



## Virtual Conference Encourages Young Women to Explore STEM at CHC

Faculty senate president and mathematics co-chair Brandi Bailes spoke to approximately 800 eighth-grade girls from Redlands Unified School District and encouraged them to pursue a career in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) beginning with a program at Crafton Hills College. The online event, held on March 5 and March 12, was hosted by the American Association of University Women (AAUW). Event organizers asked Bailes to share her own experience as a STEM professional, provide an overview about the opportunities for STEM students at Crafton, and ultimately encourage the young ladies to pursue an education and career in these traditionally male-dominated fields.

Bailes spoke candidly to the group explaining how female role models played an important role in her confidence as a student at Crafton. “I was terrified. But I had female instructors that really took me under their wing and said, you know it doesn’t matter where you start, you can go anywhere you want,” Bailes recalled.

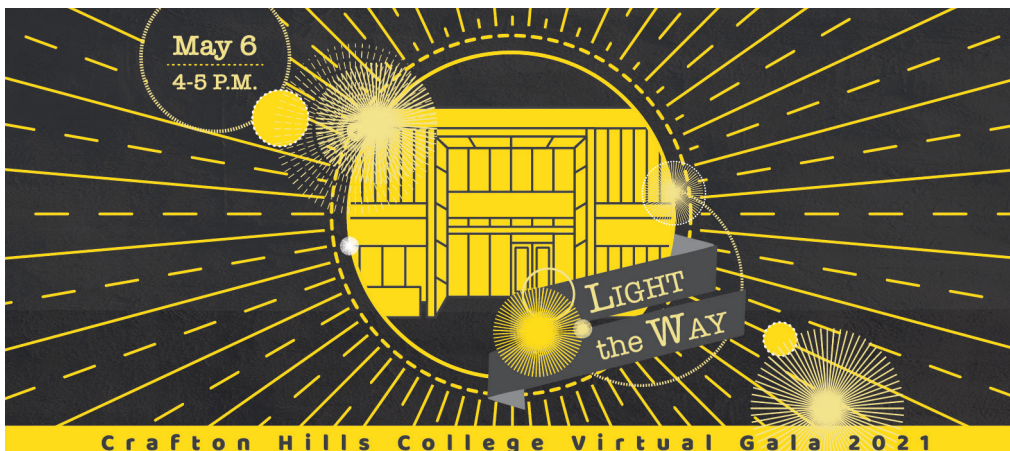


Photo: Professor of Mathematics, Brandi Bailes.

She credits the inspiration received from her female instructors with her success in graduating from Crafton, transferring to Cal Poly Pomona and earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees in applied mathematics.

Bailes highlighted the opportunities for the women if they attend Crafton, explaining that “We’ve moved forward to help bring equity into STEM, and we’ve created an entire STEM center which allows you to explore without having to know where to start.” She also pointed out the support for STEM students in the classroom through embedded tutoring. “We’ve put tutors

directly in the classroom, so that if you do struggle in a class, it does not become a roadblock,” said Bailes, explaining how the tutors attend each class with the students and are then able to help students understand course concepts and methods. Bailes explained how the College’s small size allows for collaboration amongst STEM faculty and programs. “We have a small college so we’re able to build classes together. Your math instructor talks to your biology instructor, who talks to your chemistry instructor. We have a community already built up and we’re inviting you to become part of that community,” emphasized Bailes.



## Please Join Us for Crafton’s First Ever “Virtual” Gala!

Pre-registration and additional event information at: [craftonhills.com/gala](http://craftonhills.com/gala)

We invite you to make a difference in a Crafton student’s life. Your support will provide resources that directly support students, programs, and services at the College that would not otherwise be possible.

## Fast Vaccine Clinic Felt Like a Gift at Crafton Hills College

Employees at the San Bernardino Community College District and Yucaipa Unified School District received some welcome news on Friday, Feb. 26. If they responded quickly, they could make an appointment to get the Moderna vaccine on the campus of Yucaipa's Crafton Hills College.

It was short notice but given how scarce vaccine appointments have been during the COVID-19 pandemic, these employees didn't seem to mind.

"I was impressed with how well organized the pop-up vaccine clinic was," said Delmy Spencer, Crafton Hills College's vice president of student services, after receiving her shot Friday. "Everyone was friendly and welcoming." She said it made her happy to see students, faculty, staff, administration and community members working to put the clinic together.

Crafton Hills College President Kevin Horan said that he can't take credit for the windfall of 100 doses. "Dr. Phong Nguyen is the real hero here," Horan said. "His medical practice received the doses and he offered them to us. He also happens to be the medical director for our paramedic program."

Dr. Nguyen works closely with paramedics in the area as medical director for Redlands Community Hospital's emergency department. He also teaches at the UC Riverside School of Medicine.

As chair of the fundraising committee of the Crafton Hills College Foundation, Dr. Nguyen has helped raise over \$600,000 to support the College's programs. But the vaccines are an entirely different kind of gift, said Michelle Riggs, director of institutional advancement for Crafton Hills.

"He wants our students to be able to return to campus," she said. "He wants our



Photo: Paramedic students volunteering to administer vaccines.

faculty and staff to be safe. He is always trying to figure out ways to make our community as a whole a better place, and he knows how hard it has been to train students in hands-on skills in a remote environment."

So, with very little notice, student paramedics Jessica Sayegh, Andrew Martinez and Jared Gvesrude started putting vaccines into arms, following protocols from San Bernardino County that offers priority to people working in education. The students worked quickly, showing off their steady hands and steady voices, necessary for first responders.

That is the kind of training drilled into them at Crafton's nationally accredited

**"This is exactly the kind of quick response that we have trained for."**

paramedic training program. In 2018, the Crafton Hills College EMT and Paramedic programs were named by the California Community College Chancellor's Office as "gold star" programs based on their outcomes in employment and earnings.

Each person who received a first shot also received an appointment card for the

second dose, which will be administered in late March.

"This is exactly the kind of quick response that we have trained for," said Amanda Ward, director of the Crafton Hills College paramedic program. She and Kristen Clements, paramedic program instructor, supervised the students during the clinic. Cali Binks, the superintendent of the Yucaipa Calimesa-Joint Unified School District, said she partners with San Bernardino Community College District regularly. But when the College district offered to share this clinic, it took the partnership to the next level. "During the COVID-19 pandemic, our partnership has been strengthened by working together," she said. "The vaccine clinic today is just another way the education community supports one another."

Riggs said she was proud of how faculty members and paramedic students stepped up without hesitation to volunteer to help administer vaccines. "They are not getting paid for this," she said. "They just believe in helping others, and this is a great example of the caliber of people we have here at Crafton Hills College."



Photo: Financial Aid Outreach Coordinator Veronica Lehman.

## Veronica Lehman Receives “Making a Difference” Award

The California Community Colleges Student Financial Aid Administrators Association (CCCSFAAA) selected Crafton’s Financial Aid Outreach Coordinator Veronica

Lehman as the recipient of the “Making a Difference” award during its state-wide annual conference held virtually March 2 - 4.

This award was established in 2005 in honor of Maureen Martinez, former Financial Aid Director at San Bernardino Valley College. Martinez tragically lost her life in a flash flood after leaving work at SBVC in January 2005. According to Crafton’s Financial Aid Director John Muskavitch, “Maureen was an asset not only to Valley and Crafton but to CCCSFAAA and all the students she served.” This award was established in honor of Martinez to recognize an individual who has gone above and beyond in service by making a difference in the lives of others.

Lehman, who serves as the foster youth liaison for Region IX with the Chancellors’ Office, coordinates grocery pickups for students suffering with food insecurity, and volunteers to help the College’s homeless population and LGBTQ+ community,

certainly does make a difference.

Muskavitch, who nominated Lehman, stated, “Veronica is a delight to have in the office. With her as my coordinator for the past three years, I have never received any complaints from students. She has taken on extra duties and works extensively with our EOPS department, Cal Works, and Guardian Scholars.”

Muskavitch continued, “having Veronica in my office is the best thing that has ever happened to me in my career. She has been the same since day one. She has been very instrumental to CCCSFAAA over the years and contributes greatly to CCCSFAAA and CHC.”

Lehman gave all the credit back to her colleagues upon receiving the award, stating, “It takes a village to make a difference, and I’m proud to say I have great support from everyone at Crafton, especially my financial aid family.”



Photo: CHC Black History Month 2021 Planning Committee.

## The Black Family: Representation

On February 24, the CHC Black History Month ’21 closing ceremony featured CSUSB educator and current fellow of the California Arts Project, Dr. Kathryn M. Ervin. Throughout her interactive presentation, Ervin walked participants through the historical importance of

the Black family by highlighting artistic works from legendary Black painters (Henry Ossawa Tanner, 1857-1937), photographers (James Van Der Zee), actors (Ruby Dee, Ossie Davis), and musicians (the Marsalis family). Ervin explained that although their

contributions had enormous influence across a variety of genres, each of these artists gained national recognition for similar reasons. Their efforts in print, on canvas, or on stage directly “countered the narrative of the Black family as having or being less than anyone else,” explained Ervin. Images of a father and son saying grace at a dinner table, Black family members dressed in evening gowns or sailor uniforms, strong Black characters in film, or prolific musicianship all offered generational snapshots of the Black experience in America that were different than those expressed in the mainstream. “As Black Americans migrated from the South, the role of the arts became very important,” said Ervin. Despite the tragedies connected to the Black experience, these artists used their respective mediums to present images and ideas uplifting the Black family. “Our families are an important resource that contribute to the fibers of who we are. Let us celebrate [their wisdom] and pass it along,” concluded Ervin.

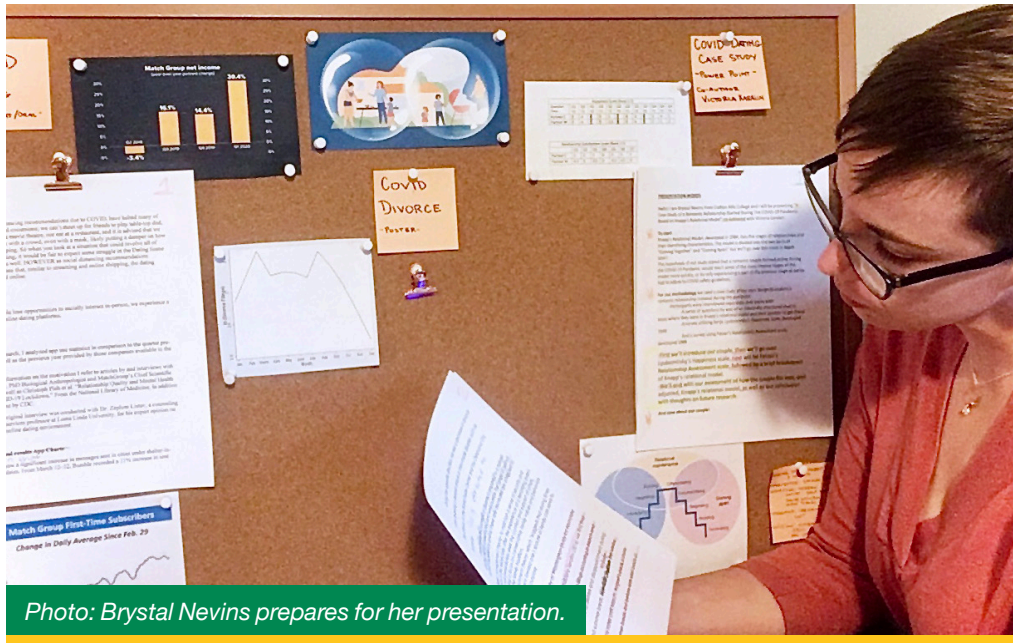


Photo: Brystal Nevins prepares for her presentation.

participation.

“This is a chance for students who might be interested in applying to present at the conference next year and for faculty to see what kinds of research community college students are doing in their disciplines,” explained Cannon. “It is important that the students feel supported, and you will be proud of them when you hear them present their research.”

Research presentations from Crafton students include the following: Zoe Lane, “The Universality of Near-Death Experiences: An Examination of NDE in Early Civilizations”; Brystal Nevins, “Divorce Rates in the Time of COVID: A Look into the Future by Looking into the Past”; Grace Newlin, “The Existence and Evolution of Segregation in American Schools”; Latifat Babatunde, “The Link Between Discrimination and Depression in the LGBT Community”; Victoria Karalun and Brystal Nevins, “A Case Study of a Romantic Relationship Started During the Covid-19 Pandemic Based on Knapp’s Relational Model”; Rebekah Stark, “African-American Music: A Comparison of the Harlem Renaissance and Contemporary Hip Hop”; and Brystal Nevins, “Cupid in the Digital Age: A Look at Dating during Covid.”

## Honors Students Present Research at UCI

Six members of Crafton Hills College’s Honors Institute have been selected to present their research at the 2021 University of California Irvine College Honors Research Conference March 26 and 27. This annual conference gives community college students the opportunity to present the results of their work in either oral or poster presentation format. Cash prizes are awarded to the top abstracts and posters, and additional awards are presented to students who

have shown exemplary achievement in their own honors programs.

This traditionally in-person conference is being held as a virtual conference this year, which creates a unique opportunity for the Crafton community to participate. Honor’s coordinator Judy Cannon encouraged Crafton students, faculty and administrators to attend the event virtually to cheer on the six students, and she pointed out the potential benefits of

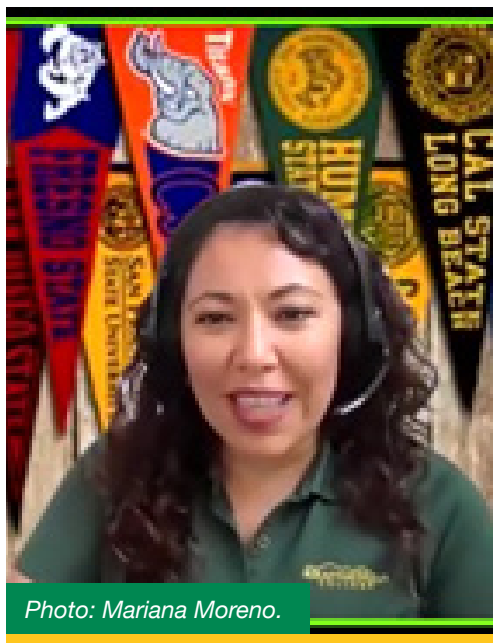


Photo: Mariana Moreno.

## Mariana Moreno Presents Transfer Opportunities at CHC

CHC’s transfer center coordinator Mariana Moreno provided information at a virtual event on February 16 that promotes access to educational opportunities for all students, regardless of immigration status.

Through an initiative between the San Bernardino Community College District and the Mexican Consulate of San Bernardino called the Ventanilla de Orientacion Educativa (Educational Opportunities Help Desk), Moreno presented to our Spanish-

speaking community details about transferring from a community college to a university.

According to program coordinator Mariana Lopez, Moreno captivated the audience sharing with them her own binational educational journey. “Viewers complimented her detailed, easy-to-follow presentation and were appreciative about her answering their questions,” said Lopez.

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## Stop Asian American Pacific Islander Hate

Acts of hate against Asian American and Pacific Islander communities has risen during the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 16, Rejoice Chavira and Souts Xayaphanthong, who serve as co-chairs of the CHC Asian Pacific Islander Month planning committee, along with committee members Chloe De los Reyes, Alexa Aslanian, Ericka Paddock, Gwen Di Ponio, Racquel Schoenfeld, Maita Dawang, and Christina Sweeting, hosted the Stop Asian American Pacific Islander Hate presentation.

Dr. Russell Jeung, a leading sociologist of Asian American identity, race, and religion and professor of Asian American Studies at San Francisco State University, spoke to

the audience of 60 CHC faculty, staff, and students about the increase in racism and hate crimes over the past year fueled by a false belief that Chinese Americans were responsible for the pandemic.

Dr. Jeung discussed Asian American racism, the rise of hate crimes, and the

“We hope that we can collectively work together to support and address the needs of the community during this tumultuous time.”

STOP AAPI Hate project, which collects information from victims to advocate for better protection, educational resources, and policy changes. Jeung shared real-life examples of victims and offered strategies

for our community to help prevent harassment and reduce bullying and hate crimes.

In closing comments, faculty member Chloe De los Reyes thanked Jeung on behalf of the committee. “Our sincerest thanks to you, Dr. Jeung, for your work in raising awareness about the rising Anti-Asian discrimination in our nation. Your presentation has helped us get a better understanding of the gravity of this situation. We hope that we can collectively work together to support and address the needs of the community during this tumultuous time,” said De los Reyes.

