

August 2026



BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

Fire Academy I 14 Graduation Marks Completion of Rigorous Training at CHC

Crafton Hills College recognized the graduates of Fire Academy I 14 in a ceremony that marked the end of five months of intensive training and the start of their careers in the fire service on May 13.

Cadet speaker River Casner opened the evening with the academy's motto: "Calm under chaos." He described it as a practical standard, not just a phrase—staying focused in high-pressure situations where hesitation can lead to mistakes. His remarks centered on consistency: showing up through long days, physical fatigue, and outside responsibilities.

Casner emphasized that the group's success came from persistence and accountability. "We showed up again and again," he said, noting that while every cadet faced different challenges, they committed to finishing together. He also highlighted the bond formed



within the cohort, crediting that support system as one of the most important outcomes of the program.

He thanked instructors for maintaining high expectations and preparing them for real-world demands and acknowledged families for their support during the academy.

Fire Chief Ryan Harold followed by recognizing the role of regional

partners who support the academy through equipment, training resources, and collaboration. He noted that those partnerships are essential to maintaining the program.

The ceremony concluded with the presentation of diplomas and challenge coins, marking the graduates' transition into the fire service.

Photo: Fire Academy I 14

Crafton Hills College EMT Program Celebrates Graduates



CHC celebrated the accomplishments of six Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) cohorts during two graduation ceremonies on May 26 and 27. The

evenings highlighted not only the achievements of the graduates, but also the strong connections formed between students and instructors throughout the intensive 16-week program.

Faculty and administrators emphasized the difficulty of the program and the dedication, sacrifice, perseverance, and resilience of the graduates. They also highlighted the growth and achievement of students who

balanced rigorous coursework, skills training, and often significant personal and professional responsibilities.

The ceremonies concluded with cheers as graduates crossed the stage to receive their certificates and begin the next chapter in their emergency medical careers.

Photo: EMT Graduate and Family

CHC Celebrates 22 Nursing Pathway Graduates Entering the Front Lines of Care



On May 12, Crafton Hills College held its Nursing Services Pathway Certificate Ceremony, recognizing 22 students who earned CNA, HHA, ACNA, or multiple certifications through the program.

Instructor Anyssa Henrich opened the ceremony by acknowledging the graduates for the work it took to get there. "Health care training is not easy," she said. "Our students have balanced long hours, clinical experiences,

personal responsibilities [and] despite those challenges, they continued to show up." She emphasized that graduates were leaving not just with technical skills, but with "compassion, professionalism, patience, and integrity."

Dean Dan Word reinforced the intensity of the program, noting that earning multiple certifications in a single semester requires focus and commitment. "It's caregiving when you

might not feel like giving care—find it," he told students. "This is a milestone on a longer journey."

Student speakers brought specificity to those challenges. Kailynn Quezada, a dual enrollment student, highlighted the responsibility that comes with the role: "We're not just caring for residents. We make an impact on their families and sometimes we become part of that family." She also acknowledged the realities of training. "We've been bitten, scratched, yelled at but through all of these challenges, we persevered."

Sam Rojo focused on the meaning behind the work. "Becoming a CNA is not simply about completing tasks," he said. "It's about being guided by ethics, love, compassion, and responsibility, doing the right thing when no one is watching."

Photo: Nursing Services Graduates

CHC & ARMC's School of Radiologic Technology recognizes 'unforgettable' Class of 2026



Angel Castro could not hold back tears when reflecting on the journey she and seven others embarked on as radiology technician students of Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (ARMC) and Crafton Hills College. "Thank you," Castro shared with the audience during the graduation ceremony on May 29, held at the Colton-based hospital. "Thank you for

the study groups and the friendships that made this time in my life so unforgettable."

The School of Radiologic Technology is a fully accredited 22 ½ month program sponsored by ARMC, which opens its doors to students looking to gain experience in the field with certification from Crafton Hills

College. Each class becomes a tight knit group as they spend hours in the classroom perfecting their skills and putting their heads together during long study sessions.

"Completing a radiological technology program requires not only academic success but also compassion, professionalism, adaptability, and countless hours of clinical training," explained Clinical Coordinator Lauren McCoy. "To our graduates, tonight marks the end of one chapter and the beginning of another. You have worked hard to reach this moment, and you should be incredibly proud of what you accomplished."

"It's been a privilege to watch you grow, and I could not be prouder of each and every one of you," she said.

Photo: Radiologic Technology Graduates

CHC Foundation hosts multi-chamber mixer at newly opened Performing Arts Center



CHC's students of today are the workforce of tomorrow. That's the message organizers behind a multi-chamber mixer on June 2 hoped guests took with them as they left Yucaipa's college on the hill following the early evening event.

Hosted by the CHC Foundation, the college welcomed local and neighboring chambers of commerce from Beaumont, Banning, Calimesa, Highland, Mentone, Colton, Yucaipa, Redlands, and Loma Linda for an exclusive tour of the Finkelstein

Performing Arts Center. Guests had the opportunity to explore the state-of-the-art facility, featuring advanced technology and industry-standard tools designed to prepare the next generation of musicians, actors, and artists.

Crafton last hosted a multi-chamber mixer four years ago to celebrate the new Fire Academy facility. Like that event, the 2026 mixer featured lively conversation and remarks from leaders of Crafton and the San Bernardino Community College

District.

Crafton President Kevin Horan spoke about how the college's roots are grounded in acts of philanthropy, beginning in the 1960s, when Lester and Ruben Finkelstein—whom the space is named after—donated the land where the college sits.

SBCCD Board of Trustees Chair Nathan Gonzales then shared how Crafton and its sister college, SBVC, have transformed the lives of so many in the Inland Empire region. "The missions of our Chambers of Commerce and our colleges are more closely aligned than many probably realize," he said. "We're all working toward making our region a better place to live, a better place to raise a family, a better place to work and a better place to achieve our dreams."

Photo: Attendees at Multi-Chamber Mixer

CHC Foundation Board Meets for June 4 Strategic Planning Session

The Crafton Hills College Foundation Board convened on June 4 for its quarterly meeting, closing the day with renewed momentum and a focused direction for the year ahead.

Board President Amy Minjares recognized outgoing board member Colin Northcutt for his dedicated service. The Board also accepted the resignation of Dr. Phong Nguyen, honoring nearly a decade of leadership and his impactful tenure as Board President.

Tim Evans—a seasoned nonprofit leader, educator, and community advocate with more than 40 years of experience across the Inland Empire—was approved to serve a three-year term. Student Senate President Danni Black was also welcomed as an appointed director, bringing an important student voice to the table. The Board reaffirmed its leadership slate, with Amy Minjares continuing as President, alongside 1st



Vice President Wynona Duvall and Vice Presidents David Avila, James Cortz, Barbara Smith, Leslie Wessels, and June Yamamoto.

The strategic planning session that followed centered on a shared priority: strengthening how the Foundation tells its story and expands its reach. Board members explored ways to elevate student success stories, serve as active community ambassadors, and deepen relationships with employers, alumni, and regional partners. A strong emphasis was placed on

increasing awareness of the full scope of Foundation support—including emergency assistance, uniforms, certification and licensing fees, and travel opportunities that remove barriers and create opportunities for students.

The session concluded with a clear and collective commitment: to communicate more boldly, connect more intentionally.

Photo: Foundation Board Members

CHC Welcomes Retirees Back to Campus for Brunch and Tour



On May 28, Crafton welcomed retirees back to campus for a special brunch and tour celebrating their lasting impact on the college and its students. Retirees toured the construction site of the new Oosan Instructional Building and visited the recently opened Finkelstein Performing Arts Center before reconnecting with former coworkers over brunch and conversation.

During the program, Executive Director of Institutional Advancement Michelle Riggs shared a video from the college's May 15 commencement ceremony

and introduced recent graduate Thea Lucas, whose powerful story became one of the highlights of the event. Lucas spoke about overcoming tremendous personal hardships while pursuing her education and credited the care, encouragement, and support she received from Crafton faculty and staff for helping transform her life and future.

College President Dr. Kevin Horan also shared updates on the college's continued momentum and growth. Crafton has experienced a 42% increase in enrollment since 2022-

2023 and reached the highest enrollment levels in its history during the 2025-2026 academic year.

The presentation highlighted the college's expanding dual enrollment program, which now represents 24% of the student body and includes new partnerships with Rim of the World and Bear Valley Unified school districts. Attendees also learned about the launch of the college's new Licensed Vocational Nursing (LVN) program and the continued growth of the Crafton Hills College Foundation, whose assets have increased from just over \$4 million five years ago to more than \$10 million today.

The event served as both a celebration of Crafton's past and an inspiring look at its future, while honoring the retirees whose dedication helped build the supportive and student-centered culture that continues to change lives today.

Photo: CHC Retirees

CHC Named Favorite Community College and Career School



CHC is proud to be recognized as the Inland Empire's Favorite Community College and Favorite Career College: Trade/Specialty School in the 2026 Sun and Redlands Daily Facts Readers' Choice Awards.

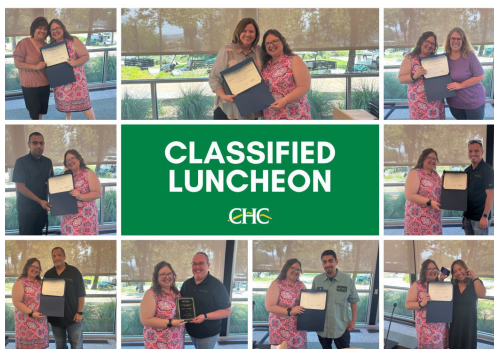
The college is deeply grateful to its students, alumni, faculty, staff,

and community members for their continued support.

This recognition reflects the college's ongoing commitment to providing opportunities that transform lives.

Photo: Reader's Choice Award

Crafton Hills College Honors Its Classified Professionals



CHC celebrated its Classified Professionals on June 11 with an appreciation luncheon honoring the employees who keep campus thriving.

The event included a raffle, recognition, and the presentation of the 2026 Employee of the Year awards: Classified Professional of the Year: Rebecca Pompa, Faculty of the Year: Sam Truong, and Administrator of the

Year: Dan Word.

The celebration highlighted the dedication and impact of CHC employees across campus. Their commitment continues to make Crafton a welcoming and inspiring place to learn and work.

Photo: Classified Luncheon Collage