

Introduction

On September 11, 1972, Crafton Hills College (CHC) welcomed its first students as the State's newest publicly supported community college. As the second college in the San Bernardino Community College District (SBCCD), CHC provided added capacity to serve Yucaipa and other east valley communities with high quality two-year college programs for transfer to four-year colleges and certificate programs for those eyeing jobs in certain workforce areas.

Since its 1972 opening, CHC has enrolled 182,049 students and awarded approximately 16,466 degrees and 13,854 certificates (as of spring 2021). At the most recent accreditation visit, in 2020, its enrollment was over 5,790 full-time equivalent students. CHC was first accredited by the Accreditation Commission of Community and Junior Colleges (a division of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges) in 1975 and has remained fully accredited ever since.

From the hills at 2400 feet overlooking the eastern end of the San Bernardino Valley, the campus provides a dramatic view of much of the area it serves. The campus itself includes hills, ridges, and canyons surrounding the buildings, which have won awards for their design. From the hillside on the east end of the campus, an observer can see much of Yucaipa below and the peaks of Mt. San Jacinto in the distance to the south. Other beautiful peaks of the Coast Mountain Range are also visible from the campus: Mt. San Antonio to the west and Mt. San Bernardino and Mt. San Geronimo, both to the east.

CHC has grown substantially along with the increase in populations of Yucaipa, Redlands, and other nearby communities. The College now offers more than 50 majors in the liberal arts and sciences and career/technical studies. The fire science and emergency medical services programs are some of the finest career-technical education community college programs in the State. CHC serves as the primary training institution for paramedics in San Bernardino and Riverside counties. CHC also has the distinction of being the top community college in the Inland Empire in its degree and certificate completion rates and course success rates.

We celebrate the 50th anniversary of CHC in the following pages by presenting a brief history of the Crafton hills and a chronology of CHC's development. We then highlight many of the programs that contribute to CHC's excellence in providing unparalleled educational experiences that are foundational to bright futures and a strong community. We have included photos of the buildings, natural settings, and – above all -- people that capture the essence of CHC.