez.

During the celebration, each of the hosting organizations paid tribute to a veteran from their community who has served the country with distinction. This year, Citrus College honored Admissions and Records Coordinator Barry Kuan.



Mr. Kuan, admissions and records coordinator, is the Citrus College Saluting Our Veterans honoree for 2021.

At 17 years old, Mr. Kuan enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. After completing basic training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego in 1998, Mr. Kuan was stationed at Camp Pendleton. During his five and a half years of service, he was also stationed at the U.S. Embassy in Accra, Ghana, and the U.S. Embassy in Stockholm, Sweden. He worked as a supply administration and operations clerk, as well as a security guard.

"My military experience makes me more appreciative of things I used to take for granted," Mr. Kuan said. "I also made lifelong friendships."

Mr. Kuan, who holds a bachelor's degree in fine arts from California State University, Long Beach, and a master's degree in leadership and organization studies from APU, joined the Citrus College community in 2013. He has held several positions over the years, including financial aid technician and transcript evaluator. He has also worked in the college's Veterans Success Center as a certifying official, developing electronic forms and programs to streamline the services offered to student veterans.

Automotive technology program increases visibility with visit, competition



Several executives from Quinn Caterpillar visited Citrus College in October to discuss employment opportunities.

The Citrus College Medium/Heavy-Duty Truck Technology program is continuing its streak of providing remarkable opportunities for students.

Quinn Caterpillar

In October, the program welcomed several managers and the executive vice president from Quinn Caterpillar, who spoke to students about employment opportunities and took part in a Q&A session. Also in attendance were Superintendent/President Schulz; Dr. Joumana McGowan, vice president of academic affairs; and Victoria Dominguez, dean of mathematics and business, and interim dean of career, technical and continuing education.

With Quinn Caterpillar, Citrus College students are given priority for open job and internship positions. Since 2018, more than 15 students have completed semester-long internships that have allowed them to complete their work experience requirement for the master heavy truck and power generation technician certificates. So far, 12 former student interns are now full-time employees at Quinn Caterpillar.

Over the years, the company has helped Citrus College by donating Caterpillar engines, providing free training to automotive technology instructors, and sharing access to diagnostic software and online repair manuals.

Cummins

A few days after that visit, Citrus College hosted a portion of the "Top Tech" competition for Cummins, one of the world's leading diesel engine manufacturers. Cummins technicians from the United States and Canada used a virtual meeting platform to call in and provide instructions to one of the Cummins trainers acting as a surrogate technician.

Automotive technology instructor Mariano Rubio said the event marked the first time that Citrus College hosted an event for Cummins, who was looking to partner with a school that provided training in all truck areas and had ample training equipment.

During the competition, students were able to observe different repair techniques as well as the tools used by master technicians.

"I was happy to point out the fact that the information systems used by the master technicians to look up specifications were the same ones we utilize in our heavy truck program," said Mr. Rubio. "It validated the efforts of the instructors to build course content that closely mirrors what technicians will experience in the field."

Mr. Rubio and fellow instructor Bryce Neighbors even served as judges during the event.

"Hosting a competition like this brings awareness to our heavy truck program," Mr. Rubio added. "Local shops that deal with Cummins will now know that we train our students using Cummins-specific materials. This will ultimately help students start their careers in our local shops due to the association between Cummins and Citrus College."

Calendar of events: December 2021

Select campus events are featured below, including date, time and location. If you have questions about a specific event, contact the supervisor from that area.

For additional campus events, visit www.citruscollege.edu/events.

- Dec. 1 | 2:45-4 p.m.
Holiday Open House, Campus Center

Academics

- Dec. 6-11
Assessment Period
- Dec. 13-Jan. 1
Semester Break

For all academic events, visit

www.citruscollege.edu/ar/Documents/Calendars/2021-22Calendar.pdf

Athletics

- Dec. 3 | 4 p.m.
Men's Basketball vs. Victor Valley, Home
- Dec. 4 | 6:30 p.m.
Men's Basketball vs. Santiago Canyon, Home
- Dec. 15 | 5 p.m.
Men's Basketball vs. East Los Angeles, Home

For all athletic events, visit www.citrusowls.com/composite

Board of Trustees

- Dec. 14 | 4:15 p.m.
Board of Trustees Meeting, AD 109

Career/Transfer Center

- Dec. 1 | 2 p.m.
How to Choose a Major, Zoom

For all Career/Transfer Center events, visit

www.citruscollege.edu/stdntsrv/ctcenter/Pages/events.aspx

EOPS/CARE

- Adopt an Angel | Collecting donations from Nov. 22-29.
Students will be issued gift cards on Dec. 9.

For all EOPS/CARE events, visit

www.citruscollege.edu/stdntsrv/eops/Pages/Events.aspx

Financial Aid

For all financial aid events, visit

www.citruscollege.edu/stdntsrv/finaid/Pages/ImportantDates.aspx

Student Life and Leadership Development

For all student life and leadership development events, visit

www.citruscollege.edu/stdntsrv/studentaffairs/Lists/StudentCalendar/calendar.aspx

Vocational Nursing

- Dec. 9 | 6 p.m.
Vocational Nursing Program Pinning Ceremony,
Haugh Performing Arts Center

Study abroad program earns national recognition



A cohort of students from Citrus College and other local colleges spent a semester in Seville, Spain, in spring 2020 as part of the college's award-winning study abroad program.

The U.S. Department of State has recognized Citrus College as a national leader in study abroad education.

In late October, the department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), in collaboration with the Institute of International Education, released a list of higher education institutions that have generated the greatest number of Gilman scholars from 2001-2021. Citrus College was one of 20 colleges in the United States to be named a "20-year Gilman Top Producer" in the associate degree-granting institution category.

"It is an incredible honor for Citrus College to be celebrated as a top-producing institution. Although the State Department shares top producer lists every year, this specific recognition is especially significant because it spans the two decades that the Gilman scholarship program has been in existence," said Superintendent/President Schulz.

Launched in 2001 and administered by the ECA, the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship program is designed to make international education more accessible and inclusive for American students. It provides scholarship funds to outstanding undergraduates who might not otherwise participate in study abroad opportunities because of their financial constraints.

Since the program's inception, 19 Citrus College students have received a coveted Gilman award.

"Understanding that there is great value in experiencing other countries and cultures, Citrus College strives to offer a vibrant and comprehensive study abroad program," Dr. Schulz added. "It is rewarding to know that so many of our students have been able to take advantage of these opportunities with the help of Gilman scholarships."

Michael Bilbrey receives ABCD Award



Mr. Bilbrey has worked at Citrus College full-time for 32 years.

Michael Bilbrey, enterprise services coordinator, was recently named the fourth Above and Beyond – Classified Development (ABCD) Award recipient for 2021.

Mr. Bilbrey, who has worked at Citrus College full-time for 32 years, is known by his peers to be hardworking and encouraging. In his current role, Mr. Bilbrey checks in textbooks, handles online student orders, takes customer service calls, and manages deliveries and inventory, among other duties. A recipient of the California School Employees Association (CSEA) 2021 Unsung Hero award, Mr. Bilbrey has been praised for helping students.

"Michael brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from his years of service to the enterprise services team," said Enterprise Services Manager Eric Magallon, who is Mr. Bilbrey's supervisor. "He works long hours and extra days to fill orders so that students receive their required course materials in time."

Mr. Bilbrey is a Citrus College alumnus who was then the Interclub Council president and student body vice president. As a student, he was also named "Man of the Year," an award now known as "Service Leader of the Year."

As a professional, Mr. Bilbrey served as CSEA president, a CalPERS board member and vice president of the California Labor Federation over the years.

On a personal note, Mr. Bilbrey loves flowers and making floral arrangements. He is a big decorator at Halloween and Christmas, and he hosts a weekly outdoor movie night for friends and neighbors.



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Citrus College

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Heart icon, Comment icon, Share icon, Save icon

citrussuptpres This weekend faculty, staff, students, members of our Citrus CCD Board of Trustees, and community members are participating in our Black Scholars Program 3K/5K walk in partnership with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Together we are raising awareness about mental health and providing support, to educate the public and advocate for policies that support healthy communities. I was proud to join my colleagues today, along with Clifford and Oliver. All donation proceeds will benefit NAMIWALKS and the Citrus College Black Scholars Scholarship fund. We thank you for your support!
#citruscollege @black_scholars.cc

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