

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

December 2025



Stater Bros. Charities Donates \$2,500 to Strengthen Crafton's Fire Academy

When the Stater Bros. Market in Yucaipa completed its long-awaited renovation, the store celebrated its grand reopening not only by unveiling a fresh new look, but also by strengthening its commitment to the local community. As part of the celebration, Stater Bros. Charities invited the store manager to nominate a nonprofit organization making a meaningful and lasting difference in their area.

Jon Lehman, Store Manager of the Yucaipa location, didn't have to think twice about his nomination. Lehman selected the Crafton Hills College Foundation to receive a \$2,500 grant in support of the CHC Fire Academy.

"This generous gift will help provide essential equipment, training materials, and resources that ensure our cadets are prepared for careers in firefighting and emergency services," said Carrie Audet, Assistant Director of Development at



Crafton Hills College. "Support like this allows us to give students the tools they need to succeed and, ultimately, better serve our community."

The Crafton Hills College Foundation extends its heartfelt appreciation to Stater Bros. Charities and the Yucaipa store team

for their commitment to enhancing educational opportunities in the community. Their investment in Crafton's Fire Academy helps empower the next generation of first responders—individuals who will one day protect and serve the very neighborhoods Stater Bros. calls home.

Photo: Stater Bros. Charities

Crafton Hills College Wins First-Ever Conference Title



Crafton Hills College made history on November 8, securing its first-ever conference title with a hard-fought 12-10

victory over Palomar College in the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference (PCAC) Women's Water Polo Championship at Southwestern College.

The Roadrunners outlasted the previously undefeated-in-conference Palomar squad in a tense, back-and-forth battle. Crafton Hills held a slim lead heading into the final minutes and sealed the win with timely scoring and disciplined defensive stands.

The championship victory capped a standout postseason performance for CHC, which advanced to the title game

after edging Miramar 7-6 in a nail-biting semifinal on November 7. In addition to earning the 2025 PCAC Conference Champions Award, the team also celebrated major individual honors.

Head Coach Jordan Gordon, who began coaching at CHC in 2022, was named the PCAC Women's Water Polo Coach of the Year. Several Roadrunners were also recognized for their exceptional performances, including Esther Crandell who was selected as PCAC Player of the Year.

Photo: CHC Women's Water Polo

Crafton Hills' Cross Country Team Went the 'Extra Mile' at Regionals



Crafton Hills College's Cross Country Team is making huge strides one race at a time.

Just four years after the program's inception, its men's team and runner Elizabeth Garcia headed to Southern California regionals in San Diego on Nov. 7 with Garcia qualifying for the state championships later this year.

The group of athletes qualified for a spot in regionals in late October, with the men's team placing fourth in the competition and Garcia placing third.

"It's exciting," said team coach Martin Zamudio. "We are trying to get that Crafton name out there because we're kind of underestimated both athletics wise and academic wise."

Runners who make up Crafton's team come from all different backgrounds. Some are former football players, some baseball. The men's team is also composed of all first-year Crafton students.

On the women's side, Garcia is a second-year Crafton student who has been running since the third grade. But joining

Crafton's team has unlocked a deeper passion for the sport, she said.

"I think it's an amazing opportunity for me," said the 19-year-old Redlands resident. "I don't see [cross country] as 'I have to do this' but 'I get to do this.' Thinking of running this way allows me to take it in more because I'm choosing to do this and I might as well give it my all."

Garcia added, "I think if you would have told me my senior year of high school I would have joined the cross country team at Crafton, I would have laughed at you. But I don't think I would be the runner I am today without Crafton. I really put that on my coaches because they really put that confidence in me."



Photos: Top- CHC Cross Country Team
Bottom- Elizabeth Garcia

Crafton Hills College's Theatre Program to Stage 'Almost, Maine'



This December, Crafton is inviting you to tour the fictional town of Almost, Maine without having to leave the city.

The Yucaipa-based college's Theatre Arts Department will present performances of John Cariani's 2004 production of "Almost, Maine," which is composed of nine short plays on love, loss and life in a small, fictional remote northeastern town.

Performances of the romantic comedy will be staged in the college's new Finkelstein Performing Arts Center starting Thursday, Dec. 4, and coincide with the Crafton Hills Arts Festival, a two-day housewarming celebration for the PAC starting at 6:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 5, and continuing Saturday, Dec. 6.

"Theater is truly magical and can connect us, inspire us, and reminds us we can create something truly special together," said Ari Aguilera, a 28-year-old communications and theatre arts major from Running Springs, who plays "Rhonda" in the production. "We can't wait to share that magic with our community."

Showtimes for "Almost, Maine" are at 6 p.m. Dec. 4 and 8 p.m. Dec. 5 and 6 in the PAC on the Crafton Hills campus. Admission is free but donations are welcome

Photo: 'Almost, Maine' Cast

Girl Scouts Health & Medical Careers Day



Crafton Hills College's Outreach and Public Safety departments collaboratively hosted Girl Scouts of San Geronimo on Wednesday, October 15, 2025. During their visit, 120 girl scouts learned about the college's allied health and medical pathways. Four hands-on breakout sessions were offered, including Emergency Medical Services, Nursing Services, and Respiratory Care.

The scouts also had the opportunity to explore equipment such as fire engines and ambulances while engaging with professionals in the field. The annual event aims to expose young females to allied health fields, including predominantly male-dominated careers.

Photo: Girl Scouts of San Geronimo

Plymouth Village Residents Visit Crafton Hills College



On November 5, residents from Plymouth Village visited Crafton Hills College for an engaging and informative tour of the Public Safety and Allied Health (PSAH) Building. During their visit, the group learned about Crafton's Respiratory Care, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Paramedic, and Fire Technology.

programs, gaining insight into how these hands-on programs prepare students for vital roles in healthcare and public safety.

Crafton Hills College was honored to host the Plymouth Village community and looks forward to welcoming them back to campus next year.

Photo: Plymouth Village Tour

First Generation Resource Fair



Crafton's First-Generation College Day Resource Fair hosted by the EOPS Department was held on Thursday, November 6, 2025, bringing together over 350 students to celebrate and

recognize the achievements of first-generation college students.

The event featured a variety of support programs and campus resources, including EOPS, which is currently accepting applications for Spring 2026.

Many students took advantage of the opportunity to apply on-site and learn more about the services available to first-generation students, such as priority registration, textbook assistance, parking permits, meal vouchers, academic

counseling, and peer community-building opportunities.

The celebration created a lively and welcoming atmosphere with live music, raffle prizes, swag giveaways, "I AM FIRST" t-shirts, a photo booth, and complimentary lunch and donuts.

Overall, the event successfully honored the resilience and accomplishments of Crafton's first-generation students.

Photo: First Gen Fair Attendees

Crafton Hills College Honors Veterans with Week of Celebration



Crafton Hills College proudly hosted a weeklong celebration to recognize and honor veterans. Community-centered activities such as yoga, free haircuts, thank-you card writing, and shared meals brought together those who have served. The Veterans Resource Center (VRC) also held a film screening of *The Promised Land* and meaningful gatherings such as "Sip & Honor" and a celebration of the Marine Corps birthday.

The events throughout the week provided opportunities for veterans and their dependents to learn about the many services and resources available to support their academic success and well-being, including academic counseling, mental health support, and community-building opportunities through the VRC.

Photo: Marine Corps Birthday Celebration

Yucaipa High School Biomedical Academy Visit



On Friday, October 10, 2025, Crafton Hills College's Outreach Department hosted Yucaipa High School's Health and Biomedical Science Academy for an explorative day of degree and certificate options that align with their program focus areas. Sixty YHS students learned from Crafton professionals in nursing, fire

technology, and MESA, gaining hands-on exposure to real-world applications of their studies. Students left Crafton with valuable insight into career pathways and an understanding of how Crafton can support their future goals.

Photo: YHS Students

Crafton Hosts Undocumented Resource Fair



As part of Undocumented Student Week of Action, Crafton Hills College hosted an Undocumented Resource Fair on Tuesday, October 14. The event aimed to raise awareness of the comprehensive support services available to undocumented students through the DREAMer Scholars Program, including priority registration,

textbook assistance, meal vouchers, parking permits, and access to free legal workshops.

More than 200 students participated in the fair, visiting multiple resource tables such as the DREAMer Scholars Program and TODEC Legal Center.

Photo: Undocumented Resource Fair

Hello Major, Hello Career Fair Connects Students with Future Opportunities



Crafton Hills College hosted the Hello Major, Hello Career Fair on Thursday, October 23, 2025, in the Main Quad. More than 30 employers, academic departments, and professional organizations participated in the fair. The event provided students with the chance to explore academic pathways and connect directly with local employers.

The fair encouraged students to network, ask questions, and learn how their majors align with potential careers. Attendees engaged with industry professionals learning next steps for their educational and professional journeys. The event was a great success, helping Roadrunners take one step closer to their future careers.

Photo: Major and Career Fair

Día de los Muertos Celebration at Crafton Hills College



On Tuesday, Oct 28, the dining area of the Crafton Center transformed into a colorful Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration, a cherished tradition honoring loved ones who have passed. Students lined up to have their faces painted by creative face painters, who produced intricate calavera (skull) designs.

The event featured vibrantly decorated ofrendas, or altars, created by campus offices, clubs, and classes. Each ofrenda was adorned with colorful coverings and pictures or caricatures of deceased loved ones amid offerings of oranges, bananas, and other edibles.

Photo: Día de los Muertos Celebration

Fall 2025 Club Rush



Crafton Hills College's Fall 2025 Club Rush brought food, fun, and plenty of "spooky season spirit" to campus on Wednesday, October 30. With a Halloween movie theme, the event featured dozens of student organizations showcasing ways to get involved on campus. Students enjoyed a lively costume contest and the chance to

connect with peers who share similar interests.

Getting involved in clubs is one of the best ways to build a community, develop leadership skills, and make lasting memories at Crafton.

Photo: Club Rush