

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

LET'S GO! ¡ADELANTE!

July 2023

## Crafton Hills College's Class of 2023 Makes History, Celebrates New Beginnings



Crafton Hills College's Class of 2023 made history by earning more than 900 degrees and 673 certificates—the highest total earned in the college's 50 year history.

And on May 24, the 806 grads were on the receiving end of lively hoots and hollers as their friends, family and community supporters gathered at the Yucaipa-based college to celebrate its most recent crop of alumni.

"As newly minted alumni of Crafton Hills College, you can proudly tell your friends and family that you graduated from the very best community college in the Inland Empire. In fact, don't be shy about it," remarked CHC President Kevin Horan in the early minutes of the hour and a half-long ceremony.

This year's class was composed of students from varying backgrounds, including 21 veterans, a married couple and four sets of siblings. Close to 300 were leaving Crafton with a 3.5 GPA or higher; with 68 achieving a perfect 4.0 GPA. The youngest and oldest graduates of the Class of 2023 were 17 and 71 years of age, respectively.

In addition to Horan, other speakers included Diana Rodriguez, San Bernardino Community College District chancellor; Dr. Stephanie Houston, chair of the SBCCD Board of Trustees; Crafton Librarian and Academic Senate Co-President Natalie Lopez; and Student Commencement Speaker Angellie Cristobal. Each encouraged graduates, now ending their Crafton experience, to soak in each future chapter of their lives with grace, hope and

gratitude no matter what life throws at them.

President Horan quoted Author Rory Vaden's point that "'Success is never owned, it is rented—and that rent is due every day.' Today is a day of celebrating your success, but you start a new tomorrow. Make the most of tomorrow." He continued, "Remember the true value of your education. With education we can transform our communities to be a more just, inclusive, equitable and compassionate."

Added Cristobal later in the ceremony, "My fellow graduates, this is our story of us emerging from times of uncertainty, not knowing the details until we lived and breathed through it ourselves, and we have arrived at the end of this chapter... to bask in the ambiance of our triumph and continue on the road of success no matter how it may look."

"Whatever the next chapter holds, know that we are so deserving of all the greatest blessings life has to offer," she concluded.

Additional event highlights included prelude music by the band Plays Well With Others, the National Anthem performed by Brittany Souisa, and the presenting of the Class of 2023 by Dr. Keith Wurtz, CHC vice president of instruction.

*Photo: CHC Class of 2023.*



### NextUp Grant Award

A \$188,7333 boost in funding will allow Crafton Hills College to target another underserved population: current and former foster youth.

Crafton is among a list of statewide institutions to receive funding through the NextUp grant, an award administered through the California Community College

Chancellor's Office. NextUp provides funds academic counseling, career guidance, transportation, and grants to assist with the cost of books and supplies, housing, and other educational expenses for current and former foster youth.

"We want to provide high touch wraparound services designed to support the academic and personal goals of our current and former foster youth," said Dr. LaTasha Hagler, EOPS/CARE/CalWORKS/Dream/NextUp associate dean of student services at Crafton.

The NextUp award is an annually funded grant, and Crafton could see an increase in funding each year depending on student enrollment and those that utilize program services.

*Photo: EOPS Students at the 2023 graduation ceremony.*



### Rad Tech Graduation

Seven new Crafton Hills College graduates are ready to embark on their next adventure: radiologic technology.

Regional Medical Center in Colton – was celebrated at a short but lively ceremony held Tuesday, June 6, in the hospital's Oak Room.

This year's class – the 55th total under CHC's partnership with Arrowhead

Highlights included the awarding of

diplomas and pins to Courtney Collins, Eric Flores, Bryan Johns, Shawna Leanos, Hayley May, Perris So, and Tommy Tran; a photo montage showcasing program highlights; and remarks from program leaders, including Dan Word, dean of career education and development at Crafton, who thanked each grad's support system.

"This is rarely a solo trek to get to this level of success without the love and support from family, friends and loved ones, and so you all should feel really appreciated in what you've given and what you've done to help them get to this place," he said.

Humor, which helped drive this year's class to the finish line, was reflected in the comments by student speakers and a special photo presentation highlighting moments captured throughout the two-year program, such as some of the graduates falling asleep in class or volunteering as patients to complete labs.

*Photo: CHC Student's Rad Tech Grad Cap.*



### Fire Academy Chief Mike Alder to Say Goodbye to Crafton Hills College

Crafton Hills College Fire Academy Chief Mike Alder always encourages his cadets to leave the fire service better than they found it. And after 40 years in the profession, many would agree that Alder did just that.

Alder – who is an academy alumnus himself, a member of the second graduating class in 1982 – has announced his retirement from the post effective this August, a decision that he made in the best interest of his family, he said.

Alder began working with the academy in 1985, while balancing a full-time position with the San Bernardino City Fire Department. He retired from that

department in 2012 and two years later was named Fire Academy chief at Crafton.

Preparing cadets for a career in the fire service is no easy task. The 16-week academy requires students to be on site 12 hours a day – sometimes more – learning the ropes and completing required coursework. Alder and his team work behind the scenes implementing effective ways to teach the challenging subject matter and securing funding to support cadets who may be financially struggling.

Although leaving is bittersweet for Alder, the longtime academy mainstay knows he'll always have a home at Crafton and is

excited to see what the program holds for the next generation of cadets “coming up the ladder.”

“It was an awesome ride,” Alder said. “I could have never done any of the things that I feel proud about if I didn’t have the support ... of people around me at the fire department and at [Crafton]. I have been blessed to have great administrators and people who believe in this program.”

He continued, “Everything works out the way it should. I’m a big believer in that. And so, I have a big smile on my face because in the last few years I have been a little baffled and disappointed with some of the things that I’ve seen coming through the door that are opposite of what the fire service’s got to be about. But, this academy, after the 19 academies that I’ve run, this is the best [one] that I’ve been around. They’re living proof that there’s good, selfless people out there that are going to make the fire service a better industry.”

As for his plans moving into this next phase of life, Alder said he is excited to settle down with his wife, Carla, at their new home in Borrego Springs, travel, and play some golf.

“Family always comes first,” Alder said.

*Photo: Chief Mike Alder.*

### Performing Arts Center Groundbreaking

Crafton Hills College celebrated the groundbreaking of the Finkelstein Performing Arts Center on May 31.

This state-of-the-art facility, funded by bond measure CC and state-matching funds, will be the new home for music, theater, and dance programs. The 24,000 square-foot venue features a 274-seat main theater, a smaller blackbox theater, dressing rooms, offices, and dedicated music labs with a recording studio. With environmentally conscious design elements, the center

will promote sustainability, and is set for completion in fall 2025.

The Finkelstein Performing Arts Center represents the future of arts education and endless possibilities for students, faculty, and the community.

*Photo: Mark McConnell, Natalie Hinton, Enggie Ocampo-Morales, Paul Jacques, Kay Weiss, Juniper Burgess, Arthur Buenaventura.*





### Retiree Brunch

Crafton Hills College retirees were treated to a brunch hosted by the CHC Foundation on June 22. CHC President Kevin Horan shared plans for new campus buildings, including a performing arts center and public safety training center. He highlighted

the Foundation's role in supporting student needs and opportunities.

Following Horan's report, attendees were invited to share stories about notable experiences they had while at CHC.

Damaris Matthews, who taught reading and headed the learning resource center -- then located on the third floor of the old library building -- recounted how she and her faculty and staff prepared Thanksgiving dinner for the whole campus. Dr. Jim Holbrook commended on the boldness of Judy Giacona, the CHC nurse who headed the Student Health Service, for pioneering safe sex protections for students to prevent STDs, when doing so was controversial.

Ryan Harold, interim fire chief, discussed the financial burden on students in the Fire Academy and EMT programs. The Foundation aims to establish an endowment fund to assist students and retirees were encouraged to contribute. The event concluded with gratitude from Michelle Riggs, Director of Institutional Advancement, and retirees receiving CHC's 50th Anniversary book.

*Photo: CHC Retirees.*



### Sputum Bowl State Champs!

Two teams from Crafton Hills College's Respiratory Care program won first and second place at the state-level Sputum Bowl competition at the California Society for Respiratory Care's (CSRC) annual convention on June 21. The two Crafton teams consisted of Richard Sevilleno, Alejandra Martinez, Luis Rebollar, Rajendra Pandey, Cristian Garcia, Jasmine Quezada, and Cameron Maldonado. The teams were

led and coached by its program director, Michael Sheahan, and director of clinical education, Daniel Rojas. The students wore commemorative jerseys in honor of Nico Cabalu, their former classmate and teammate who tragically passed away in April after the team won their regional title.

The two teams placed 1st and 2nd in the regional competition, beating out six other

teams including Modesto Junior College, Mt. San Antonio College, and San Joaquin Valley College.

The Sputum Bowl has been a tradition at the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) Congress since 1978. According to the AARC website, "uniquely 'RT,' the Bowl is the number one place to test your respiratory care knowledge against the best of the best in the profession. Nowhere else will you find therapists cheering on teams from across the country as they race to answer questions on everything from aerosol delivery to arcane gas laws." This event began including a student division in 2004.

The two teams will now move on to the national competition in Nashville in November 2023.

*Photo: Michael Sheahan, Richard Sevilleno, Alejandra Martinez, Luis Rebollar, Rajendra Pandey, Cristian Garcia, Jasmine Quezada, Cameron Maldonado, Daniel Rojas III.*