

Citrus VIEW

—LATEST NEWS FROM CITRUS COLLEGE—

citruscollege.edu

Men of Color conference inspires, educates



More than 40 students, faculty and staff attended the 2022 Men of Color conference.

Engage, empower, elevate – those three words served as major themes of the 2022 Men of Color Conference on March 25.

Held in the Campus Center, the second annual conference drew more than 40 attendees with the goal of connecting students to faculty and staff mentors. It was the first Men of Color conference to be held in-person, as last year's event was conducted remotely via Zoom.

This Men of Color Mentor program was conceived by Sara Gonzales-Tapia, director of EOPS, CARE and CalWORKS; Dr. Nicole Smith, dean of counseling; and Raul Sanchez, EOPS counseling faculty.

Together, they formed the committee with additional members, including Jorge Acosta, Junior Domingo, Ben Macias, La Quirshia Fennell, Rafael Herrera, Dominic Jacquet, Alicia Longyear, Gino Munoz, Dr. Levi Richard and Dr. Gerald Sequeira.

During the three-hour conference, students were introduced to members of the Men of Color Mentor program and speakers, such as adjunct instructor Ms. Fennell and Dr. Greg Schulz, superintendent/president of Citrus College.

Dr. Anthony Contreras, clerk/secretary of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees, served as the event's keynote speaker.

A lifelong resident of Azusa and principal of Center Middle School, Trustee Contreras combined inspiration and humor in discussing empowerment and other event themes. He also shared stories about his mentors, upbringing and educational journey that included earning a bachelor's degree (and later a doctorate in education) from the University of Southern California.

Other conference speakers included Dr. Herbert English, vice president of student services at Ohlone College; Eric Vasquez, CEO and founder of Just Us 4 Youth; and Dr. Richard F. Rams, vice president of student services at Citrus College.

Students were also able to hear directly from mentors during a breakout session where panelists shared stories about growth and perseverance.

Ms. Fennell, who also serves as the Black Scholars program counselor and coordinator, said she hopes the event will continue to grow.

"After two years of offering mentoring services in a virtual environment, it felt amazing to reengage our students in person and build community at this conference," Ms. Fennell said. "The mentor program is active year-round, and I hope even more students will take advantage of the incredible resources that it has to offer."

For more details about the mentor program, visit citruscollege.edu/stdntsrvc/moc.



Five students were awarded scholarships at the 2022 Men of Color conference.

Military Friendly School legacy continues

Citrus College was once again recognized for having one of the nation's top student veteran programs.

Last month, the college was named a Military Friendly School by VIQTORY, a service-disabled and veteran-owned small business that operates the Military Friendly brand. Although this is the 12th consecutive year that Citrus College has been named a Military Friendly School, this is the first time on record that the college has been granted gold status.

According to VIQTORY, only 282 colleges and universities in the nation achieved gold status this year. This special designation is reserved for those top institutions that have leading practice, outstanding outcomes and effective programs.

"The entire campus community considers it is a source of pride that Citrus College has the privilege of serving our student veterans and has received the Military Friendly



Jixiang Bian, a 27-year-old computer science major, stands in front of the Citrus College Veterans Success Center.

designation for so many years," said Superintendent/President Schulz. "This special recognition represents the great work that our employees have completed on behalf of our nation's most heroic citizens."

Every year since 2003, VIQTORY has presented Military Friendly honors to the top 15% of the

nation's colleges, universities and trade schools that demonstrate a commitment to embracing military students. To compile their annual list, the organization gathers information from data-driven surveys, public data sources and personal data collected from veterans.

Innovative new leader to help develop, implement college's DEI efforts



Ms. Thomas will collaborate with college constituent groups to establish priorities and plans to support Citrus College efforts.

For the last few weeks, Tyesha Thomas has had trouble sleeping.

"I am so excited about working at Citrus College that I wake up in the middle of the night with burning questions and ideas," the new director of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) said.

Ms. Thomas officially joined the college on April 1. In her new role, she is responsible for advising the college community on issues pertaining to DEI. Among other things, Ms. Thomas will serve as the co-chair of the DEI Task Force,

lead and facilitate events related to DEI, and advise and initiate the modification of anything that may serve as a barrier to the success of students, faculty and staff who belong to marginalized groups.

"After reviewing the job announcement, I spent a few weeks online learning about Citrus College's history, student population and the fabulous employees who make everything possible. At that moment, I knew I had found my home," Ms. Thomas said. "I am impressed by Citrus College's innovation and commitment to DEI. By creating this unique role that will partner with all constituent groups on campus, the college will be able to weave equity into its institutional fabric and more effectively serve the local communities."

Prior to stepping into the role as Citrus College's DEI director, Ms. Thomas served four years as program manager and acting program director for the Lifeskills Education Advancement Program, offered through North Orange Continuing Education. She also spent four years as the executive assistant III/ chief of staff for the president of Cypress College and held a variety of leadership roles at the University of Phoenix.

Ms. Thomas holds both a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Phoenix. In addition, she will be completing her doctorate in education from San Diego State University in December 2022.

"My goals for the first month will be to meet my new colleagues and get a feel for the campus culture. I am looking forward to working with the DEI Task Force and deep diving into student data," she said. "I understand the importance of the work ahead of me and believe the best way to succeed is together toward a shared vision."

Students receive critical resources from mobile food pantry

More than 100 people received fresh produce, canned goods and more during a recent mobile food pantry visit to Citrus College.

For a fee of \$150, the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank brought their mobile food pantry to the college's Campus Center Mall from 1-3 p.m. on March 7. Citrus College employees and student volunteers helped distribute a variety of nutritional items to those in need. At the same time, a representative from the state's CalFresh program was on hand to provide details on how students could receive additional assistance.



The Los Angeles Regional Food Bank and Citrus College regularly join forces to provide students with food assistance.

"Food is a basic need that no one should be without, and it is important that we provide these critical resources to the members of our community who may not have adequate nutrition," said Dunia Valladares, basic needs coordinator. "Anyone in need can come to the mobile food pantry and receive assistance. The food bank only requires attendees to provide the number of individuals in their household, which is kept anonymous."

Citrus College's relationship with the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank began in May 2017. Since that time, more than 100,000 pounds of food have been distributed to individuals experiencing food insecurity.

However, the outbreak of COVID-19 led to a decrease in mobile food pantry visits. In fact, it has only been to campus two times since the pandemic began. As an alternative, the Citrus College Student Life and Leadership Development program began offering a grocery gift card grant. Students have been able to apply for the grant, which is still available this spring, to receive a \$100 gift card for purchasing groceries.

The mobile food pantry was on campus on April 4, and it will return on Monday, May 2, from 1-3 p.m. in the Campus Center Mall.

"The mobile food pantry's presence on campus comes at a time when food prices are increasing and many are still struggling to recover from the pandemic's impact on the economy," said Superintendent/President Schulz. "Hunger on college campuses is a growing concern. This is one of the many reasons Citrus College hosts the mobile food pantry. We want all of our students to know that we will do whatever we can to help remove barriers that may prevent them from reaching their academic goals."

Men's basketball team reaches state quarterfinals

The Citrus College men's basketball team capped off its impressive season last month by reaching the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCCAA) state quarterfinals.

The Fighting Owls, ranked as the south's No. 3 seed, squared off against West Valley College, the north's No. 2 seed, on March 11 at West Hills College in Lemoore.

Led by Cedric Reed's 15 points, the Fighting Owls fought hard but ultimately came up short in a 79-68 loss. Jayden Johnston and Chris Chiles also finished the game in double figures, and Leonard Turner and Aibigho Ujadughele each grabbed seven rebounds.

With the loss, the team finished the season with a 23-7 record. Against Western State Conference teams, the Fighting Owls posted a 12-2 record.

"This group of scholar athletes is special, and they have worked so hard in the classroom and on the court," said Superintendent/President Schulz. "They continue to make us proud, and I want to thank them for being outstanding ambassadors of Citrus College and community college athletics."

The team's appearance in the quarterfinals came after they entered the Southern California playoffs as the No. 9 seed and defeated No. 8 Ventura College and No. 1 Fullerton College.



Freshman guard Chris Chiles reaches for the ball in a March 11 game versus West Valley College. Photo courtesy David Sanborn, CCCCCA.

Since the 2006-2007 season, the team has been to 15 consecutive postseasons. Accomplishments include winning the state championship in 2008, earning state runner-up in 2011, appearing in four Final Fours and reaching the Elite Eight this season.

"This was probably the most challenging season that I have ever been a part of," head coach Brett Lauer said. "Our administration, athletic trainers and support staff did an incredible job to help make it possible. The appreciation that our team attacked each day with, mixed with an ability to fight through adversity, is why we had so much success this year."

"The mantra the team picked this season was to 'scrap,'" he added. "Which is essentially what they did in every practice and game. We were a very 'scrappy' group on the court. They competed harder than every team we went against this season, regardless of the outcome. I am very proud of every single person on this team, and their Elite Eight banner will hang proudly in the gym forever."

Over the next few weeks, the team will take some time off to recover before doing individualized training and workouts later this spring. Ten of the 13 players from this year's roster have one more remaining season of eligibility at the CCCCCA level.



Freshman forward Hayden Dykstra drives to the basket in a March 11 game versus West Valley College. Photo courtesy David Sanborn, CCCCCA.

Calendar of events: April 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.

- April 1-30
Community College Month
- April 13 | 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Automotive Open House | Hayden Hall
- April 18-23
Spring Break
- April 25 | 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Career and Academic Pathways Fair | Campus Center Mall

Athletics

- April 19 | 2:30 p.m.
Baseball vs. Canyons | Baseball Field
- April 21 | 2:30 p.m.
Softball vs. Bakersfield | Softball Field

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

Career/Transfer Center

- April 28 | Noon
Art Portfolio Workshop | Zoom

For all Career/Transfer Center events, visit www.citruscollege.edu/stdntsrvcctcenter/Pages/events.aspx

Classified Development Committee

- April 15 | 10 a.m.
Color Code Workshop | CI 159

International Students

- April 11-15
Owl Hunt – students who find an owl can return it to SS 164 for prizes

Student Life and Leadership Development

- April 13 | 10 a.m.
Healthy Relationships and Consent | Zoom
- April 28 | 1 p.m.
Veteran Ally Training | Zoom

For all student life and leadership development events, visit www.citruscollege.edu/stdntsrvcstudentaffairs/Lists/StudentCalendar

Study Abroad

- April 26 | 5 p.m.
London Information Meeting | Zoom

For all study abroad events, visit www.citruscollege.edu/studyabroad

Veterans Success Center

- April 15 | 11 a.m.
Student Veteran Mentor Workshop | Zoom
- April 26 | 1 p.m.
Get to Know Veteran Benefits | Zoom

For all Veterans Success Center events, visit www.citruscollege.edu/stdntsrvcveterans/Lists/VeteransCalendar

Visual and Performing Arts

- Through May 20 | Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
"The Pact of Forgetting" Exhibit | Art Gallery

For all Visual and Performing Arts events, visit www.citrusarts.org

Citrus College hosts first GradFest



Citrus College connected graduating students with important resources during the inaugural GradFest, which took place from March 28 to April 1. Throughout the event, students were able to receive assistance on their graduation application, attend a transfer conference, and purchase their cap and gown. Participating student services programs and departments included admissions and records, Associated Students of Citrus College, CalWORKs, the Career/Transfer Center, counseling and advising, Disabled Student Programs and Services, EOPS/CARE, the International Student Center, school relations and outreach, and the Veterans Success Center.

Journalism students earn awards, board seats at convention

Citrus College's journalism program continued its award-winning streak last month at a convention in Long Beach.

The team earned five individual and group awards, and two students were elected as members of the Journalism Association of Community Colleges (JACC) board.

Four awards recognized articles published in the Clarion newspaper and Logos magazine in 2021, while the fifth came from an on-the-spot contest.

First-place winners at the ACP Spring National College Media Conference included Alana Daly O'Brien, who took home the top prize for a feature on Citrus College alumnus Harvey Guillén, the first queer Latinx actor nominated for a Critic's Choice Award. Ishika Muchhal won first place in the opinion category for her column on diversity in film.

In front page design, Lucy Argaez and Justin George placed fourth. Mark Snow got fourth place in the news photo category from an on-the-spot contest.

In addition to the individual awards, the Clarion's website received a "General Excellence" award, the highest honor an individual publication can win.

The good news didn't stop there.

Mr. Snow, who serves as the Clarion's managing editor, was elected as JACC's student president. Clarion Editor-in-Chief Anthony Rossi was also elected to the JACC board as a Southern California student representative.

Citrus College instructor and Clarion adviser Patrick Schmiedt praised his students and complimented Mr. Snow and Mr. Rossi for being appointed to the board, where only three students serve at a time.

"They will be able to make connections to professionals from across the state and have a hand in shaping the JACC experience for future students," he said. "As their adviser, that makes me proud for their accomplishments and excited for their future, both at Citrus and beyond."



Citrus College student and Clarion managing editor Mark Snow was elected student president of the JACC in March.

Citrus College earns multiple accolades from honor society



Pictured (L-R): Mr. Waddington, Ms. San, Ms. Qasqas, Brooke Arelano and Isaac Lum.

Citrus College's Beta Nu Eta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) continued its streak of excellence with an extraordinary showing at the 2022 Nevada/California PTK Regional Spring Convention.

In all, Beta Nu Eta took home 12 awards. A handful of Citrus College students, co-advisers and staff were honored too.

Some of the group's achievements included being selected as one of the top three PTK chapters in the region and receiving five-stars, the highest ranking a chapter can receive.

Beta Nu Eta also received first place in the Honors in Action category for its research and service project on the theme of "Expressions of Truth." In addition, the chapter earned third place for a recent service project, which involved working with Superintendent/President

Schulz and the college's water polo teams to spruce up the Veterans Success Center garden.

Other honors included Citrus College students Jessie San receiving a Literary Award and Veronica Rincon being recognized in the PTK meme contest.

Ms. San was also elected president of the PTK Nevada/California region. In this role, she will help coordinate conventions and network with fellow PTK chapters.

"Ms. San is resilient and radiant, and it was no surprise that everyone at the San Diego conference favored her as the new regional president," said Citrus College instructor and Beta Nu Eta co-advisor Areej Qasqas.

During the convention, Olivia Canales, administrative clerk III in the honors transfer program, earned a faculty/staff recognition award for outstanding service to Beta Nu Eta. She and her family were hosted at a dinner in San Diego by PTK alumni and she was honored on stage.

"The heart of the chapter, Ms. Canales, kept the chapter moving and helped new members navigate through PTK membership," Ms. Qasqas said. "She takes care of us, and we hope that we showed her how much she means to us."

Next month, Citrus College instructor Brian Waddington will also be recognized for his work as a PTK co-advisor.

Reflecting on the awards, Mr. Waddington praised the students for their strong academic skills, grit and determination.

"It is really nice to see the camaraderie that develops among them, and to see the students be recognized for their efforts and achieve a level of success that they might not have thought possible when enrolling at Citrus College," Mr. Waddington said.

Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees

Ms. Mary Ann Lutz
President

Monrovia/Bradbury and portions of Duarte Representative

Ms. Laura J. Bollinger
Vice President
Claremont and portions of Pomona and La Verne Representative

Dr. Anthony Contreras
Clerk/Secretary
Azusa and portions of Duarte Representative

Dr. Patricia A. Rasmussen
Member
Glendora and portions of San Dimas Representative

Ms. Cheryl Alexander
Member
Duarte and portions of Azusa, Monrovia, Arcadia, Covina and Irwindale Representative

Miss Taylor McNeal
Student Trustee

Dr. Greg Schulz
Superintendent/President



citruscollege.edu