



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT



Photo: Orland family presents check for \$75,000 in memory of Captain Mike Orland.

## Annual Foundation Gala Celebrates Crafton's 50-Year History, Students

In 1972, almost 50 years ago, a small community college in the hills of the city of Yucaipa opened its doors to area students.

Since then, Crafton Hills College has uplifted the lives of thousands through its educational resources. CHC celebrated this 50-year milestone on April 21 during a special fundraising gala hosted by the Crafton Hills College Foundation.

This nonprofit organization invited current Roadrunners, past alumni, and hundreds of supporters to the campus -- all in an effort to raise funds for its mission to support student success.

"Tonight is all about fundraising [and] how meaningful this is to our students," explained Diana Rodriguez, chancellor of the San Bernardino Community College District.

The CHC Foundation is supported by contributions from the community that provides CHC students with funds for needs that they cannot otherwise afford—from textbooks to emergencies. The gala

helps support the nonprofit's mission to overcome the financial barriers that may keep students from achieving their educational goals and ensures its students have access to the best facilities, faculty, and equipment available.

Rodriguez recalled a student who had to make a difficult decision: either pay for a textbook or a utility bill. "He showed us the real cost of attending college," she explained. "At that moment he needed to decide whether to pay for the book or attempt to be successful in class without it." The Foundation works to ensure students do not have to make that difficult decision.

This year's event took place in-and-outside of a central venue on campus – The Finkelstein Performing Arts Center – and included some notable highlights, including a live and silent auction that raised thousands and recognition of a \$75,000 donation from the family of the late Mike Orland, a Crafton alumnus and former fire captain of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Fire Department, who lost his battle with cancer

in September 2021 at the age of 54. The donation will help establish an endowment fund to support CHC Fire Academy Students going through the program. It will cover uniform and certification costs, among other expenses.

"We shared so many wonderful years together," said Orland's mom, Margie. "When Mike was 13 and getting ready for his Bar Mitzvah, his grandmother labeled him the bold one. He attacked everything he did with great energy, direction and purpose."

The event also included recognition of its 2022 Outstanding Alumni – Paul Barich, mayor of Redlands; Ann Martgan, EMS Operations Manager for the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians; and former Redlands Fire Chief Jim Topoleski, who is currently serving as Division Chief for San Bernardino County Fire.

"The reason why I look at Crafton the way I do is [that] it is regionally located in one of the most vibrant areas for public safety," Topoleski said, adding that without these programs, local governments are unable to properly staff first responder teams. "And that hurts you in the long run because they can't get the right care to you."

When asked why he continues to support CHC and its programming, Topoleski responded without hesitation: "[CHC] has taken care of my family, and that opportunity exists for every student who steps onto this campus."

Outstanding 2020 Alumni Bill Ahlborn, whose celebration that year was postponed when the annual Foundation gala was not held because of the COVID-19 pandemic, was also recognized.

In total, \$210,000 was raised during the event. For those who were unable to attend, donations can still be made any time at the Foundation's website at [www.craftonhills.edu/foundation](http://www.craftonhills.edu/foundation).



Photo: Audreyana and Jose Rosales.

## From Crafton to Harvard: One student's journey to the Ivy League

Crafton Hills College transferring student Jose Aaron Rosales is packing his bags and heading to Harvard in the fall.

The Rialto resident received the news via email on March 31 while he was having dinner with family at a Texas roadhouse.

"It was such a hard week after burying my grandmother and here I am bawling," the 33-year-old recalled after opening his acceptance letter on his cell phone. "I turned the phone to (my wife) and showed her what it said. She gave me a big hug. Only a few people knew I applied because it was not a guarantee I'd get in."

The first-generation college student's road to Harvard was difficult, but Rosales credits the height of the

COVID-19 pandemic for changing the trajectory of his life, explaining, "the pandemic really was an eye-opener. I was limited in what I could do to help without a medical background. So, my wife and I talked about me going back to school."

### "It was a team effort."

Rosales worked to do just that by connecting with two nonprofits dedicated to providing military veterans like him, who had served as a Marine from 2007 to 2015, a crash course in college life. While going through the process of trying to find the right school, he learned about Crafton Hills College and its high transfer rate and made a phone call.

"Lisa Mills (a counselor) at the (CHC)

Veterans Resource Center picked up the phone on the first ring, and that's how my journey at Crafton started," he said.

Rosales quickly immersed himself in classes focused on his major – Physics – taking as many classes as possible. He then decided what to do next: apply for a four-year college.

With his 4.0 grade-point-average, Rosales said he connected with Crafton's Veterans Resource Center and Transfer Center as well as the nonprofit Service To School for help. Service to School is dedicated to supporting servicemembers and veterans looking to accomplish "their next chapter for leadership by helping them gain admission to the best college or graduate school possible."

Rosales said both resources worked with him to prepare application requirements for consideration. He then connected with someone at Harvard, who relayed the reality of the situation: Rosales might not get in. "... [O]ut of (the many) applicants, they only took 954. And out of that 954, only 18 of them were veterans and I was one of them," he said.

Currently, Rosales is preparing to move back east to attend the university with his wife, Christina, and eight-year-old daughter Audreyana. He expects to graduate with the Harvard Class of 2026 with a bachelor's degree in Physics. Post-graduation, he plans on attending medical school and after that, he said, "give back by helping our veterans."

"I couldn't have done any of this without the support of my family, the nonprofits I worked with and Crafton," Rosales said. "It was a team effort."

## Ahlborn Naming Dedication Ceremony



On Saturday, April 9, Crafton Hills College celebrated the unveiling of the newly named William O. and Paula B. Ahlborn courtyard.

The morning event drew a crowd of over 65 guests including family, friends, members of the CHC foundation board of directors, and SBCCD board of trustees.

“Our grateful thanks go to all of the members of the Crafton family for making our day so wonderful,” stated Paula Ahlborn.

Bill came to Crafton as a re-entry student. His first career was in Journalism; He then served in World War II and received the Purple Heart for being wounded during his action in the Battle of the Bulge. He then worked

as a civilian contractor for the U.S. Air Force at Norton Air Force Base in San Bernardino. At this time Bill began taking classes at Crafton, which led to a teaching career at Crafton, Cal State Fullerton, and Orange Coast College.

CHC director of institutional advancement Michelle Riggs opened the ceremony by welcoming guests and saying, “Bill was the 2020 CHC Alumni of the year. He and Paula have been President’s Circle members for the past seven years, participated in all our foundation events, and are always reaching out to support special projects, including providing gas cards for our veteran students.” Riggs continued, “We are so happy to have you here with us today, Bill & Paula, to celebrate this gift and your contributions to Crafton.”

Photo: William and Paula Ahlborn.



Photo: Chloe de los Reyes, Delmy Spencer, Ivan Peña, and Kashaunda Harris.

## CHC Faculty and Administrators Attend the IE Black Education Congress

BLU’s Inland Empire Black Education Congress was held on Saturday, April 23. The BLU Educational Foundation

began its work in 2001 in response to the higher education challenges faced by families with limited income and

limited opportunities in California’s Inland Empire.

The Black Education Congress event was held in support of the Inland Empire Black Education Agenda that identified five priority areas: (1) academic success, (2) Black history, (3) college and career access, (4) effective teachers, and (5) graduation rates to improve Black student achievement in the Inland Empire. The focus of this event was to identify steps and detailed strategies for each participating organization so that they will be able to meet these educational priorities.

Closing the racial equity gap in education takes intentionality and long-term commitment. Participants from CHC worked together to develop strategies that will be implemented at the College to impact educational outcomes for black students.



## API Letter to ASCCC Published in April Rostrum

Chloe de los Reyes, Dirkson Lee, and Bethany Tasaka authored an article titled 'An Open Letter to Academic Senates for the Academic Senate of California Community Colleges' (ASCCC) April Rostrum. This article was developed from a letter written by the Asian Pacific Islander

Association (APIA) to the leadership of the San Bernardino Community College District (SBCCD). The authors are also part of the statewide Asian Pacific Islander Caucus, a group that represents API faculty from community colleges across the state. According to de los Reyes, "The letter's

purpose is to raise awareness of the concerns that our API colleagues have during this time, especially with regards to mental health and safety." The trio called for proactive, intentional, and ongoing support for the community.

"We are calling on our colleagues to stand with us and to offer support during a very stressful time for us," de los Reyes continued. "This is particularly important because media coverage has tapered in the last few months but acts of violence and attacks on APIs continue."

The letter requests for the ASCCC's support of the efforts of the API Caucus at the statewide level and hopes the message will serve as a starting point to providing ongoing support to API individuals within the California community colleges and serves as a foundation for working with others in the community college system. It also calls for community colleges to find ways to support their API students and employees. This is a time for solidarity.



Photo: Duck and Owl owners, Rebecca and Patricio.

## Duck and Owl

Crafton Hills College introduces to its campus a new café: Duck and Owl.

This whimsical name and its logo blend the childhood nicknames of owners

Rebecca and Patricio. The couple moved from Stamford, Connecticut, to southern California for the sole purpose of opening the Café at Crafton Hills College.

The owners have strong restaurant industry backgrounds and were looking for a new adventure. After seeing the space inside the Crafton Center listed online, the duo knew straight away it would be the perfect place to bring their vision to life. They closed on the deal sight unseen and moved into their Southern California apartment -- also sight unseen -- one month before the grand opening.

The menu of delicious offerings was curated specifically for Crafton and incorporates traditional recipes passed down to Patricio by family such as Pato's famous grilled cheese and the traditional chicken Tinga quesadilla.

Rebecca and Patricio are adjusting quickly to life in California and enjoying the CHC community where everyone who walks into the café automatically becomes a regular.

Duck and Owl is open 7:30 am to 4 pm Monday through Thursday and 7:30 am to 2 pm on Friday.

## CHC Student Presents at Pathways to Equity Conference

On March 16, CHC CalWORKs student Carina Gutierrez presented at the California Community Colleges Pathways to Equity conference.

Gutierrez shared her story of becoming a single mother at the age of 19 to her daughter Magnolia and how, as a CalWORKs recipient, she pursued an education to provide a better future for her daughter.

"I made the decision to apply to Crafton Hills College," Gutierrez shared. She soon secured a student worker position and began to develop a passion for the work she was doing for the CalWORKs department, where she became a SPARC leader.

SPARC is a project through the CalWORKs Association in which parenting CalWORKs students conduct research regarding conditions and barriers within the public assistance and higher education systems, design solutions that make sense to the families

served by those systems, and advocate for the implementation of new, out-of-the-box solutions.

Gutierrez shared her personal struggles of balancing school, home, motherhood, and work. She presented a report of her work with the SPARC Project and how she has been able to "delve into the CalWORKs system and programming to identify barriers, challenges, and obstacles parenting and CalWORKs students face."

Gutierrez shared how the work she has done will "promote equity, reduce poverty, and increase economic justice while addressing issues regarding race and inequity."

CHC CalWORKs Director Dr. Rejoice Chavira stated, "I am so proud of Carina and what she has accomplished." Gutierrez will be graduating this spring and transferring to Cal Poly Pomona.



Photo: Carina and Magnolia Gutierrez.



Photo: Crafton Hills College campus community garden.

## CHC Garden Re-Opening

The Crafton Hills College campus community garden is once again ready to provide much needed vegetables to students facing food insecurity.

Two solid wood gazebos and additional picnic tables were recently installed to provide a place for students to study outside or have a serene place to eat and hang out.

Professor Janine Ledoux developed the garden several years ago as part of the COACH (Creating Opportunities and Changing Hearts) project, which helps alleviate food insecurity by offering to food-insecure students vegetables grown in the garden, a food pantry, and food vouchers.



Photo: Student Art Exhibit visitors.

## Spring 2022 Student Art Exhibit

The Spring 2022 Crafton Hills College Student Art Exhibit is now open in the Art Gallery located inside the Learning Resource Center. The artwork displayed comes from

multiple classes on campus: Painting I & II, Life Drawing, Sculpture, Drawing I & II, 2D Design and 3D Design.

This must-see exhibit includes displays of still life, charcoal still life, monochromatic focal point designs, self-portraits, decorative fashion jewelry, clothes, accessories, and wire armature sculptures -- a few that are suspended from the ceiling.

The exhibition celebrates the talent and creativity of the College's Fine Arts students. Admittance is free and the exhibit will be on display until Tuesday, May 17. Hours are Monday-Thursday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



## Outdoor Fitness Equipment

Crafton Hills College has a brand-new all-in-one outdoor fitness training station and activity space. It has been uniquely designed to incorporate old-school calisthenics with the latest outdoor gym training features. The built-in obstacle course allows students to train individually or in groups.

Cadets from the Crafton Fire Academy and Paramedic Program will incorporate the equipment into their

physical training as the course is perfect for boot-camp style workouts.

The outdoor equipment gives the Crafton community the opportunity to get healthy in a safe environment and maintain an active lifestyle while enjoying the outdoors. Designed with accessibility in mind, this training space welcomes users of all abilities.



## Gay-Pril

Crafton Hills College kicked off Gay-Pril 2022 by hosting a celebratory event for all students in the quad on April 5.

Students were able to stop by the Gay-Pril pride booth and play games like cornhole and hopscotch as well as join in on some hula hooping. Attendees had a fun time picking out souvenir pride flags, pins, pronoun

stickers and rainbow snacks. Members of the Gay-Pril planning committee were present to answer questions and provide information. The event ended with students singing and dancing to popular musical theatre songs.



Photo: Crafton Hills College tenure recipients.

## Fifteen Faculty Celebrated at Tenure Recognition Ceremony

On April 15, a faculty tenure celebration, hosted by the Crafton Hills College President's Office and Professional Development Committee, recognized tenure recipients from 2020, 2021, and 2022.

Congratulations to these honorees, who have moved up in academic rank from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor:

### 2020

Racquel Schoenfeld  
 Vonda O'Shaughnessy  
 James Grabow  
 Kenneth George  
 Laurie Green  
 Thomas Serrano  
 Jonathan Anderson

### 2021

Renee Azenaro  
 Cheryl DiBartolo  
 Sabrina Jimenez  
 Christopher Olivera

### 2022

Amanda Ward  
 Krista Ivy  
 Iris Kern-Foster  
 Danielle McCoy



Photo: #TeamCrafton bowling night participants.

## #TeamCrafton Bowling Night

#TeamCrafton is a campaign for all employees who donate through payroll deduction to the CHC Foundation. As a thank you to all our team members for partnering with us to make a difference in the lives of our students, the CHC Foundation hosted a bowling night on April 7. From novice to advanced levels of play, about 20 employees and their families participated in the two-hour event. All San Bernardino Community College District employees are invited to join the team. Visit [www.craftonhills.edu/teamcrafton](http://www.craftonhills.edu/teamcrafton) for more information.

# SAVE THE DATE

BLACK STUDENT  
SUCCESS WEEK  
**APRIL 25-29, 2022**



**A Vision for Black Student Success:  
Creating a New Landscape to Succeed**

## CHC Celebrates Black Student Success Week

Events during the week of April 25-29 centered around this year's theme, A Vision for Black Student Success: Creating a New Landscape to Succeed focused on new approaches

to ensure Black and African American students succeed as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The week kicked off with remarks from

U.S. Secretary of Education Dr. Miguel Cardona on Monday, April 25. Other activities included: Daily webinars, daily group discussion forums, an advocacy day, and additional webinars that were held via Zoom and live streamed on YouTube.

Black Student Success Week concluded with a panel who shared examples on how they have navigated a system not set up for African Americans to succeed and focused on transformative action that intentionally and authentically creates environments that embrace and support Black excellence.

Black Student Success Week is organized in partnership with A2MEND, Umoja Community Education Foundation, The Campaign for College Opportunity, The Education Trust-West, the Equity Avengers, The RP Group, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, the Community College League of California, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, the Foundation for California Community Colleges, and the Student Senate for California Community Colleges.



Photo: CHC student leaders.

## CHC Student Leaders Represent in State Capital

On Friday April 1 through Sunday, April 3, 2022, six Crafton Hills College Student Senate members and Vice President of Student Services, Dr. Delmy Spencer attended the statewide Student Senate of California Community Colleges Conference in Sacramento.

Over the weekend, 2021/22 CHC Student Body President Madeleine Boone, CHC Student Trustee Lauren Ashlock, CHC Director of Outreach Amr Bahjri, CHC Director of Interclub Council Trista Beggs, CHC Director of Events Natasha "Sasha" Paago, and

CHC Director of External Affairs Isaiah Lynch attended conference workshops regarding effective student representation.

Additionally, this group voted on over 30 resolutions related to the student experience at California Community Colleges.

Thank you for expressing our student voice, Roadrunners!

