



A Focus on Equity: Math and English Completion Rates for Students at CHC

The Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) recently published a report outlining the progress that California community colleges have made in helping students complete transfer-level math and English as encouraged by AB 705, a State law aimed at increasing success rates, especially for traditionally underperforming populations. The PPIC report focuses on the degree of racial equity in student outcomes. The report offers evidence demonstrating not only statewide progress in achieving transfer-level math and English milestones but also specific college level data showing the progress that each college has made towards helping students complete transfer-level math and English and towards mitigating racial or ethnic inequity in these outcomes.

The report reveals that Crafton Hills College faculty and staff have made huge strides in helping their students achieve success in completing English and math requirements. For both, CHC students have demonstrated meaningful improvements in success and decreases in equity gaps across multiple outcomes since 2015.



Photo: CHC students.

CHC English students have successfully completed transfer-level English within one semester at the highest rate of any community college in our region (69%). In addition, the equity gaps in one semester transfer-level completion among Hispanic students was substantially reduced between fall 2015 and fall 2019.

The same is true of African American students in English courses. Not only is disproportionate impact on this measure no longer present, but the gap itself in the one-semester completion is the second lowest in the entire region.

CHC math students have also experienced

a significant increase in success since 2015. The percentage of first-time math students completing transfer-level math in one semester climbed from 13% in fall 2015 to 40% in fall 2019. According to the PPIC report, the 40% completion achieved by CHC transfer-level math students in Fall 2019 was the fourth highest in our region. Additionally, the equity gap observed among Hispanic students decreased between fall 2015 and fall 2019. Faculty and staff at Crafton have also made significant progress in eliminating the equity gap among African American math students. The achievement gap in math course success rates for African American students was the second lowest in the Inland Empire.

Because of their clearly demonstrated success, Crafton faculty will work with researchers from the California Acceleration Project to help other colleges achieve higher and more equitable English and math completion rates for students.

College-by-College Transfer-Level English and Math Completion (Fall 2019)	
English	Math
Crafton Hills 69%	Barstow 51%
Moreno Valley 67%	Norco 49%
Barstow 63%	Mt. San Jacinto 46%
Mt. San Jacinto 62%	Crafton Hills 40%
Riverside City 57%	Riverside City 37%

Source. Public Policy Institute of California



Photo: Wadtreas Gray, proud mother of seven and CHC alumnus.

Grant Money Boosts Success at the Finish Line

Crafton Hills College, in Yucaipa, has added a new source of support for students who could use a boost: an emergency grant program known as “Finish Line.”

Wadtreas Gray, a 37-year-old single mom of seven, said it is already working for her. “I need to better my life for my children,” she said. “It starts with me having a good career.”

Gray said Crafton Hills College has become a family to her, helping her to study respiratory therapy, a challenge partly inspired by her daughter with severe asthma.

“They were always there pushing me,” Gray said of her Crafton family. “There were times I was so overwhelmed I wanted to quit. But the school has so many programs that helped me. Without Crafton, I feel that I would have given up.”

Crafton Hills College received \$128,000 to provide scholarships and emergency assistance this year for nearly 600 students. Like Gray, they were struggling to stay enrolled in classes during the pandemic.

Finish Line grants are available at 34 California community colleges in the state of California. The goal: keep students from giving up.

“This unparalleled level of support for our

students will be life-changing,” said Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Chancellor of the California Community Colleges. “We are grateful to the Jay Pritzker Foundation for their generosity and recognition of the California Community Colleges as a vehicle for transformative change.”

Michelle Riggs, who works in the Crafton Hills College Foundation office, said one of the most helpful parts of the grant is that it continues for 20 years. The money is designed to help students overcome

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obstacles such as homelessness, poverty, experience in the foster care system, re-entry into college because of military service or status as LGBTQ.

“Our goal is to smooth the bumps in the road so that students can finish their degrees and start their careers,” Riggs said. Crafton Hills has a committee who determines how to allocate the funds. This year the money has been used strictly for emergency grants of up to \$500 per student. Next year, Riggs said, the College will have another \$125,000 to provide \$5,000 scholarships for 20 students as well as some emergency grants.

“We require recipients to meet with their

counselors before receiving the money,” Riggs said. “That helps keep them on track to complete their programs, transfer to the CSU or UC systems or get into the workforce.” Riggs said the community college system is in the best position to lift barriers and to support students while they find their way. “It is a guided pathway,” she said.

Gray said Crafton Hills College is indeed making her way easier. She has six sons and one daughter, ranging in age from 19 down to her little 6-year-old with asthma. All are doing well in school. The oldest attends Chaffey College, the second oldest has just enrolled at Crafton Hills, like his mom.

“My children, they constantly encourage me not to give up. They always tell me: ‘we see you, and how much you take care of us.’ They always say, ‘We’re proud of you,’” Gray said.

That is a phrase she cherishes because she didn’t often hear it growing up, bouncing between her birth family and foster care, living in seven different Inland Empire cities during her first 20 years.

She has vowed to raise her own children with stability and consistent schooling, allowing them to try out for sports and get to know their coaches. She said the Redlands Unified School District has helped her to keep all her kids learning via computer during the pandemic by providing laptops and hotspots to access the internet. Her children’s coaches often help with transportation to games. She has some backup from her birth family as well. And Crafton Hills College has become part of her large extended family.

“I always recommend that school to anyone I come across,” she said.

She has one more class to finish before she can get a job as a respiratory therapist, and eventually, she may pursue training as a nurse. “I’m excited about all the opportunities I will have to work and still care for others,” she said.

“This is my calling.”



Photo: CHC Student Senate President, Madeleine Boone.

2021-2022 Student Senate

On May 3 through May 7, Crafton Hills College students voted virtually to elect their student senate executive officers. Here is the new leadership team for the 2021-2022 academic year:

President: Madeleine Boone
Chief Internal Affairs Officer: Tiana McBride
Chief External Affairs Officer: Madeline

Gonzalez
Executive Assistant: Seth Ceballos
Chief Academic Affairs Officer: Robert Alexander
Chief Financial Officer: Ashley Peterson
Student Trustee: Lauren Ashlock

Boone, a sophomore, said she hopes to serve as the voice for her student body and to rally for their goals at the college.

"I know students have countless meaningful and productive ideas that have the ability to make CHC the best it can be," Boone said. "I hope to serve as an advocate for the student body to deliver those ideas and make them a reality. I know especially in the times we are in right now, the more ideas that are voiced, the more solutions there are to our obstacles."

She said she wants to use her position to grow her leadership skills and to help her fellow student senators and executive officers grow in their roles, as well.

Boone, who plans to transfer to University of California at Irvine to earn a Bachelor of Science in physics, said choosing CHC

was easy for her as she valued the kind of community that the college offers to its students.

"Growing up in a small town like Big Bear, I have grown used to a small, supportive community of people who genuinely care about me," said the College Honors Institute and Promise Program student. "A college that was both close to home and had a caring community like Big Bear will provide me with not only an amazing experience but will also be a great gateway to my future endeavors. Luckily, CHC just so happened to have everything I was looking for."

She cited her CHC calculus professor, Jillian Robertson, as her inspiration to teach. Even through remote learning, she managed to build a community in her class unlike any other.

"Jillian showed me the huge difference a good teacher can make, and I hope to be even half the teacher she is," she said, adding that she is among many instructors and professors at CHC who helped create that community and college experience that so many students are looking for.

"I hope to serve as an advocate for the student body to deliver those ideas and make them a reality."



Photo: Charis Alexander, President's Circle Award Recipient.



Photo: Jacob Baker, Ronald Boatman Memorial Scholarship Recipient.

CHC Foundation Awards Scholarships

The Crafton Hills College Foundation awarded \$154,718 in scholarships to 233 students in May 2021. Funding for the scholarships was made possible by more than 15 organizations and 100 individual donors. A team of close to 50 reviewers who consist of employees, retirees, Foundation directors, and members of the community volunteer their time to read through each of the applications and determine the students who best meet the criteria for each of the various opportunities.

For more information, please contact chcfoundation@craftonhills.edu.

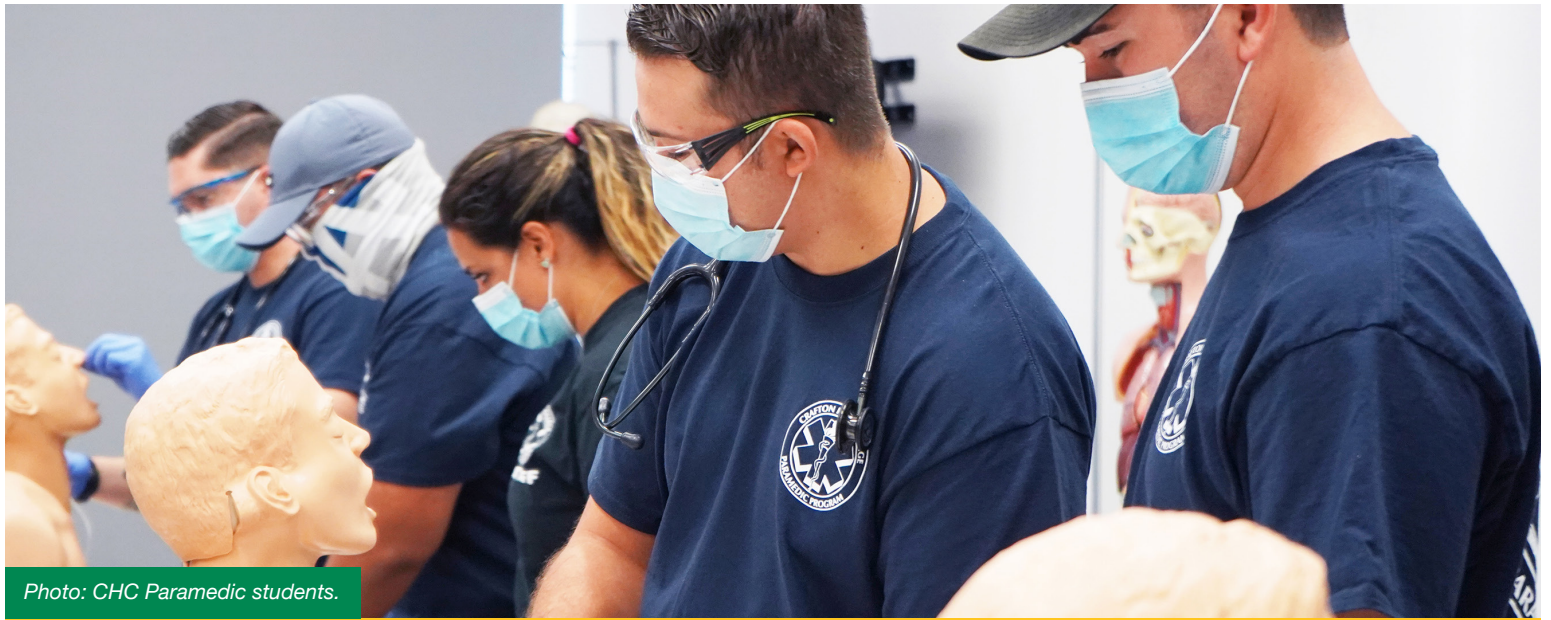


Photo: CHC Paramedic students.

Bank of America Grant will Support Crafton's First Responders

The Crafton Hills College Foundation recently received a \$10,000 award from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation for its work to support students in need.

CHC officials were notified of the award by email on May 15. The award will support students in the Yucaipa-based college's public safety and allied health programs.

"The very best training can only be accomplished by providing quality education with the equipment, gear and supplies that the industry demands, along with the support services needed to ensure our students our successful," stated Crafton Hills College Director of Institutional Advancement Michelle Riggs.

The Bank of America Charitable Foundation works with charities across the country that are "working to advance economic mobility and social progress in low- and moderate-income communities." The organization's focus includes food and housing needs as well as workforce development and education.

Last year, Bank of America invested \$350 million in the communities it serves, and saw its employees donate more than a million hours of volunteer work. The Crafton Hills College Foundation raises

funds to support the institution's programs and students' needs. This new award will help continue the Foundation's efforts and help limit the financial barriers for some Roadrunners. "These funds are especially important as we continue to move forward following the COVID-19 pandemic, which has severely impacted CHC students, who had to learn to navigate courses and services online, many while facing financial hardships," Riggs continued.

According to a recent survey conducted at the college, 63 percent of students have reported a reduction in employment, which includes reduced hours or a complete loss

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of employment.

This grant is allocated to support public safety and allied health programs through Crafton's Training First Responders Project and will help train more than 300 future first responders in fields like emergency medical technician, paramedic, firefighting, and respiratory care.

"Students who train to become first responders at CHC take on a strenuous workload, and this grant will alleviate some

of the financial burden students face," stated Riggs. "The bulk of our students are working outside of school to cover the cost of tuition, supplies, books, uniforms, equipment, testing, and certifications while juggling studying and internships."

"What we are finding from cohort research is that some students fail to sit for the state and national certification exams at the end of their programs because they cannot afford it," stated Riggs. "This has a negative impact on the career success of our students and is a major factor with the current public health issue as it reduces the number of qualified first responders available to meet the needs of our community."

"Providing funding for students who need help covering the certification process so that they can move forward to a career is imperative," Riggs continued. "Thank you so much to Bank of America. This funding will pave the way for employability for our graduates."

The Foundation relies on grants and public funding to support its year-round needs. To learn more about the nonprofit and its work, or to donate to the cause, visit craftonhills.edu.



Photo: Scholarship recipient, Alexander Manjarrez.

by COVID-19.

Manjarrez explained, “I stopped working with him so I could focus more on my studies. It will be tough for me to go back and help him run his business since I will be focusing on my upper division course work at the University of California, Riverside in fall 2021.”

Manjarrez is goal-oriented when it comes to mapping out a plan for his studies. His long-term goal is to earn a Master’s in computer science at UCR and work as a software developer while continuing to do research on tech-related topics. He also wants to work in a field where he can construct large software systems, something that drew him to his major.

SoCalGas Awards Crafton Grad with \$5,000 Scholarship

Recent Crafton Hills College grad Alexander Manjarrez has received a \$5,000 boost from Southern California Gas Company.

Manjarrez is one of the 2021 scholarship recipients of Southern California Gas Company, which awards high school graduating seniors and transferring community college students with scholarships from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

To qualify, students must meet a list of criteria, including living within the SoCalGas service area, maintaining a GPA of at least a 3.0, and demonstrating strong community involvement.

“SoCalGas believes that a well-educated workforce makes good business sense and is essential for a vital and economically healthy Southern California,” stated Regional Affairs Manager Robert Visconti, who also serves on the College’s Foundation Board of Directors.

Manjarrez outlined his future educational and career plans and the need for the scholarship to continue his education. He explained the impact the pandemic had on his family and that his family’s income dropped by 25 percent. Manjarrez put his studies first, although doing so interfered with his ability to continue helping his father manage Rainbow Board and Care, an assisted living facility that was also impacted

“Research is something that has resonated with me ever since I enrolled at Crafton Hills College,” stated Manjarrez. “I conducted research on image blurs for DEKA, company that specializes in complex problem-solving, and I learned how to run algorithms on MATLAB and met the company’s expectations.”

“Research has taught me that being an effective researcher means being passionate, knowledgeable and prepared,” he continued.

Southern California Gas Company is focused on promoting STEM and Energy Education to improve and support educational opportunities and workforce development in their communities. To learn more about the company’s work, visit www.socalgas.com/our-community/promoting-education-workforce-development.

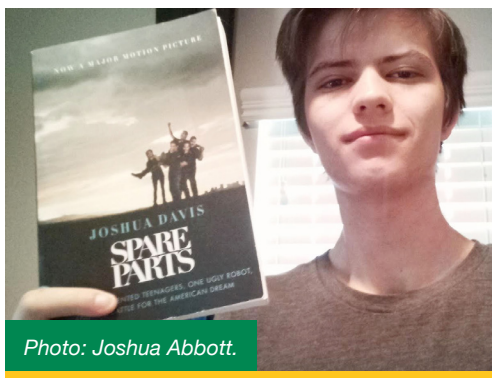


Photo: Joshua Abbott.

One Book One College Essay Contest

Amongst the many *Spare Parts* One Book One College activities, CHC held an essay contest with the winners invited to meet with President Horan and their works to be published in our literary magazine, *The Sand Canyon Review*. Prizes were awarded to:

- First Place: Melissa Chavez, “Cut from the Same Cloth”
- Second Place: Joshua Abbott “Illegal

Hardships”

- Honorable Mention: Alberto Rios, “The Pride Inside of Fredi’s Life.”

The CHC Foundation provided funding for the winners which brought students, faculty, and administrators together, all working towards making equity a reality for all!



Photo: Dean of Student Services and Student Success, Kirsten Colvey.

Kirsten Colvey Retires After More Than 40 Years at Crafton Hills College

After more than 40 years working to lift up students and helping them to achieve their goals at Crafton Hills College (CHC), Dean of Student Services and Student Success Kirsten Colvey is retiring.

Since she was hired at CHC in January 1981 as a learning disabilities specialist, Colvey has been interested in helping students reach their full potential, although she did not initially set out to work at CHC, or any college.

“I kind of fell into it,” said Colvey about working in higher education. “I did a field study for my bachelor’s degree in Community Studies at University of California, Santa Cruz, on higher education, so I did have an interest. When I started my master’s degree at Pepperdine University in Special Education, I was given an opportunity to work with a learning disabilities program at West Los Angeles College, and that [experience] piqued my interest.”

After she completed her master’s, she was ready to start working. Mentors and friends in her professional networks

advised her to apply for any position she found as a learning disabilities specialist to get practice for future professional interviews.

Her first practice interview at a community college would be her last -- she was offered the learning disabilities specialist position at CHC, and she never left.

Trying to capture in words the significance of more than four decades of work to give students at CHC every opportunity and resource they need to be successful

“It was always so nice to see these students, who did not believe in themselves or their ability, to be successfully changed and walk across the stage with confidence.”

is overwhelming, especially for those who are not necessarily keen on talking about themselves, like Colvey. But she is sure about one thing: the forty-plus years at CHC have amounted to making a positive difference in countless students’ lives.

“I have fond memories of watching the students I worked with that had learning disabilities walk at graduation,” Colvey said. “It was always so nice to see these students, who did not believe in themselves or their ability, to be successfully changed and walk across the stage with confidence. To know that I played some small part in their achievement is something I am very proud of.”

She plans to spend her retirement enjoying her family, especially her son, grandchild, and the rest of her extended family in Denmark, where she has dual citizenship. Traveling with her husband is also on the agenda, as well as staying busy with crafts and other activities that are important to her, including education, community service, climate change, and expanding access to voting rights.

It is hard to believe that retirement is on the horizon for her, but she is proud of her accomplishments and being a part of the growth and change at CHC during her time serving here.

Vice President of Student Services, Dr. Delmy Spencer commented on Colvey’s retirement. “Kirsten’s passion and commitment to students, faculty and staff is going to sorely missed. Crafton owes a tremendous debt of gratitude for Kirsten’s academic leadership, vision, and goodwill. She has cultivated the very best at Crafton from its near inception to the vibrant campus it is today. Her dedication to technology, teamwork, and growth have left a legacy. Kirsten’s presence, wisdom, and kind words have inspired faculty, staff, and students. Crafton is deeply honored to call Kirsten not only a colleague, but our friend. We congratulate her on her retirement and wish her the very best. She will be greatly missed and forever remembered.”

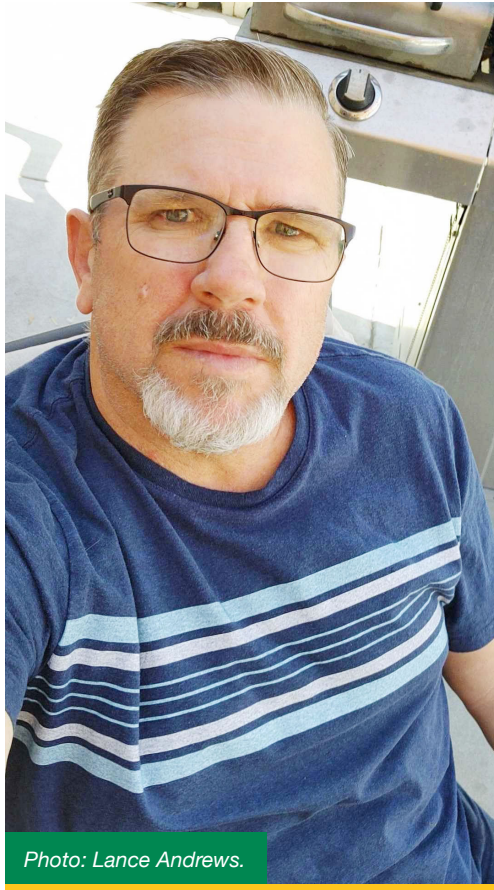


Photo: Lance Andrews.

From Addict to Graduate: How Lance Andrews Found Success in the Allied Health Field

Lance Andrews' path to becoming a 2006 Crafton Hills College graduate tested his grit and determination to build a better life for he and his family.

Addicted to drugs and alcohol in his 20s, this Riverside man knew he had to make a change. But it wasn't until moving back to Southern California at the age of 33, determined to make a change, that things started falling into place for him.

After overcoming his addictions, Andrews began attending Riverside City College, and while wrapping up some general ed courses, the now 53-year-old recalls seeing a pamphlet advertising the X-ray program at Crafton and decided to apply.

Andrews' mom was an x-ray tech, and he knew the program would lead to a steady career. But he had some doubters, including a school counselor who was dismissive about the idea.

"(My counselor) said it was a hard program to get into because they only accepted nine students a year and he thought I should pick something different. I was painting houses for a living at the time and was newly married to my second wife and just had a baby girl, but I thought why not give it a shot?" Andrews explained.

Lance decided to apply for the program anyways, and was excited to hear that he was accepted. But there were still obstacles Andrews needed to overcome at the time, including balancing school and work, dealing with another divorce and parenting as a single father. His family was concerned about him carrying such a heavy load, but his brother encouraged him with the constant reminder that – nothing changes if nothing changes.

That's where help from others and Crafton came in.

Andrews credits CHC's Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOP&S) initiative for stepping in and covering some expenses associated with materials he needed for the program.

"We can only keep what we have by giving it away," Andrews explained. "You have to remember those who helped and came before you."

He also received assistance so his then 16-month-old could attend daycare while he attended classes daily from 7:30am until 4pm.

No matter what came Andrews' way, he found a way to finish what he started.

"Bottom line, I finished school in 2006. Me and my daughter had been 'Daddy and Daughter' alone for a few years, and then I met my current -- and final -- wife in

2007. It was a crazy time," he said.

Andrews keeps in touch through social media with those who have impacted his life at Crafton and hopes to continue paying it forward by sharing his story any chance he gets to inspire the next generation of Roadrunners or others looking to better their circumstances through education. Andrews wants them to find whatever they are passionate about and go for it.

"We can only keep what we have by giving it away," Andrews explained. "You have to remember those who helped and came before you. When I was hungry and broke, someone always helped me out, and when I tried to pay them back, they said, 'Don't worry about paying me back, but think of all the people who you are going to help in the future.'"

Currently, Andrews is part of the Kaiser Permanente Fontana team working in interventional radiology, where he plans on retiring from in the far distant future. "It is the best place I ever worked. It helped me find my groove and passion," he said.

Andrews wants to continue moving forward on his path of sobriety and has some advice for current and future students:

"Life is always in session," he said. "So, when I first decided to go back to school, I had family members who expressed their concerns, but I had bigger goals

in mind. I had to ask myself, 'In two years do I want to continue painting houses with the same skill set I have, or do I want to obtain a higher level of security for me and family?'"

