

November 2026

CRAFTON HILLS COLLEGE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

Annual Crafton Hills College Gala raises $211,000 for student success, campus upgrades

Hundreds of generous donors turned out on Sept. 23 for the Crafton Hills College (CHC) Foundation's annual fundraiser "Bright Nights, Brighter Futures." The gala raised $211,000 for the Roadrunner community through the Foundation's scholarships and funding for campus programs.



Last year, the Foundation awarded more than $330,000 in scholarships to attending Roadrunners and an additional $156,000 in direct support to students through emergency funding, textbook loans and program support.

This year, dozens of silent auction items enticed guests to give big, and they did with many items being scooped up within just a few bids. A live auction brought in close to $12,000 thanks to big-ticket items like a San Diego Weekend Escape, a three-night stay for up to four guests at Club Wyndham's Inn; an Angels Diamond Club Experience for six with behind-home-plate seating; and an Evening at the Burrage Mansion Bistro, a private six-course tasting and whiskey pairing private party at one of Redlands' historic homes.

Thousands more were raised with dozens joining Crafton's President's Circle, a group of individuals, organizations and business leaders committed to the mission of the Yucaipa-based college and its Foundation.The mission of the Crafton Hills College Foundation is to cultivate meaningful relationships and raise funds that remove barriers, enhance opportunities and empower students to strengthen our communities. Goals 1 & 4.

Photo: Foundation Members at Gala

From Crafton Student at 15 to Award-Winning Educator



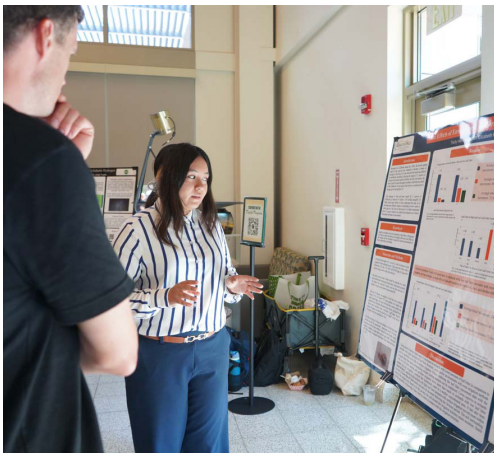
Long before Teresa Thompson became an award-winning accounting professor, author and national presenter, she was a 15-year-old Crafton Hills College student struggling with math. Thompson grew up around Crafton. Her father, longtime faculty member T.L. Brink, joined the College in 1989.

Today, Thompson is nationally recognized for finding creative ways to make accounting more engaging and accessible. She has co-authored an open educational resource accounting textbook and created "8-Bit Accounting," a series of interactive learning games inspired by classic arcade games.

When Thompson received the J. Michael and Mary Anne Cook/ Deloitte Foundation Prize—one of the accounting profession's highest teaching honors—she thanked her father for showing her that teaching at a community college could be fun and engaging. For Thompson, Crafton was where those possibilities first began to take shape. Goal 1.

Photo:Teresa Thompson and Family

More Than Research: MESA Students Build Confidence, Community, and Their Futures



On September 15, Crafton Hills College (CHC) held the MESA Research Symposium in the Roadrunner Café. This event was organized as a means of offering STEM/MESA students the opportunity to showcase the research projects they completed over the summer. The event included 14 student presenters and over 100 attendees, as people filled the Roadrunner Café, eager to learn about the students' research experience and findings.

The presenters included MESA students who participated in an 8-week research experience at CHC, California State University San Bernardino (CSUSB), and the University of California Riverside (UCR) across various disciplines, including biology, chemistry, entomology, physics & astronomy, material science, and microbiology. There was also a team of 11 STEM students who participated in the CA Space Grant project, who designed and built Project Heimdall, a low-cost radio telescope observatory, with the goal of detecting neutral hydrogen in the Milky Way.

Students participating in the MESA Research Program completed up to 22 hours of hands-on field and lab research, along with weekly professional development, to support them in preparing a formal research poster. This opportunity allowed students to experience collegiate-level research firsthand, contribute to the real-world application of the concepts they have been learning in class, and start building a network as they prepare for transfer.

One of the student presenters shared that this experience made her feel recognized and capable as a Hispanic woman pursuing a degree in chemistry and that every day, she would leave her lab and want to tell her family about the work she was doing. She explained that being able to do chemistry outside of class has been very motivating, and she now believes in herself more than she ever did.

Furthermore, CHC's CA Space Grant team was invited to NASA's Armstrong Flight and Research Center over the summer to present their radio telescope and explore the applications of their project to the aerospace industry. Goal 1.

Photo: Students at MESA Research Symposium

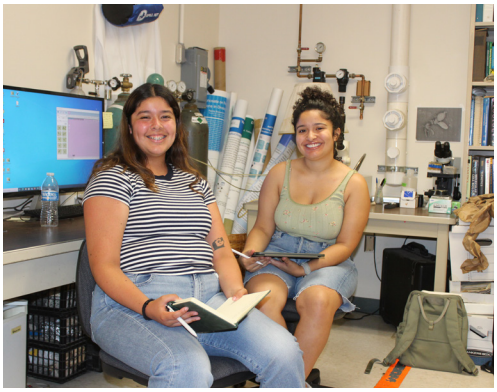
Crafton Hills College Students Co-Author Published Scientific Research Study

Crafton Hills College (CHC) students Giselle Cruz and Jazmyn Garcia co-authored a scientific research study examining the environmental effects of commonly used herbicides, published in the 2025 edition of Trends in Entomology. The research was conducted through the college's Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) program while working with Dr. Becky Talyn of California State University, San Bernardino.

The study, "Toxicological Effects of Glyphosate-Based Roundup® and New Roundup on Drosophila melanogaster Lifespan and Healthspan," was a collaborative research effort involving Cruz, Garcia, and Dr. Talyn. The publication highlights the valuable opportunities available to community college students to participate in scientific research alongside university faculty.

Their initial research experience inspired both students to pursue additional opportunities. Cruz is continuing her research during the fall and spring semesters alongside CHC microbiology professor Dr. Christopher Olivera, while Garcia completed another research project at the University of California, Riverside, over the summer. These experiences are helping both students strengthen their research skills and prepare for transfer to four-year universities and future academic and professional success.

Both Cruz and Garcia are members of CHC's MESA program and Honors Institute. Garcia also serves as the Student Trustee on the San Bernardino Community College District Board of Trustees, representing her fellow students and bringing a student perspective to district leadership. The published study also acknowledges



CHC MESA Director Dr. Krysten Audibert for her support. The accomplishments of Cruz and Garcia demonstrate how programs such as MESA and the Honors Institute, along with partnerships with four-year universities, provide students with meaningful research experiences and a strong foundation for continued success in STEM fields. Goal 3.

Photo: Students Conducting Research

Crafton Hills College Professor Selected for Prestigious Television Academy Fellowship



CHC Sociology and Ethnic Studies Professor Nancy Wang Yuen has been selected as a 2026 Alex Trebek Legacy Fellow by the Television Academy Foundation. Yuen is one of just 18 educators from colleges and universities nationwide chosen for the prestigious fellowship, which recognizes faculty who are helping shape the next generation of media professionals.

The fellowship provides support for educators from community colleges and minority-serving institutions to attend the Television Academy Foundation's annual Media Educators Conference, held October 21–23 at the Television Academy's campus in North Hollywood. The three-day conference brings together educators and entertainment industry leaders for seminars and discussions exploring the latest developments in television production, storytelling, technology and the business of entertainment.

Yuen brings an impressive background in media research, representation and diversity to her work at CHC. She is the author of Reel Inequality: Hollywood Actors and Racism and co-author of The Prevalence and Portrayal of Asian and Pacific Islanders Across 1,300 Popular Films. Her research examines racial representation in Hollywood and the experiences of underrepresented communities in the entertainment industry.

A nationally recognized expert, Yuen has appeared on PBS, NPR, MSNBC, BBC World and Turner Classic Movies. She has also consulted on diversity issues for major entertainment companies, including Amazon, Disney, DreamWorks, Lionsgate and Netflix. Her writing has appeared in CNN, Elle, the Los Angeles Times, NBC, Newsweek, Today and Vanity Fair.

Her selection for the Alex Trebek Legacy Fellowship highlights the expertise CHC faculty bring to the classroom and their continued engagement with research, industry leaders and national conversations. Through opportunities like the Media Educators Conference, faculty gain new perspectives and connections that enrich the educational experience for Crafton students. Goal 2.

Photo: Nancy Yuen

CHC Foundation Receives $26,000 Grant to Support Respiratory Care Students

The Crafton Hills College Foundation has received a $26,000 grant from the Golden State Environmental Justice Alliance to help 26 Respiratory Care students cross the finish line into the healthcare workforce.

Each student in the college's Respiratory Therapy cohort graduating in December 2026 will receive $1,000, roughly half of the out-of-pocket costs they face for certifications, licensing exams, clinical requirements, and other expenses of completing the program.

The grant responds to a growing demand for respiratory therapists across the Inland Empire and Southern California, where poor air quality, wildfire smoke, traffic pollution, and industrial emissions contribute to respiratory health challenges. Respiratory therapists care for patients with asthma, chronic lung disease, smoke inhalation, and other respiratory emergencies, and their work matters most in communities already affected by environmental conditions and limited access to healthcare.



By supporting students who will soon serve those communities, the Golden State Environmental Justice Alliance is linking environmental justice with workforce development.

"This partnership is about much more than helping students pay for exams and licensing," Riggs added. "It's about opening doors for students to build meaningful careers while strengthening the healthcare workforce in our region. These 26 future respiratory therapists will care for patients and families across our communities, and that impact will reach well beyond graduation."

Through partnerships like this one, the Crafton Hills College Foundation continues to remove financial barriers, expand educational opportunities, and help students move from the classroom into careers that make a difference. Goal 4.

Photo: Respiratory Care Students

Crafton Hills College Hosts Veterans Job & Resource Fair



Crafton Hills College welcomed more than 40 veterans and military-affiliated job seekers to its Veterans Job & Resource Fair on September 30, connecting attendees with employment opportunities, career training, and valuable community resources. Held at the Barbara L. Smith Event Center in partnership with the Redlands Chamber of Commerce, the event brought together more than 30 employers and community organizations committed to supporting veterans and their families.

Participating employers included CAL FIRE, the U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Border Patrol, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Loma Linda University Health, CarMax, and Allied Universal Security Services. Resource providers, including CalVet, U.S.VETS, VA Loma Linda Healthcare System, and the San Bernardino Vet Center, shared information about educational opportunities, employment assistance, healthcare, and veteran services.

The event highlighted the importance of creating meaningful connections between veterans and employers who recognize the valuable skills and experience military service brings to the workforce. Crafton Hills College and its community partners remain committed to supporting veterans as they pursue education, employment, and new career opportunities. Goals 1 & 2.

Photo: Participants at Veterans Fair

Finkelstein Performing Arts Center Earns LEED Platinum Certification



Crafton Hills College's new Finkelstein Performing Arts Center (PAC) has earned LEED Platinum certification, the highest recognition awarded by the U.S. Green Building Council for sustainable building design. According to the project's architects, DLR Group, it is the first newly constructed performing arts facility in California to achieve this distinction under the current LEED rating system. This is a monumental accomplishment for a performing arts facility, which typically requires significantly more energy than a traditional building.

From the very beginning of the design process, the PAC was envisioned with sustainability in mind. The all-electric building is designed to run entirely on renewable energy generated by the campus's solar array and uses 42% less water than a comparable building. It also features improved air filtration, environmentally friendly building materials and landscaping that helps filter stormwater naturally. These features create a healthy environment for students, employees and visitors while helping the college save on long-term operating costs.

In addition to the building's LEED Platinum certification, it is now under consideration for a separate LEED Zero Energy certification, a designation that verifies that the building offsets all of its annual energy use with renewable energy. While that certification is still in progress, the facility was designed to achieve this goal, with the potential to eliminate its net annual electricity costs.

What makes this achievement especially meaningful is the impact the facility has on our students and community. The PAC is much more than a beautiful new building. It gives our students access to professional-quality performance and learning spaces while bringing music, theatre and cultural experiences to our surrounding communities. It is a place where students can discover their talents,families can enjoy performances and community members can connect with the college.

This accomplishment represents nearly six years of planning, creativity and teamwork among the district, college, architects and construction teams. Crafton Hills College is proud of what has been accomplished through this collaborative effort and looks forward to the many opportunities the facility will provide for students and the community for years to come. Goal 4.

Photo: Finkelstein Performing Arts Center