

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

LET'S GO! ¡ADELANTE!

December 2023

Crafton Hills College's Respiratory Care Program Captures Third Place in National Contest



CHC's respiratory care program continues to distinguish itself among the nation's best, by placing third in the Sputum Bowl. This competition is among teams from respiratory therapy educational programs that have won their state's Sputum Bowl

contests to compete on the national level. This event was held Nov. 5-8 in Nashville, TN, at the annual convention of the American Association of Respiratory Care (AARC).

Coached by respiratory care program director Michael Sheahan, CHC's four-person team qualified for the national contest by winning its regional and then statewide competition. Sheahan explained that the competition measures knowledge that extends beyond respiratory therapy theory and practice and includes anatomy, microbiology, and chemistry. Their high finish shows the educational quality of the College as a whole, not just the respiratory program.

Team members Luis Rebollar, Richard Sevilleno, Rajendra Pandey, and Alejandra Martinez held their heads up high in representing their program, CHC, and the state of California.

Photo: CHC Respiratory Care students.



CHC Programming Students Perform Well in Regional International Collegiate Programming Contest

On Oct. 28, CHC Professor of Computer Science Sandra Ruiz accompanied nine of her computer programming students to the Regional International Collegiate Programming Contest for colleges and universities.

The students performed admirably in a field of 84 teams. Crafton Hills College was one of only three community colleges whose student participants successfully completed three programming problems

in the allotted time. The highest ranking for a community college was 35; the CHC team ranked 38. CHC's fourth-place finishing team was only 12 minutes away from grabbing third place.

This was the first time CHC has participated in this event, which makes their high scores even more impressive.

Photo: CHC Programming students and Professor Ruiz.

SCE Awards \$50,000 in Support of Crafton Hills College Student Programming and Scholarships

Crafton Hills College received a much-needed boost to its STEM-based and first responder programming, thanks to Southern California Edison.

The Crafton Hills College Foundation received \$50,000 total to support scholarships for students pursuing a career in science, technology, education and math and for those enrolled in the Fire Academy.

“We use these scholarship opportunities to recruit STEM students which helps us expand access, address workforce shortages in STEM fields and promote diversity and inclusivity,” explained Michelle Riggs, Crafton’s director of institutional

advancement. “These scholarships help students see that Crafton is a great place to start their educational pathway if they are interested in pursuing STEM careers or transferring to four-year institutions.”

“Fire Academy scholarships help reduce barriers associated with program commitments, from overall cost to unexpected life expenses,” Riggs continued. “The Academy is a full-time commitment with students spending all-day on campus attending lectures and hands-on training four and sometimes five days a week.”

Photo: CHC Fire Cadet, Rubin Valverde.



Crafton, San Manuel Hosts Native Learning Experience for Local Students



Local fourth and fifth graders were invited to participate in a special learning experience at Crafton Hills College focused on the region’s first people.

The Waa’t program is a three-day event hosted by the Yucaipa-based college and the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians (SMBMI) whereby students learn about the cultures, lifestyles, and histories of the Native Americans who inhabited the Inland Empire region.

Much of the region, including Yucaipa, is part of the Serrano ancestral territory. Yucaipa takes its name from the ancient Serrano village of Yukaipa’t. Understanding these connections is vital to the culture of America’s first people, their heritage, and connection to the land. The Tribe wishes to share this with all those who call the area home.

Since 2005, CHC and the SMBMI have partnered to host Waa’t, growing it from

a two-day event to three to accommodate its popularity, allowing children from more local schools to participate. This year’s program ran from Nov. 7 through 9. Prior to its start – and to kickoff Native American Heritage Month – Crafton officials announced on the College’s social media outlets a Land Acknowledgement Statement to honor the Tribe’s strong ties to the area.

“Our histories and stories are intertwined in this space,” the statement reads, “and by sharing them in culturally appropriate ways, Crafton Hills College hopes to honor and celebrate our indigenous neighbors and partners.”

One way college officials hope to do that is through events like Waa’t, said Michelle Riggs, CHC’s director of institutional advancement. “From the Crafton campus, students can see the fertile valley below and the space allows for the Tribe to create a village so that attendees can see how indigenous people lived in the hills of [the area],” she said.

Photo: Local fourth and fifth grade students.

Crafton Hills College and PassEDA Host Regional Transportation Event



Anne Mayer, executive director of the Riverside County Transportation Commission presented an overview of projects and services expected to improve traffic through the area during a regional transportation event hosted by the Pass Economic Development Alliance (PassEDA), with support of Crafton Hills College on Oct. 27.

Mayer began the discussion by pointing out that this area has grown substantially. She shared, “My husband and I moved to Yucaipa 34 years ago next month... and in 34 years we have seen an awful lot of change.... I know some of you have been

out here longer than that and have seen an even greater difference.”

“When you drive along the I-10 corridor now, I can’t help but be almost stunned at times by the amount of development that has been happening,” she continued. “But I think transportation is really a key issue that is going to affect the future of the [San Gorgonio] Pass.”

The RCTC provides transportation solutions that support the growing region and its economy.

Photo: Attendees at event.

‘Horror’ Production Brings in CHC Theatre Department’s Largest Non-Musical Audience to Date

An original production of horror dinged with humor helped usher in spooky season at Crafton Hills College, and with it, the highest attended non-musical production in the recent history of the college’s Theatre Arts Department.

For three performances, “Tales of Horror and Suspense” took audiences on a rollercoaster of emotions as more than a dozen performers took guests through four one-act plays focused on how a series of events can have horrifying consequences.

Paul Jacques, chair of the department, and student Sebastian Hernandez partnered to direct the production, taking turns in the

writing and director’s chair to bring “Tales” to the stage on Oct. 13, 14, and 15.

“I take on different [theatre] roles all the time, but this is my first time officially directing,” said Hernandez, 22-year-old Yucaipa resident, “and I have a feel for it already from just having acted and done the whole thing.”

The shows included “Call of Cthulhu,” an original act written by Jacques; “The Cask of Amontillado” based on a short story by Edgar Allan Poe and adapted by Robert Mason; and “Monkey’s Paw” by W.W.Jacobs was an adaptation written by Jon Jory.



Photo: CHC Theatre students.

CHC Veterans Resource Center Hosts Veteran Appreciation Week



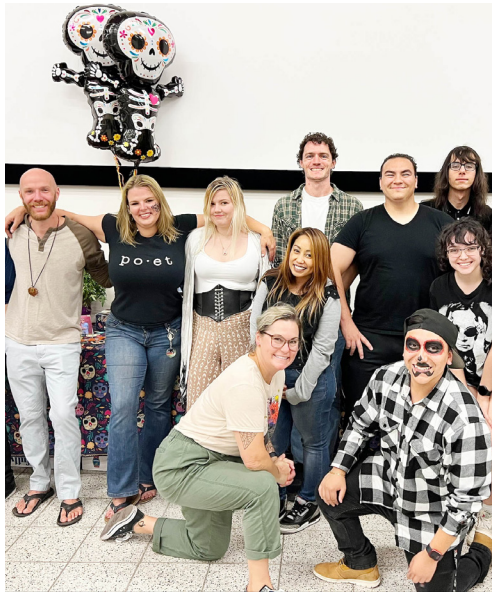
Activities were planned throughout the week of Nov. 6-9 to honor all Crafton’s Veteran students who have served and are serving in the US military. These events promoted a sense of community and camaraderie among veterans, offering a safe and understanding environment where they can connect with peers who share similar backgrounds and challenges.

Dean of Career Education and Human Development, Dan Word, presented “Life Beyond the Uniform,” where he spoke

about his background as a U.S. Army Veteran, his career in Emergency Medical Services and his current position as a Dean at Crafton.

Dean Word encouraged veterans to continue their transition into the academic environment and to take full advantage of the resource center to equip them with the tools they need to thrive academically and personally.

Photo: Attendees at VRC presentation.



Crafton Hills College Students Celebrated Dia de Los Muertos

At an event on Nov. 1, organized by English professors Andrew Guevara, Ashley Hayes, and Isidro Zepeda, students assembled a vibrant and colorful ofrenda, or altar. The ofrenda was adorned with marigolds, candles, and personal mementos and photograph.

traditional Mexican game of chance. A face-painting station was also set up for students to have their faces adorned with sugar skull designs and floral motifs. Everyone enjoyed music, food, laughter, and dancing.

Student poets and spoken word artists took to the stage, sharing powerful and evocative pieces that paid homage to the themes of life, death, culture, and remembrance. Although centered around death, Dia de Los Muertos is a celebration. Students gathered to play loteria, the

Crafton Hills College is known for its commitment to fostering diversity and cultural appreciation. Celebrating Dia de Los Muertos allowed students to come together to honor and celebrate the cherished Mexican tradition.

Photo: Faculty and students at the Dia de Los Muertos celebration.

Growing Inland Achievement Selects Crafton Hills College EOPS Students For Prestigious Scholarships

Growing Inland Achievement selected Crafton Hills College student Diego Cruz and alum Tykisha Edwards as its Ayala Student Voice Scholarships award winners.

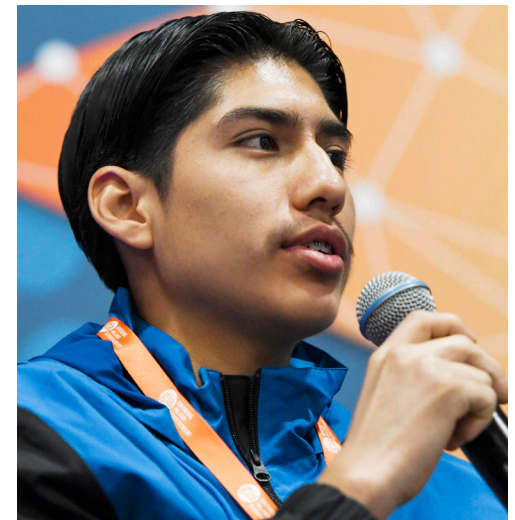
from Crafton's EOPS program. Cruz and Edwards highlighted the comprehensive support offered by EOPS as critical to their respective academic successes.

The Ayala Student Voice Scholarships are awarded to students with remarkable academic achievements and service to their communities.

"We are immensely proud of Diego and Tykisha's achievements and grateful for their involvement in the Towards A Shared Vision student panel. Their stories are a testament to the power of education and the critical role that EOPS plays in supporting students," said Dr. LaTasha Hagler, associate dean at CHC.

Cruz and Edwards recently served as student panelists at the "Towards A Shared Vision Summit," on October 25. The scholarship recipients discussed a variety of topics, including the support they received

Photo: CHC Student, Diego Cruz.



CHC's EOPS Department Hosts National First Generation College Celebrations

Fifty-five CHC staff and faculty attended the I AM FIRST Luncheon on Nov 7 and more than 200 students visited the resource fair on Nov 8.

Student Success launched the inaugural celebration in 2017.

This is the first time that CHC has participated in a celebration for first-generation college students as part of a nation-wide effort to recognize these students' experiences and outcomes since the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) and the Center for First-generation

Events were held to deepen the campus's understanding of the systemic barriers plaguing higher education and the supports necessary for this resilient population to continue thriving across education, career, and life.

Photo: Faculty and staff at I AM FIRST Luncheon.