

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

August 2024

Veterans of Crafton's Class of 2024 Recognized at Special Ceremony



The spotlight was placed on thirteen graduating military veteran Roadrunners during a special ceremony hosted by

Crafton Hills College's Veterans Resource Center on May 15.

Each of the soon-to-be-grads received congratulatory remarks from center staff and Crafton leadership, as well as specialty chords and stoles, and – for the first time – a challenge coin paying homage to the sacrifices made during their time of service.

"We have a small veteran population, but to have this many graduates is so amazing," said Steve Rush, the veteran's services coordinator. "A lot of the veterans who showed up today are veterans who regularly use the VRC on a day-to-day basis. They were looking forward to this day, and we're excited we were able to do this for them."

Photo: Damien Madrid.

Crafton Hills College Welcomes Dr. Sara Butler as the Dean of Languages, Arts, and Academic Support!

Dr. Butler earned a bachelor's in history and political science from the College of Staten Island and a master's and doctorate in political science from UCLA. Her career in higher education spans 16 years, serving as a teaching assistant, adjunct, tenured professor, and administrator. Most recently, Butler served as Dean of Academic Affairs at Santa Ana College. Dr. Butler is looking forward to working with faculty, staff, and administrators in support of Crafton's mission. She is dedicated to helping

students because, as a first-generation college graduate, she knows firsthand how education changes lives.

In her free time, Butler runs, listens to Bruce Springsteen, and watches New York sports. She mostly enjoys being at home with her fiancée, Dave, and their 5-year-old lab/pit mix, Buffy.

Photo: Dr. Sara Butler.



Crafton Hills College Receives Grant from Bank of America for Training First Responders Project



Crafton Hills College has received a \$15,000 grant from Bank of America to support its Training First Responders project, and Crafton Roadrunners pursuing degrees or certificates in public safety and allied health programs.

"The funding from Bank of America will

help reduce financial burdens for many of our students so they can focus on their studies and achieve their academic and professional goals without the worry of how much the program will cost," said CHC President Kevin Horan. "We are deeply grateful for Bank of America's commitment to education and their investments in our community."

Crafton Hills College's Training First Responders project aims to provide financial support to students studying to become paramedics, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), firefighters, and members of other emergency health professions.

Every academic year, hundreds of students apply for admission in CHC's first-responder programs, with many experiencing financial challenges that might prevent some from

completing coursework requirements. Grants from the private sector help cover a myriad of expenses such as the cost of course materials and fees for state testing, licensing, and certifications.

"One of the biggest challenges to the economic future of the Inland Empire continues to be the education gap, as employers and the growing jobs sector struggle to hire workers with necessary skills and educational background," said Bansree Parikh, Bank of America Inland Empire president. "Crafton Hills College is an important partner in providing specialized skills training to help prepare the next generation of specialists in high-demand careers."

Photo: CHC Paramedic Students.

Crafton Hills College Recognizes its 2024 College Transfer Grads at Annual Dinner



Next Stop: "Monsters University"-- actually, a four-year college that accepted Roadrunner graduates of the Yucaipa-based community college's Class of 2024.

But before walking across the grand stage with a diploma in hand, hundreds transferring to a four-year institution enjoyed a special Monsters University-themed Transfer Celebration Dinner on May 15, where they shared the spotlight that shone on their myriad accomplishments.

"Welcome to such an important event to honor your students for their hard work and achievements," said Mariana Macamay,

Crafton's Transfer Center coordinator. "It is truly an honor to put this event together for you, and I love to see all the families here celebrating."

For CHC President Kevin Horan, this year's celebratory dinner was the largest he's been a part of since becoming the College's president in 2019. "We are so incredibly excited for you and the next step of your journey," he said. "You are now Crafton alumni, and you should be extremely proud of that."

Photo: Paul Soneel-Aleem James.

CHC Child Development Center Celebrates Student Growth and Family Engagement



On June 7, the Crafton Hills College Child Development Center hosted an end-of-year Family Fun Day to celebrate students' growth in their play-based, developmentally appropriate lab school.

Interim Program Director Heather Stephens emphasized that the event also honored the high-quality educational staff and expressed gratitude to the families,

stating, "We had a wonderful year together. Thank you, families. Look at how fun learning can be!"

Stephens noted that while some children will return in August, others will move on, yet they will always remain part of the CHC CDC Lab School family.

Photo: Child Development Student.

Crafton Hills College Emergency Medical Services Alumni Recognized at California EMS Awards Ceremony



Whether responding to emergencies, accidents, or natural disasters, Crafton Hills College Emergency Medical Services alumni consistently display remarkable compassion, competence, and composure. At this year's EMS Awards Banquet on May 8, 2024, seven CHC alumni were recognized for their achievements.

Riley Wolfe, Jared Gvesrude, and Logan Romo received the Medal of Valor for exceptional heroism in challenging emergency situations. Riley Wolfe responded to a late-night freeway collision

involving a burning vehicle, rescuing an unconscious driver amidst imminent danger. Jared Gvesrude and Logan Romo acted decisively during a multi-vehicle collision and fire, triaging trapped colleagues and swiftly transporting critical patients to trauma centers.

Henry Vasquez, an adjunct faculty member and CHC alumnus, received the prestigious EMS Cross award for his leadership and dedication in EMS over nearly four decades. His roles include paramedic, skills instructor, mentor, and disaster response leader.

Amanda Ward and Kyle Gonering were honored with the Distinguished Service Award for their significant contributions to statewide Emergency Medical Services. Kyle Gonering's expertise as an EMS specialist and educator, pursuing advanced studies in social work and education, underscores his commitment to patient care and student development. Amanda Ward, with over 20 years in EMS, has been a leader in paramedicine and community service, impacting young women through the Allied Health and Medical Careers Day initiative.

David Loomis, another CHC alumnus, received the Community Service Award for his advocacy in EMS education and public relations as EMS Captain at the Ontario Fire Department.

CHC alumni embody dedication and excellence as first responders, providing security and hope in critical moments. Their recognition at the awards ceremony reflects their outstanding service and contributions to the community. Congratulations to our CHC alumni on this well-deserved honor.

Photo: Riley Wolfe, Logan Romo, Jared Gvesrude, Amanda Ward, Kyle Gonering, Henry Vasquez, David Loomis.

From First-Generation Student to Healthcare Leader



Michele Grainger, now the Manager of Respiratory Care Services at Loma Linda Children's Hospital, began her journey at Crafton Hills College (CHC). Drawn by its strong programs and proximity, she found beauty, engaged instructors, and robust support at CHC.

Graduating in June 1986 with an associate degree in health science, Grainger credited CHC for laying the foundation for her success. Despite facing challenges like personal losses, she emerged resilient, later earning a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from the University

of Phoenix. Her journey is a testament to dedication and perseverance.

Grainger advises prospective students to choose CHC for its strong educational foundation and support. Her story, from first-generation student to healthcare leader, exemplifies the transformative power of education and resilience, and she remains grateful for the opportunities provided by Crafton Hills College.

Photo: Michele Grainger.

“To Be, or Not to Be”: CHC Theatre Arts Program’s “Hamlet”



There was nothing like Shakespeare in the summer as CHC celebrated the beloved playwright's works with a July staging of an abridged version of “The Tragedy of Hamlet.”

“Hamlet” was William Shakespeare's longest play. CHC's production of “Hamlet”

ran for 2 hours and 30 minutes and was set in the 1940s, a decision that easily fell into place during the early rehearsals, explained Director and CHC Professor of Theatre Arts Paul Jacques.

“The more we talked to the students about it, the more they got excited about

the opportunity to do something different,” said Jacques. “In Shakespeare's time, he didn't care about when his plays were set, so once you got past that, it opened up a range of possibilities.”

The play told the story of Prince Hamlet, who sought revenge against his father's murderer; his uncle Claudius. Still reeling from King Hamlet's recent death, the prince began struggling with his own sanity after he was visited by the ghost of his dead father and experienced other terrible events.

CHC's cast included Roadrunners and students from local high schools: Redlands East Valley, Redlands, Yucaipa, and Beaumont. Nearly 250 people attended the play over its three-day run.

Photo: Cast of Hamlet.

And the Award Goes to... Classifieds Professionals at Crafton Honored at Annual Luncheon



The classified professionals who help keep Crafton Hills College moving forward were recognized at an annual luncheon hosted by college leaders on June 13.

The event is meant to express appreciation for the work classified professionals do to maintain a thriving campus, from anchoring student success programs to keeping

Roadrunners safe.

“As classified professionals at Crafton, you make this place sing and you make it hum,” said CHC President Kevin Horan to kick off festivities. “We can't do enough to thank you for it.”

Following a brief department roll call, guests in attendance were invited to line up for a buffet of good eats served up by site leaders. Then it was time for the main show to begin, with the spotlight placed on the glue that keeps the College bonded, including a moment to recognize 2024 retirees – John Boatman, Tina Gimple, Moises Gonzales, Alan Oshiro, and Renee Sanford – and this year's award recipients:

- President's Award: Paige Dulay-Vega and Jessica Beverson
- Faculty of the Year: Tina Gimple
- Manager of the Year: Ivan Peña
- Classifieds Professional of the Year: Josh Orosco

But the fun was just beginning. over 25 gift

cards from In-N-Out, Starbucks, and Lowe's, to name a few, were given out during a lively raffle led by Horan. And while some in attendance walked away empty-handed, they left the luncheon with an afternoon filled with new memories or for those like recent retiree Gimple, a lifetime of bittersweet moments of time.

“Being a great teacher is everything to me,” said Gimple who spent 30 years as a Crafton classified professional before becoming a part-time faculty member in 2015. “Receiving this award is a great honor especially from the classified staff because they deal with the students and hear what the students say.

“We are a small family and I've made a lot of friends over the years and it's just an honor to be nominated by them,” she continued.

Gimple's comments capped off the hour-long event's high spirits.

Photo: Josh Orosco.