

CITRUSVIEW

LATEST NEWS FROM CITRUS COLLEGE

Celebrating a Community of Excellence



Earlier this year, the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) notified Citrus College that it is one of only four national finalists for its 2019 Award of Excellence in the Student Success category. This recognition from the AACC reinforces what those of us in the college community already know – Citrus College is dedicated to excellence.

The articles featured in this edition of the Citrus View further emphasize this fact. From an informative sabbatical forum and the addition of two new career technical education programs to the implementation of AB 705 and an honors student receiving national awards, Citrus College is constantly striving to create a dynamic learning environment in which students thrive.

Excellence is defined as “the quality of being outstanding” – and it serves as an apt description for the faculty, staff and students of Citrus College. Thank you for the role you play in making the college an AACC Awards of Excellence finalist! Without your commitment, recognitions such as these wouldn’t be possible.

Dr. Geraldine M. Perri
Superintendent/President

Citrus College Named an Award of Excellence Finalist

Citrus College is one of only four community colleges in the nation selected as a finalist for the 2019 American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Award of Excellence in the Student Success category.

Every year, the AACC recognizes the exceptional work accomplished by the nation’s community colleges by presenting Awards of Excellence in six categories: Student Success, Advancing Diversity, CEO/Board Relationship, Community College Safety and Planning, Faculty Innovation, and Outstanding College/Corporate Partnership.

The AACC Award of Excellence in the Student Success category recognizes a community college that has demonstrated a sustained commitment to student achievement.

“Being named a finalist for this prestigious award is an extremely fitting validation of the college’s efforts to embrace student success and completion as the institution’s highest priority,” said Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, superintendent/president of Citrus College.

The criteria used to determine this year’s finalists include the development of a comprehensive strategic completion plan, the achievement of measurable and significant increases in degree completion, certificate completion, and transfer from two-year to four-year institutions.

“On behalf of the board of trustees, I extend my sincere gratitude to Dr. Perri for her leadership, and to the faculty, staff and students of Citrus College who make recognitions such as these possible,” said Susan M. Keith, president of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees.



Citrus College will learn if it will win the 2019 AACC Award of Excellence for Student Success during the organization’s annual convention in Orlando, Florida, in April 2019.

Ahead of Schedule: English and Math Programs Highlighted for AB 705 Implementation



Members of the English program. Back row pictured (L-R): Eric Odegaard instructor; Gina Hogan, dean of language arts and library; Mark Gunderson, instructor; and Tom Eiland, instructor. Front row pictured (L-R): Eun Kang, instructor; Becky Rudd, instructor; Cathy Day, administrative secretary; David Overly, instructor; and Suzanne Martinez, instructor.



Members of the math program accept the Golden State Honey Badger Award at the CAP conference. Pictured (L-R): Victoria Dominquez, instructor; Michael Wangler, dean of mathematics and business; Ana Lopez, instructor; and Sophia Lee, instructor.

Citrus College was recognized by the California Acceleration Project (CAP) as a leader for AB 705 implementation in English and mathematics. The college received this honor at the third annual Acceleration Across California Conference in Sacramento, California, in February 2019.

AB 705 requires that California community colleges provide access to transfer-level coursework in English and math for all students and prioritize completion of English and math within a one-year timeframe. To date, Citrus College is one of only a few community colleges to have eliminated remedial English and math courses while providing the support necessary for students to complete their English and math requirements within their first year at college.

“At Citrus College, we believe in the capacity of all of our students and offer the support necessary for them to be successful,” said Michael Wangler, dean of mathematics and business. “Our faculty members have created an inclusive, student-centered classroom environment where

students build confidence, collaborate with their peers and learn critical thinking skills contextualized to the real world.”

As a result of these efforts, Citrus College was presented with the highly coveted Golden State Honey Badger Award at the CAP conference. The award was presented to Citrus College for its “laser focus, steadfast determination and dogged persistence on AB 705 implementation.” The college’s English program was the first community college in the state to completely eliminate remedial English courses. Similarly, the college’s math program launched a corequisite support model for its statistics class, which enables students to bypass traditional remedial courses and enroll directly in math that counts toward a bachelor’s degree.

“I am not surprised that our English and math programs were recognized by CAP for being leaders within the California community college system,” said Superintendent/President Perri. “The dedication of our faculty and staff exemplifies the forward-thinking approach of Citrus College, which results in improved student success rates.”

New Light Pole Banners Highlight Academic Programs



Nineteen new banners have been hung on light poles throughout the Citrus College campus.

A series of vibrant new banners have recently appeared on light poles throughout the Citrus College campus. The result of a multi-faceted project spearheaded by External Relations, they are designed to promote the college’s programs and beautify the campus.

“These new light pole banners will provide the college community with a sense of pride in the great work we do at Citrus College,” said Superintendent/President Perri. “I extend my sincere gratitude to the many individuals on campus who played a role in bringing this project to fruition.”

Several departments and offices were involved in the production of the new banners, which feature dynamic photographs and catchy taglines. External Relations worked with Visual and Performing Arts to secure student models. They also coordinated photoshoots with the help of several academic deans and faculty members. After the photoshoots were completed and the banners were designed, Reprographics took the lead in securing a printing vendor and overseeing the installation of the finished products. The Citrus College Foundation supported the project by providing modest stipends to the student models for their time and effort, as well as purchasing hanging hardware to ensure secure banner installation.

New Career Technical Education Programs to Meet Labor Market Demands

Citrus College will soon launch two new career technical education (CTE) programs designed to prepare students for the challenges and opportunities available in the building construction and power generation industries.

Debuting next fall, the construction management program was developed through a detailed and thoughtful process, which included researching industry demands and studying the regional economy.



Citrus College's newest associate degree program will prepare students for a career in construction management.

"Working with business and industry professionals, Citrus College determined which occupations are predicted to have growth and pay better than a livable wage," said Dr. Rocky Cifone, dean of career/technical and continuing education. "Together, we identified the knowledge, skills and abilities needed to secure and sustain employment in good careers."

By earning an associate degree in construction management, students will be prepared to hold entry-level construction management positions, work with public agencies or private construction firms, or become employed with construction contractors. Program graduates will understand fundamental processes and obtain specialized skills and certificates in construction inspection and control.

Stationary power generation service, diagnosis and repair is another program that will launch next fall. This CTE program, which will be the only one of its kind in Southern California, will allow students to earn a technical certificate by completing courses in the maintenance of diesel-powered stationary power generators and associated equipment. Graduates will be prepared for careers as electrical and electronics repairers, power distributors and dispatchers, stationary engineers, and mobile heavy equipment mechanics.

"These new programs are excellent additions to Citrus College's Career Technical Education offerings," said Superintendent/President Perri. "I am certain the students who choose to pursue these innovative educational opportunities will be equipped with highly marketable and specialized skills that will make them valuable additions to our local workforce."



Ms. Plug identified policies and practices that value the learning and working experiences of student veterans in possession of joint service transcripts.

Faculty Members Share Research at Sabbatical Forum

The Center for Innovation buzzed with energy on March 26 as members of the college community attended a campus-wide sabbatical forum to learn about the successes and challenges of research recently conducted by two faculty members.

Kicking off the forum with a thought-provoking presentation on college credit for military service, Articulation Officer Michelle Plug suggested that student veterans receive credit for previous learning experiences while serving in the armed forces. Her research demonstrated that student veterans who had some training converted into college credit performed better and were more likely to complete college than their counterparts who did not receive any credit for their experiences. Ms. Plug pointed to the state's growing efforts to transform military experience into college credit and encouraged efforts to acknowledge the diverse training that service members bring to college campuses.

The second presentation took a dive into the digital world, as ESL Instructor Cynthia Cross presented on the innovative method of "class flipping," which provides instructional content outside the classroom, particularly with video. Ms. Cross found that making and sharing videos for class time and at-home instruction fosters greater retention of information. As Ms. Cross shared her experiences about learning how to create and edit video, participating in media workshops, and establishing a YouTube channel, audience members were prodded to think of how their classes could be "flipped" to increase student engagement.

"This forum reminds all faculty that a degree is not the end of learning," said Academic Senate President Nicki Shaw. "As our students grow and society changes, the tools we bring to bear will need to expand to meet the needs of our community. How each faculty member engages their students informs the problems they seek to solve."



Ms. Cross aimed to create lessons and videos to flip her classes, introducing students to important new concepts outside the classroom.

Student to Receive National Recognitions

During his time at Citrus College, Philippe Schicker has distinguished himself as a dynamic and determined student leader. In addition to excelling academically, his impressive list of extracurricular activities includes serving as an international vice president of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the world's largest and most prestigious honor society for two-year college students.

Now, Philippe will have new accomplishments to add to his resume. This month, he will receive two of the nation's most prestigious academic honors presented to two-year college students.

First, he will be recognized during PTK's annual Catalyst convention as one of only 10 community college students in the country selected to receive the Hites Transfer Scholarship. Approximately 2,800 students nationwide applied for the \$7,500 scholarship. Philippe was selected because of his outstanding academic achievements, as well as his leadership and engagement in college and community activities.

After being honored as a Hites Transfer Scholarship recipient, Philippe will be one of 20 students honored as a member of the All-USA Academic Team during the American Association of Community College's annual convention. The All-USA program is widely recognized as the most significant academic honor presented to students attending associate degree-granting institutions.

"The Citrus College community is incredibly proud of Philippe – he is an excellent student and has excelled on many fronts," said Superintendent/President Perri. "We are all thrilled that his academic success and college contributions are being acknowledged on a national level."



Philippe Schicker, an international student from Germany, will be honored during two national conventions taking place in Orlando, Florida, this month.

College Celebrates Women's History Month

The experiences of Charmaine Craig's family during one of the most troubling chapters in the history of Southeast Asia serve as the basis of her acclaimed novel, "Miss Burma." The award-winning author recently shared this poignant story during a free presentation in the Haugh Performing Arts Center on March 21 as part of Citrus College's observation of Women's History Month.

"Our goal for this event was to highlight women's issues and to champion the incredible women who have brought about change in the world," said Dr. Maryann Tolano-Leveque, dean of students at Citrus College. "Ms. Craig's presentation was both captivating and inspirational. It served as a reminder of the significant role women play in society."

During her keynote speech, Ms. Craig discussed her family's experiences in Burma, now known as Myanmar. Her mother and grandparents

lived through British colonialism, occupation by the Japanese during World War II and a civil war. They experienced emotional, cultural and political upheaval as the country moved toward independence.

Prior to the presentation, a special VIP reception was held in the college's Art Gallery. Community leaders, donors and friends of the Citrus College Foundation were in attendance.

"Women's History Month provides Citrus College with the opportunity to acknowledge the achievements of visionary women throughout history," said Superintendent/President Perri. "The experiences shared by Ms. Craig were sobering, yet fascinating. Her personal story emphasizes the extraordinary contributions women have made and shines a spotlight on many of the issues facing women today."



A special reception welcoming author Charmaine Craig was held in the Citrus College Art Gallery. Pictured (L-R): Superintendent/President Perri, Trustee Montgomery, Trustee Keith, Ms. Craig, Trustee Dickerson and Trustee Rasmussen.

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