



Crafton Hills College receives Highest Level of Accreditation Affirmation

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) recently notified CHC that it had earned full reaffirmation of accreditation for seven years, the highest level of accreditation an institution of higher learning can receive. Accreditation is a process by which colleges are evaluated to ensure that they meet or exceed national standards of quality. CHC is one of only four two-year colleges in California this year to receive the highest level of accreditation that the organization issues.

The accreditation process encourages institutions to improve academic quality, institutional effectiveness, and – ultimately -- student success. This reaffirmation assures the community that CHC uses policies and procedures for continued evaluation and improvement to serve the community and provide high-quality education.

“It takes a village as they say, and we have one awesome village,” Crafton Hills College President Dr. Kevin Horan said.



Photo: Crafton Hills College students.

“This reaffirmation demonstrates that we are keeping our promise to our students and our community, and that CHC provides excellent educational opportunities.”

This top-tier accreditation was a result of the College’s progress in instituting Guided Pathways and the revisions made to the English and math sequences to reduce time to completion and improve student success. The accreditation team gave accolades for the College’s use of data to inform decisions, distance education training and verification program, and

its ability to adapt and continue to serve students in a remote format throughout the Pandemic. Also noted were CHC’s efforts to support equity and inclusion and provide mental health services for students.

Dr. Horan said CHC will review ACCJC suggestions for improving institutional effectiveness and will begin developing a plan to implement these recommendations. The College will go through its next comprehensive accreditation review with the ACCJC in fall of 2027.



Child Development Center Students Make Valentine Cards for Front Line Workers

The children at the Crafton Hills College Child Development Center made special Valentine’s Day cards to show their support to doctors, nurses, and medical professionals at local hospitals. The at home project was a way for the center to teach children gratitude amid the coronavirus health crisis while incorporating art, creativity, and fun.

Child Development Center Director, Deborah Wasbotten explained that each

student received supplies to create four handmade cards. Finished cards were distributed to front line workers at Desert Regional and Redlands Community Hospitals directly to Crafton Hills College Alumni when possible. “This project taught our students the importance of showing appreciation to all the hard-working, dedicated doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists, and others who are on the front lines, many of whom received their training at Crafton Hills College.”



Photo: Fire Engine and Ambulance donations made to the EMT and Fire Academy programs.

Crafton Hills College Receives Ambulance and Wildland Fire Engine from San Bernardino County Fire

On February 3, San Bernardino Fire personnel delivered an ambulance and Type III Wildland Fire Engine to the College for use in training, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), paramedics and firefighters. The donated vehicles have run thousands of emergencies and will now serve as educational training tools for the college.

CHC Fire Chief Mike Alder explained the impact this donation will have on the training of students enrolled in the fire academy program. "Prior to this donation, CHC did not have a wildland apparatus in their fleet. With California's fire season now year-round, a significant training emphasis is placed on wildland firefighting," stated Alder.

The four-wheel-drive engine carries 500 gallons of water, and can "pump and roll,"

which is crucial for wildland firefighting. The engine came fully loaded with gear that meets industry standards.

"On behalf of our long running program as well as the Crafton Hills College and the San Bernardino Community College District, I would like to thank the San Bernardino County Fire Department for this great donation and all of the support that they have provided us throughout

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the years," said Alder. "We truly value our great working relationship and the positive impact it has on our communities."

The ambulance will provide equipment for training in the College's EMT and paramedic programs. "Our students

will be able to practice hands-on skills and assessments in the back of this ambulance and work through the aspects of moving and transporting patients while continuing patient care," said Amanda Ward, CHC Paramedic Program Director. "We are greatly appreciative of this donation from the San Bernardino County Fire Department. With high fidelity simulation being a key component to our educational models, the addition of a fully functional ambulance will aid to create the most realistic simulations possible."

The two new donations will join three previous donations from San Bernardino County Fire. Hundreds of San Bernardino County Fire personnel both past and present have trained at Crafton Hills College.



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SAN BERNARDINO

100% of CHC Students Meet CSUSB “Golden Four” Requirement

Crafton’s Transfer Center Coordinator Mariana Moreno reported that all Crafton students who applied for admission to transfer in fall 2021 to California State University San Bernardino (close to 400) met the “Golden Four” requirement. The “Golden Four” represents the four basic skills general education requirements in each of the following areas: oral

communication, written communication, critical thinking, and mathematics/quantitative reasoning. Applicants for transfer must pass a class in each of these areas with a grade of “C” or higher.

At a recent Transfer Center Directors meeting, a representative from CSUSB announced that Crafton was one of only

two colleges in which all applicants for transfer met this requirement. All the Crafton students who applied are now eligible to continue with the admission process to CSUSB. “I’m so proud of all of us in the counseling departments for doing such a great job not only in making sure student education plans are on point but that they understand the importance of taking these courses, taking them early and how it pertains to their success in moving forward,” stated Moreno. “Great job counselors and staff!”

The University Transfer Center offers a four-part application workshop series from fall to spring to ensure students not only complete the application accurately but also maintain good standing with the university requirements and deadlines that span from October to July of the following year. This includes over 80 workshops as well as weekly virtual drop ins and counseling appointments.



CHC student, Ryan Amaya Selected to Receive Region 9 CalWORKs Scholarship

California Work Opportunities & Responsibilities to Kids (CalWORKs) provides educational training programs and supportive services to help students obtain employment. CalWORKs community college students from region 9 which includes Barstow, Chaffey, Cerro Coso, College of the Desert, Copper Mountain, Mt. San Jacinto, Moreno Valley, Riverside City, Palo Verde, Victor Valley and Crafton were eligible. CHC student Ryan Amaya was selected for this prestigious recognition, which comes with a \$500 award.

According to EOPS Director Dr. Rejoice Chavira, “Ryan has proven what he is capable of as he has maintained a 3.43 overall GPA while balancing work, school and children.” Amaya will earn his AS-T degree in chemistry this semester and

transfer to UCR in the fall.

“Hectic is a great word to define my life,” stated Amaya, “Homeschooling two daughters, tutoring organic chemistry and other subjects, and being a full-time student and father is just chaotic.”

Amaya credits the CalWORKs program with providing the support, guidance, textbooks, and opportunities that he needed to succeed by “overcoming the chaos that basically ensures my life would be impossible without the support of the CalWORK’s program,” explains Amaya.

“Children, college, work and general life is not just a recipe for chaos, it is also a way to challenge yourself, to see what you are truly capable of,” concluded Amaya.

Photo: Ryan Amaya.



Photo: Donation in support of future EMS clinicians.

Paramedic Donation

On February 18, CHC Dean of Career Education and Human Development Dan Word and Paramedic Program Director Amanda Ward received a donation from Redlands Firefighters in support of the newly established Bob & Judy Tyson endowed scholarship.

Bob Tyson was an instructor in the CHC Paramedic Program for many years and established this endowed fund to provide an annual scholarship for a CHC Paramedic student which will be awarded in perpetuity. The fund honors the couple's legacy of nurturing and supporting future EMS clinicians and is a tribute to their lifelong commitment to and impact on the community.



Mariana Moreno Selected to Share Transfer Knowledge at State-wide Conference

Transfer Center Coordinator Mariana Moreno has been selected to present at the California Community College Transfer Summit on March 3. This one-day virtual conference will bring together

transfer center directors, counselors, and staff from across all 116 California community colleges to discuss relevant issues that impact transfer students.

With ten years of experience as a transfer center director, Moreno is pleased to share best practices with her colleagues. "The summit is a chance for us to learn from each other and share best practices to better serve transfer students," explained Moreno.

This is Moreno's second year presenting at the summit, and with a solid program in place at Crafton, she is often asked by colleagues from other institutions for guidance. "In the Inland Empire and across the state, Crafton has a strong reputation in transfer among our CCC colleagues. We are always trying to improve how we meet the needs of our students, and I am always willing to share with other colleges."

Moreno's presentation, Using Technology to Connect Your Team, Build Your Brand and Stand Out in the Electronic

Tidal Wave, will help other community colleges provide transfer services that are effective and timely. Moreno will be co-presenting with transfer center directors from College of the Desert and Mount San Jacinto Community College. The trio will provide attendees with tools to duplicate efforts already established at these respected trailblazing institutions and better meet the needs of students at their respective colleges.

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Moreno credits her service as an advisor to the State Research and Planning Group's Through the Gate Transfer Study, a multiphase study investigating the transfer landscape, challenges, and opportunities across the CCC system as being integral to Crafton's transfer program success. "The new services and initiatives I have undertaken at Crafton are largely due to my participation in this study," stated Moreno.

