

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

May 2025



Crafton Hills College Graduates 105th Paramedic Class



Crafton Hills College celebrated the graduation of its 105th Paramedic Program on March 14 at the Finkelstein Performing Arts Center. Thirteen graduates, proudly wearing scorpion-embossed uniform patches, completed the rigorous program with each other's support.

This ceremony marked the last to be held in the soon-to-be-demolished PAC and the final hybrid class before the program's format changed. Families and friends enthusiastically cheered on their graduates, encouraged by EMS instructor Glen Thronson.

Highlights included the class plaque presentation, remarks from Dr. Phong Nguyen—who humorously performed *You Raise Me Up*—and inspiring words from Class Speaker Tyler Lloyd and Guest Speaker John Grounds.

"Go forward with confidence. Serve with humility and lead with courage. You are ready," Grounds told the graduates.

The evening concluded with a pinning ceremony and student awards: Medical Director's Award: Marc Camilo, Dwight Jones, Yucaipa Rotary Scholarship & Clinical and Director's Awards: Marc Camilo, Tony Giordano Memorial Scholarship & Cardiology Award: Angel Gonzalez, Field, Pharmacology & Patient Assessment Awards: Sergio Quiroga, Theory Award: Tyler Lloyd, and Skills Award: Riley Patterson

Photo: Paramedic graduates with staff.

CHC Fire Academy 112 Cadets Support Run Through Redlands



Crafton Hills College Fire Academy 112 cadets showcased their commitment to service by volunteering at the Run Through Redlands, benefiting the Kiwanis Club of Redlands.

Former SBCCD Trustee Donna Ferracone praised their efforts, stating, "They represented the Academy very well. My Kiwanis Club loves them."

The cadets played a vital role in event logistics and safety, embodying professionalism and teamwork. CHC is proud of their dedication, which reflects the high standards of the Fire Academy and its commitment to community service.

Photo: Cadets from Fire Academy 112 at the Run through Redlands.

Dr. Gio Sosa Appointed to Lead Statewide Reporting Initiative



Dr. Gio Sosa, Dean of Institutional Effectiveness, Research, and Planning at Crafton Hills College, has been chosen to co-lead the statewide Vision-Aligned Reporting Academy by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

Dr. Sosa's leadership at Crafton has refined data practices, improving decision-making and student success.

The initiative aims to enhance how colleges report on key student success metrics,

and Dr. Sosa will help share best practices across the state.

"This is a great opportunity to build on the work we've done at Crafton," said Dr. Sosa. His appointment highlights Crafton's leadership in data-driven decision-making within the California Community Colleges system.

Dr. Sosa's expertise in institutional research and his commitment to student equity make him a valuable asset to the academy. His appointment highlights Crafton's leadership in data-driven decision-making within the California Community Colleges system and reinforces the college's dedication to continuous improvement and student success.

Photo: Gio Sosa.

EOPS Scholars Luncheon Honors Student Achievement and Dedication



The EOPS Department hosted a Scholars Luncheon on March 12 to celebrate the academic achievements of 244 students from the EOPS, CARE, CalWORKs, NextUp, and DREAMer programs who earned a GPA of 2.7 or higher.

This special event recognized students' dedication and perseverance in their educational journey. Each honoree received a certificate and success kit as a testament to their hard work and commitment.

Surrounded by faculty, peers, and family,

these students were celebrated in an uplifting environment that fostered pride and motivation for future success.

Speakers shared words of encouragement, highlighting the resilience these students have demonstrated. The luncheon is a celebration of past achievements and serves as inspiration for students to continue striving toward their goals.

Photo: EOPS, CARE, CalWORKs, NextUp and DREAMer program faculty and staff.

Crafton Hills College Celebrates Women's History Month



This March, Crafton Hills College honored Women's History Month with events celebrating women's achievements and resilience.

The theme "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations" emphasized amplifying women's voices and fostering community.

Highlights included a kickoff video featuring women across campus, guest speaker Ann

Martgan, Senior Manager, San Manuel Fire Dept., on navigating male-dominated fields, an empowerment through movement dance workshop with Lisa Swells, a virtual panel with female entrepreneurs, and the film screening of He Named Me Malala.

The month's events united the campus in celebration, empowerment, and inspiration for future generations.

Photo: WHM organizers.

CHC's Thrive Fest Brings Wellness and Community Together



On March 26, Crafton Hills College hosted its inaugural Thrive Fest, a wellness and resource fair organized by the College Basic Needs Office. Students enjoyed free food, live music, games, and giveaways while

accessing vital support services.

The event distributed 515 meals, 200 açai bowls, and 200 Farm Fresh-To-You boxes. Forty students received Narcan kits with

life-saving training. The Wildwood Women's Center provided health screenings, and a student proudly shared their ultrasound—expecting in August!

Campus garden tours, free clothing from the Music Club, and exciting raffles added to the experience. In addition to health and wellness resources, students connected with community organizations offering financial assistance, housing support, and mental health services. Faculty and staff also participated, reinforcing the college's commitment to student well-being.

With its overwhelming success, Thrive Fest is set to become an annual tradition, growing even bigger in the years to come!

Photo: CHC student with her children and Ryker at Thrive Fest.

Rebecca Abeyta Nominated for Statewide Award



Crafton Hills College Administrative Assistant Rebecca Abeyta has been nominated for the California Community Colleges Classified Employee of the Year Award, recognizing her dedication to equitable student success and Vision 2030.

A key member of the counseling office, Abeyta is praised for her professionalism, leadership, and commitment to students. With over five years of service, she's instrumental in improving student services and fostering staff collaboration.

Abeyta, a re-entry student herself, earned an associate in arts for transfer in Sociology and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in leadership studies at Cal Poly Humboldt. She is active in CHC's Classified Senate and Student Services Council, and volunteers in the community.

Winners will be announced at the Board of Governors meeting on May 20, 2025.

Photo: Rebecca Abeyta.

Crafton Hills College Hosts STEM Transfer & Career Fair



On March 6, CHC hosted the STEM Transfer & Career Fair, connecting students with opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Over 200 students engaged with 24 university and industry partners, including CSU, UC, private institutions, and STEM-related companies. Representatives provided guidance on transfers, degree programs, research opportunities,

internships, and career pathways.

Through one-on-one conversations, panel discussions, and interactive booths, students gained valuable insights into STEM careers, reinforcing CHC's commitment to their academic and professional success.

Photo: CHC students at STEM and Career Fair.

Crafton Hills College Foundation Hosts Exclusive Legacy Event with Patti Cotton



On March 18, the CHC Foundation hosted an exclusive event featuring distinguished alumna Patti Cotton, who led an engaging and interactive session titled *Your Legacy Starts Now*. Designed for President's Circle members, retirees, and Legacy Society donors, the event encouraged attendees to reflect on the deeper meaning of legacy beyond career achievements.

Cotton explained that legacy isn't just about what we leave behind—it's about how we live each day. The session encouraged self-reflection, prompting participants to consider how their core beliefs shape their legacy and influence others. As individuals transition from career-focused milestones to the next chapter of life, finding deeper meaning and fulfillment becomes essential.

Cotton also shared a heartfelt personal story about how her journey toward finding purpose began at Crafton Hills College. In the summer of 1972, at just 16 years old, she took a Psychology of Women class with Professor Gloria Cowen that profoundly changed her outlook on life. Inspired by Cowen who encouraged her to dream bigger, she discovered her potential and found her path toward making a meaningful impact.

The event underscored CHC's commitment to lifelong learning and personal growth, reinforcing the idea that legacy is built in the present through our values, actions, and the lives we touch.

Photo: Patti Cotton.

Girls Empowerment Camp Inspires Future Firefighters



On March 15, 22 young women participated in the transformative Girls Empowerment Camp, designed to explore careers in the fire service. Led by Captain Theresa Rivera and Amanda Ward, the event offered hands-on training in chainsaws, rappelling, nail guns, aerial ladder climbs, and victim search techniques.

Community partners like Calimesa Fire, Cal Fire/Yucaipa Fire, Redlands Fire, and others helped make the event a success, with female firefighters serving as mentors

and role models.

One participant shared, "This camp changed my perspective so positively! I now trust that with time, effort, and passion, I can achieve my goals in the fire industry." The camp's success has led to plans for it to be an annual event, further inspiring young women to pursue careers in the fire service.

Photo: Attendees at the empowerment camp.

Crafton Hills College Hosts 4CS Board Meeting



On March 28-29, Crafton Hills College welcomed the California Community Colleges Classified Senate (4CS) for its spring board meeting, bringing together classified professionals from across the state. The meeting served as a collaborative space for 4CS leaders to strategize initiatives, plan the annual Classified Leadership Institute, and enhance support for classified professionals within the California Community College system.

As a proud host, Crafton Hills College provided a welcoming environment for productive discussions and forward-thinking solutions. Attendees engaged

in sessions focused on leadership development, advocacy, and best practices to support student success. The meeting also highlighted the essential role classified professionals play in shaping the student experience and fostering institutional excellence.

By hosting this important gathering, Crafton Hills College continues to demonstrate its commitment to professional growth and statewide collaboration, reinforcing the value of classified professionals in higher education.

Photo: 4CS Board members.