



Photo: Crafton Hills Fire Academy Graduate O'Connell

## A Local Family's Legacy of Public Service Continues with Crafton Hills Fire Academy Graduate

"Don't shut a door on yourself before you start," is one lesson Fire Academy 101 graduate and U.S. military veteran Daniel O'Connell learned while attending Crafton Hills College. He wasn't sure how the Fire Academy worked and thought it might be too difficult to even pursue. He credits Andrew Gebara, the program's secretary, with helping him navigate the application process and complete the requirements to be accepted into the Fire Academy, and much sooner than he imagined. O'Connell, age 23, is one of the eight military veterans who graduated with the 101st CHC Fire Academy in December.

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## In Service Day

Spring in-service day was held in Crafton Hall on January 10th beginning with a welcome back message from the college president Dr. Kevin Horan. Horan thanked the campus for adapting during the power outages in the fall, welcomed new employees, and provided some areas of focus for the future. He asked the faculty, staff, and administrators to prepare for a deep dive into equity and inclusion, delivered an update on the accreditation process, and identified upcoming projects funded by the new Measure CC Bond. Horan stated that he is addressing the inequities in resource allocation and that he submitted a proposal to the district asking for a more reasonable share of the bond funds beyond the 20% originally allocated.

Vice President of Administrative Services Mike Strong introduced

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Photo: Renée Azenaro, Paul Jacques, Gary Williams



Photo: CHC Paramedic Graduates 2020

## The 92nd Paramedic Class

The 92nd paramedic class, one of the largest ever with 30 graduates, received their certificates on January 17th, in front of a packed auditorium of family, friends and loved ones at Crafton Hills College. “Each graduating class has a personality, and this class is very outgoing, high-spirited, and supportive of each other,” said field coordinator and Professor Amanda Ward. “They take amazing interest in helping each other out. As paramedics they will be caring for people, and they are already doing it now in the classroom, in supporting each other.”

Paramedic graduate speaker, Justin

Acosta, expressed his thoughts about the importance of their individual support systems as students and now as professionals. Acosta thanked his friends, family, preceptor, and his wife saying, “people may call us their heroes but it’s all of you that we call our heroes.” He reminded the graduates of how the program broke them down so that the instructors could rebuild them to be better, stronger and faster. The 92nd paramedic class presented Crafton President, Dr. Kevin Horan, a plaque as a gift to the college.

The paramedic graduates gave guest speaker Henry Vasquez a rare standing ovation following his

comments during the ceremony. Henry Vasquez is a long-time skills instructor at CHC and paramedic. “He’s humble, approachable and there is something about his teaching style that students can identify with and that resonates with them,” said Amanda Ward. “The graduates appreciated that Henry really gets what they do.” Henry physically faced the 30 new paramedics while he spoke and provided them feedback, tools and tips that they can take and use as they move forward in their new career.

Medical Director Dr. Phong Nguyen spoke about being amazed by the transformation of students through the program. Nguyen presented the graduates with his version of the song, “You Raise Me Up” before presenting the new paramedics with their awards and certificates.

Amanda Ward noted that there was standing room only in the auditorium, “We are seeing a trend of investment by our stakeholders- by the folks who took them in their internships, the agencies, and their preceptors who take them in the final phase of the program.” The paramedic program is a challenging, rigorous program that takes a year to complete- often while students have families and full time jobs. Amanda said, “This is a magical group of people.”



## Welcome Back Roadrunners

January 13th marked the start of the Spring 2020 semester with more than 6,000 students continuing their education at Crafton Hills College. Faculty and staff were on hand to help 2,575 students at answer centers across campus, providing directions and information.



Photo: CHC Fire Academy 101 graduates and U.S. military veterans. Sean Dennehy - Marine, Daniel Valenzuela - Army, Noah Kokkiniias - Navy, Thomas Spencer - Air Force, Anthony Baguyo - Marine, Ismael Parga - Army, Daniel O'Connell - Marine, Tyler Reynolds - Navy, Patrick Welsh - Army

## A Local Family's Legacy of Public Service Continues with Crafton Hills Fire Academy Graduate continued..

O'Connell began his service in the U.S. Marine Corps one month after graduating from Yucaipa High School in 2014. After completing bootcamp and infantry school, O'Connell became a machine gunner in the infantry. Quickly moving up the ranks to corporal, O'Connell served as a squad leader to a machine gun section, leading over 21 Marines. He served in Japan, Australia, Guam, and South Korea.

O'Connell's family includes a long line of relatives answering the call to serve and protect, and O'Connell chose to follow the same path. After his four years of service with the Marine Corps, O'Connell applied and received an "intent to hire" with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, but was scheduled to attend the SBCSD Academy at a much later date. O'Connell could not wait as financial circumstances dictated the need for a faster path to earning a living. Like many veterans before him who needed to do something to secure employment, O'Connell signed up for the GI Bill, applied, and was accepted at Crafton Hills College.

Serving the community is also a family tradition. O'Connell's grandfather was a firefighter in Big Bear, his father, Tim, is a firefighter in Calimesa, and his sister also served in the Marine Corps. O'Connell made fire station visits and participated in a ride-along with a local fire department. He appreciated the firefighter culture and saw the similarities to the Marine Corps. O'Connell had finally found his path. He registered for a full-time schedule at Crafton Hills College, including EMT and Fire Tech classes, pursuing his goal

and to be able to assess it and move forward from there. Having a cohesive and solid team behind you -- there is nothing better than that! If it gets tough, we have to bite down and have some grit," said O'Connell.

O'Connell's father has been his biggest training inspiration through this fire career process. O'Connell's father, Tim, served as a Marine in a Special Operations force recon platoon during the first Persian Gulf campaign. After the Marines, O'Connell's father became a firefighter and then a sheriff deputy for 24 years with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, spending 17

**“Having a cohesive and solid team behind you -- there is nothing better than that! If it gets tough, we have to bite down and have some grit.” - Daniel O'Connell**

of becoming a firefighter. O'Connell applied to the CHC Fire Academy and was accepted. During his first week at the academy, O'Connell's Marine experience in leadership contributed to his being elected squad leader by his instructors and fellow cadets. "I like knowing which way we are moving and being able to move the ship in that direction. Being able to look at a problem, a dynamic situation,

in SWAT. After his career with SBCSD, O'Connell's father returned to firefighting and now serves with the Calimesa Fire Department. Tim O'Connell earned his Master's degree in business while managing his public service career and duty to family. Daniel O'Connell is continuing his education and currently is enrolled in the paramedic program at Crafton. The family legacy continues.

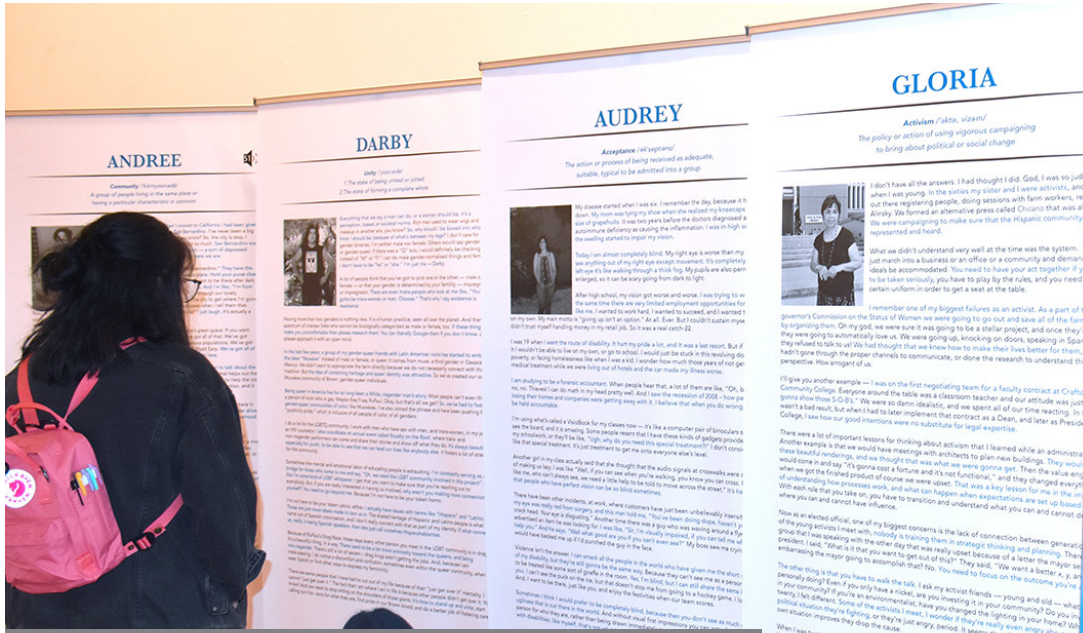
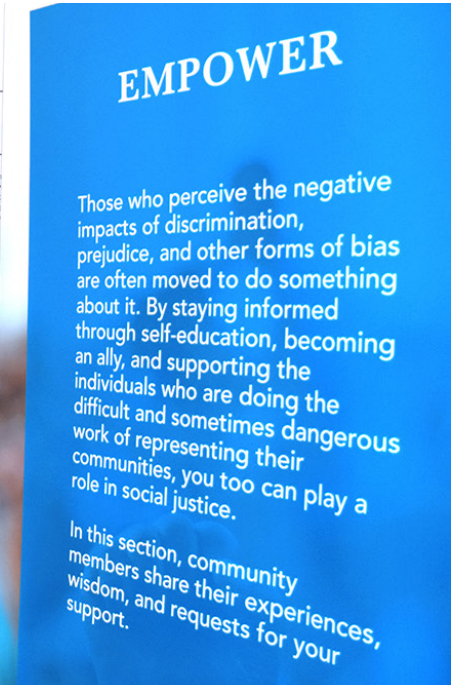


Photo: Gloria Macías Harrison featured in InDignity Exhibition



# InDignity Exhibition

Crafton Hills College partnered with California State University San Bernardino to present “InDignity: Mobile Exhibition to Support Resilience, Empathy, and Community Strength” January 21st through January 31st in the Crafton Hills College Art Gallery.

“InDignity” is a collaboration between the Anthropology Museum at CSUSB and the Inland Empire community. Combining documentary portraits by CSUSB Professor Thomas McGovern

and autobiographical reflections by over 40 community participants, the exhibition documents the role of difference in shaping understandings, opportunities, and identities.

The title “InDignity” is meant to be read as a single word – “indignity” – and also as two separate words – “in dignity.” These two meanings capture precisely what the exhibition examines: experiences with oppression, discrimination, bigotry, exclusion, stigma, and prejudice, and simultaneously the pride and self-respect that we must have for ourselves

and for others facing injustice.

“InDignity” was curated by Arianna Huhn, director of the CSUSB Anthropology Museum and assistant professor of anthropology, and Annika Anderson, assistant professor of sociology, with assistant curators Lark Winner, Jackie Gervacio, and Ana Gonzalez.



# New Works Festival

The Inaugural Crafton Hills College “New Works Festival” is seeking submissions in both 10-minute and One-Act categories. This year’s theme is “In the Beginning.” Playwrights are encouraged to submit original stories, searches/quests for answers, memories, or other associated/related “beginning” topics. There are two judged divisions: collegiate and professional. Prizes will be awarded for each division. Submission are being accepted now through March 8th at [www.craftonhills.edu/newworks](http://www.craftonhills.edu/newworks). The entry fee is \$10 per work submitted with no limit as to the number of works that can be submitted. Performances will be the weekend of April 30th - May 3rd.



Photo: Paula Ahlborn, William (Bill) Ahlborn, Michelle Riggs

## World-traveler, Veteran William Ahlborn named CHC’s 2020 Outstanding Alumni

William Ahlborn, Crafton Hills College’s 2020 Outstanding Alumnus, has been quite busy in his 94 years of life. Ahlborn served in World War II, retired from Norton Air Force Base, started attending Crafton, became a professor, and has traveled the world showing no signs of slowing down.

Three years ago, Ahlborn nominated himself for the award, thinking he would never receive it. The Yucaipa-based college will recognize him and his contributions to the Roadrunner community at the upcoming fundraising gala on April 18.

“Bill is a lifelong and dedicated educator and we are excited to honor him as our outstanding alumnus for 2020,” said Dr. Kevin Horan, President of Crafton Hills College. “Bill demonstrates our commitment to supporting traditional and non-traditional students in whatever their educational ambitions may be: to earn a certificate, degree, transfer, increase career and job effectiveness, or learn new skills.”

The annual event – themed “Summon the Champions CHC 2020” – will spotlight the college and its supporting Crafton Hills College Foundation, providing gala attendees with a dynamic overview of the impact that donations make not only to the campus but also to individual students. Funds raised support students across all aspects of the CHC curriculum and programs,

me of all people.”

Ahlborn was drafted into the Army during WWII as an infantryman. He was badly injured overseas in January 1945 during the Battle of the Bulge, which took place in Belgium and Luxembourg. He later received a Purple Heart, a medal awarded to members of the U.S. armed forces who are wounded or killed in action.

**“Bill is a lifelong and dedicated educator and we are excited to honor him as our outstanding alumnus for 2020.” - Dr. Kevin Horan, President of Crafton Hills College**

Following his service, Ahlborn began attending classes at Riverside Junior College (now Riverside Community College) with the goal to “change the world through print.” He

subsequently applied to the University of Southern California to study journalism. He eventually landed a position at Norton Air Force Base in San Bernardino.

from those pursuing higher education to refresh career and job skills to those wanting to teach the next generation of leaders.

“The thing about Crafton Hills is when I went to school there, the plan was to just dabble in a few things,” Ahlborn said. “But they encouraged me to try new things and so forth, and they gave me a chance to be an instructor, a professor -

“Back in the 1970s, I was planning to retire from my work at Norton..., where I was the civilian personnel officer for a government agency with more than 100 offices worldwide,” Ahlborn shared. “I came to Crafton Hills College seeking



Photo: 2020 Outstanding Alumnus, William (Bill) Ahlborn

## World-traveler, Veteran William Ahlborn named CHC's 2020 Outstanding Alumni

to take courses in a variety of subjects, hoping one of them would lead to my remaining active in my retirement years.”

It did.

While attending classes at Crafton, a former dean encouraged Ahlborn to take over the Weather and Climate course from his predecessor after showing a lot of promise in the field.

Ahlborn pursued his undergraduate degree and, later, a master's degree in geography at Cal State Fullerton where he “never got anything but an A,” he explained. “I thought that was impressive, I guess,” he added with a chuckle.

Ahlborn went on to teach at Cal State Fullerton and Orange Coast College. He launched a new initiative at Crafton bringing the classroom experience to students who had difficulties getting to campus. Offering off-campus classes in conference rooms in banks, churches, retirement centers and even Patton State Hospital in Highland, Ahlborn worked days, nights and weekends. This schedule was a perfect fit for

Ahlborn, who was determined to share the opportunity of education and credits his strong work ethic to the success of the off-site program. “My parents were exemplary role models. With perseverance, you can achieve anything,” he said.

Eventually, Ahlborn was able to combine his love for teaching and travel, becoming a lecturer on cruise ships, sailing across the globe, bringing along his wife of 21 years, Paula, for the ride.

While he has been to more than 150 countries, all 50 states and 400 National Parks, “there's still a lot more to explore,” he said. While his travels take him out of town often, Ahlborn and his wife make sure to schedule time to give back to the school that helped mold him.

Currently, the Ahlborns are part of the President's Circle, a group that supports CHC through an annual contribution. They most recently donated a truckload of books about environmental studies to the CHC STEM Center.

Ahlborn is an advocate for Crafton publicly sharing his Crafton experience

at the annual Friends of Crafton Hills Luncheon in 2017 and the CHC Foundation annual scholarship reception in 2019.

Now in his mid-nineties, Bill continues to be generous, goes through life with a sharp sense of humor, and still travels the world crediting Crafton “with the encouragement, assistance, and inspiration to do more than fade away while watching reality TV and dozing off in retirement.”

Receiving the honor came as a surprise, said his wife Paula. “It's kind of difficult for Bill to be the center of attention.” Ahlborn plans to spend the time leading up to the gala planning his next few excursions. “When I get a whole dollar ahead, I've already planned my next trip,” he said. “And I married a good buddy who likes to travel.”

The upcoming gala – which includes a dinner and live auction – is expected to raise more than \$100,000 for Crafton. Tickets are now available and may be purchased online at [www.craftonhills.edu/gala](http://www.craftonhills.edu/gala). To learn more about the event, call 909-389-3245.



*Photo: Kevin Horan, Amanda Ward, Caleb Pohren, Carlos Ortiz, Dan Word, Grant Malinowski*

On January 10th, Crafton administration and faculty were in attendance at the Yucaipa Chamber of Commerce Community Awards Banquet, where two Crafton Alumni were awarded with Firefighter of the Year and Reserve Firefighter of the Year. Chief Grant Malinowski, who is also Crafton alumnus, presented them with their awards and shared the amazing contributions these gentlemen make to the citizens and community they serve. Congratulations Caleb and Carlos! We are so proud of your accomplishments!



*Photo: Kevin Horan, Delmy Spencer, Mauricio Arellano, Patty Holohan, and Alex Vara.*

President Kevin Horan and Vice President of Student Services Delmy Spencer attended the Redlands Chamber of Commerce Installation and Civic Awards Dinner January 15th at the University of Redlands. It was a great opportunity to visit with Redlands Unified School District Superintendent Mauricio Arellano, RUSD Board of Trustees President Patty Holohan, and Board Member Alex Vara and support the community.



*Photo: Local employers and educators*

## Workforce Development Conference

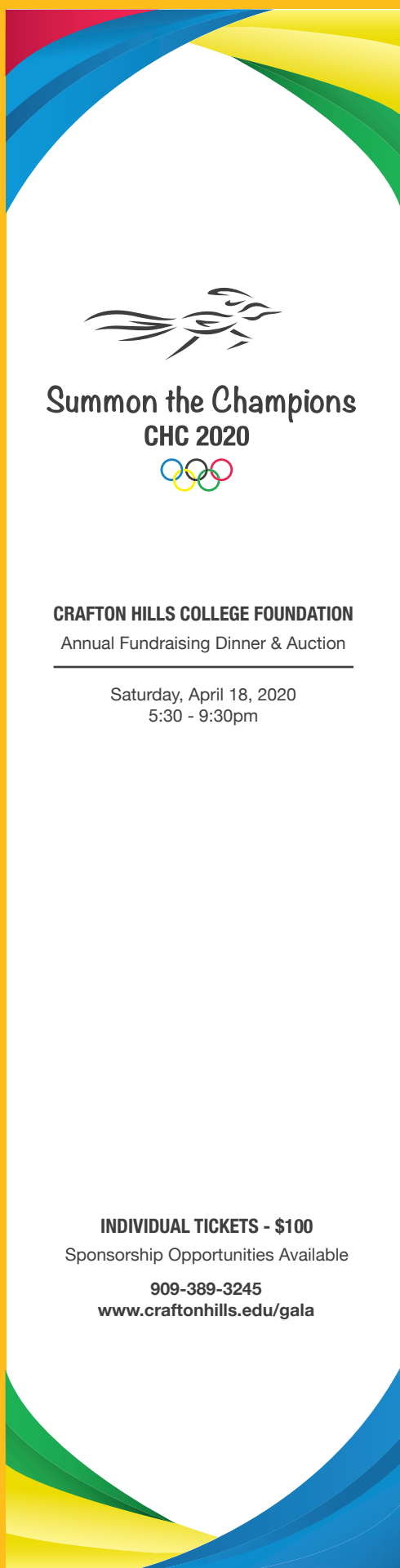
On January 9th, advanced manufacturing professionals, community leaders, and educational partners gathered at Crafton Hills College for a workforce development conference. The intent of this gathering was for the group to determine how educational partners can meet the needs of these local employers by training and preparing a qualified workforce.



Following a welcome from Crafton Hills College President Kevin Horan, Ray Casey the manager from the City of Yucaipa provided an overview of the day's agenda, and stressed the importance of employers, educators, and local government working together to build our economy. In closing, Casey thanked the group for their concerted effort and expressed his belief that the city's incubation center facility can provide an important training space for future collaborative efforts.

Industry leaders voiced concerns when currently looking to fill new and vacant positions with competent candidates. An exploration of current programs included presentations from educational partners representing K-12, adult school, community colleges, and other regional training programs. Educational

representatives expressed the importance of local employers agreeing to provide sufficient job opportunities for students. The group discussed employment bridge training programs, mentorships, and internships as possible solutions and discussed the requirements for industry to provide input in developing and expanding and improving existing ones.

Employers provided their thoughts on opportunities as well as what they view as the issues with our current training gaps during a roundtable discussion led by Angie Nett, Human Resources Director at Sorenson Engineering. Industry partners agreed to meet and determine next steps and specifically what training programs they would like for the educational partners to explore. Educators were eager to determine the skills employers are looking for in candidates and expressed their desire to work with industry advisors. The group of employers, educators, and local government representatives are motivated to continue working together to strengthen our regional economy in a collaborative workforce development effort.



  
**Summon the Champions**  
**CHC 2020**  


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**CRAFTON HILLS COLLEGE FOUNDATION**  
Annual Fundraising Dinner & Auction

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Saturday, April 18, 2020  
5:30 - 9:30pm

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**INDIVIDUAL TICKETS - \$100**  
Sponsorship Opportunities Available  
909-389-3245  
[www.craftonhills.edu/gala](http://www.craftonhills.edu/gala)



*Photo: Dr. Delmy Montenegro-Spencer, Vice President of Student Services*

## Crafton Hills College names Dr. Delmy Montenegro-Spencer new VP of Student Services

The Roadrunners are pleased to welcome a new Vice President of Student Services, Dr. Delmy Spencer. The former Dean of Student Services was selected from a competitive pool of applicants following an exhaustive nation-wide search. She began her work at Crafton effective January 13th.

“Dr. Spencer brings with her extensive leadership experience in overseeing a broad range of student services,” said Crafton President Dr. Kevin Horan. “She demonstrated to us throughout the interview process her commitment to inclusive and collaborative decision making, which remains one of our core values for advancing student success.”

Prior to her role at Crafton Hills College, Dr. Spencer focused on advocating for student success in-and-outside of

the classroom. She has close to two decades of exceptional experience in higher education and student services. In her role at Yuba College, Dr. Spencer provided direction for the Student Services division, two college sites, equity programs, food pantry, veteran services, and other departments. She has experience in supervising academic administrators, classified managers, counseling faculty and classified staff.

Dr. Spencer’s appointment comes during an exciting time at Crafton as the Yucaipa-based college looks to integrate more on-campus programming that will aid in the increase of student performance and attendance, including the launch of The Free College Promise, an initiative that provides students graduating from participating high schools in 2020 with two years of free tuition.

Dr. Spencer was born and raised in East Los Angeles after her parents immigrated to the U.S. from Central America. She and her husband, Rodney, are college sweethearts and have two children, Quenton and Graciela. Dr. Spencer holds a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Cal State Chico, a master’s in counseling and a doctorate in educational leadership with an emphasis in community college administration from Sacramento State.

“I am honored to be a part of Dr. Horan’s inclusive leadership team to serve our students. I am inspired by the commitment and the loyalty that faculty and staff members have for students,” Spencer said.

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“The faculty, staff and administration have created such an amazing culture of success at Crafton,” she continued, “and I look forward to contributing to the next chapter of this amazing institution.”





Photo: Shohren Rahbarnia, Kim Salt, Danielle McCoy

## In Service Day continued..

the safety committee, discussed the annual safety report, and provided a handout with links to safety protocols, communication, training, and projects. Strong explained that the Maintenance and Operations department has inventoried all doors on campus for lockdown capabilities and is installing updated mechanisms. Additional safety training included active shooter preparation and a group activity to discuss scenarios including power outages, earthquakes, wildfires, and other threats.

Dr. Anne Viricel, the newly elected President of the Board of Trustees, welcomed employees back to campus and assured the audience that the search for a new Chancellor will be comprehensive and transparent. "We really want this to be an inclusive process," she said. In closing, Viricel thanked the faculty and staff for supporting the 27,000 students in the District on behalf of the board of trustees and ended with, "Like you, I'm a firm believer in that higher education and career training changes lives for the better."

Interim Chancellor Jose Torres brought a message of optimism and provided a brief account of his journey. He shared his personal struggles of immigration and poverty, reminding employees that what they do matters. "Your encouragement can make the

difference in a student deciding to complete their education. You inspire students to dream bigger," said Torres.

Faculty presented data from efforts related to AB705, The Free College Promise, STARFISH, and Guided Pathways. Professor Scott Rippy explained the difference in student access and achievement results related to the placement of students into English and math courses. "We had a lot of levels of math before we got to transfer level math, and we had the same in English. What was happening was if the students started at the lowest level of arithmetic, only 8% of them were actually making it to transfer level math." Changing the math and English sequences will result in a reduced timeframe and students are more likely to make it through a shorter sequence of classes.

Professor Sabrina Jimenez closed the meeting with a message about Guided Pathways. Her approach has been to interview people across campus about the inefficiencies at Crafton. She stressed the importance of increasing the presence of Crafton in the community. Jimenez stated, "We need to go out to the community; that's important. We have to go to high schools, and really start communicating how valuable we are as an institution, really become community leaders."

## Upcoming Dates:

- Feb 17** Washington's Birthday  
Campus Closed
- Feb 19** Black History Month -  
Fashion Show  
CCR - 151  
Noon - 1 p.m.
- Feb 20** Honor's Symposium  
LRC - 226  
2 - 4 p.m.
- Feb 26** Black History Month -  
Closing Reception  
LRC - 226  
Noon - 1 p.m.
- Feb 28** Scholarship Application  
Deadline
- Feb 28** Swim PCAC  
Invitational #1  
KHA  
Noon
- Mar 3** Lifestream Blood Drive  
Quad
- Mar 4** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Mar 6** 25th Annual Putnam
- Mar 7** County Spelling Bee
- Mar 8** PAC  
8 p.m. / 8 p.m. / 2 p.m.
- Mar 11** Health and  
Wellness Fair  
Quad  
Noon - 2 p.m.

