



June 2026

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

Crafton Hills College Celebrates Record-Breaking Class of 2026 at Commencement

Crafton Hills College celebrated a historic milestone at its 2026 Commencement Ceremony on May 15, recognizing the largest graduating class in the college's history. A total of 1,252 students earned 994 degrees and 1,163 certificates—both record highs—with 393 graduates participating in the ceremony.

College leaders highlighted the institution's continued strength in student success, including top-tier transfer acceptance rates to University of California and California State University campuses. The ceremony also reflected the strong sense of community at Crafton, with multiple sets of siblings, cousins, couples, and even parents and children graduating together.

Graduates represented a wide range of achievements. Nearly 500 students earned honors with GPAs of 3.5 or



higher, including 118 with perfect 4.0s. Nine students completed the college's Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care program, while 35 student veterans were recognized for their service. Additionally, 175 graduates began their college journeys early through dual enrollment while still in high school.

emphasized perseverance, community impact, and the importance of giving back. The Class of 2026 leaves Crafton Hills prepared to contribute meaningfully to the region and beyond, embodying the college's commitment to opportunity, achievement, and lifelong connection.

Speakers throughout the evening

Photo: 2026 Commencement

Together Toward the Future: Crafton Couple Finds Strength in Shared Journey



Cayla and Giovanni Chamu began their journey at Crafton as partners and took another meaningful step

forward when they married in winter 2024. Now, they graduated side by side, each with a clear vision for the future. Giovanni is earning his associate degree in business administration with plans to pursue a career in marketing. Cayla is completing her associate degree in Elementary Teacher Education, driven by her goal to become a teacher. One of their proudest accomplishments

is not just earning their degrees but doing it together.

The couple has been accepted to California State University San Bernardino, where they plan to continue their education before launching their careers and starting a family.

Photo: Cayla and Giovanni Chamu

Oosan Instructional Building Topping Off Event



The Crafton Hills College community gathered April 8 to celebrate a major construction milestone with a topping off event for the new Oosan Instructional Building.

Held from 2 to 3 p.m., the informal,

drop-in event invited students, faculty and staff to sign a steel beam before it was placed into the structure. The topping off ceremony marked the completion of the structural steel phase of construction for the new instructional facility.

Once completed, the Oosan Instructional Building will total approximately 30,000 square feet and will feature classroom spaces and courtyards.

Matt Breyer, project executive with Tilden-Coil Constructors, said the project holds personal significance.

“Both of my kids attended here, and so I’m really proud to be able to come back on this campus and serve and be part of the community,” Breyer said. “The most rewarding part of working on this project is our collaboration, not just with our own team at Tilden-Coil, but the college, our design partner, and the community. Seeing what this building will do for this campus is just wonderful.”

Photo: Instructional Building Beam Signing

Crafton Hills College Welcomes 500+ Students for Annual High School Senior Day Event



Crafton Hills College hosted its annual Senior Day on Friday, April 17, welcoming over 500 high school students from across the region for a day of campus exploration and program engagement.

This year’s event, themed “Palm Trees and Possibilities,” featured a beach-inspired atmosphere that students themselves nicknamed “Craftonchella,” reflecting the energy and campus-wide participation throughout the day.

Students attended from Redlands East Valley, Redlands High School, Citrus Valley, Orangewood, The Grove, Banning, Yucaipa, Oak View, Green Valley, Mojave River Academy, and Rim of the World. The event was designed to introduce prospective students to academic and career pathways while allowing them to experience campus life in a flexible, self-guided format.

Throughout the day, students participated in presentations

highlighting key programs, including Nursing, Fire Technology, Radiology, and Emergency Medical Services. A resource fair provided opportunities to connect with faculty, staff, and student support programs, while additional activities across campus encouraged exploration and informal engagement.

A new addition this year was the introduction of Crafton 101 in Spanish. The session expanded access to information for Spanish-speaking students and families and reflects the college’s ongoing efforts to better serve its diverse community.

All scheduled sessions reached capacity, and the event saw strong participation across all activities. Senior Day is a key outreach effort for CHC, aimed at supporting local high school students as they consider their postsecondary options.

Photo: Senior Day

‘Machines’ take over Crafton’s STEM Center for friendly robotics competition



A Battle of the Bots took over the STEM Center at CHC, during the annual VEX Robotics Competition. Three Roadrunner-led teams put their skills to the test using remote control and coding to control a VEX Clawbot. Their mission: Compete in a series of tasks to win prizes and bragging rights.

“This event is great because there aren’t a lot of opportunities for students to build their own robots and then practice how to use them,” said Lisa Jordan, an interim administrative

assistant in CHC’s STEM Center.

Robotic kits were provided to students last semester. In the weeks leading up to the competition, they utilized the STEM Center to develop their coding and execution skills by coding each bot using VEXcode, a programming software.

The competition played out on a yellow and gray colored ring placed in the center of the STEM Center. Competing Clawbots earned their

team’s points by placing red or blue blocks into several stations.

Isaiah Torres, one of the student competitors, hoped the competition would pique the curiosity of visiting students looking to develop a STEM-related hobby or study.

“Being able to introduce them to the entire program helps us branch out a little,” said the first-year Crafton student from Redlands. “When I heard about the MESA program through social media, I was like, ‘Hey, I think this is the school for me.’ And here I am.”

The mission of Crafton’s STEM Center is to be a gateway to success in science, technology, engineering, and math-related studies and careers.

Photo: VEX Robotics Competition

Shooting for the Stars: Gavin Gonzalez to ‘launch’ third NASA internship this summer



This summer, Gavin Gonzalez will embark on his third internship with NASA—an opportunity made possible

through connections he made at CHC.

“I wouldn’t have gotten this internship without programs promoted on campus,” said the 21-year-old Highland mathematics major.

Gonzalez is expected to graduate from Crafton this spring and hopes to transfer to Cal Poly Pomona to continue his studies.

“Internships like mine are important because you don’t really know what the industry you want to enter is going to be like until you get that hands-on experience,” he said. “The sooner you can get that experience the better because it can determine what you do for the rest of your life.”

Photo: Gavin Gonzalez

CHC Marketing Campaign Earns Best of Show and Gold at American Advertising Awards



Crafton Hills College’s Fall 2025 Stop Motion Campaign, developed in

partnership with advertising agency HYPHEN, earned top honors at the American Advertising Awards, receiving both Best of Show and a Gold award in the Social Media Campaign category.

The American Advertising Awards are the advertising industry’s largest creative competition. Awards honor creativity, strategy, execution, and effectiveness.

The idea was to create a visual metaphor that helped potential students picture themselves being pulled out of their everyday lives and into a new chapter at Crafton. The creative team at HYPHEN chose the stop motion style for its unique look and connection with Crafton’s largest target audience.

Photo: American Advertising Award

Run for the Hills 5K Brings Community Together in Yucaipa



More than 300 runners gathered at El Dorado Ranch Park on April 25 for the annual Run for the Hills 5K, a sold-out community event supporting Crafton Hills College student-athletes and promoting health and wellness.

The race was sponsored by Blue Zones Health and Redlands Community Hospital, with Crafton Hills College serving as a race partner

and supporting sponsor. Crafton Hills College athletes and coaches volunteered throughout the morning to support runners and coordinate activities.

Top overall finishers included Crafton employee Jimmy Grabow, who placed first overall with a time of 17 minutes, 57.5 seconds, followed by Samantha Aguilar, who finished second overall

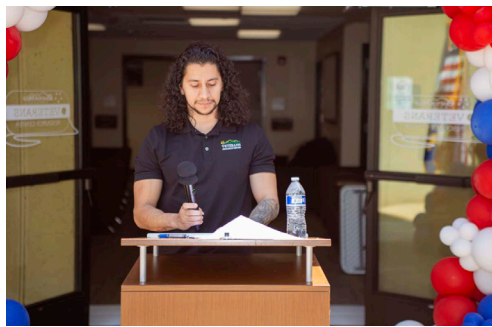
and was the top female finisher with a time of 21 minutes, 10.1 seconds. Matt Underwood placed third overall and first in the 50+ age division with a time of 21 minutes, 39.9 seconds.

Among the standout performances of the morning was that of Nolan Keller, a 10-year-old who claimed fifth place overall and first place in the 1–10 age division with a time of 23 minutes, 12.2 seconds. Nolan’s effort drew cheers from across the park and served as a reminder of what this event was about: inspiring people of all ages to move, to try, and to finish.

Whether running, walking or cheering from the sidelines, participants contributed to a morning focused on wellness, school pride, and community engagement.

Photo: Run for the Hills 5K

Completion is Not the End — It’s the Launch: Crafton Hills College Honors Veteran Students



The Veterans Resource Center (VRC) celebrated 28 students at the 2026

recognition ceremony. Centered around the theme, “Completion is not the end — it’s the launch,” the event honored the academic achievement, resilience, discipline, and growth that define the veteran student experience.

Student speaker and Student Veteran Association President Joshua Macias reflected on his journey.

“It is an honor to stand before you and acknowledge the dedication it took to

get here,” Macias said. “What you have accomplished comes from hard work and sheer discipline—the willpower to keep moving forward when times of struggle felt suffocating.”

Macias also highlighted the importance of the Veterans Resource Center, noting the guidance and community it provides to help students stay focused and navigate challenges.

Photo: VRC Recognition Ceremony

Honors students showcase scholarship at CHC Student Research Conference



Students at Crafton Hills College shared original research and

presentation skills during the college’s Spring 2026 Student Research Conference.

The event provided students with an opportunity to present research completed in Honors classes, internships, and independent projects. Participants delivered their work in either poster or oral presentation formats, helping them gain experience

that prepares them for upper-division coursework at transfer universities.

Presenting research is one of the requirements for earning the Honors Research Fellow Award, a distinction granted to students upon graduation from the Honors Institute.

Photo: Student Research Conference