

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

LET'S GO! ¡ADELANTE!

January 2024

'Eyes of Freedom' Memorial returns to Crafton Hills College



The "Eyes of Freedom" memorial made its way to Crafton Hills College earlier this month after a stop in the Midwest.

CHC leadership along with other members of the campus community and local politicians gathered inside the Roadrunner Café on Dec. 4 to formally welcome the exhibit to campus, marking the second time "Freedom" has been displayed at the College.

Created by Ohio-based artist Anita Miller, "Eyes of Freedom" tells the story of 22 Marines and one Navy Corpsman who lost their lives during the Iraq War in 2005. The men were deployed with Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, which suffered some of the heaviest U.S. casualties during the conflict.

Miller's portraits of the 23 lost are accompanied by their boots, dog tags, and messages of remembrance from loved ones.

Among those in attendance were San Bernardino County Third District Supervisor Dawn Rowe, who shared with guests that not far from where the 23 men died, her husband, Marine Corps. Capt. Alan Rowe, was killed by an improvised explosive device while serving during the conflict.

"As you look at some of the plaques today, you'll see that some of the men from Lima Company were killed in the same vicinity approximately 11 months after my husband was killed," she said. "And so, this is an exceptionally touching display for me to

walk through. We're all blessed to be here today because of their sacrifices."

Zara Martin, a second-year Crafton student and Army veteran, then praised "Freedom" organizers for this moving recognition of patriotism and sacrifice.

"In the culture of just being a number and a statistic, you make us feel not only seen but heard. You gave us that unconditional love that we so needed when we got home and felt out of place," said the 24-year-old. "For many of us, our battle is silent, but you are able to advocate for it so beautifully. Thank you for being our shoulder to lean on when we needed it the most."

"Eyes of Freedom" formally made its debut in 2008 in the Ohio State House Rotunda. Since then, the display has toured the country.

Along with portraits of the 23, "Freedom" is accompanied by Miller's "Silent Battle" sculpture, inspired by veterans who deal with the pain of post-traumatic stress syndrome or have taken their own lives. Guests were encouraged to leave notes of encouragement on dog tags to add at the base of the sculpture during their visit. All notes left behind will accompany the sculpture as it continues to tour the country, organizers said.

Photo: Dr. Phong Nguyen.

Tour Showcasing CHC’s Exemplary Sustainability Innovations

On Tuesday, November 14, Crafton Hills College (CHC) conducted a tour to showcase its sustainability efforts for a group of architectural students from the University of Southern California (USC).

During the program, several notable speakers including Ida Clair, from the Division of the State Architect’s office, and Wrenna Finche, Vice Chancellor for the California Community Colleges, addressed the importance of a multifaceted approach to sustainability and the many ways that the San Bernardino Community College District (SBCCD) and CHC are actively working to improve and expand upon these efforts.

CHC Facilities Director Larry Cook was presented with a Sustainability Champion award for his exemplary leadership and commitment to recognizing and advocating for enhanced sustainability measures campuswide. Much of the sustainability work around campus can be traced back to Cook’s efforts from the time he assumed his position at CHC.

A walking tour allowed participants to



see CHC’s sustainability efforts firsthand. It began at the Crafton Center; moved through the Central Plant—where participants could see the inner workings of the structure—and carried on through the Public Safety & Allied Health (PSAH) building and Kinesiology, Health Education & Aquatics (KHA) complex. Each stop highlighted a structure’s LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum or Gold rating as well as specific sustainable choices that were made for that building or area.

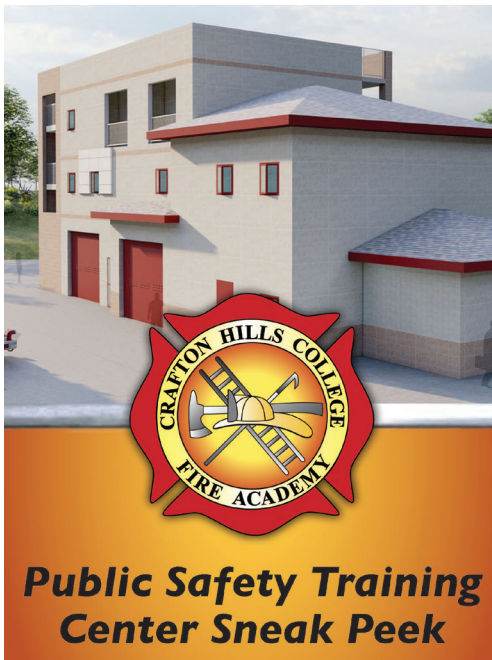
SBCCD currently has ten LEED-certified structures, with more on the way, and is actively working to meet the districtwide goal of Zero Net Energy. SBCCD and CHC

have won several awards in recent years for their sustainability efforts towards this goal, including the 2022 Sustainable Innovation Award for Sustainable Infrastructure from the U.S. Green Building Council Los Angeles (USGBC LA). As a result of CHC’s continuing sustainability efforts, it’s estimated that just from refurbishing the solar field, the campus has saved about half a million dollars per year, which can be used to further support students.

For more information on SBCCD’s sustainability efforts visit: <https://sbccd.edu/sustainability>.

Photo: USC students, & SBCCD administrators attend Sustainability Tour.

Crafton Hills Public Safety Training Center Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting



Please join Crafton Hills College to celebrate this new state-of-the-art facility that will offer top-tier training to first responders for years to come.

On Friday, January 12, 2024, at 10:30am Crafton Hills College (CHC) will host the grand opening of its newly completed Public Safety Training Center (PSTC) with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The event will take place at 11711 Sand Canyon Road, Yucaipa.

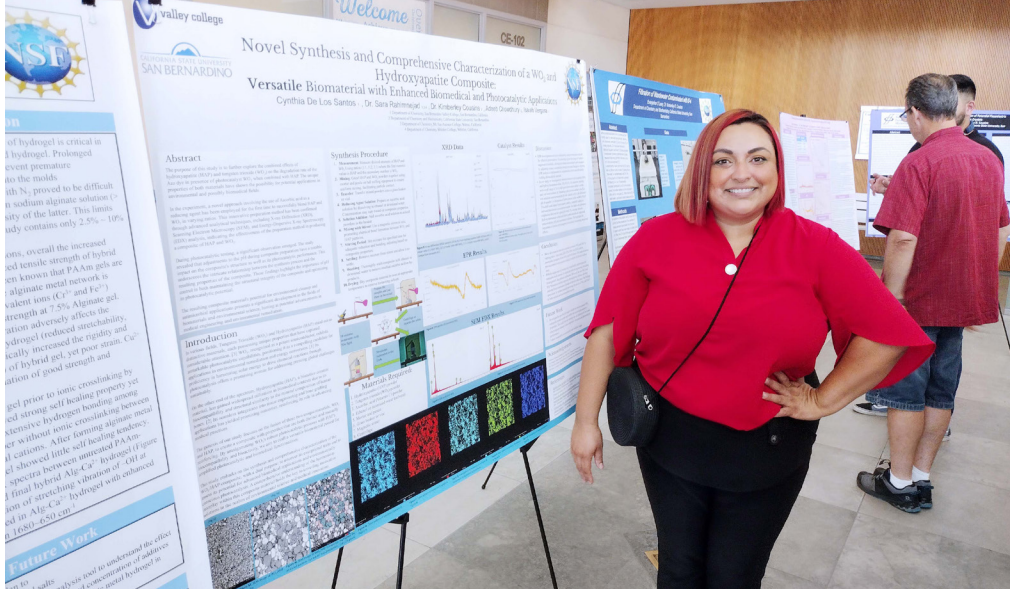
CHC welcomes community members, students, faculty, staff, and alumni to join in on this momentous occasion. The construction cost of about \$9.5 million was provided by funding from Measure CC (approved by voters in 2018).

The building contains propane fueled fire props to simulate a kitchen fire on the first floor; and a bedroom fire on the second floor. The Center also contains training props for rope rescue operations, firefighter safety and survival, as well as an underground tunnel system for confined space rescue operations.

The PSTC stands only feet away from the Public Safety and Allied Health (PSAH) building and will complete the state-of-the-art facilities complex for the Emergency Medical Services and Firefighter training programs.

To RSVP, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/d/ca--yucaipa/crafton-hills-college/>.

Crafton Hills College Student to Join Cal Poly Pomona Aerospace Engineering Program



Schoenfeld said she sees many positive traits in De Los Santos that make her perfectly suited for Cal Poly, from growing into a bright, determined scholar to De Los Santos' commitment to creating a better future for her family.

"Cynthia demonstrates that there is no situation that you cannot change if you have determination and perseverance to do so," said the CalWORKs counselor. "In spite of hardships that she has endured, Cynthia possess an inner strength and self-assurance that are key factors to her success."

Despite being a bucket of nerves, De Los Santos is excited about what the future holds, and her family will be right there to cheer her on.

"For a very long time I felt sad and broken down, but [continuing with my studies] empowers me to push forward because this is for my kids," she said. "This upcoming semester, I'm going into the unknown and leaving my comfort zone of Crafton and Valley, but I have little kids who are depending on me and sometimes those [negative] feelings can't exist."

"There's no other option for me. If I don't do this, I won't ever get out of poverty," De Los Santos shared. "And I can't believe I have a second chance to follow a dream. That's what drives me. This is my one shot."

Photo: Cynthia De Los Santos.

Cynthia De Los Santos has defied the odds. After growing up in poverty and escaping domestic abuse, the single mom of two children under the age of 10 is working hard to become a first-generation college graduate, one class at a time. And in early 2024, the 38-year-old Colton resident is embarking on a new, out-of-this-world educational goal: earning an aerospace engineering degree from Cal Poly Pomona University.

Yet, De Los Santos faced each challenge head on and eventually found a field that really sparked her interest, creativity, and imagination: STEM education.

Soon, De Los Santos began adding courses at Crafton and its sister college, San Bernardino Valley College, and needs just one class to meet program requirements to start her Cal Poly journey in January, she explained.

"My parents didn't finish elementary school, and I had been kind of lost taking classes I didn't need," De Los Santos continued. "But then I met Racquel [Schoenfeld] with CalWORKs [at Crafton], and she began working with me to fix my schedule. This was very helpful for people like me who didn't know these programs and opportunities existed."

"When people hear 'aerospace engineering' they assume I'm brilliant, but I'm not. I'm actually kind of dumb," joked the soon-to-be Crafton Hills College grad. "I spend hours in tutoring and doing my homework."

Returning to school as a single parent while balancing varying health issues was not easy.



Crafton Hills College participates in the Redlands Holiday Parade

December 2, 2023

Photo Left: CHC students, faculty, staff, and administration.

Photo Right: SBCCD Trustees and CHC President.



Crafton's Theatre Arts Department Brings Oscar Wilde Classic to PAC



What is it about the name 'Ernest'? For two women in Oscar Wilde's 1895 three-act play, "The Importance of Being Earnest," it means true love.

Talented actors of Crafton Hills College's Theatre Arts Department brought Wilde's farcical comedy to life by bringing wit, humor, and a few plot twists to audiences

seated in the Finkelstein Performing Arts Center, Dec. 1, 2 and 3.

The play tells the story of a man named Jack Worthing, who finds himself in a pickle: falling in love with a woman, Gwendolen Fairfax, who believes his name to be Ernest, a name Worthington created to cover up his behavior in dubious circumstances. As per many of Wilde's play, shenanigans quickly follow.

"I think the script is timeless, especially given the rise of reality TV," explained Paul Jacques, the production's director and department chair, when asked why the show resonated with the audience. "The genre is called 'Comedy of Manners,' which was all about laughing at silly rich people. There's a strong connection between laughing at Algernon or Cecily and laughing at the Kardashians

or the Real Housewives."

Crafton's "Earnest" cast was composed of nine, each with a knack for comedy:

- Jonathan Black as Lane
- Elijah Lozano as Algernon Moncrieff
- Arthur Buenaventura as Jack Worthing
- Kat Jacques as Lady Bracknell
- Juniper Burgess as Gwendolen Fairfax
- Olivia Jacques as Cecily Cardew
- Bailey Spletzer as Miss Prism
- Ivan Gowars as Canon Chasuble
- Kevin Horan as Merriman

Crafton will stage two productions in the spring, including the musical "Legally Blonde" April 26-28.

Photo: Cast of "The Importance of Being Earnest".

Crafton Hills College Named a 2023 Equity Champion of Higher Education

Crafton Hills College (Crafton) is a 2023 Equity Champion for Higher Education, a designation from the Campaign for College Opportunity, in recognition of its work in supporting and improving Black student transfer to universities.

The Campaign for College Opportunity recognized Crafton and 26 other community colleges and universities for ensuring strong pathways to earning an Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) for students of color and for supporting transfer to universities are supported on a guaranteed pathway to earning a degree.

"Supporting our transfer students to help them reach their academic goals is core to our institution's mission," said Crafton President Dr. Kevin Horan. "We are incredibly proud of all of our hard-working students and graduates, and grateful for every single staff and faculty member who is doing their part to ensure our students have what they need to make it to their transfer goals."



Crafton and other awarded colleges were recognized by the Campaign for College Opportunity on November 14th during an awards celebration. The institutions recognized for the Equity Champion designation led the way in supporting Black students to earn an ADT with at least 65% of their Black associate-degree earners receiving ADT and ensuring that Black students earn ADTs at rates comparable to their peers.

"For nearly a decade, the ADT has given community college students struggling to navigate a complicated transfer maze a clear

path to success with a degree to show for their hard work," said Jessie Ryan, executive vice president of the Campaign for College Opportunity and former community college transfer student. "As colleges grapple with pandemic-induced enrollment declines, we laud the 27 community college and CSU campuses that continue to forge ahead for students by strengthening the transfer pathway and removing unacceptable equity barriers in transfer for Latinx, Black, and first-generation college students across the state.

Photo: President Horan with Crafton Graduate.