

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

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January 2023

New Guided Pathways Counseling Model



Photo: Counseling staff.

The Crafton Hills College Counseling Department has launched a new approach to advising students that will result in greater efficiency navigating the Guided Pathways model that the College has instituted.

In its recent program review, Counseling found that the number of students seeking

counseling appointments dropped for those who had completed 15-45 units and that a disproportionately large number of students were accumulating excess units, which means that many will complete their programs later than they need to. These facts led to the conclusion that the department should promote efforts

to meet with more students who have completed 15-45 units to guide them to complete their programs efficiently, taking classes necessary to reach this goal.

Accordingly, Counseling has instituted a new model that aligns with Guided Pathways and is designed to reach more students with 15-45 units and help them select the classes and support services that will allow them to complete programs sooner than they do now on average.

This new Guided Pathways counseling model includes assigning counseling team members to work proactively and strategically with students who have completed different unit counts (0-15, 16-29, 30-44, 45-60+).

This model also implements an assigned completion coach to help each of these unit groupings. The department continues to dialogue about the next steps of implementation.

Gratitude Event

On Nov 29 and 30, the CHC Student Senate invited students to enjoy treats, hang out, and add their thoughts on a poster with messages and drawings of gratitude for the work of college staff. A giant-sized horizontal poster, markers, crayons, cookies, and giveaways were offered to students as they wrote, doodled, and drew their

expressions of gratitude on the poster.

The event promoted a positive and friendly exchange for student senate members to express good feelings to all who participated during this busy time of year and for CHC staff to support participating students.



Photo: Student signing poster.

CHC Professor Imparts Importance of Mentoring Foster Youth Students



Photo: Rejoice Chavira.

A Crafton Hills College (CHC) administrator is making a difference in the lives of foster youth students through mentorship and advocacy.

Rejoice Chavira, a 30-year counselor and current associate dean of EOPS, CARE, CalWORKs, Guardian Scholars, and Dreamers at the Yucaipa-based college, values the important work advocates do to help students reach their goals and find success in and out of the classroom, particularly through CHC's Guardian Scholars Program.

This program was developed to support foster youth students and prepare them for

the college experience by teaching them how to apply for admission to colleges, financial aid, and scholarships and access other resources.

"The reality is that once a foster youth reaches the age of 18 years old, [their] foster family no longer receives the financial assistance to support the youth, and some do not want anything to do with [them]," Chavira explained. "This is the time when our foster youth need to decide about their future, but there is no one they can turn to. That is where the program and its advocates step in," she continued.

In addition to developing a plan for higher education, the Guardian Scholars Program also provides students with emergency shelter and housing assistance, nutrition, and food services, and much more. The program is also tailored to serve foster youth who meet certain criteria: they must be a current or prospective CHC student between the ages of 18 and 25 years old and have been in the foster care system at any time after the age of 13.

Once on board, students will have access to workshops held year-round, receive priority registration, and have access to staff members dedicated to the program and their success, including Chavira, who credits her own mentors with helping her achieve so much in her career and personal life.

"Having a mentor will provide [our] youth with a significant person that believes in them and challenges them to be the best versions of themselves," she explained, adding that mentors act like a helping hand when a crisis arises, or things get tough. "It is important for our foster youth to have a caring and consistent adult they can turn to when they experience challenging situations and have to make adult decisions."

Chavira says she is looking forward to watching the program grow. And as students returned to the classroom this last Fall to continue working toward their goals for the current school year and beyond, Chavira believes Crafton has a lot in store for the program and its students, aka the next generation of changemakers.

"I am looking forward to working with San Bernardino Valley College (Crafton's sister college) to develop a robust Guardian Scholars Program through our combined advisory committee," she said, adding, "I also look forward to working with our partners to reach out to foster youths to support and guide them to achieve their dreams."

To learn more about the program or other similar services under the EOPS/Care/CalWORKs/Guardian Scholars/Dreamers umbrella, go to www.craftonhills.edu/eops.

Crafton Hills College Campus Tours

Campus tours are in full swing at CHC as high-school students continue to visit the scenic campus to help make the decision of what college to enroll in next fall.

The CHC Outreach and Educational Partnerships office offers guided tours of the college campus to anyone interested in attending. Student success advisors help guide the tours and answer questions. A few of the students from Oak View High School in Yucaipa shared that they weren't

aware of all the certification programs Crafton offers and were impressed by the EMS and Fire Technology programs.

Everyone is welcome to tour the campus. Tours are offered Monday-Thursday from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Tours take about an hour and can be booked on the Crafton Hills College website at www.craftonhills.edu/outreach.



Photo: High school students tour CHC.



Equity and Inclusion Open Forum

Crafton Hills College held an all-campus virtual Equity Plan Open Forum for students and employees to discuss its equity plan. Dr. Delmy Montenegro-Spencer, Vice President of Student Services, moderated the discussion. Discussion questions included: What is missing from the Equity Plan? Does the Plan identify equity gaps? and Do you understand what the action steps are?

This forum facilitated a campuswide discussion of how the College performs on measures of multifaceted topics of diversity, equity, and the success of its students. Attendees joined a variety of breakout rooms, each with a different topic. Groups discussed disparities in educational outcomes and student success as well as potential action steps for reducing or eliminating these disparities.

Those in the breakout room discussing the success and completion of Black students questioned whether it was possible to find a solution to low success rates for this group without knowing what is driving this gap in performance and why enrollment of minority students is down nationwide. Without quantitative answers as to why student success is impaired, the solution to the problems that perpetuate a racial divide will be difficult to develop and enact. The consensus was that more discourse is necessary, and these forums are an integral part of closing equity gaps by allowing everyone to voice their concerns.

CHC President Dr. Kevin Horan closed the forum by thanking everyone in attendance and stressing Crafton Hills College's commitment to equity and diversity.

CHC Employee Holiday Celebration and Wrapping Party

Crafton employees celebrated the holiday season with a gift card drive and toy wrapping party on Dec 2. Refreshments were provided by the CHC Foundation to over 50 students and employees gathered to wrap 200 gifts for children of students in the College's EOPS and CalWORKs programs.

The CHC Psychology club provided many of the gifts and will host a celebration for EOPS and CalWORKs students later in December. The campus expanded its efforts by providing funds to purchase gift cards for the older children and wrap donated presents for the younger children.

Many CHC employees chose to take this opportunity to mingle with colleagues and enjoy some holiday cheer while helping others in need to enjoy a happy holiday season.



Photo: EOPS staff with wrapped gifts (top) and all volunteers after wrapping gifts (bottom).

CHC Finish Line Scholars Cohort

The 15 students selected for the program this year learned about the requirements and rewards of participation from the dean of student services, Dr. Ivan Pena.



Photo: Finish Line scholars and staff.

To welcome the new cohort of Crafton Hills College Finish Line scholars, the student success team, with support from the CHC Foundation, hosted a pizza party on Dec 1. The 15 students selected for the program this year learned about the requirements and rewards of participation from the dean of student services, Dr. Ivan Pena.

Students were each given a custom t-shirt with a new graphic designed for the program. Career services director Trinetta Barrie provided a workshop on writing thank you letters, and the attendees were asked to practice these skills by writing a letter to the donor Jay Pritzker and the California Community College Foundation to say thank you for awarding them this scholarship.

The Finish Line program is designed to improve completion rates, increase transfer to the UC and CSU systems, decrease the number of excess units a student takes to get an associate degree, increase job placement for career education students, and eliminate equity gaps among traditionally underrepresented students.

Students participating in Finish Line receive up to \$5,000 per year based on eligibility criteria set by the donor. The program's participants are selected using the College's equity data to identify students in disproportionately impacted groups. Awards are intended to remove financial barriers that prevent students from crossing the finish line of transferring to a university or completing a certificate program to start a career.

To remain in the cohort, students must have completed and updated their educational plan and attend a workshop, activity, or event with the Transfer or Career Center. Activities of both have been shown to increase student success.

Coffee, Tea, and RegiSTIR Week

CHC's Outreach team hosted a Coffee, Tea and RegiSTIR open house between Nov 28 and Dec 1 to help students register for spring classes. One hundred eighty-three students stopped by for coffee or tea and advice. In total, 157 students successfully registered for the spring semester.

This event focused on building a sense of community among students and staff. The open-house coffee shop atmosphere kept it casual and friendly for answering questions and making sure students receive the enrollment support needed.

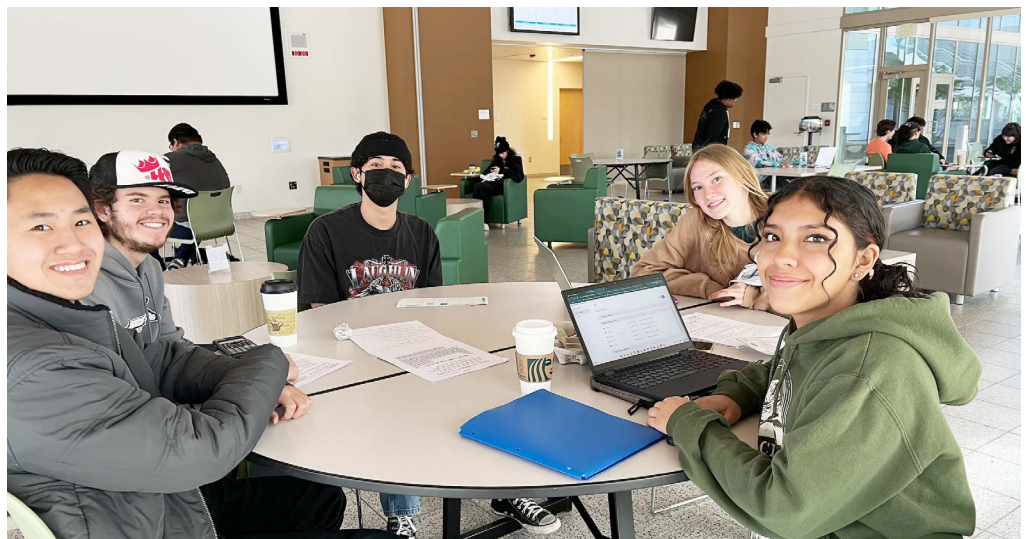


Photo: Completion Coaches helping students register for classes.

Crafton Hills College Cross-Country Team Celebrates Inaugural Season, Sets Sights for Year Two and Beyond

Team sports are essential to the college experience in the same way that building relationships is essential to the human experience.



Photo: CHC Cross Country team.

Student athletes attending or planning to attend Crafton Hills College have a new option to choose from: cross-country running.

The team recently celebrated the success of its inaugural season, but for coaches Joshua Estrada and Gabriella Jimenez, the fun is just getting started.

"Team sports are essential to the college experience in the same way that building relationships is essential to the human experience," Jimenez explained. "These athletes learn so much about themselves and about life through the experience of running as a team.

"Among those experiences include working together as a group, building mental toughness, celebrating together and picking up other teammates after failures to motivate each other to do their best," she continued.

Another necessary contributing factor — helping to lessen the stress that can come with college life and create an overall positive experience for all who join, added Estrada.

"It's important in creating what would be called a 'mastery atmosphere' because this empowers and encourages the individual," he said. "This leads to a team-wide attribute, builds confidence, relatability, support and a healthy 'family' orientation while naturally becoming better at the sport due to the enjoyment."

Cross-country running was among programs CHC faculty and administration considered initiating before the COVID-19 pandemic. However, plans shifted when the Yucaipa-based college had to restrict in-person classes and switched to online learning due to the pandemic. But now that students have re-entered the classroom and athletes are able to return to normal sports activities, the opportunity to participate in cross-country has resumed, along with water polo and swimming.

Cross-country's inaugural season took place during the fall semester with seven men and four women participating. In addition to a jam-packed practice schedule that can last up to two hours a day, runners took part in seven competitions in San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino, Redlands and Bakersfield.

Both coaches said the team's inaugural season exceeded expectations, which "were to set the foundations of a solid sports program [with] effective, rigorous practices that led to a competitive season," Jimenez said. "The group we had worked very well together and really set the tone for future groups as to what we expect of them as collegiate athletes."

Added Estrada, "Needless to say, the group has been a perfect team for the first year. Each individual meshed well and performed exceptionally well. We managed to [place] third for the men's team, qualify for SoCal Regionals, as well as [see] one female [runner] move forward, and [watch] our lead males close in on an opportunity to go to state."

Both coaches are looking forward to year two and building on the team's recent success. Best of all, cross-country athletes of all levels are encouraged to join and can do so by contacting Estrada by email at jestrada@craftonhills.edu. Plus, all who join will be coached by two athletes who understand the importance of hard work both in and outside of the classroom and who want to develop strong, well-rounded athletes of today and tomorrow.

"We look forward to seeing more student athletes join and become excited that there is a local cross-country program at the collegiate level as well as welcoming all athletic abilities," said Estrada.

"Our hope for the program is that it grows in the number of athletes and in our competitiveness amongst local schools and beyond," added Jimenez. "Coach Estrada and I are both very attentive coaches, and we want nothing more than for you students to succeed. Give the team a chance and you'll see the motivating, positive environment that is cross-country."

Remembering Mike Horton: His Commitment 'Was Second to None'



Photo: Mike Horton.

The Crafton Hills College community is mourning the loss of its longtime Fire Academy mainstay and instructor, Mike Horton.

Horton, who also served as fire marshal for the San Bernardino County Fire Department, died on Nov 2, following an illness. He was 64.

Horton began his career in 1981 with the Norco Fire Department and held positions with the Riverside County Fire Department and other agencies before moving to San Bernardino County. In 2006, he assumed the post as deputy fire marshal

before becoming fire marshal in 2013.

At Crafton, Horton worked as the academy's lead ladder instructor, working alongside other instructors who believed in the idea of training hundreds to join the fire service and giving back to the communities they love through public service.

"Mike's commitment to the public and the communities he served was second to none," said Chief Mike Alder. "Mike completely reflected the philosophy of leaving the fire service and our fire academy better than he found it."

Alder added that Horton had a "true passion" of training the next generation of fire service responders, and his work is reflected in the young lives he impacted.

"Mike will leave a tremendous legacy at Crafton Hills Regional Fire Academy," Alder said. "He was an incredible instructor that was serious about teaching the cadets what it takes to be successful."

"We always joked about how he could be so intimidating to the cadets in the beginning of the academy program and that his bark is bigger than his bite. [But], he had an incredible way of connecting with the cadets so they absolutely knew that they had to perform at a very high level,

and it was always special to see that they did not want to disappoint him with their ground ladder evolutions," he continued.

Shortly after his death, news of Horton's passing was posted to the County Fire's Facebook page, with users sending condolences and thoughts and prayers. Similar sentiments were expressed on another County Fire Facebook post highlighting photos of his Dec. 5 memorial service.

"Serving 41 years in the fire service, the past nine as Fire Marshal, Mike left an everlasting impression," the post read. "We miss our brother and are continuing to send our deepest condolences to his family and friends during this difficult time."

"That lasting legacy will also be left within the grounds of Crafton Hills and beyond," Alder said. Although no plans are yet set in stone to honor Horton on campus, there are talks of renaming an area currently known as "The Grinder" as the new "Horton Grinder." "That area," Alder said, "is where cadets raise, extend, climb, and lower the various ground ladders up against the 35-foot concrete 'spray wall.' Whether Crafton establishes the "Horton Grinder" or not, Mike's legacy will continue to inspire cadets for years to come.

Student Art Exhibition

The CHC Art Department held a reception for the Fall 2022 Student Art Exhibition on Nov 30. The all-student art installation invited students to showcase their creativity. Ashley Sotelo, an art major who had two pieces on display at the exhibit, was grateful for the opportunity to see the labor of fellow students up on the walls. The eclectic collection of artworks included 3D design, sculptures, self-portraits, gouache plein air paintings, still life, figure drawings, two-point perspectives and realism on newspaper canvases. The exhibit demonstrates how distinctive each individual piece of art is.



Photo: Art students at the CHC Art Gallery.

Honors Luncheon

The College Honors Institute held its fall luncheon celebration in Crafton Hall. College Honors Institute ambassadors welcomed students and faculty and lead the group in fun ice breaker activities.

Crafton faculty were invited one by one to the podium to reveal "Two Lies and one Truth." The group at each table then deliberated to decide which statement was true and held up a card with their choice. Many in the room could not contain their laughter trying to determine which of the statements was true because some of the truths seemed preposterous. Some of the hard to believe truths were commuting from their home in Mexico to Crafton, having Finneas and Billie Eilish in their house, skydiving, and following The Grateful Dead on tour.

The conversations continued after the



Photo: Honors students and faculty.

event with students exchanging social media contacts and talking about upcoming finals. It was an enriching event for students, allowing them to interact with each other

and their professors and creating the sense of camaraderie Crafton is known for.

The Rowan Knight



Photo: The Rowan Knight cast.

The Crafton Hills College Theatre program had a spectacular opening night for the highly anticipated production of *The Rowan Knight* on Dec 2.

Marcus McInerney excelled in his

performance as the Rowan Knight, as did Crafton scholar Tara Quick, the female lead as the Witch of Westmoreland. During a horrific battle, the Rowan Knight is terribly wounded, and he is given the gift of invincibility by the Witch of Westmoreland.

A magical tale full of sword fighting, witches, fairies, magic, and adventure, this was the second time the Crafton Hills College Theatre Program performed *The Rowan Knight*. The play was performed on zoom in Spring of 2021 and was such a success it was selected a second time for the Fall of 2022.

The opening battle scene and intricate props, which included sword play and created a sense of magical fantasy, delighted spectators. The play was written as an allegory of mental illness and left the audience contemplating the unforeseen ending. Playwright Karen Fix Curry captivated the attendees, cast, and crew with an interactive talk-back and question and answer session following the performance. In true Crafton Hills College fashion, campus clubs and athletic teams were there to show support for their peers.

Crafton Hills College Celebrates the Season Participating in the Redlands and Yucaipa Christmas Parades



Photo: Yucaipa Christmas parade.



Photo: Redlands Christmas parade.

Crafton employees, students, alumni, and their families joined the Crafton Hills College Fire Academy in two local holiday parades. The Redlands parade on December 3 and Yucaipa parade on December 10 drew hundreds of spectators excited to see the CHC fire engine adorned with festive decorations.

Parade attendees were also given a glimpse into the physical training of the cadets. They happily demonstrated push up drills throughout the parade and gave high-fives to the parade attendees while encouraging them to yell and show both their Crafton and Christmas spirit.

As the other participants walked the routes with Crafton signs in hand, audience cheers included excitement from those who have attended Crafton and those who recognized parade participants including SBCCD Trustee Nathan Gonzales and CHC President Kevin Horan.

CHC Outreach Team Spreads Holiday Cheer at Miracle on Main Street Event

On Dec 10, the Crafton Hills College Outreach department attended the Miracle on Main Street event to distribute toys to underprivileged children in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. Headed by the Miracles and Dreams Foundation, Inc., several downtown Riverside businesses and non-profit organizations spearhead the annual toy drive and health fair to spread holiday cheer and provide resources to local families in need. Crafton Hills College attended to offer information to the community about access to college and to showcase degree and certificate programs. The Outreach team was overjoyed to immerse in the community and witness the joy and excitement of future roadrunners.



Photo: Willie Blackmon and Belinda Navarrete.