



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT



Photo: Legacy Society donors.

## Crafton Hills College Celebrates a Legacy of Giving with Unveiling of Updated Legacy Wall

When Forrest Greek's morning commute to Redlands would take him near a little community college on the hill, he would marvel at the institution's work educating the next generation of teachers, future leaders and first responders.

Today, this Inland Empire man plays an integral role in helping to create a legacy of giving at that site, Crafton Hills College, through financial contributions he and his wife Valorie McLaughlin have made and plan to make to the Roadrunner campus.

Greek, McLaughlin, and dozens of others were recognized for their gifts at the unveiling of an updated Legacy Wall inside the Crafton Center on Friday, October 14. For the first time in three years, the College was able to hold an event to recognize individual donors with cumulative or estate planned gifts of \$10,000 or more. Twenty-eight new plaques featuring the names of contributors were added to the wall, while 16 were moved up a level in acknowledgment of their added gifts.

"I want to thank the people here," Greek said during the special event. "I know there were so many that were introduced, and I

just want to thank you all. It is my honor to be here, believe me."

Others who spoke to honor Foundation donors included CHC President Kevin Horan, who closed out the afternoon ceremony

**"Your philanthropy through the Foundation really helps all kinds of students."**

with remarks about how donations support all Roadrunner students, including first generation and low-income students. In addition, San Bernardino Community College District Chancellor Diana Rodriguez and Dr. Phong Nguyen, president of The Crafton Hills College Foundation, both products of a community college, remarked about how generous donors enable students to reach their career goals and strengthen our community.

"Your philanthropy through the Foundation really helps all kinds of students," Nguyen said. "This is the base, and I always tell parents there are three different people that

come to this college. One is a really good student in high school that doesn't have the money and needs somewhere to start. The second one is the veteran. And the other one is a student who in high school didn't have the grades, but within a few years of graduation realizes they need an education. And sometimes these students need a bit of help..., so I really truly thank you because the future mayor, the future lawyer, the future doctor is within our campus here."

The Crafton Hills Foundation handles and acknowledges all contributions, including the Legacy Wall. Currently, the nonprofit is in the middle of a campaign to increase Legacy Society membership numbers and guarantees donations received will have a great impact on generations to come.

The Legacy Wall has a total of five levels of giving – Supporters (\$10,000-\$24,999), Collaborator (\$25,000-\$49,999), Innovators (\$50,000-\$99,999), Benefactors (\$100,000-\$499,999) and Visionaries (\$500,000) – but donations of any size are welcome.

Programs like Crafton's fire and paramedic academies have benefitted from the community's support, while students have received individual support through scholarships and grants that have helped cover the cost of books and supplies or unexpected expenses like the need of tires to commute to-and-from campus.

"Today's celebration is an incredible honor for us to recognize all of you," said Michelle Riggs, CHC's director of institutional advancement. "We appreciate you for choosing us to make your investment. Your legacy will continue in perpetuity."

Donations may be made online at [craftonhills.edu](http://craftonhills.edu) or by mail to The CHC Foundation, 11711 Sand Canyon Road, Yucaipa 92399. To learn more about the nonprofit and its mission, visit the Foundation's website at [craftonhills.edu/foundation](http://craftonhills.edu/foundation) or contact Riggs by phone at 909-389-3391.

To view the Legacy Wall, visit Crafton Center during hours of operation.



Photo: Mariana Macamay, Jade Williford and Sean Ceballos.

## Career Fair Connects Students to Employers and Major Exploration

An estimated three hundred Crafton Hills College students attended the career fair in the quad on October 12, hosted by the College's Career Center. Students had the opportunity to visit the forty-eight booths set up across the quad, thirty-seven of

which were sole employer booths. These included Symbiosis, a local healthcare company specializing in urgent care, ambulance transport, telemedicine services, and event safety. The company brought its original 1972 Cadillac Ambulance, which

it still uses for basic life support service. Other booths represented the College's academic departments, student clubs, and student services.

The Street Food Co. food truck brought their trolley and provided tacos to the vendors and participants, while a DJ was there to keep the atmosphere upbeat.

A professional photographer provided students with free professional headshots to use in their job search or to update their online profiles. Students in need of interview-appropriate attire for their headshots had access to clothes from the Crafton Career Closet. Thirty students had their headshots taken, while other students not camera ready or heading to class registered for an upcoming photo-shoot.

Crafton Students attending the career fair had the unique opportunity to interact with company recruiters, networking with professionals, and discuss potential job and/or internship opportunities while brushing up on their social skills among their peers.



Photo: Runners celebrate at 5k finish line.

## Crafton Hills College Holds Run-for-the-Hills 5K Run/Walk

Fog and mist blanketed the Crafton Hills College campus Saturday, Oct. 5, but the weather didn't dampen the spirits of those assembled for the Run-for-the-Hills

5-K run/walk, another event celebrating the 50th anniversary of the College and raising funds for the CHC Foundation. In fact, the weather was a plus for the runners

by helping them remain cool as they challenged the campus hills.

The event featured 129 runners/walkers and 33 volunteers. The volunteers helped at the registration, water stations, snack station and cheering on the participants as they approached the finish line. Members of CHC's administration, faculty, staff, and students were well represented.

Medals were awarded to those with the best times. For the men, First Place went to Jimmy Grabow (16:25); Second Place to Josue Gonzales (23:07), and Third Place to Matthew Bond (23:24).

For the women, First Place went to Brandi Bailes (24:36), Second Place to Lauren Bond (27:45), and Third Place to Shannon Keller (28:36).

Many participated as families, and were already planning to participate in next year's event.





Photo: Veterans Resource Center Veterans Services Coordinator Steve Rush, left, and Lisa Mills, VRC's veterans' counselor.

## Veterans Resource Center Provides Vets and Dependents with a Helping Hand

Since its 2018 opening, the Veterans Resource Center (VRC) at Crafton Hills College has connected veterans with educational services as well as a place to unwind.

The VRC offers an array of resources for veterans and their dependents to help them transition from military to civilian life in an academic environment. Students using VA educational benefits are invited to drop in to ask about their benefits, study, use the computers, grab a snack from the pantry, or take a break from classwork and watch their favorite movie or television show.

Best of all, the VRC is run by veterans and those with close ties to the veteran community themselves.

Steven Rush, veteran's services coordinator, knows first-hand how difficult it can be to adjust to civilian life post-service. A Crafton alumnus himself, Rush says he too could have utilized benefits the VRC now offers during his college days had the VRC existed. Now that he is coordinating the center, this Army veteran has helped mold the VRC into what it is today – an operation that meets the different needs of student vets and connects them to other campus

services and resources.

VRC counselor Lisa Mills explains, "Everything can be done here...from applying to Crafton, starting VA benefits, to

**“They can come here and see other veterans who are having success.”**

support services, it's a one-stop shop.”

“We also connect students with off-campus resources. This provides additional support that we may not provide on campus,” explains Mills.

Rush added, “We provide a reassurance that if you come [to Crafton], we will take care of you. We're not going to let you fail!”

On an average morning, VRC staff are doing their daily hustle and bustle by answering calls and emails and catching up with one another. Between the goings on sits two work study staff members, 19-year-old Gabriella Herrera and 29-year-old Aaron Schardein busy working on processing student documents.

Herrera, a dependent of an Army veteran, said she heard about the VRC through a relative – a San Bernardino Valley College alumnus – and says the study lounge is one of her frequently visited spots on campus as she studies for a career in emergency medical services. “And Steve [Rush] also works around my class schedule for working here as well,” Herrera added.

Schardein, an Army vet stated, “I enjoy the VRC because everyone is friendly and supportive - it is peaceful here.”

Although the VRC focuses much of its energy on educational success, it also provides something not all veterans and their dependents have equal access to – comradery. By veterans building a relationship with other vets on campus – and dependents as well – they are able to lift up and support one another.

“Our veterans benefit from having a place that they can come to and freely express the difficulties they endure during transition from military to civilian life,” Said Rush. “For instance, being conditioned into a very disciplined environment to an uncertain environment can cause frustration.”

Mills goes on to explain, “The VRC is a place where veterans can come to let their guard down. I also believe that being a non-traditional student, veterans come to Crafton feeling behind in their education. Things are not always going to translate well in the classroom, but they can come here and see other veterans who are having success.”

The Veterans Resource Center is open from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Fridays. Drop-in, virtual sessions, and appointment scheduling is also available and can be accessed at [craftonhills.edu/veterans](http://craftonhills.edu/veterans).

To learn more about the VRC or to start your Crafton journey, send an email to [veteransservices@craftonhills.edu](mailto:veteransservices@craftonhills.edu) or call 909-389-3396.



Photo: CHC students plant vegetables at campus garden.

## Fall Planting Party at CHC's Garden

The CHC Community Garden had a fall vegetable planting party. Dr. Janine Ledoux guided volunteer faculty, staff, students, and community members in planting lettuce, kale, spinach, cabbage, broccoli, and root vegetables. Ledoux made sure to get nutrient rich vegetables that students and their families would enjoy eating.

Jocelyn Garcia and Madison Montes were among the Crafton students who spent the morning planting the vegetables in the raised beds. Garcia, who intends to join the U.S. Air Force and become a fighter pilot, attended the event because she enjoys

gardening and being outdoors, and hopes to own a farm when she retires. Montes plans to transfer to nursing school and wanted to help in the garden because she has an interest in gardening and enjoys spending time outside in the fresh air.

Encouraging students to plant, water, grow, and harvest the vegetables they will cook and eat provides a sustainable food source to reduce student food insecurity. Vegetables grown in the garden will be available to students through COACH (creating opportunities and changing hearts) cupboard in student life.



Photo: Hikers at top of Mount Baden-Powell.

## Mount Baden-Powell Three Peaks Challenge Hike

Another successful CHC Three Peaks engagement activity was held on Sep 30. Twelve students, their family members, and friends summited the Mount Baden-Powell peak in the San Gabriel Mountains along with CHC guides Mike Strong and Larry Cook.

The challenging eight-mile hike included a 3,400 feet elevation gain and took about six hours to complete. Many of

the students responded to the invitation to join, voluntarily showing up at 6 a.m. without knowing anyone else who would be participating.

The next three peaks challenge will take place on Nov 12 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., when CHC teams with Redlands Family Service Association to sort over 30,000 pounds of food for distribution to the community over the holiday season.

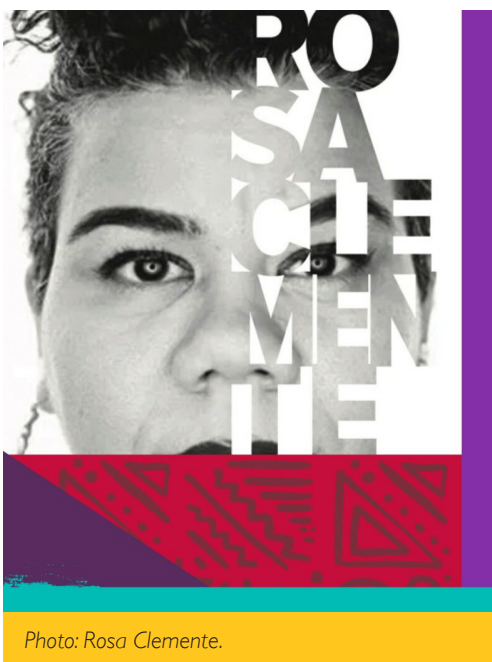


Photo: Rosa Clemente.

## Activist Rosa Clemente Speaks at Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month Closing Event

as part of the closing event for Hispanic Heritage Month. Clemente is a prominent Bronx-born, Black-Puerto Rican, scholar-activist combating anti-Blackness within the wider Latinx community.

Clemente's presentation covered a variety of topics on racial justice but centered around the recent racist remarks in leaked audio of L.A. City Council members. The remarks are a reminder to the Latinx community to support Black Diasporic people. She stressed that electing government officials who say they support your best interest is not enough. One must ensure racial and social justice movements will help all and call out racism wherever it exists. Viewers

were typing comments to express their excitement as well as gratitude for putting into words what they felt but could not communicate appropriately.

Members of the audience asked questions about decolonizing higher education, resisting Indigenous erasure, defending intersectionality, and the importance of higher education for minorities. Not all the questions about remedies for social inequity had an answer as there is no definite solution to some problems, but there was a renewed hope that actions will lead to change and increased cultural equity.

SBCCD invited award-winning organizer and speaker Rosa Alicia Clemente to speak





Photo: Judge Damien Garcia.

## Roadrunner Becomes Judge: How a Zoom Meeting Inspired Damian G. Garcia To Pursue a New Path

A Roadrunner is one of our newest San Bernardino County Superior Court judges.

Damian G. Garcia was appointed to the bench in July, adding to a successful career as an attorney. When asked how he wanted to be remembered in this new role, Garcia replied, “I would just like the perception to be that Judge Garcia is a good judge. He’s firm and he’s fair, and he does a good job.”

But most importantly, the 46-year-old Beaumont resident said he wants the public to get to know his story.

“I want to be known within the community particularly by going around to different schools and work [places] to break down the barrier by giving disclosure to young people about exactly what a judge does,” Garcia said. “There’s a lot of unknowns about this position.”

Born and raised in Redlands, Garcia said he was the first person in his immediate family to go to college – “My parents were just happy that I got my high school diploma,”

he said – but Garcia set his sights on higher education. However, he did not have the prerequisites to attend a four-year university right after graduation. Instead, he attended a little community college located on the hills of Yucaipa: Crafton Hills College. “That’s

**“Crafton was a gift, a springboard for those – a lot of folks like me – who don’t have the right grades or the financial resources right off the bat to go to a four-year.”**

where I blossomed,” Garcia explained. “It was a whole new world. I got to do what I wanted, and I liked the independence.”

After completing his general ed courses, Garcia transferred to the University of California, Riverside, where he earned a bachelor’s in political science. From there, he

went on to get a master’s in business with an emphasis in computers at the University of Redlands.

Originally, Garcia had his sights set on becoming a police officer, but his mom and his then-wife thought that career was too dangerous. “At the time I was working in banking. And while getting my MBA, I had a business law class where I got the highest grade, and it was in that class where my professor asked me, ‘Why don’t you go to law school?’” he explained.

So, Garcia did. Right after graduating from the U of R, he passed the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) and was accepted to the University of La Verne’s law school. In 2005, Garcia entered the job market with his law degree in hand, though he had no experience in law. But a local firm took a chance and hired Garcia as a clerk and, later, a full-time attorney after he passed the bar.

Soon, Garcia became partner and was co-leading the firm – Banks, Garcia & Janis, based in Rancho Cucamonga – before a Zoom meeting about how to become a judge changed his career direction.

He learned that San Bernardino County’s population is composed of 40 percent Hispanics, but only 11 percent of the judges serve on the San Bernardino County Superior Court are Hispanic. Garcia took that meeting as his new calling. “After that, I knew I wanted to help diversify the bench,” he said.

Balancing a career, fatherhood, and his desire to serve the community may seem a lot for a judge to juggle, but don’t doubt Garcia. He has a plan to succeed, and that plan includes coming back to Crafton Hills College to serve the College.

“Crafton was a gift, a springboard for those – a lot of folks like me – who don’t have the right grades or the financial resources right off the bat to go to a four-year,” Garcia said. “But once I got settled in, I joined some different organizations and thrived, and I want to do some outreach to inspire [others] by showing them my example about how I got here.” He recently served on the Crafton Hills College Foundation Board of Directors.



Photo: Community Emergency Response Team.

## Community Emergency Response Team Training at CHC

Crafton Hills College partnered with the City of Yucaipa Office of Emergency Services to provide Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training at the campus Oct 19-21. CERT is a program that

prepares attendees to help themselves, their family, their neighbors, and in this case, the Crafton Hills College community in the event of a disaster.

The training is important to our community since emergency service personnel will not be able to reach everyone immediately following a major event. CERT groups are known and trusted resources to emergency responders and their communities and members of CERT are counted on to respond to disasters, participate in drills, exercises, and city events.

Twenty CHC employees and two community members participated in the 2 ½ day training. The leadership and training team included CHC employees, Mike Strong, Larry Cook, Paul Walker, Dan Word, Evan Sternard, and representatives from the City of Yucaipa, David Avila, Chris Markarian, and Trevor Benson. On the final day of training, nine students and staff volunteered to be survivors allowing the CERT trainees an opportunity to practice basic disaster response, fire safety, search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.



Photo: On the set of OPEN.

## Crafton Hills College Theatre Department Presents OPEN

The Crafton Hills College Theatre Department performed *OPEN*, by Melissa Harkness -- for the first time anywhere. Theatre Arts Professor Paul Jacques directed the cast of four. Sophie Ball played the lead role of Hollywood actor Judy; Sebastian Hernandez played Gil, Judy's

husband; Jacob Brantmeyer played Marcus, a stereotypical hotshot director; and Bella Sequeira debuted in a Crafton Theatre production as Judy's supportive best friend, Natalie.

The play is about how actor Judy navigates

the ins and outs of her open marriage with Gil. She wants to be on board and have Gil in her life while reining in her jealousy and insecurities.

The stage was carefully designed, and there are minimal scene changes and a handful of blackouts, creating the ideal minimal backdrop to bring focus on the performances and the play's theme.

During the play's first performance, spectators were surprised to find that *OPEN*'s playwright, Melissa Harkness, was in attendance, and a buzz filled the theatre when stagehands placed stools on the stage for those who wanted to participate in a post-show talkback. Harkness and the cast took center stage and answered questions from the cast, stage crew, production team, and audience members. Harkness revealed the reason she wrote the play and remarked on how impressive she found the stage and Finkelstein Theatre.

The next production of the Crafton Hills Theatre Department will be *The Rowan Knight* scheduled for December 2, 3 and 4.





# Undocumented Student Action Week

Together We Can • Juntos Podemos • 攜起手來, 共築成功  
함께, 우리는 할 수 있습니다 • Cùng Với Nhau, Chúng Ta Có Thể

## Collaborative Ecosystems that Support Undocumented Students

October 17-21, 2022

Childhood Arrivals (DACA)) students and those from mixed status families.

The complexities surrounding immigration can make immigrant students afraid to discuss their status with counselors and advisors, making it almost impossible for them to receive the help they need. Attendees received information to help students feel comfortable and safe as well as an extensive list of resources available online and on campus. One valuable online resource is the website [findyourally.com](http://findyourally.com), which offers free immigration legal services for all qualifying students enrolled in the California Community College and State University systems. Campus resources include counseling, laptops, hotspots, book assistance, academic supplies assistance, workshops, and events.

## Undocumented Student Action Week Supports DREAMers at Crafton Hills College

The Crafton Hills College Undocumented Student Action Week Planning Team hosted a virtual panel to educate students, parents, staff, faculty, and community members about the Crafton Hills College DREAMers Scholars Program.

A DREAMer is an immigrant youth who qualifies for benefits of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act. The DREAMers Scholars program will support the higher education of undocumented (i.e., Deferred Action for

The DREAMers Scholars Program will be at the forefront of advocacy for undocumented students at Crafton Hills College and will adapt to the ever-changing landscape of immigration policy to support equity and diversity.



## Exhibit and Artist Talk by Yuki Toyooka Smith

Artist, writer, and Crafton Hills College (CHC) Visual Arts professor Yuki Toyooka Smith held an artist talk and reception for her exhibition SKIN X BONE, currently on display at the CHC Art Gallery. Providing insights into the overlap between science and visual art, the talk was part of the 2022 STEM Speaker Series presented by the CHC STEM Center.

surgical techniques and procedures. After the talk, guests walked over to the CHC Art Gallery, where Toyooka Smith answered questions from attendees.

Toyooka Smith talked about her background in medical illustration and how it led to her art being published in multiple medical illustration books, such as *The Neuroscience of Emotion*, by Dr. Ralph Adolph, used as part of the curriculum at Cal Tech, and *Current Surgical Therapy*, by Andrew M. Cameron, MD, PhD, used as part of the curriculum at USC Keck School of Medicine. Toyooka Smith's detailed medical illustrations allow readers to visualize key concepts and better understand complex

The exhibit is a coalescence of Toyooka Smith's artistic trajectory thus far. Displayed on the gallery walls are pieces drawn in colored pencil on wood and a series of classic vinyl records that look unassuming but, on closer inspection, illustrate detailed human anatomy drawings in ink on the actual vintage record covers. Among the favorites is a wall of iconic photos and famous magazine covers turned into black ink dissected triptychs, illustrations that include three views to show different elements of the same subject matter.

Toyooka Smith's exhibition and talk was an exciting start of this STEM Center program.

Photo: Yuki Toyooka Smith.



Photo: CHC Child Development students with Fire Academy.

## Children at Crafton Hills College’s Child Development Center Learn about Safety

Children at the Crafton Hills College Child Development Center had a great week learning about public safety with visits from the CHC fire academy cadets, paramedic program students, and officers from the

SBCCCD Police Department.

Visits with these special guests introduced the children to how to respond to emergencies and how to interact with

emergency personnel. “Young children may be scared the first time they see a firefighter, paramedic, or police officer in full gear. So, providing the opportunity for children to meet professionals in a non-emergency setting is important,” stated Heather Stephens, interim director of the Child Development Center.

“It is very important to introduce children to professional first responders in a safe environment where they learn to communicate with and trust them,” Stephens continued.

The children were able to see and touch the fire engine, police car, ambulance, and the protective equipment worn while learning about these first responders’ jobs and asking questions. They also participated in activities where they learned about safety, prevention, and whom to call or ask for help in an emergency.

“We are so grateful to our CHC community helpers for keeping us safe and teaching how to be safe. We thank our wonderful college safety heroes,” Stephens concluded.

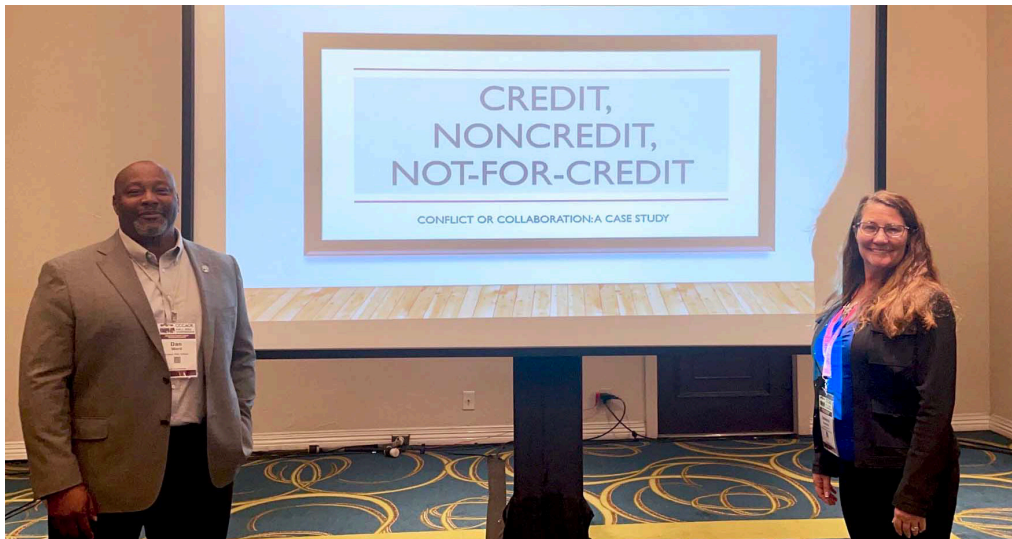


Photo: Dan Word and Deanna Krehbiel.

## CHC Shares New CNA Program with Attendees at CCAOE Conference

Deanna Krehbiel, Workforce Development Manager for the San Bernardino Community College District Economic Development & Corporate Training

Center, and Dan Word, Dean of Career Education and Human Development for Crafton Hills College, presented a session at the California Community College

Association for Occupational Education (CCAOE) conference on October 6. Their presentation focused on the creative and collaborative ways to blend the not-for-credit, noncredit, and credit curricula to develop new career education programs.

They used the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program at CHC to demonstrate a way to respond more quickly to industry needs, provide access to underserved student groups, and initiate a pathway to higher wage careers.

