

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

LET'S GO! ¡ADELANTE!

February 2023

All Campus Kick-Off to the Spring 2023 Semester

"The difference you make in the lives of students is important and the impact you have is permanent."



Photo: (Left-to-right) Henry Gomez, Pedro Chabolla, Leslie Swindell, Ericka Sherman, Sarah DeSimone, Duran Gaddy, and Evelyn Briones.

On January 12, Crafton Hills College held an all-campus in-service day for employees to kick off the spring 2023 semester.

CHC alumna and SBCCD Board Chair Dr. Stephanie Houston began the program by highlighting the impact Crafton employees have on students. Houston briefly shared her personal experiences at Crafton as an adult re-entry student 30 years ago and said that what she learned here has been the foundation of her career and

specifically what she does today as the Assistant Superintendent of Innovation and Engagement for San Bernardino Schools.

"I learned how to write here. I learned how to take notes. I learned to take out the word "that" as much as possible. I learned that "is" is not a strong verb, [and to] find another verb. I learned just enough algebra to pass the CBEST so that I could get my teaching credential," Houston said with a chuckle. "It was the best education of my

entire educational journey."

Houston reminded employees that the difference they make in the lives of students is important and the impact they have is permanent before wishing everyone a great semester.

New employees as well as employees who have new positions were introduced. Additional updates were provided about construction on campus, upcoming events, recent accomplishments, and a change to the counseling model, which will now align with guided pathways to create intentional programming based on the number of units students have completed and employ a proactive approach to connect with students and keep them moving toward their goals.

Dr. Gio Sosa, Dean of Institutional Effectiveness, Research, and Planning, reviewed the educational master planning process. The Research and Planning Department will work with departments across campus to develop key results, and the academic and classified senates will review strategic directions and supporting actions over the next few months. The Educational Master Plan Committee anticipates final approval of the master plan by the Board of Trustees in May.

CHC Fire Academy's Class 107 Celebrates Triumph Through the Storm

"I have come to realize that iron sharpens iron, and there's something remarkable about surrounding yourself with like-minded individuals who have an eagerness to dedicate their lives on behalf of others."



Photo: 107th Fire Academy Cadets.

For Grace Shumate, becoming part of the fire service is not just a career, it's her calling.

From day one, Shumate and fellow Crafton Hills College Fire Academy cadets were faced with a laundry list of challenges, from evolutions to scenario-based trainings inside burn boxes that simulated what it was like to fight fires in enclosed spaces.

With such daunting obstacles behind them, the Academy 107 class was able to celebrate another milestone in their budding careers: Graduation Day.

"It was these times that tested our courage and communication," said Shumate during the special event held inside the Finkelstein Performing Arts Center on Dec. 16. "Throughout this academy, I have come to realize that iron sharpens iron, and there's something remarkable about surrounding yourself with like-minded individuals who have an eagerness to dedicate their lives on behalf of others."

CHC Fire Academy Chief Mike Alder lead the ceremony, which was attended by excited family members, friends, and

supporters. While each ceremony is different, the celebration has been anchored by tradition, including the awarding of the class plaque that will soon hang with those of previous academies on the fire station walls, and announcing student scholarships. Traditionally, the Academy invites a guest speaker to share encouraging remarks and stories from their careers. However, Alder said he and his team decided to change this tradition by inviting a student, Grace Shumate, to the podium to tell her story.

"One hundred and 24 days later, I believe we have been given the [right] tools... to fight the good fight," Shumate said, adding, "You are unstoppable. Remember this is bigger than stopping fires. [And] as you put on your gear, remember to have a 'no quit' attitude... and as you prepare to enter the flames, remember your training."

Class 107's motto was "Through the Storm," and staying "dry" through the "rains" they did -- from sacrificing time away from friends and loved ones to losing a beloved member of the Academy family, Lead Ladder Instructor Mike Horton. When asked by Alder to "leave something behind,"

this year's class did so by showcasing their hard work in a video highlight reel with a soundtrack amplifying an inspiring message. The video was dedicated to the memory of Horton, who died in November 2022.

"Every little thing they did was above and beyond what they had to do," Alder said when referring to the video and class plaque.

Before Class 107 was dismissed for the last time, Alder presided over the awarding of scholarships and awards:

Scholarships

- The Mike Orland and Terri Wallen scholarships – Grace Shumate
- The Dave Golder Scholarship – Gunnar De Soto
- The Leroy Balch Scholarship – Rudy Beltran
- The David Avila Scholarship – Jonathan Soden

Awards

- Highest Academic Achievement – Ishwar Persaud
- Most Inspirational Cadet – Ethan Ruiz
- Instructors' Award – Grace Shumate

The Fire Academy at Crafton Hills College is one of the premier fire academies in Southern California. Students complete an 18-unit course filled with various in-class lectures and hands-on training. Two full-time academies are held each year, and students are required to be on-site from 6 a.m. until 5 p.m. every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and occasional Wednesdays. Applications are accepted year-round.

To learn more about the program and/or to contribute to future Academy classes through monetary donations, visit www.craftonhills.edu

EOPS Holiday Party

Crafton Hills College hosted a holiday celebration for EOPS and CalWORKs students and their families on December 16.

The CHC Psychology Club, EOPS and CalWORKs programs presented families with over 200 gifts during this annual holiday party. The wrapped gifts and gift cards allow Crafton parenting students the opportunity to fulfill their children's holiday wishes without having to use scarce money needed to buy food and pay for educational needs.

The Psychology Club students and advisor Dr. Diane Pfahler oversaw arts and crafts tables where the children gleefully made Christmas tree ornaments and holiday wreaths. The children ranged in age from newborns to teens. The teens were too cool for the arts and crafts but not too cool to show appreciation and gratitude when presented with their gift cards.

CHC Dean of Student Equity and Success Dr. Ivan Peña was on hand to help EOPS coordinators, counselors, and technicians serve all attendees a hearty meal.

After, the families were excited to get in line so that the children could receive their presents from Santa and his helpers. Earlier in the semester, the students from EOPS and CalWORKs were asked to provide a list of items that their children may like to receive as a gift. At least one of these items was purchased for each student's child so that they would receive something they would like.

Students shared how much they enjoyed the event and how it felt like a fun family gathering. Social activities like these that engage students and their families highlight what a warm and supportive community Crafton Hills College really is.



Photo: CHC Student Danae Farley with daughter Violet Hickman.

“Disrupting Inequality in the System” Keynote Address on In-Service Day



Photo: Dr. Regina Stanback-Stroud addresses faculty and staff.

At the all-day faculty and staff in-service on January 12, keynote speaker Dr. Regina Stanback-Stroud spoke on the complex reality of inequity in higher education and how to reduce such unfairness.

Stanback-Stroud is an anti-racist activist and committed practitioner, who has dedicated 35 years of her life's work to higher education, serving as a CCC chancellor, president, vice president of instruction, dean and professor of nursing.

“We need to understand how the systems are set up,” Stanback-Stroud stated, “... the historic systems of oppression that have been set up perpetuate the status quo in regard to race.” One way to disrupt this system, she shared, was the importance of “giving each other permission to be imperfect and feel uncomfortable” when discussing systems of oppression in higher education.

She also offered ways for a college to further become an anti-racist institution, including diversifying faculty. Stanback-Stroud added that increasing faculty and staff diversity increases the ability to integrate multicultural and culturally responsive pedagogy into teaching practices. She also suggested creating a safe environment to engage in diversity, equity and inclusivity (DEI) conversations, not hiding behind the bureaucracy and using positions of influence and consequence, and finally auditing policies and processes for structural racism.

Stanback-Stroud ended her keynote address by praising CHC for making anti-racism, inclusivity, and equity a priority for the campus, as well as being recognized as the 2021 Equity Champion for Excellence in Transfer for Latinx students.

Crafton Hills College Alumnus Shares How a Conversation with a Faculty Member Started Him on the Path to a Successful Career in Law



Photo: Steven Soliman, CHC Alumnus.

Some would think that everyone has a plan after graduating from high school: go to college and start a career. For Steven Soliman, it was a pact between friends that led him to apply to Crafton Hills College, although he had no specific career goal.

Unsure what the future would hold, Soliman took a few classes and saw himself excelling, but it was a “B” grade that changed the trajectory of the Roadrunner’s outlook on what could come next.

“So, it was because I was lacking direction that it [appealing this grade] kind of changed my life. I was taking biology and got a ‘B,’ but I thought I had deserved an ‘A.’ I went into Professor [Roger] Sadler’s office and argued my point, and he agreed with me. I remember he swiveled his chair [to face me] and said, ‘You should be a lawyer.’

‘Why would you say that?’ I replied.

‘I don’t know, that’s the impression that I get,’ he said.’

It was at that moment – a “lightbulb moment,” Soliman said – that started the process. He added that he then knew what it would take to get to the next point, and was focused on maintaining excellent grades so he could reach that next step in his pursuit to become a lawyer.

After graduating from Crafton, Soliman transferred to UC San Diego and majored in political science. He then took a year off to study for the LSAT, passed the test and then, in 2012, began studying law at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles.

“But I still lacked direction,” he recalled. “During law school I was working for different firms and found out I liked personal litigation and injury. I was clerking while studying for the bar and a few months later I applied for it [the bar exam].”

Yet, it wasn’t all smooth sailing from there, Soliman explained. He left the law firm he was employed with and once again lacked that solid foundation he needed to find his footing. But it was at the encouragement

of a friend and a move to Orange County that helped set the wheels back in motion.

“He encouraged me to start my own firm and told me that I could use a cubicle in [his office in] Costa Mesa for free until I could get back on my feet and gave me some cases to work on,” Soliman said. “I moved to Orange County with no money, no cases and had to start from the ground up. But soon I was able to rent an office space, and that’s where I am seven years later.”

The Soliman Firm now has two offices – including one in neighboring Redlands – and has both full and part-time employees. Best of all, the firm is led by a first-generation Egyptian born and raised Southern Californian who discovered his passion for helping others right here at Crafton Hills College.

“I think that if I can truly do it, anyone can,” Soliman said. “I’m not ultra-intelligent or anything; I come from a fractured home (his parents divorced when he was young), and I was a little behind the curve..., all because my focus was not there. I had so many cards stacked against me at the time. But I knew in the back of my head I wasn’t mediocre.”

When asked if he had any advice for future Roadrunners still mapping out a plan, Soliman was quick to answer: “At the end of the day, if you want success, if that’s what you truly want and you believe you deserve it, let those thoughts do their thing. Put your head down, work hard, be patient and believe it’s all going to work out with time,” he said.

To start your career at Crafton, go to craftonhills.edu today to explore our course catalog and register in a few easy steps.

CHC Hosts Naming Ceremony for the Kirsten Greek Respiratory Care Classroom



Photo: Forrest and Valorie Greek.

When respiratory care students at Crafton Hills College enter room PSAH-115, Kirsten Greek's name will now be there to permanently remind and inspire them to continue their passion for helping others as they pursue their careers.

On Saturday, Jan. 21, the family of Greek, a Crafton alumna and former respiratory care tech, was on hand to celebrate the official naming of the space and the Greek's family philanthropic giving.

"We are over the moon this is being done," said Kirsten's dad, Forrest Greek. "We feel her spirit is always going to be in this room, and that her spirit is going to help others be independent and successful."

Among those in attendance included Ariana Rogge, a 28-year-old respiratory care student who despite traveling from Temecula to Crafton five days a week, wanted to show her appreciation to the Greek family and found herself driving back to campus again on the weekend.

"They're creating a legacy here today," she said, adding that in addition to long class days and late nights studying, there are a lot of hidden fees associated with obtaining a license in respiratory care. To help cover those expenses, The Greek family created

an endowment in Kirsten's memory that will grant every respiratory student with \$300 upon graduation to assist with the expense of state testing upon program completion. "Most of us come to community college because we can't afford to go straight to a four-year university," Rogge continued. "I am really grateful to [their] contribution."

The Greek family ties to the area go back to before Crafton was even built, they explained. Along with two young children in tow, Forrest and his first, late wife Adella, moved to the area some 60 years ago and began planting their roots and raising their children here. Kirsten graduated from Yucaipa High School and started her college journey at Cal State San Bernardino, her dad shared.

But, after her first year at Cal State, Kirsten felt like she wasn't flourishing as she had expected to. Shortly after, Kirsten went to work with her mother at the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial Veterans' Hospital in Loma Linda when she was introduced to working directly with patients. Forrest said Kirsten's uncle inspired her to get into respiratory care and soon she found herself at Crafton excelling in her new pursuit.

"She blossomed," Forrest said. "She loved it," added Valorie Greek, Forrest's second

wife and longtime friend.

In May 1993, Kirsten Greek graduated from CHC and began building a career at local hospitals like San Bernardino County Hospital and St. Bernardine Medical Center in San Bernardino. Unfortunately, despite finding success in her field, Kirsten was dealing with mental health issues and unfortunately passed away in 2011.

Despite the deep loss of their beloved Kirsten, the Saturday afternoon name unveiling served as a celebration of the impact she left behind on her family members – a relative, Valorie recalled, traveled from the Midwest to be at the ceremony because, as she told Forrest, "I am part of what I am because of Aunt Kirsten." The Greeks' philanthropy will also continue to benefit other programs and areas on campus.

"This gift lives on in perpetuity," said Crafton President Kevin Horan. "We, at this college, are passionate about removing barriers for students. The California community college system is the most affordable higher education system in the United States. Yet, it is out of reach for millions of people at the same time. Gifts like this will remove a barrier.

"I wanted to be sure that your family knew that Kirsten will live on forever here at Crafton," Horan continued. "And we are inspired by you and what you are doing today. And every time people come outside [and see her name], they're going to know the impact she had on the Respiratory Care Program. Thank you very much."

For more information on the Greek family's contributions, or to learn more about how to aid in to the success of its students, visit the Crafton Hills College Foundation's page at www.craftonhills.edu/foundation, or contact Michelle Riggs, Director of Institutional Advancement, by email at mriggs@craftonhills.edu or by phone at 909-389-3391.

Crafton Hills College Celebrates the ‘Heroes’ of Paramedic Class #98

“Class of 98, may God richly bless you in this field,” Donahue continued. “Be exceptional. And congratulations.”



Photo: Paramedic Class #98 graduates, faculty, and administrators.

A “victorious” Crafton Hills College Paramedic Class #98 was celebrated at an enthusiastic graduation ceremony on Friday, January 20.

CHC’s Dean of Career Education and Human Development Dan Word served as master of ceremonies. Word led the charge in ensuring the evening ceremony was not going to be a quiet one as he encouraged shout-outs from friends and family who helped paramedic graduates along the way.

“I was really pleased by your response to the welcome [of our graduates] and so that’s how we are going to do [it] this evening,” Word said. “The evening is just about that – a celebration of the accomplishment that these students have achieved to this point. So, at any point, simply shout it out.”

“Estrada!” shouted one audience member. “Ocampo!” yelled others. And the same sentiments were expressed throughout the more than hour-long ceremony, especially when each student received their pin, and a

video set to the song Hero flashed highlights of the program and each student’s work in-and-outside of the classroom.

Crafton’s paramedic program is divided into three parts: didactic, clinical, and field. Students spend hundreds of hours completing each one. Add hundreds more hours studying, and the graduates will tell you it’s a challenging program to complete. But with the class motto “Victory’s always with me,” Class #98 was able finish, and soon 19 graduates will become full-time paramedics or embark on the next chapter in their respective careers.

To help motivate students, the class invited Crafton alumnae Daniel Donahue to deliver some words of wisdom. Donahue’s address included jokes that garnered laughs from the audience and students but left grads with a series of ways they can be exceptional in the field: “The exceptionalism you exhibit in the field of paramedicine will serve you, your patients, and the relationships with the people

around you. Be unexceptionally kind,” he said. “Many times, you’ll see patients in their lowest moments, and for some, those lowest moments are their lifestyle. But [for others], those lowest moments are also their last, and at those moments a drop of kindness always feels like an ocean.

“Class of 98, may God richly bless you in this field,” Donahue continued. “Be exceptional. And congratulations.”

Graduating classmate Nikolas Esquer then told his classmates that he has full faith in their skills and the impact they will have on the communities they serve. A class plaque that will hang in view of future paramedics was presented, and the awarding of scholarships highlighted exceptional achievements.

Recipients and awards were as follows:

- Clinical Award: Amanda McKinley
- Skills Award: John Laudan
- Field Award: Jacob Arnett
- Assessment Award: Chase Bernardy
- Pharmacology Award: James Jarboe
- Director’s Award: Kevin McKiddy
- Cardiology Award: Matthew Rae
- Theory Award: Richard Quijada

Dr. Phong Nguyen, Crafton’s medical director and president of the Crafton Hills College Foundation, gave special awards to Marcus Davis and Anthony Estrada.

CHC President Dr. Keven Horan announced that each graduating student received a \$150 grant to assist with licensing fees thanks to the Foundation and Nicolas Campos, a longtime supporter of the program and the paramedic field itself.

To learn more about the program or Crafton Hills, go to www.craftonhills.edu.



Photo: AMR attends CHC Public Safety Career Day.

Public Safety Career Day

On January 12, the Crafton Hills College Paramedic Program and Fire Academy partnered in hosting a Public Safety Career Day for representatives from several first-responder agencies.

The event provided an opportunity for the community to have a one-on-one with their public safety departments and learn the importance of their role in the community.

Agencies from multiple fields, including fire, emergency medical transportation, and police were present to help CHC students learn more about the different career pathways available to them – and even provided the opportunity for students to apply for a position. These agencies included American Medical Response,

Riverside County Sheriff, Pechanga Fire, Running Springs Fire, Colton Fire, Daggett Fire, Redlands Fire, Calimesa Fire, Rialto Fire, San Bernardino County Fire and Victorville Fire. All gathered in the fire apparatus bay to meet new and current students attending emergency medical services and fire technology classes.

The CHC Fire and Paramedic programs have a longstanding relationship with their community partners in meeting employment needs, as well as a stellar reputation in training exemplary first responders.

Regional Occupational Program Field Trip Brings Students to Crafton

On January 20, students from Grand Terrace, Colton, and Citrus Valley High Schools visited Crafton Hills College to learn about public safety and allied health careers as a part of the Colton-Redlands-Yucaipa Regional Occupational Program (CRY-ROP).

A “Crafton 101” presentation included a review of certificate and degree opportunities and requirements. The students were divided up into groups of 20 for tours of the Public Safety and Allied Health Building. A demonstration of the ambulance simulator and tour of the classrooms and labs used by the EMT, Respiratory Care and CNA programs provided an immersive hands-on learning experience for students.

College personnel provided an overview of the potential career paths available to students at Crafton Hills College. The future Roadrunners were able to observe a testing simulation in the Respiratory Care classroom and a visit to the Engine Bay provided a glimpse of the drills experienced



Photo: John Grounds.

by cadets in the Fire Academy. To end the day's activities, students enjoyed lunch and a visit to the campus bookstore



Photo: Ambulance Simulator.

where many purchased Crafton swag before heading back to their respective campuses.

CHC Breaks Ground on New, \$9.5 Million Public Safety Training Center

A year from now Crafton Hills College's Fire Academy and public safety programs will have a new home on campus. This state-of-the-art facility ensures the program's reputation as one of the premier public safety academies in the Nation.

More than 150 attendees, including local and national leaders, were present for the groundbreaking celebration on Friday, January 20.

The \$9.5 million Public Safety Training Center was made possible thanks to the vision of current and former Crafton leaders and funding from Measure CC, a 2018 bond approved by voters to fund campus upgrades at both Crafton and its sister college, San Bernardino Valley College. The training center, which will be just feet from the Academy's current facility, is expected to be completed in December.

"This project has been a decade in the making and serves as the best example of what happens when a community comes together for a common goal," remarked CHC President Kevin Horan.

Dr. Stephanie Houston, chair of the San Bernardino Community College District and CHC alumna, soaked in the project as she spoke during the event, calling the new facility one that was "near and dear" to her heart. As a parent of a first responder, Houston said, knowing the center was going to provide future students with additional top-tier training should bring a sense of relief to those with loved ones in the field because "at that end of the day, they are going to rely on their training, and their training all started here," she said.

"So, as we look at our cadets, as we look at this next generation of students who are going to be coming through this amazing facility that we are going to be building, [we will know that] it's to ensure that parents and siblings and spouses and children of our first responders can sleep at night because they can rely on that training we



Photo: Keith Alexander, Phong Nguyen, Johnny Hernandez, Mike Alder, Ed Duro, and Kevin Horan.

are providing," Houston continued. "This is an amazing opportunity for all of us."

The Academy—including other first responder-related training programs, such as those for paramedics and respiratory care—has gone through a series of upgrades since its founding decades ago. When it began in 1982, Crafton's Fire Academy operated from an old automotive shop on campus that was transformed into a training space.

Community support has been the cornerstone of the program's success. Neighboring agencies have partnered with Crafton to provide necessary tools of the trade such as fire engines, equipment, training, and even student scholarships.

Among those lending their support is the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and its San Manuel Fire Department, which has provided the program with necessary tools and funding for years. During the groundbreaking, Tribal leaders presented a check for a \$1.8 million grant that will cover student out of pocket expenses associated with the program.

The Academy operates as an 18-unit course that requires students to be on

campus 4-5 days per week, often starting their day early with physical training and ending with homework from the day's lessons. It is often difficult to find time for employment because the commitment to coursework and training is like a full-time job in itself.

"The need for a steady income and secure housing is an obstacle for many in our community to start down this path," explained Ed Duro, San Manuel Business Committee Member-at-Large and Crafton alumnus. "San Manuel believes that those with their heart [set] to serve others should be able to, especially if they come from historically underrepresented communities. This is why I am proud to announce our investment to offer direct support to students, enabling them to devote themselves to the program."

"It is a priority for the Tribe to advance these opportunities for everyone regardless of background," he continued.

Horan concluded the ceremony with a thank you. "San Manuel's generosity in the direct support of fire cadets enables us to continue to build a capable, highly qualified, and diverse first responder work force that will serve our region for decades."