

# Citrus VIEW

—LATEST NEWS FROM CITRUS COLLEGE—

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## Accreditation reaffirmed!



An aerial view looking east/southeast of the Citrus College campus taken by photography student Sarah Adams.

After nearly two years of self-evaluation and preparation, Citrus College has received a vote of full confidence from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC).

During its Jan. 12-14 meeting, the commission acted to reaffirm Citrus College's accreditation for seven years, which is the best possible outcome an institution can receive.

"This has been a collective effort, and we are very proud of these impressive results," said Dr. Greg Schulz, superintendent/president of Citrus College.

The committee's decision was made following a review of the college's Institutional Self Evaluation Report, evidentiary materials and the Peer Team Report that was developed following a virtual site visit in October 2021.

"Reaffirmation is an outstanding accomplishment that was facilitated by the hard work and diligence of more than 80 members of the campus community who contributed to the self-evaluation process," Dr. Schulz continued. "It was also made

possible by those who participated in the virtual site visit and are active in our ongoing planning and governance processes."

In their letter to the college, the ACCJC listed no compliance requirements. The commission also commended Citrus College for the "diligent work and thoughtful reflection" it invested into the review process.

According to the letter, Citrus College will not need to take any additional action until October 2025, at which time a midterm report will need to be submitted to the ACCJC.

"On behalf of the board of trustees, I extend my most sincere gratitude to all of the members of the college community who devoted time and energy into ensuring that Citrus College was prepared for this important moment," said Mary Ann Lutz, president of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees. "Because of these efforts, our students and surrounding communities can be assured that Citrus College's commitment to institutional effectiveness remains strong."

# New trustee installed on governing board; members rotate titles



Trustee Alexander lives in Duarte and is a special education resource specialist teacher in the Inglewood Unified School District.

The Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees unanimously voted on Dec. 14, 2021, to appoint Cheryl Alexander as the provisional trustee for area 3, which includes Duarte and portions of Azusa, Monrovia, Arcadia, Covina and Irwindale.

Ms. Alexander assumes the seat previously held by Edward C. Ortell, J.D., who passed away on Oct. 16, 2021.

She will serve for the duration of the term, which ends on Dec. 9, 2022.

"I am thrilled to welcome Ms. Alexander to the Citrus College community," said Superintendent/President Schulz. "Her commitment to public service is commendable, and I look forward to working with her as a member of our board of trustees to support our students on their academic journey."

A Duarte resident, Ms. Alexander earned a bachelor's degree in elementary and special education from Eastern Illinois University. She also obtained a bachelor's degree in computer science from Roosevelt University before receiving a master's degree in teaching, with a specialization in reading, from National University.

She is currently pursuing a Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership/Special Education from Grand Canyon University.

Ms. Alexander currently works as a special education resource specialist teacher in the Inglewood Unified School District.

Prior to her current role, Ms. Alexander worked for the district as a first-grade teacher and eighth-grade reading intervention teacher.

She also spent time as a computer programmer and system analysis engineer.

Additionally, at the organizational meeting, trustees were elected to the following positions for the period from Dec. 14, 2021, through Dec. 13, 2022:

Trustee Mary Ann Lutz is the new president; Trustee Laura J. Bollinger is the new board vice president; and Trustee Anthony Contreras is the new board clerk/secretary.

## Citrus welcomes new CTE dean

Kimberly Mathews, a leader with more than 15 years of experience in higher education, was recently appointed as the college's dean of career, technical and continuing education on Jan. 18. She began her new role on Feb. 1.

"I am honored and delighted to join the Citrus College community," said Ms. Mathews. "As dean, I am excited to work with my faculty, classified and management colleagues to provide students with the support they need to successfully achieve their educational and workforce goals."

At Citrus College, career technical and continuing education programs offer courses and pathways for a variety of students, including those seeking to change careers, improve their English language skills or learn a new skill for advancement at work.

Ms. Mathews said she is eager to ensure current and future students are aware of the course, certificate and degree options available to them on campus. Additionally, she is looking forward to assisting in the creation of more noncredit-to-credit pathways.

Prior to joining Citrus College, Ms. Mathews was most recently the director for special programs and career education at Santa Ana College. In this role, she provided direction and oversight to five career education divisions, which included 147 certificates, 62 associate degrees and one bachelor's degree program. Before working at Santa Ana College, Ms. Mathews served as a career technician and career guidance specialist at the Rancho Santiago Community College District.

Ms. Mathews' teaching experience includes working as an adjunct instructor in an inmate education program in Santiago Canyon College's Division of Continuing Education. There, she taught workforce preparation, adult basic education and GED/HiSET preparation classes to men and women in Orange County jails.

Ms. Mathews has a bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology from the University of Notre Dame, and she holds a master's degree in management from the University of Redlands and a master's degree in pastoral counseling from Trinity College.



Ms. Mathews began her new role on Feb. 1.

## Stefanie Fuentes receives ABCD award

In February 2020, Stefanie Fuentes gave birth to her second daughter. Three weeks later, the outbreak of COVID-19 led to a global shutdown. Before she knew it, the health sciences department's administrative secretary was working remotely with two "mini-coworkers."

"When my maternity leave ended in June 2020, it took a while to familiarize myself with working from home with a preschooler and newborn by my side," Ms. Fuentes remembers. "There were tons of tears, but also many smiles, laughs and – my ultimate favorite – cuddles."

Despite her challenging work situation, Ms. Fuentes found a way to continue working effectively and efficiently.



Ms. Fuentes has been working as an administrative secretary in the health sciences department for more than six years.

"It has been impressive to see how Stefanie can overcome any obstacle thrown her way, especially when she stepped up and managed all five programs during the fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters," said Salima Allahbachayo, director of health sciences. "Since she started working in health sciences, Stefanie has supported and strengthened the culture of this unique department through her commitment, dedication, professionalism and passion for nursing and allied health."

This outstanding work ethic is the reason why Ms. Fuentes was selected to receive the first Above and Beyond Classified Development (ABCD) Award of 2022. Designed to highlight classified employees who embody the college's mission statement, encourage teamwork and demonstrate exceptional service, the ABCD Award is presented quarterly with recommendations from managers and vice presidents.

"The entire department joined me in nominating her for this award. It is well deserved," Ms. Allahbachayo said. "We are blessed to have Stefanie in our department."

Ms. Fuentes feels equally fortunate to work alongside her colleagues in health sciences.

"When I applied, I knew this job was for me because I have my vocational nursing license and an administrative background," she said. "It has been a perfect fit ever since. I love working with all the nursing, dental and EMT faculty and students."

When she isn't working, Ms. Fuentes enjoys Dodgers baseball, playing board games with her daughters and throwing the ball around outside with her husband.

## Two Citrus faculty members earn awards for excellence



Mr. Rubio was presented with his award during a ceremony in November 2021.

Awards keep rolling in for Citrus College faculty.

In fall 2021, instructors Dan Volonte and Mariano Rubio each earned an award for excellence in their respective disciplines.

A lighting designer, scenic designer and art director by trade, Mr. Volonte received a University Resident Theatre Association (URTA) Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Training. The URTA awards honor individuals whose students show remarkable skill and professionalism in presentation and preparation at URTA auditions and interviews.

"I was truly blown away," Mr. Volonte said. "I was not expecting it at all. I didn't even know that I was on their radar."

Mr. Volonte is the head of tech and design for the college's emerging theatre technologies (ETT) program. Launched in 2007, ETT is a year-and-a-half program that trains students in lighting, audio, video, scenery and technical direction for concerts, theaters and theme parks.

The program, which varies from 15 to 25 students annually, is one of only two programs nationwide that trains students in concert touring.

In November, Mr. Rubio, an automotive technology instructor, was named the Cengage/ ASE Master Automobile Technician of the Year during an ASE award ceremony in Scottsdale, Arizona. He was honored for having the highest cumulative automotive technician certification test scores.

"I felt ecstatic about receiving the award," Mr. Rubio said. "It was an honor to receive the award amongst a gathering of highly decorated technicians and industry experts. It was definitely a high point in my professional career."

A Citrus College alumnus, Mr. Rubio became a full-time faculty member in 2012. In addition to teaching, Mr. Rubio is pursuing a master's degree in mechanical engineering from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and was recently accepted into the mechanical engineering Ph.D. program at the University of Southern California.



Mr. Volonte received his award in fall 2021.

# Calendar of events: March 2022

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](http://www.citruscollege.edu/events).

- March 1-31  
Women's History Month
- March 16 | 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Automotive Open House | Hayden Hall
- March 25 | 9 a.m. to noon  
Men of Color Conference: Engage, Empower, Elevate | Campus Center
- March 28-April 1  
GradFest | Various Locations Throughout Campus

## Academics

For all academic events, visit

[www.citruscollege.edu/ar/Documents/Calendars/2021-22Calendar.pdf](http://www.citruscollege.edu/ar/Documents/Calendars/2021-22Calendar.pdf)

## Athletics

- March 7 | 2:30 p.m.  
Softball vs. Orange Coast | Softball Field
- March 8 | 2 p.m.  
Baseball vs. Antelope Valley | Baseball Field

For all athletic events, visit [www.citrusowls.com/composite](http://www.citrusowls.com/composite)

## Board of Trustees

- March 15 | 4:15 p.m.  
Board of Trustees Meeting | AD 109

## Career/Transfer Center

- March 7 | 12:30 p.m.  
How to Choose a Major | Zoom

For all Career/Transfer Center events, visit

[www.citruscollege.edu/stdntsrvtcenter/Pages/events.aspx](http://www.citruscollege.edu/stdntsrvtcenter/Pages/events.aspx)

## EOPS/CARE

For all EOPS/CARE events, visit

[www.citruscollege.edu/stdntsrveops/Pages/Events.aspx](http://www.citruscollege.edu/stdntsrveops/Pages/Events.aspx)

## Financial Aid

For all financial aid events, visit

[www.citruscollege.edu/stdntsrv/finaid/Pages/ImportantDates.aspx](http://www.citruscollege.edu/stdntsrv/finaid/Pages/ImportantDates.aspx)

## Student Affairs

- March 18 | 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic (Dose #2 or Booster) | Campus Center

## Student Life and Leadership Development

For all student life and leadership development events, visit

[www.citruscollege.edu/stdntsrv/studentaffairs/Lists/StudentCalendar](http://www.citruscollege.edu/stdntsrv/studentaffairs/Lists/StudentCalendar)

## Study Abroad

- March 8 and 29 | 5 p.m.  
London Information Meeting | Zoom

For all study abroad events, visit [www.citruscollege.edu/studyabroad](http://www.citruscollege.edu/studyabroad)

## Veterans Success Center

- March 15 and 16 | 1 p.m.  
Connecting Veterans with Campus Resources | Zoom

For all Veterans Success Center events, visit

[www.citruscollege.edu/stdntsrv/veterans/Lists/VeteransCalendar](http://www.citruscollege.edu/stdntsrv/veterans/Lists/VeteransCalendar)

## Visual and Performing Arts

- March 11 | 7 p.m.  
Blue Note Orchestra Concert | Haugh Performing Arts Center

## Reaching out and making connections

The advertisement compilation includes several visual elements:

- Top Left:** A Metro Bus with a "RESHAPE YOUR FUTURE" advertisement on its side.
- Top Right:** Citrus College logo and the text "Advertising compilation for winter/spring 2022".
- Bottom Left:** A billboard for "REIGNITE YOUR CAREER" with a woman's image and the text "Spring classes begin Feb. 23".
- Bottom Center:** A billboard for "REIGNITE YOUR CAREER" with a man's image and the text "Spring classes begin Feb. 23".
- Bottom Right:** A billboard for "RESHAPE YOUR FUTURE" with two people's images and the text "Spring classes begin Feb. 23".
- Bottom Center-Right:** A blue graphic with a sunburst pattern and the text "Ring in the New Year at Citrus College Spring Semester Starts Feb. 23".

In an effort to connect with our surrounding communities and increase enrollment, Citrus College has bolstered its marketing and advertising efforts. Over the past several months, communications and external relations has facilitated the delivery of two postcards and placed print ads in nearly 20 publications. Digital advertising has also continued, with Citrus College being featured in Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, Spotify, Pandora and TikTok ads. Of course, the college's most visible advertisements are those featured outdoors. Commuters on the 210 and 605 freeways can see Citrus College's eye-catching billboards, while additional ads can be found on LA Metro buses throughout the region. Thanks to this multi-faceted approach, Citrus College is everywhere!

# Brandon Hayashi named next Fighting Owls football coach



Mr. Hayashi was a standout defensive lineman at Los Altos High School in Hacienda Heights before he played at Citrus College from 2014-2016.

After an extensive and thorough search, Brandon Hayashi has been selected to lead the Citrus College football program moving forward. Hayashi served as the team's interim head coach during the 2021 season, leading the Fighting Owls to a 6-4 overall record.

At season's end, 10 players would earn All-Metro League honors, including sophomore Kendal Henderson who was named the Metro League Defensive Player of the Year. Mr. Henderson, along with Kasmir Dina and Ronnie Mendez, would also go on to be named All-Americans.

*(See article below!)*

"As a former Citrus College student athlete, I have a unique passion for this level of sport and for this campus," Mr. Hayashi said. "I can't wait to continue the hard work that we put in last season to make sure that the football program is one that the campus, city and region can be proud of."

While a player at Citrus College, Mr. Hayashi was a two-time All-Conference selection, before earning a scholarship to finish his playing career at Montana State University. He then returned to Citrus in the fall of 2018 to serve as the defensive line coach and co-defensive coordinator for the team. In 2019, Mr. Hayashi took over defensive coordinator duties full-time. That season, the Fighting Owls posted the top scoring defense in the SCFA American Division Mountain League, allowing just 19.2 points per game. That mark also proved to be the fourth best in all of Southern California.

"Brandon proved a lot by taking over the program late in the off-season and guiding the team to a winning record," said Junior Domingo, dean of kinesiology and athletics. "Citrus College pride runs deep within Coach Hayashi, and we are looking forward to supporting him, his coaching staff and our student athletes over the next several years."

## Three scholar athletes honored



Photos by Danyll German

Ronnie Mendez, Kendal Henderson and Kasmir Dina (L-R) were named to the All-California Community College Region IV Football Team.

Community college coaches throughout California recently recognized three Citrus College football players as being among the best of the best.

In December, Ronnie Mendez, Kendal Henderson and Kasmir Dina were named to the 2021 All-California Community College Region IV Football Team. Mr. Mendez and Mr. Dina received first-team offense honors, while Mr. Henderson earned a first-team defense distinction.

Traditionally, all-state teams are composed of outstanding players who are considered to be the best positional players in a particular sport. In this instance, the All-California Community College Region IV Football Team was selected by the California Community College Football Coaches Association.

"It is a great accomplishment to be on an all-state team," said Brandon Hayashi, head coach of the Citrus College football team. "For the scholar athlete, it means that all of the hard work they invested into preparing for the season has been shown on the field and is finally being recognized across the state."

Citrus College's three all-California players were instrumental in helping the football team end their year on a three-game winning streak, finishing with a 6-4 record. Mr. Mendez, a freshman offensive lineman, helped the team amass 422.9 total yards offense per game and average 36.8 points per game. Mr. Henderson, a 5-foot-10-inch linebacker, led the American Metro League (AML) in tackles per game and was named the AML Defensive Player of the Year. Mr. Dina, a sophomore running back, finished the year with 142 rushes for 806 yards, which ranks number one in the conference standings.

"We have a group of great young men on this team that care for one another and are genuinely excited for the success and hard work of those players standing next to them," Mr. Hayashi said. "These three athletes went the extra mile by preparing mentally and physically day in and day out. They showed adaptability through some of the most unique situations this past season and displayed great accountability for being able to control those things they can control. We are all happy they received this much-deserved recognition."

## Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees

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