



## Crafton Hills College Light the Way Virtual Gala Raises \$119,260 to Support Students.

On Thursday, May 6, the Crafton Hills College Foundation in partnership with KVCR studios produced a live, interactive virtual gala to raise funds to support the College's students and programs.

The event, co-hosted by Scott Ward and Amy Minjares, incorporated pre-recorded video stories of students, faculty, and staff demonstrating how Foundation funds benefit students and the college.

"Every dollar counts," said Michelle Riggs, the executive director for the Foundation. "The funds raised through this event will provide annual scholarships, support for career training and transfer programs, and direct support for students for tuition, transfer application fees, and our Veteran's Resource Center."

Supporters were invited to participate in the Sponsor-A-Student opportunity drawing, where each donation entered them into a drawing to win prizes including a Memorial Day weekend getaway at a golf resort in Arizona, an overnight stay at Casino Morongo, six months of artisan gelato delivery from Happy Camper Creamery, and more.



Photo: Hosts for Crafton's first virtual gala.

College President Dr. Kevin Horan invited the 128 attendees to join the College's President's Circle with a minimum donation of \$1,000, and supporters answered that call with seven new members pledging their support during the one-hour event.

"President's Circle funds provide flexibility to support the students and programs where the greatest needs might be," President Horan explained. "These funds have helped us launch an award-winning Honors Institute, open a new STEM Center, distribute over \$175,000 in scholarships annually, and provide much needed emergency funds to students for textbooks, food, housing, childcare, and transportation." Donations can still be made to Sponsor-A-

Student at [craftonhills.edu/gala](http://craftonhills.edu/gala).

The event was sponsored by KVCR, DLR Group, SoCal Gas, AECOM, Bill & Gloria Harrison, Cherry Valley Nursery, OmniTrans, P2S, Champion Electric, Kitchell, 19/six, Westgroup Designs, Hampton Tedder, Epic Engineers, Inland Empire Community Foundation, Snipes Dye, Keenan, Beaver Medical Group, Barich & Associates, Merrill Lynch, SchoolsFirst, Bank of SoCal, Dr. Cheryl Marshall, Solis Group, CASC Engineering, Omega Environmental, Payroll Vault, SBC Superintendent, June Yamamoto, Brian Kwong, Terry Vines, Chloe de Los Reyes, Roger Mateo, and Scott Ward.



## Free College Promise

A virtual celebration was held on May 14 to recognize the 83 graduates earning a degree or certificate from the first cohort of the Free College Promise Program. Sixty-two of the graduates have maintained a 3.0-3.99 grade point average while eight of the students earned a perfect 4.0 in their two years at CHC.





Photo: CDC students before closure.

## Crafton Hills College Child Development Center set to Reopen Safely, now Accepting Applications

The Crafton Hills College (CHC) Child Development Center plans to reopen August 9 as COVID-19 cases steadily decline and vaccination rates rise across the county.

The Child Development Center had initially closed in March 2020 following recommendations from the County Department of Public Health. While it remained closed, staff deep cleaned and disinfected the facility, said CHC Child

Development Center Director Deborah Wasbotten. She added that the priorities for reopening will be health and safety, as well as providing a positive experience for the children in their care.

“When we return, we will focus on the children’s social and emotional development,” Wasbotten said. “We understand that this past year has been spent away from direct connections with others for most of us. Our staff will do their

best to ensure a welcoming transition back into school.”

The Child Development Center will implement all health and safety protocols as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control, the county health department, and community care licensing guidelines for childcare centers.

“Most of these standards are already embedded in our health practices,” Wasbotten said. “But we want the public to be sure that we are creating the safest possible environment for their children and that we and college officials believe the risk is relatively low for us to reopen our centers.”

Safety protocols for the Child Development Center include frequent handwashing, cleaning, covering coughs and sanitizing “high-touch” items and hard surfaces. Regular health checks will continue to be implemented, with exclusions for fever, rash, and other communicable-type diseases.

More information will be provided as it becomes available. The Child Development Center is currently accepting applications. Visit [craftonhills.edu/childddevelopmentcenter](http://craftonhills.edu/childddevelopmentcenter) for more information.

Crafton Hills College Theatre Program Presents:

**NEW WORKS  
PLAY FESTIVAL**  
NEVER TELL ME THE ODDS

WEDNESDAY MAY 5TH @7PM  
THURSDAY MAY 6TH @7PM  
FRIDAY MAY 7TH @7PM  
SATURDAY MAY 8TH @2PM & @7PM  
SUNDAY MAY 9TH @2PM & @7PM

Every Show will feature a new group of performances

## New Works Festival at CHC is a Hit Around the World!

The Crafton Hills College Theatre Department presented the second annual New Works Festival “Never Tell Me the Odds” May 5-9. Over the course of the weekend, 60 ten-minute and one-act plays were presented. Over half of these plays were directed by Crafton students or faculty, and most of the actors were Crafton students.

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The top-ranked plays were *Bodkin*, by Hollywood screenwriter and UCR Professor Robin Russin, *PayDayus* ex *Machina*, by Chuck Smith, and *In Farce*, by

Steve Bucko. One hundred play submissions were received and were then blind scored by a reading committee. The 60 plays that were chosen were written by playwrights from 16 states, three Canadian provinces, New Zealand, the Czech Republic, China and the United Kingdom.

Due to COVID-19 protocols that were still in place, all plays were presented either over Zoom or as recordings. Interactive sessions with the playwrights and the audience were held after every session, with over half of the writers participating.





Photo: Midori Schardein.



Photo: Marlena Camarena.



Photo: Eve Riggs.

## Crafton Student Artists Show Off their ‘Robotic’ Side

Organizers of a campus-wide Robotics and Robotic Art Competition have announced its winners: Midori Schardein, Marlena Camarena, and Eve Riggs.

The three Roadrunners will each take home a cash prize – including a top prize of \$500 – and bragging rights.

Each participating student brought their own interpretation to the competition’s overall theme, which asked artists to expand their creative side by melding together robotics and art.

The competition – which began in early March – was planned as part of a campus-wide spring semester focus on the book *Spare Parts*, by Joshua Davis. Based on a true underdog story, the book follows four undocumented Latino teenagers from Arizona and their participation in the 2004 Marine Advanced Technology Education Robotics Competition at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Events highlighting the book were launched earlier this year and included chapter discussions, an essay competition, and even an afternoon with Oscar Vasquez, one of the teens in the book. The Robotics and Robotic Art Competition carried over the theme of robotics. Camarena’s piece titled, “Robots Become

Human,” placed first the event’s Art Category. It explores the idea of robotics’ advancement in the medical field, particularly how “advanced bionics and biotechnology will change the world as we know it,” she explained.

“I’ve always been fascinated with robots,” she said. “Seeing robotics in science fiction films and seeing how they can help in the medical field is what inspired me to become a biomedical engineer. I truly believe that bionics is the future of the medical industry.”

Riggs – who placed in second in the same category – went a different route by paying homage to one of science fiction’s most beloved “Star Wars” characters, C-3PO.

“This robot is fluent in more than seven million forms of communication,” she said. “This is a robot that many children have watched growing up and inspires many young engineers. I hope to walk the earth with a robot like C-3PO one day.”

Schardein took an entirely different approach for her untitled piece by using visions of nature during the COVID-19 pandemic as inspiration. She explained that it was while being able to “break free from the confines” of her home that she was able

to connect differently to the beauty around her.

“While I normally work in the digital and 2D atmosphere, I wanted to challenge myself with creating an object that represented the space where technology and nature intersect,” she said. “My piece is a step towards recreating [in a robot] the movement seen in a hummingbird pollinating flowers, much like the ones I see in my backyard daily.

“Even though robots are still commonly viewed as futuristic technology, I think we are constantly trying to recreate the things we know in the world around us,” she continued. “We keep coming up with ways to make more ‘natural’ and ‘human-like’ figures to better understand the unknown.”

Camarena and Riggs received \$300 and \$200 for their Robotics Art, respectively, while Schardein’s first place win in the Robot/Mechanized Art Category scored her a \$500 prize.

To learn more about the event and its requirements, visit [www.craftonhills.edu/features/one-book-one-college/robotics-competition.php](http://www.craftonhills.edu/features/one-book-one-college/robotics-competition.php)



Photo: Student commencement speaker, Ashley Mascarenhas.

## Crafton Hills College Virtual Commencement Celebrates Graduating Class of 2021

Crafton Hills College virtually celebrated 758 graduates of the class of 2021 who earned 855 degrees and 616 certificates amid a global pandemic. The virtual commencement ceremony was streamed live on the College’s Website, YouTube, and Facebook on Wednesday, May 26.

The event incorporated all traditional elements of an in-person ceremony, including an opening video montage with “Pomp and Circumstance” played over self-recorded videos of faculty and staff waving and cheering for the graduates.

Outgoing student senate president and class of 2021 graduate Jake Fuller opened the virtual ceremony by leading the audience in a salute to the flag followed by fellow graduate, Audrey Ortiz, singing the National Anthem.

Crafton Hills College President Dr. Kevin Horan remarked about the importance of this moment, and San Bernardino Community College District Board of Trustees Chair Dr. Anne L. Viricel commended the class for overcoming the challenges of the remote learning environment. The keynote address speaker, Dr. Margaret Hill, Board Member of the San Bernardino City School District

Board of Education, stated, “You’ve had a turbulent time, but you’ve made it. And you should be so proud of your success.”

Student commencement speaker Ashley Mascarenhas shared a message of hope and pride with the graduates. When asked about her experience at Crafton, she shared, “I am incredibly proud to be part of the class of 2021. I made the decision to return to school and pursue my education at the age of 29 in the fall of 2019. It was the best decision I made because for the first time in my life, I made it for myself.”

Mascarenhas has made the most of her time at Crafton serving as an honors ambassador, as the president and founder

“We are grateful that you chose us to be a part of your accomplishments. Congratulations to the very hard-working class of 2021.”

of the Multicultural Club, and as an active member of the Gay-Pril and AAPI committees.

“I am an empowered first-generation college student and woman of color that shares this moment wholeheartedly with her parents, immigrants of Samoa and Pakistan. My parents both instilled

the values of hard work, humility, and always helping others before [yourself]. I dedicate this educational milestone to both,” continued Mascarenhas. “As for Crafton, this journey has meant the world to me, and I will carry the Roadrunner pride with me forever.”

Individual recognition was given to each participant who had his or her name read aloud while an accompanying slide included a photo, personal quotation, degree earned, any honors designations, and any affiliations with programs and groups at Crafton.

The event concluded with an encouraging word from Brandi Bailes, who serves as the College’s academic senate president: “Crafton Hills College faculty are cheering for you because we know how exceptional you are. We are grateful that you chose us to be a part of your accomplishments. Congratulations to the very hard-working class of 2021.”

Graduates and their families are encouraged to join in the celebration by using #chcgrad2021 when posting on their social media accounts. The recorded event can be viewed at [www.craftonhills.edu/commencement](http://www.craftonhills.edu/commencement).





Photo: Senator Bogh with CHC Cadets.

## Senator Bogh Visits CHC Fire Academy

On Friday, May 14, California State Senator for District 23 Rosilic Ochoa Bogh took time to visit the Crafton Hills College Fire Academy and the site of the future East Valley Public Safety Training Center (EVPSTC).

Currently in the planning stages, construction on the EVPSTC will begin in August 2022 with an anticipated completion in July 2023. The specialized fire training facility will include a two-story structure to simulate a typical single-family residence

and a multi-story structure with multi-family apartment, office, retail, and commercial style construction to be used for live-fire training scenarios.



Photo: CHC hosts vaccine clinic to support our community.

## Vaccine Clinic at CHC is a Success!

On Thursday, May 20, Crafton Hills College opened the Crafton Hall facility as a pop-up vaccine clinic. In partnership with Kaiser Permanente, 105 individuals ages twelve and over were able to receive their first of the Pfizer coronavirus vaccines on a walk-in basis.

Martha Valencia, Community Health Manager with Kaiser Foundation Hospitals was pleased with the turnout. "Thank you for hosting the vaccine event and for the kind hospitality, it was rewarding to see groups of families get vaccinated with their teens and adolescents."

Kaiser Permanente will be returning to Crafton Hills College on June 10 from 4-7 p.m. to provide the 2nd dose. Anyone 12 and over can also get the 1st dose at that time and will be scheduled to get their 2nd dose at the Kaiser Permanente Redlands Medical Office Building.





Photo: L to R: Professor Julie McKee, Sasha Paago, Alexis Ford, Saddique Akbar, and Alex Ramos Huaman. (Not pictured: Hannah Stiff).

## Crafton Students and Faculty Recognized for Volunteer Efforts

Five Crafton Hills College Honors Institute students and one Honors faculty member have been awarded the 2021 national President's Volunteer Service Award for completing over 100 hours of community service during a 12-month period in 2020-2021.

This award, founded in 2003 by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, recognizes the important role of volunteers in America's strength

and national identity. Led by AmeriCorps and managed in partnership with Points of Light, the program allows Certifying Organizations to recognize their most exceptional volunteers.

The Crafton Hills College Honors Institute became a Certifying Organization last year, and this is the first time the awards have been presented to Crafton students and faculty. Any Crafton student or faculty member can apply for the award, and each

application will be reviewed to determine whether it meets the award criteria.

Those who meet the requirements are awarded a medal (bronze for 100-174 hours, Silver for 175-249 hours, gold for 250+ hours), a personalized certificate, and a letter signed by the President of The United States.

Honors Coordinator Judy Cannon stated, "This is a terrific achievement during a year when it was difficult to get out and do regular community service because of the pandemic, but these recipients found ways to serve anyway."

Alex Ramos Huaman, who was awarded the bronze medal for his volunteer work at Redlands Community Hospital, agreed that the pandemic made volunteering challenging but that he made it a priority because he believes volunteer work is "an active way of becoming a participating member in your community." He encourages others who are considering volunteering to "ask for the task that best suits you. You can help the organization and find enjoyment in what you do."

For more information about the awards, please visit <https://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov>.

### Richelle Boyd

- Major
  - AA Humanities
  - AA Social Science
  - AA-T English
- Transfer School
  - Applied : UCSB, UCR, UofR, U of La Verne, CSULB, SDSU, Sonoma State, CSUSB, & SF State
  - Attending: UCSB

Photo: EOPS graduate Richelle Boyd's slide from the virtual ceremony.

annually each spring by the department to acknowledge the students' hard work and accomplishment in attaining a college degree. This year's event was held via Zoom and recognized 77 students who earned an AA-T or AS-T degree and will be transferring to a UC, CSU or private university. The event also recognized six students who did not earn a degree but have completed the required courses and are transferring. Each recipient received either an EOPS or CalWORKs stole to be worn with their regalia at commencement in recognition of their participation in one of the programs. Twenty-seven of the students earned a 3.0-3.5 grade point average and three students are leaving CHC with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

## EOPS, CARE, CalWORKs, and Guardian Scholars Program Recognition Ceremony

The EOPS, CARE, CalWORKs, and Guardian Scholars Program celebrated their graduate and transfer students on May 7. A recognition ceremony is held





Photo: VRC Staff with Veteran Graduate Sherwin Leggett (center).

## Celebrating our Veteran Graduates

Thirteen veterans are graduating this semester from Crafton Hills College. The College's Veteran's Resource Center hosted a drive-up celebration for the students to receive their "VRC swag" on May 18. Participants included VA Certifying Official Steve Rush, Administrative Secretary Vicky Barra, VRC Counselor Lisa Mills, VRC Therapist Cody Lange, Dean Student Services/ Development, Joe Cabrales, and students Sherwin Leggett (US Army) AS Fire Science and Eileen Hamm (US Marine) AA Social Science, AS Health Science, and an AS Multiple Science.



Photo: Honors grad Brystal Nevins.

## Honors Completers Celebrate Program Completion

Thirty-eight students who participated in the Crafton Hills College Honors Institute are graduating or transferring this semester. Of those students, 32 met all requirements for recognition at commencement, having completed 15 units of Honors courses with a grade of A or B, achieved a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.25, and volunteered for at least 15 hours of community service. The Honors program recognized students with a drive-by pick up of cupcakes, stoles, grad books, signs, swag bags, and yard signs on May 14.



Photo: Charis Alexander, Department of English and Reading Student of the Year.

## Virtual Student Recognition Awards

Each year, Crafton Hills College faculty and staff select a "Student of the Year" from their respective departments. There were 38 students recognized in 2021. Each student was recognized on the College's website and shared on social media with a photo and quote from the nominating faculty or staff member. These students come from all walks of life and stand out from their peers for a variety of reasons. Whether they have the highest grade, the strongest work ethic, are the first to help others, or exhibit some other unique characteristic, the College is extremely proud of these individuals and their contributions to our

campus community. To view the student profiles, visit [www.craftonhills.edu/studentsoftheyear2021](http://www.craftonhills.edu/studentsoftheyear2021).

