

► SPRING 2026

NEWSLETTER



HONORING A LEGACY

ALSO INSIDE: _____

ALUMNUS SPOTLIGHT Dr. Enrique Enguidanos

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT Professor Kim Salt

UPCOMING EVENT Roadrunner Roll Call

A CRAFTON START

A LIFELONG CAREER IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE



Dr. Enrique Enguidanos never expected that his path would lead him to medical school.

When he first began exploring emergency medicine, he was simply looking for a career where he could help people. What began as a summer job as a lifeguard eventually led him through the paramedic and fire training programs at Crafton Hills College, into the San Bernardino Fire Department, and ultimately into a career that would span more than 30 years in emergency medicine.

Looking back now, Dr. Enguidanos sees how each step along the way expanded on the last.

“Things built nicely onto each other,” he said. “I never thought about becoming a physician as a young man, but one thing led to another.”

Dr. Enguidanos attended Crafton Hills College in the early to mid-1980s, where he completed both the Fire Academy and the paramedic program. At the time, emergency medical services were still developing as a profession, and the programs at Crafton offered hands-on training for students interested in the field.

Before enrolling at Crafton, Dr. Enguidanos had already taken the first steps toward that career.

“I worked as a lifeguard for a couple of years and just enjoyed engaging with people,” he said. “Emergency medicine was a little

bit in its infancy at the time, but the idea of having an opportunity to help people every day really struck me.”

After completing EMT training at Mt. San Antonio College, he began working on an ambulance. That experience made it clear that he had found the right path.

“The next step seemed to become a paramedic,” he said.

That step brought him to Crafton Hills College, where he completed both the paramedic and fire academy programs. The training he received there helped prepare him for immediate work in the field.

“The quality of the training was fantastic,” Dr. Enguidanos said. “I left those roles really feeling strong about what I could do with my skills.”

He was fortunate to already have a job lined up with the City of San Bernardino Fire Department while completing his training. Even so, he credits the programs at Crafton with helping him feel confident as he began his career.

“From day one out in the field, I felt really competent,” he said. “The depth of the clinical training we had during the paramedic program and the skills we learned in the fire academy really put me in a good position.”

Dr. Enguidanos also remembers the instructors who shaped his

perspective on the profession, particularly Jim Holbrook, who ran the paramedic program.

“His words and his approach have always been at the forefront for me,” he said. “He was just a fantastic individual and a great role model.”

After five years working as a firefighter and paramedic with the San Bernardino Fire Department, Dr. Enguidanos began considering a new possibility. Encouraged by his brother, he decided to apply to medical school.

“My brother convinced me to consider medical school,” he said. “Emergency medicine was the logical pathway.”

As you can imagine, entering medical school in his 30s was not easy. Dr. Enguidanos said he had to relearn how to study and readjust to the demands of academic life. But the experience he gained as a paramedic and firefighter helped him succeed once he began practicing medicine.

“When it came to being a physician clinician, there was no problem at all because I had so much clinical exposure in the field,” he said.

Over the next three decades, Dr. Enguidanos built a long career in emergency medicine. Throughout that time, the most meaningful part of the job remained simple.

“Helping others,” he said.

What attracted Dr. Enguidanos to emergency medicine was the opportunity to help people in ways they would never forget.

“We really have a unique chance to affect someone’s life,” he said. “We’re there in that moment that oftentimes they’ll remember the rest of their life.”

At the same time, the field comes with significant pressures and a lot of stress. Dr. Enguidanos says it is important for those entering emergency services to recognize the emotional demands of the profession.

“It comes with stress and demands and burnout,” he said. “Take the time to do self-care even in the midst of your schooling.”

Today, Dr. Enguidanos has stepped away from clinical practice and focuses full-time on Community Based Coordination Solutions (CBCS), a company he co-founded about a decade ago. The organization works with hospitals, Medicaid agencies, and health systems to better support individuals who frequently rely on emergency departments.

The idea for CBCS began during his time as medical director of a large emergency department in Everett, Washington. His nurse director at the time approached him about a group of patients who were visiting the emergency room more than 100 times a year, often for challenges tied to social or economic issues rather than medical conditions.

Together, they began meeting with those patients outside the hospital to better understand their social needs and connect them with resources.

“We saw dramatic decreases in the crisis events and how often they had to come to the hospital,” Dr. Enguidanos said.

That early project eventually grew into CBCS, which now works across the country to help health systems better serve vulnerable populations. For Dr. Enguidanos, the most rewarding part of the work today is the team that carries it forward.

“Our staff is just so dedicated,” he said. “Making sure I create an organization that’s supportive for them is really my driver now.”

Although his career has taken him far beyond California, Dr. Enguidanos still sees Crafton as an important starting point.

For current students considering careers in emergency services, he offers both encouragement and perspective.

“First of all, congratulations,” he said. “You’ve chosen a field where you make a difference every day.”

He also encourages students to keep an open mind as they work with people from many different backgrounds.

“We all come from different walks of life,” he said. “If you keep an open mind and really listen to people, you can address their needs better.”

For Dr. Enguidanos, the opportunity to pursue education at a community college helped open doors he never expected.

“For a kid who was born in East LA and grew up in the Caribbean, having a chance to go to school is so precious,” he said. “Those experiences build on each other and help you realize what you’re capable of.”

RAPID-FIRE QUESTIONS

with Dr. Enrique Enguidanos

Favorite place on campus:

My classrooms

Most challenging course:

Starting IVs on each other

Dream job at graduation:

Firefighter

First emergency job:

Lifeguard

Most rewarding part of your work:

Helping others

One word that describes leadership:

Listening

Coffee or tea:

Coffee

WHERE CHEMISTRY CLICKS INSIDE PROFESSOR KIM SALT'S STUDENT-CENTERED CLASSROOM



For many students, chemistry comes with a reputation. It can feel overwhelming, intimidating, and out of reach before the semester even begins. For Kim Salt, Professor of Chemistry at Crafton Hills College, helping students move past that fear is at the heart of her work.

"I try to make chemistry approachable," Salt says. "That means breaking complex ideas into manageable pieces and connecting them to everyday experiences."

Salt currently teaches first and second semester general chemistry, CHEM 150 and CHEM 151, and has also taught introductory chemistry, CHEM 101. Her teaching philosophy centers on problem-solving, persistence, and curiosity rather than memorization.

She wants to create an atmosphere in the classroom that supports students while they develop their ability to solve problems related to difficult subject matter. In addition to providing students with knowledge of chemistry, she would like them to leave her classes with a belief in their abilities and a commitment to logical thinking.

"I want students to have confidence," she stated. "I want them to believe that they can face difficult challenges and will be able to solve problems using logic. These are skills that will remain with them regardless of whether or not they continue studying chemistry."

In the years that Salt has been teaching, she has witnessed firsthand how developing this type of confidence in her students can lead to a positive change in a student's academic career. One of the most memorable moments was when a student who believed they could not succeed in chemistry came to understand that they were capable.

"The most rewarding feeling is seeing the realization occur with a student who believed they were not a science person to recognize that they are able to complete chemistry," she said. "I have had students begin a class believing they were unable to do the material and finish the class with a sense of confidence and ability to accomplish. Witnessing the transformation of a student is an incredible experience."

Many of Salt's students have remained in touch with her long after they completed her classes. Some of her students have entered into careers in health care, research, engineering, and education. There have also been students who have contacted her years after completing their classes to let her know about the accomplishments they have made.

"That is one of the best things about being a teacher," she said. "Knowing that I played a small part in a student's journey into the field of STEM is truly special."

Salt developed an interest in chemistry because she wanted to learn how the world works at a molecular level. Over time, she decided to continue her education and earned her bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees from the University of California, Riverside.

"Chemistry helps explain everything that we experience daily," she said. "At some point, I discovered that I enjoyed sharing my enthusiasm for chemistry with others as well."

Prior to working at Crafton Hills College, Salt worked at the Claremont Colleges for two years.

She started at Crafton Hills College in 1999 and found a home for herself within the community college system.

"What brought me here and has allowed me to remain here is the strong sense of community and the ability to positively affect the lives of our students," she said. "Community colleges are comprised of a diverse and driven population of students. Being a part of their educational journey is highly rewarding."

Salt has several other hobbies outside of the classroom and laboratory. She enjoys creating crochet items and playing musical instruments. Both of these activities, according to Salt, allow her to use a different area of her brain than chemistry.

"I enjoy having creative outlets," she said. "These help me recharge."

In addition to her creative pursuits, she also enjoys riding her bicycle on Zwift, a virtual cycling and training platform, and relaxing at home with her husband and their four dogs.

"These types of activities provide balance to my life," she said. "They enable me to return to the classroom refreshed and prepared to teach."

With over 20 years of service to Crafton Hills College, Salt continues to find meaning in her students' growth, both academically and personally.

"Once students realize that they can accomplish something difficult, it changes how they perceive themselves," she said. "The confidence gained from recognizing that they can accomplish something difficult opens doors that students never believed were possible."

CRAFTON HILLS COLLEGE DEDICATES FIRE ENGINE BAY IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN MIKE ORLAND



A fire engine bay is where the mission of public service comes to life every day, a lesson Fire Capt. Mike Orland of the San Manuel Fire Department carried with him throughout his career.

On Jan. 31, Crafton Hills College unveiled the Captain Mike Orland San Manuel Fire Department Engine Bay during a naming ceremony at the Yucaipa campus. Hundreds attended, including Mike Orland's mother, Margie Orland, and colleagues from the fire service.

"The naming of an engine bay is one of the highest honors that can be bestowed upon a firefighter," said Keith Alexander, a colleague of Mike Orland and chief of the San Manuel Fire Department. "It ensures that every firefighter who walks through these doors remembers the standards that came before them. Today, those standards bear the name of Fire Captain Mike Orland."

A Crafton alumnus, Orland served with the San Manuel Fire Department until his retirement in 2018. Throughout his career, he mentored hundreds of academy cadets and firefighters, leaving a legacy rooted in service above self through his work in the fire service and his dedication to charitable causes.

Prior to his death in September 2021 at the age of 54, Orland established the Michael Orland Scholarship to support Crafton

academy cadets who exemplify the courage, perseverance and tenacity required to become a firefighter.

His family continues his legacy by reviewing student essays each January and August to select scholarship recipients who demonstrate selflessness, kindness and a strong "don't quit" attitude.

"These essays give me an opportunity to learn their background and understand the struggles they have faced and overcome through determination," shared Margie Orland. "I always look forward to graduation and hearing cadets speak about the camaraderie and what training at Crafton Hills meant to their team.

"It will be five years since I have spoken to each class about Mike's desire for cadets to have an opportunity to receive this scholarship, and I am honored to continue Michael's legacy," she said.

The Michael Orland Scholarship is awarded twice each year. To learn more or to support the scholarship fund, contact the Crafton Hills College Foundation at 909-389-3391 or visit www.craftonhills.edu/foundation.

For more information about the college's Fire Academy, visit www.craftonhills.edu/fireacademy.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JOIN US IN OUR ROADRUNNER ROLL CALL ALUMNI CHALLENGE!



We're kicking off a high-energy, month-long competition between five teams to see who can score the most points by reconnecting with our amazing alumni. If you're receiving this newsletter, you're already in our records – but we'd love to know more than just your email address!

You can help by:

- Updating your information
- Sharing where your journey has taken you
- Inviting fellow Roadrunners to reconnect

Take just a few minutes to complete our questionnaire and tell us what you're doing now – and what your time at Crafton meant to you.

Also...Crafton's alumni isn't just about graduates. If you earned a certificate, transferred, or even took just one class – you're one of us. If you've learned with us, you're are alumni!

Help us spread the word and reconnect as many Alumni Roadrunners as possible between April 1-April 30.

Join the Roadrunner Roll Call



Share your story and reconnect with Crafton alumni.

Scan the QR code or use the links below to get started.

👉 [Learn more about the Roadrunner Roll Call challenge](#)

👉 [Join the Roadrunner Roll Call](#)

SUPPORT ONLINE

CAR WASH FUNDRAISER

CRAFTON HILLS FIRE ACADEMY 114

CALM UNDER CHAOS

SATURDAY, APRIL 4
8:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

33492 OAK GLEN ROAD YUCAIPA 92399
WABA GRILL PARKING LOT

CHC Foundation is a 501(C)(3) organization Tax ID # 23-7314077

DONATE TODAY



All funds donated for the car wash will be used to help pay for state certifications, Fit Testing and breathing apparatus, uniforms, and PPE rentals.

HOW TO GIVE

For over 50 years, the Crafton Hills College Foundation has supported CHC in advancing the educational, career, and personal success of our diverse campus community through engagement and learning. The Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization; therefore, contributions to the Foundation are tax-deductible.

Your investment will make a significant difference in the life of a student.



PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

This elite group of donors make a \$1,000 annual commitment to support the mission of the CHC Foundation with a President's Circle Membership. This dynamic group of alumni, parents, faculty, and friends play a vital role in supporting the College, giving the President the flexibility to embrace new ideas and emerging opportunities while meeting the evolving needs of Crafton Hills College.



ANNUAL GIVING FUND

Contributions to the Annual Fund provide the precious gift of opportunity to thousands of deserving students by supporting scholarships and promoting excellence at the College. These unrestricted gifts give the Foundation the flexibility to respond to our student's greatest needs.



SCHOLARSHIPS

An Endowed Scholarship Fund is established through a minimum gift of cash or stock totaling \$12,500, which can be made over a period of five years. Endowment funds are invested prudently to establish a permanent fund in which the principal is held in perpetuity and only the investment income is expended annually (payout). These funds will support a scholarship forever.



PLANNED GIVING

The Foundation for CHC offers a variety of Planned Giving options. Whether your estate is simple or complex, there is a tax-advantaged gift planning vehicle that is just right for you. Your support will help CHC students succeed and will provide a lasting legacy for future generations.



STUDENT AND PROGRAM SUPPORT

Crafton Hills College provides quality instruction and support services that allow our students, many of whom face serious obstacles to completion, to pursue and achieve their educational goals. We are extremely proud to be the pathway to social and economic advancement for many who would otherwise not have the opportunity to pursue a college education. The college's low cost for an excellent education allows the impact of your investment to reach more students. Your gift to support CHC Students and Programs goes further at Crafton Hills College



NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

There are many ways you can make a lasting impact at Crafton Hills College and at the same time pay tribute to a notable and influential person or organization. The CHC Foundation is striving to secure permanent endowments to support the ever growing academic, programmatic, and student needs of the Crafton through Naming Opportunities.



STAY CONNECTED

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Crafton Hills College Foundation & Alumni