

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

LET'S GO! ¡ADELANTE!

September 2023

Crafton Hills College Donors, Students Meet at Annual Scholarship Reception



Crafton Hills College's community of donors is a vital component to the success of its Roadrunner population. And every year, the College's Foundation hosts a special reception on campus for donors to meet with the student – or students – their financial contribution helped.

This year, the annual event took place Thursday, Aug. 10, taking over Crafton Hall with lively chatter and a celebration of gratitude.

Program organizers kept the main program short and to-the-point so donors and students had more time to interact, explained Leslie Wessels, scholarship chair of the CHC Foundation. But stories

like Melissa Hernandez's was a reception highlight.

"As the oldest of seven siblings..., I strive every day to show them how important education is," explained the Yucaipa High School alumna, Foundation scholarship recipient, and first-generation college student. "Ultimately choosing [to attend] Crafton has been the best decision I could have made for myself. I was able to learn my likes and dislikes and even changed my major from political science to psychology during my first semester here."

Attending Crafton has allowed Hernandez to pursue other passions, including cross-country and participating in the College's

Research Club. In April, she was invited to present research on intimate partner violence at the 2023 Western Psychology Association Conference.

"I plan to finish my studies at Crafton this upcoming spring and after that I will continue to pursue a psychology major at a transfer institution. My ultimate career goal is [to become] a criminal defense attorney [and] because of my crazy ambition I also see myself going to graduate school and law school," she continued. "But for now, I'm excited to continue to grow surrounded by the Crafton community and my peers."

The Crafton Hills College Foundation raises money year-round to support student success and campus improvements. Its board of directors is composed of 25 volunteers who donate their time to the cause and oversee the scholarship application process. The CHC Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization, which establishes it as a charity so that donations are tax-deductible. It provides scholarships, grants, loans, and other types of assistance.

To learn more about the organization or to make a financial contribution, send an email to chcfoundation@craftonhills.edu or call 909-389-3245.

Photo: CHC Student, Melissa Hernandez, and her family.

Roadrunner Rally Welcomes New and Returning Students

... And just like that, a new school year has begun.

On Wednesday, Aug. 2, Crafton Hills College welcomed students back to campus with its lively annual Roadrunner Rally celebration.

Campus tours, textbook pickups, and club sign-ups were part of the festivities designed to help new and returning Roadrunners familiarize themselves to life on campus.

The hundreds who attended included Dane Ocampo, a 26-year-old Mentone resident who plans to complete prerequisites required to obtain a master's degree at Cal Baptist University, in neighboring Riverside. And he didn't come alone. His parents came along for the fun.

"We're a pretty educational forward family

and I'm sure [my parents] also want to have a visual of what this school will be like," he explained. "Even though I'm only taking a few classes here..., keeping my family involved is very important when it comes to my career and education."

"And I'm really excited for his next journey," added mom, Maidelyn.

The 2023-24 school year promises to be a busy one at Crafton Hills College, with on-going construction of its new public safety building and state-of-the-art theatre arts center. The campus is also working behind the scenes to add to its course offerings, expand services, and increase the athletics teams.

Crafton Hills College is open to almost everyone seeking to kickstart their educational journey. Getting information



about the College through events like the Roadrunner Rally is just one way to help make those goals a reality.

Photo: Water polo Team poses with CHC mascot, Ryker the Roadrunner.

Fall Opening Day at Crafton Hills College



On August 11, Crafton Hills College faculty were welcomed back for the new school year with a video message from District Chancellor Diana Rodriguez; a heartfelt personal welcome from San Bernardino Community College District Board Chair, Dr. Stephanie Houston; and opening comments from CHC President Dr. Kevin Horan, who also introduced new employees. The day's schedule included a variety of professional development opportunities, community building activities, department planning

meetings, and campus updates, all of which set the tone for a successful semester.

Keynote speaker, Dr. Kevin Fleming inspired faculty, staff, and administrators with a message that challenged the traditional linear path of obtaining a college degree, working in a fulfilling career, and retiring. Instead, Fleming used his own experience to explain that to be successful our students need a relevant education combined with applied skills training. Fleming argued

that for us to continue to be relevant to students and employers, we need to approach education differently and ensure that every student can enter the workforce with a competitive advantage.

Fleming went on to explain that today's students and their parents no longer value a four-year degree but instead are looking at how to enter the workforce faster and with less student debt than past generations. He added that while degrees provide a foundational understanding of subjects, they often lack the hands-on experience desired by employers.

Fleming stressed that at Crafton Hills College, we need to incorporate applied skills, gained through internships, apprenticeships, and project-based learning into our programs to bridge this gap. This message provided stimulating thought for the rest of the day's activities.

Photo: CHC Faculty & Staff: Daniel Rojas, ZsaQuita Bender, Ray Bell, and Geoffrey Booth.

Assembly Member Greg Wallis Visits CHC



Assembly Member Greg Wallis has long been an advocate for accessible and quality education. During his visit on August 7,

Wallis engaged in meaningful conversations with students. These interactions provided an opportunity for him to learn about

problems the community colleges and students face so that he can explore legislative solutions.

The visit also fostered collaborative opportunities between Crafton Hills College administration and Assembly Member Wallis's office. Discussions included potential initiatives and partnerships that could enhance the College's programs and resources while also addressing the needs of the community. Ideas included expanding internship opportunities and promoting student affordable housing initiatives.

Wallis's visit to campus marked the beginning of a mutually beneficial partnership. His commitment to education, combined with the college's dedication to fostering the growth of future leaders, sets the stage for meaningful collaborations.

Photo: Greg Wallis with CHC students.

Crafton Hills College Honors Institute Thriving

Crafton Hills College Honors Institute has rebounded from pandemic setbacks and is now rapidly expanding. Despite sending off 30 graduates to transfer schools in 2023, the institute has gained 43 new students since May 1.

selective health program at the University of Washington-Seattle.

- Continuing honors student Michelle Ly was selected to serve as the SBCCD Student Trustee.

In Fall 2023, the Honors Institute started with its largest group ever, surpassing its pre-Covid record with 130 enrolled students. Recent achievements include:

The Honors Institute is also engaging in impactful activities, such as internships with city managers, senators, and national organizations like Aspire Skills. Memberships in groups like American Association of University Women (AAUW) are expanding as well.

- 100% graduation rate for eligible Honors students.
- Successful transfers to top institutions like UCLA, Berkeley, and UC Riverside.
- Notable scholarships, such as Jade Williford receiving two \$5,000 awards from UCLA, including the prestigious TAP Scholarship.
- Student Logan Wells is participating in a

Looking ahead, the institute is excited about upcoming research workshops and a student research conference on November 17. Participation in the Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research is also on the horizon. Interested students can learn more and apply at www.craftonhills.edu/honors.



Photo: CHC Honors Student Jade Williford.

NEW Finkelstein Performing Arts Center Sponsor A Seat

This Seat Is Yours: Crafton Hills College Launches Fundraiser in Support of Students in Performing Arts

The stage is almost set for Crafton Hills College's all-new Finkelstein Performing Arts Center's debut. But before the curtain is lifted on the space in 2024, the Yucaipa-based college's Foundation has put out the call for the community to sponsor a seat (or two).

Funds raised through the effort will go to support the future of the college's Theater Arts Department, and each seat sponsored will include a personalized touch – a donor plate embossed with each donor's name or name of their choosing.

"Donations are not for lights and overhead, but for support that helps students to be successful," explained Michelle Riggs, Crafton's director of institutional advancement. "This endowment will enhance experiences for theatre, dance and music students and provide program expenses, impacting students in perpetuity."

The fundraiser, added CHC Theater Department Chair Paul Jacques, "is really exciting to see because this is a major investment in the time and effort the college has put into promoting the performing arts. This is going to benefit the performing arts at Crafton for the next 20 years."

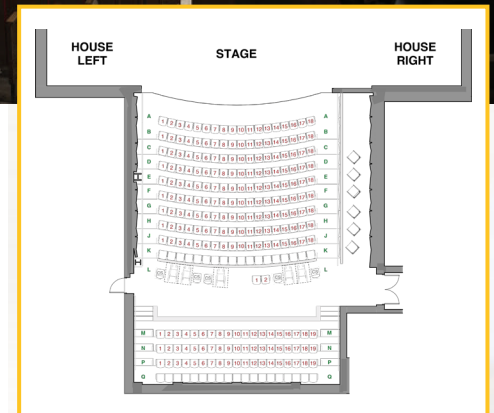
Donor plates are approximately 2 7/8' x

1 3/8, and supporters have the option of choosing between one or two-year pledge options to make it easy and affordable to support the cause. For example, seats in rows A through C cost \$1,000 per sponsorship, but donors can opt to commit to a one-year pledge of \$84 a month or a two-year pledge of \$42 a month. Sponsorships can be made directly at craftonhills.edu/seat or by contacting the Foundation directly by email at chcfoundation@craftonhills.edu or by phone at 909-389-3245.

Crafton's new 24,000-square foot PAC stands on the site of the college's old gym, which was demolished last year. The new performing space will house instructional spaces for music, theater and dance programming and was approved for construction in Sept. 2022. A groundbreaking followed in May.

The Crafton Hills College Foundation works year-round to raise funds toward student-based scholarships and grants and campus improvements. To learn more about the nonprofit, go to craftonhills.edu/foundation.

Photo: Rendering of New Finkelstein Performing Arts Center Auditorium.



Sponsor A Seat

Rows	Seat Cost
 A – C	\$1,000
 D – L	\$750
 M – P	\$500

Visit craftonhills.edu/seat to reserve your seat online. We will contact you about payment, inscription, and location.

**The CHC Foundation reserves the right to deny any inappropriate inscription. Sponsorship of a chair does not guarantee event seating in the sponsored chair. All pictures shown are for illustration purposes only. Actual seats and name plates have not been selected. Naming rights guaranteed until venue seats are replaced.*

