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BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

Crafton Men's Cross Country Makes History



The Crafton Hills College men's cross

country team made history September 18, capturing its first-ever victory at the Golden West College Central Park Classic. The milestone win was made even more impressive as the Roadrunners finished ahead of the defending state champions, marking a major achievement for Crafton's growing cross country program. The

victory reflects the hard work and momentum the team has built and establishes a new benchmark for Roadrunner athletics. Congratulations to our student-athletes and coaches on an incredible and historic finish. Go Roadrunners!

Photo: Men's Cross Country Team

Crafton Hills College Kicks Off Fall 2026 Semester with New Degree Programs

CHC welcomed over 8,000 students for the fall 2026 semester, which began Aug. 24, with several new degree and certificate programs expanding transfer and career education opportunities.

New programs include Associate Degrees for Transfer in Social Justice Studies, Elementary Teacher Education, Environmental Science, and Law, Public Policy and Society; an

Associate Degree and certificate in Vocational Nursing; and a Transitional Kindergarten Teacher Certificate. The programs provide new pathways for students pursuing four-year degrees and careers in health care and education.

Students can still enroll in late-start and short-term classes offered throughout the semester, providing flexible options to begin or add



courses.

Photo: Students on First Day of Fall

Scholarship Reception invites CHC scholarship recipients to meet those behind awards



Contributors to student success at Crafton Hills College through scholarships had the opportunity to meet the students who benefitted from their generosity during the

college's annual Scholarship Reception on August 13. Dozens of students and scholarship funders gathered inside the Barbara L. Smith Event Center to chat about the meaning behind each gift and student goals and aspirations.

"When we invest in education, we invest in people, and I know the quality of education they receive here," said Crafton Alumna and Yucaipa Valley Rotary Member, Karen Swedlove. "Looking back now, I realize

my connection to Crafton never really ended [after graduation]. That education I received here continues to influence my life, my service, and my commitment to helping others."

The mission of the CHC Foundation is to raise funds that remove barriers, enhance opportunities, and empower student success.

Photo: Scholarship Recipient and Donor

CHC Students Showcase Research and Stories at UCR ACTION Summer Institute



Ten CHC students successfully completed the inaugural UCR ACTION (Advancing Community Transformation through Inquiry and Opportunity) Summer Research Institute, a three-week summer partnership designed to introduce community college students to a university-level experience while strengthening their preparation for transfer and four-year study.

For three weeks, Roadrunners attended the UCR campus & online, participated in lectures, visited support

program offices to see what UCR has to offer them, all centered around seeing themselves as future scholars at a UC. A highlight of the program was the final research showcase, where students presented projects connecting research with their lived experiences as community college students. Through their Counter-Story Projects, “My Journey to Community College and as an Aspiring Transfer Student,” students reflected on their educational journeys, challenges, sources of support, resilience, and hopes for the future.

The showcase demonstrated the students’ growth as researchers and scholars and challenged deficit-based assumptions about community college students. Students shared how their experiences, relationships, and communities have shaped their educational goals and their aspirations to transfer.

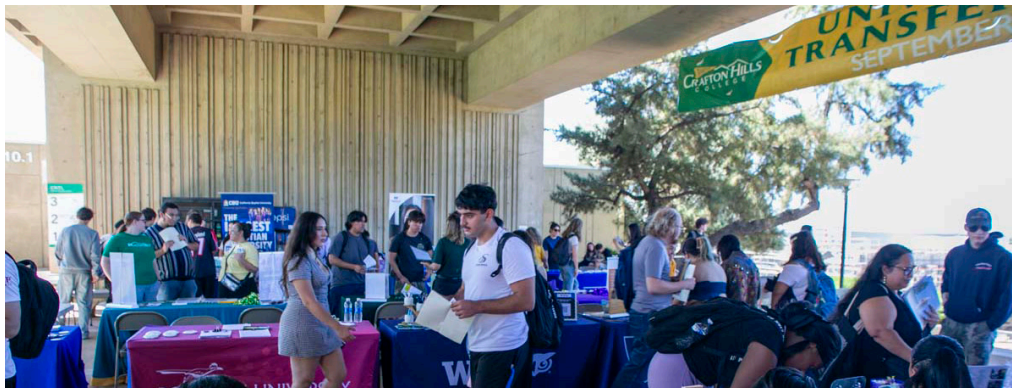
The institute was intentionally

designed to support students beyond the three-week experience. Students will continue working toward their individual transfer and educational goals, with opportunities for continued mentorship and connection with UCR. The relationships established during the institute provide an important foundation for students as they navigate the transfer process and consider their next steps in higher education. For CHC, the partnership also reflects the college’s commitment to creating meaningful transfer opportunities and expanding students’ access to high-impact educational experiences.

Their final projects offered an important reminder: students are not simply recipients of education, they are knowledge creators whose experiences can teach us how to build stronger, more equitable pathways to higher education.

Photo: Students at UCR ACTION

“It Takes a College”: CHC Transfer Fair Connects Students with 40 Universities



On September 9, the Central Complex Breezeway at Crafton Hills College was buzzing with energy as students filled that space to explore tables filled with information about various universities at CHC’s University Transfer Fair. For this event, the University Transfer Center (UTC) brought together 40 universities, which offer a diversity of programs, services, and educational formats such as fully online, research based, career and technical degrees,

and in-person programs.

Collectively, these colleges represented public, private, and out-of-state universities, giving CHC students ample opportunities to find the university that’s right for them. Each university had a representative to answer questions and steer students in the right direction to accomplish their transfer objectives. In total, university representatives tallied approximately

700 contacts with students.

Among all community colleges in the Inland Empire, CHC has the highest transfer acceptance rates and partners with several other colleges in the area to introduce students to each university and streamline the transfer process. Making the transfer process smooth and accessible is a CHC priority. When asked about the event, UTC Coordinator Mariana Macamay said, “Our students have the highest admit rates in the region. This is a testament to the administration, faculty, and... support... staff. It takes a college to transfer a student! As the Transfer Center Coordinator, I am grateful to the college for its continued support to help our students achieve the success they work hard for by removing barriers and supporting efforts such as the transfer fair.”

Photo: University Transfer Fair

Crafton Hills' Paramedic Program celebrates 108th graduating class



Speaking directly to the 108th graduating class of Crafton Hills College's Paramedic Program, Antonio Betancourt asked his classmates to think back to the day when they realized this career was meant to be. For Betancourt, it was during his Intro to EMS class when one of the class instructors said something that stuck with him: "EMTs are the only

profession the public truly trusts." The ceremony was filled with praise for the hard-working and determined cohort, as well as program traditions that included the unveiling of a class plaque that will adorn a wall of a classroom used for that program's instruction.

Crafton's Paramedic Program is unique in that former students have

now become the teachers, leading new generations to find and remember their why when "life absolutely lives you," said guest speaker and program instructor Kristen Clements. "Let your why remind you to be compassionate when you're tired, to be patient when you're frustrated, to keep learning when you think you already know the answer, to advocate for the patients who need someone to speak for them--and to remember that the person in front of you isn't simply a patient—they are someone's parent, child, spouse or sibling."

Each graduate was also given \$600 from donor Nicholas Campos through the Crafton Hills College Foundation to help cover paramedic licensing fees.

Photo: Paramedic Graduates

Crafton Celebrates 54 EMT Summer Cohort Graduates

CHC celebrated 54 Emergency Medical Technician graduates from three summer cohorts during a ceremony September 11 in the Finkelstein Performing Arts Center. The graduates completed an intensive program, that condensed the college's traditional 16-week, 11-unit EMT session to just 12 weeks, requiring hundreds of hours of study and preparation in this shortened calendar.

Associate Dean of Public Safety and EMT Program Director Amanda Ward praised the graduates for completing the demanding program while balancing work, family and other responsibilities. "This isn't goodbye," Ward told the graduates, noting that many plan to continue their education in Crafton's Fire Academy or Paramedic program. She encouraged them to care for themselves as they enter a challenging profession and reminded them that Crafton will continue to support them.

The three cohorts were taught by EMS professors John Grounds and Skylar Antoncew-Garcia and



instructor Henry Vasquez. Antoncew-Garcia described her cohort with one word: dedication. Thirty-five students completed her accelerated class, the largest group she has led through the program. Many had already passed the National Registry exam on their first attempt, and some received job offers within weeks of completing the program.

Vasquez celebrated 13 graduates from his "small and mighty" cohort, which included students participating in American Medical Response's Earn

While You Learn program.

Grounds reflected on the bonds formed during EMT training, describing the program as more than a typical college course.

For the 54 graduates, the ceremony marked both an accomplishment and a beginning as they move into emergency medical services or continue their education in fire service, paramedicine, nursing or other healthcare fields.

Photo: EMT Graduation Ceremony

Building Futures: Donna Ferracone's Legacy of Support at RESA



Few people have demonstrated as strong a commitment to helping students become first-responders as Donna Ferracone, who retired from CHC in 2009 after 20 years of service as a faculty member, department chair, and dean of career and technical education. She developed a valuable partnership between CHC and the Regional Emergency Services Academy (RESA) to help high school seniors interested in public service careers who can go on to complete

a program at CHC. RESA introduces these seniors to careers in public service through a week-long summer program run by local police and fire departments.

Ferracone has understood how encouragement and opportunity can make a lasting difference in the life of a young person. She has stepped up to help students continue their education after RESA by establishing a scholarship specifically benefiting RESA students as they take the next step in their educational and professional journeys.

This year marked an exciting milestone as the scholarship was awarded to its first two recipients. For these students, the scholarship represents much more than financial assistance. It is a message that someone believes in their potential, recognizes the work they have already put in, and wants to help them continue moving forward.

The inaugural awards also mark the beginning of something larger. Each future recipient will become part of a legacy that began with Ferracone's decision to invest directly in RESA students and the next generation of public safety professionals.

Through education, mentorship, hands-on experiences, and the support of people like Ferracone, RESA students are given the opportunity to turn that interest into a pathway to a career.

Although the impact of a scholarship can be measured in dollars, its true value is found in the doors it opens. For RESA's first two scholarship recipients, those doors are just beginning to open. And thanks to Donna Ferracone's generosity and commitment to students, many more will have the opportunity to follow.

Photo: Donna Ferracone and scholarship recipient

Paramedic Student to Lifesaver: Trent Gregoire Recognized with ICEMA EPIC Award



For paramedic students, classroom lessons and skills labs are designed to prepare them for the moment when their training is needed to save a life. For CHC paramedic student Trent Gregoire, that moment came when he responded to a patient who was not breathing and had no pulse. It was Gregoire's first encounter with a patient in cardiac arrest, and he was then only a paramedic student. The outcome would be one he'll never forget.

Faced with a situation where every second mattered, Gregoire became part of the team working to save the patient's life. Drawing on the training, preparation, and skills he had developed during his paramedic training, he helped provide care during the resuscitation effort. The team's efforts succeeded and the patient survived and made a full recovery.

Gregoire's role in the lifesaving response was later recognized by the Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency (ICEMA), which honored him with an EPIC Award for his efforts. The recognition is especially meaningful because Gregoire was still a student when he got the call to respond.

Paramedic education requires students to move beyond knowing what to do and begin applying that knowledge in unpredictable, high-pressure environments alongside experienced EMS professionals. Gregoire's first

cardiac arrest response demonstrated the importance of that preparation. The most meaningful recognition is the life that continues because of the work performed that day. The patient has since made a full recovery and is looking forward to something wonderfully ordinary: getting back on the soccer field.

For Gregoire, that is a reminder that behind every successful resuscitation is more than a statistic. There is a person who gets to return home, spend more time with family and friends, and get back to doing the things they love. Gregoire entered the call as a paramedic student responding to his first patient without a pulse. He left having helped give someone the opportunity to live—and with an experience that will remain with him throughout his career in EMS.

Photo: Trent Gregoire